



# Effect of Experience on Student Participation in Online Intercultural Collaborations in IVEProject



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# What is the















- Online collaboration for English language learners
- 29 countries/regions have participated since 2015
- 7,000+ participants in 2023; 5,000+ in 2024
- Funded by Japanese Gov't Kaken grant & Participant donations
- Primarily text-based interactions
- Participants share info about various topics



## The Open Forum

[Forum](#) [Subscriptions](#) [Reports](#) [Export](#) [Export \(extended functionalities\)](#) [More ▾](#)

View discussions by theme:

 Culture Questions	 Fashion	 Festivals	 Food
 Free Time	 Games	 Homes and Hometowns	 Movies & TV
 Music	 School Life	 Sports	 Travel
<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>			
<a href="#">ANY TOPIC YOU LIKE</a>			
<a href="#">-View All-</a>			



- Participants chose topic & added posts / replies
- Others responded and the conversations continued
- Could add images, videos, music, etc. in posts
- Part of my students' grades: 15% of final grade
  - Based on # of posts / replies;
  - # of words
  - max engagement level (multiple interactions with the same person)

# Study Participants

**101 Japanese university English majors  
(3 cohorts: 2022~2024)**

**2 semesters participating in IVEProject**

**Informed Consent obtained from all**

8-week project sessions

Posted / replied during class (10 mins) & for homework

Encouraged to continue conversations with same people over time





# Assessing students' performance

Final performance data downloaded from IVEProject website and analyzed in Excel

## RQ: Did experience effect performance in the IVEProject?

The following students' data were observed:

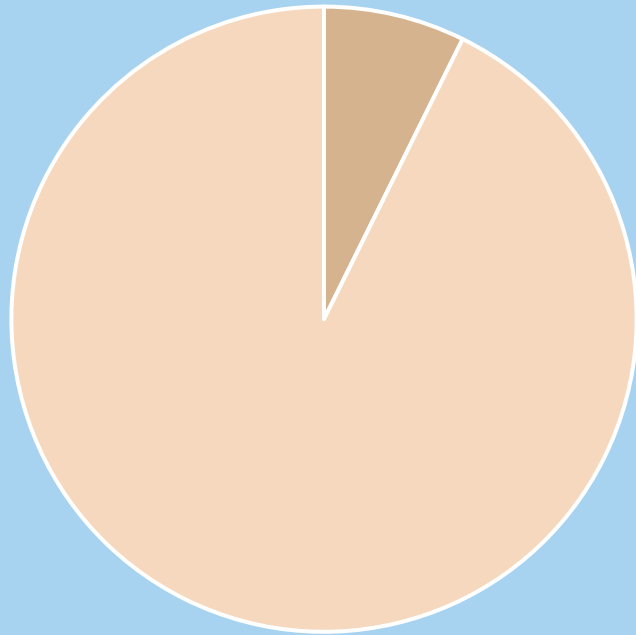
- Total # of posts and replies
- # of words written
- Maximum engagement achieved  
(Engagement = interactions with same person)



# Results

Comparing total # of posts & replies across 2 semesters of participation

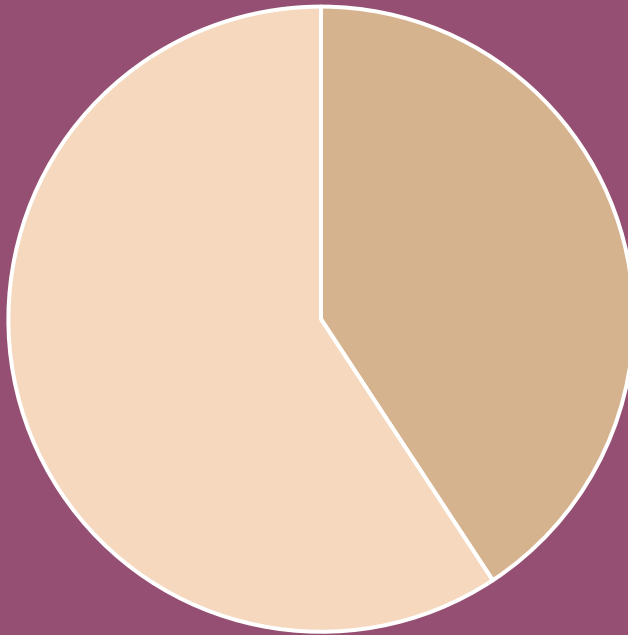
2022 (n=41)



Spring Fall

Spring 3 Fall 38

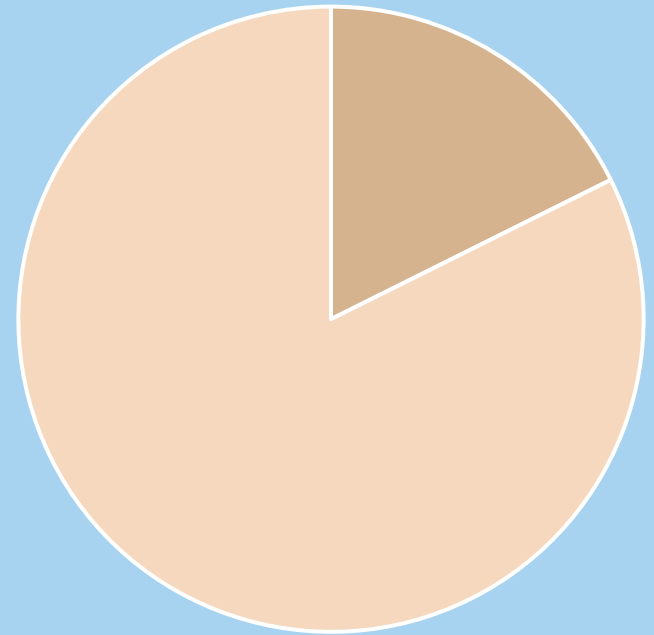
2023 (n=26)



Spring Fall

Spring 11 Fall 16

2024 (n=34)



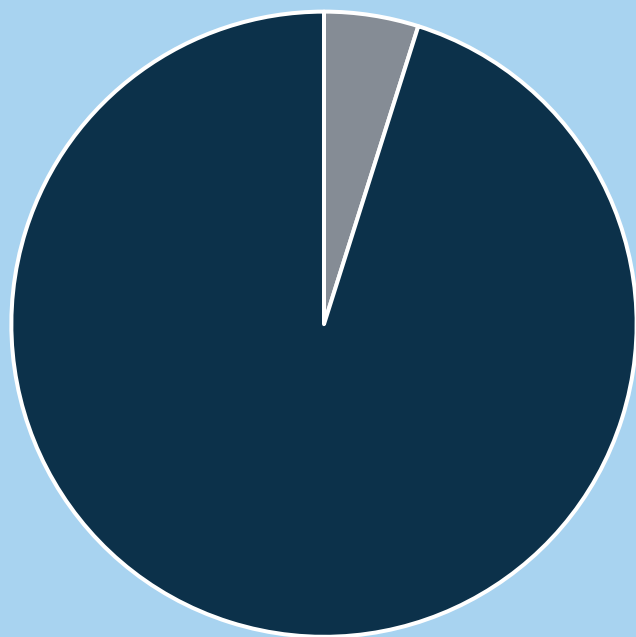
Spring Fall

Spring 6 Fall 28

# Results

Comparing the total # of words written across 2 semesters of participation

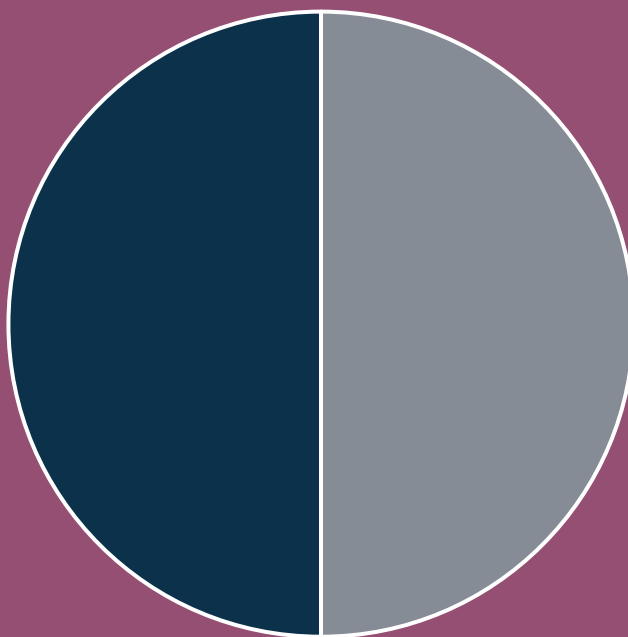
2022 (n=41)



Spring Fall

Spring 2 Fall 39

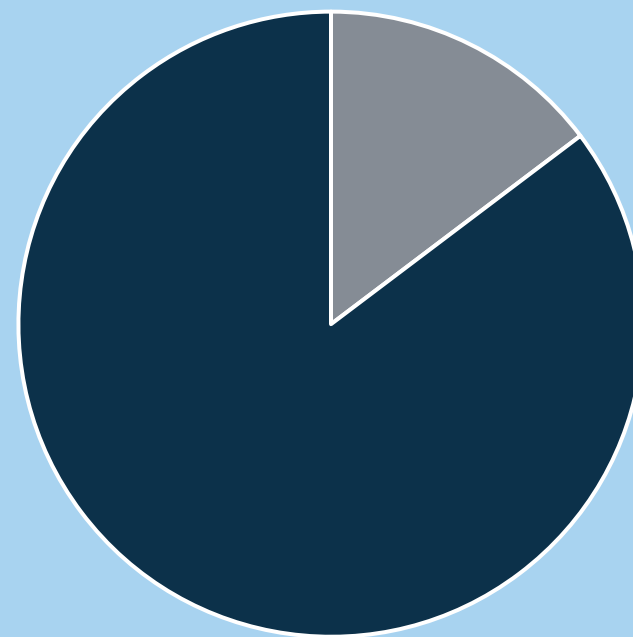
2023 (n=26)



Spring Fall

Spring 13 Fall 13

2024 (n=34)



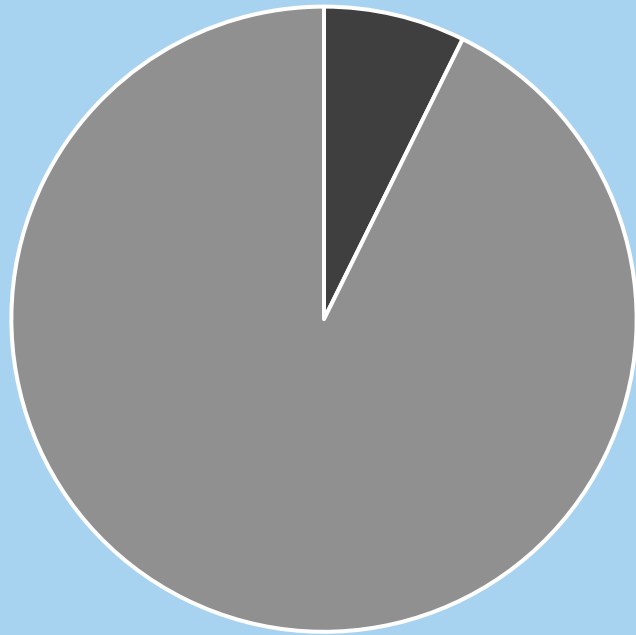
Spring Fall

Spring 5 Fall 29

# Results

Comparing maximum engagement levels across 2 semesters of participation

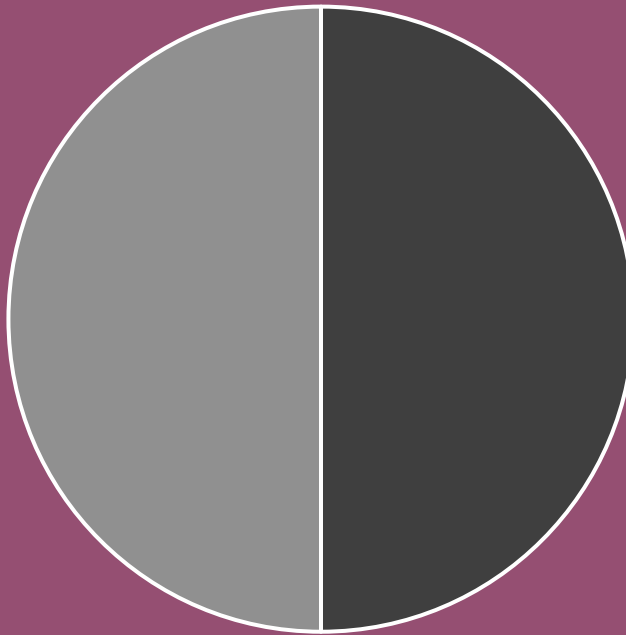
2022 (n=41)



■ Spring ■ Fall

Spring 3 Fall 38

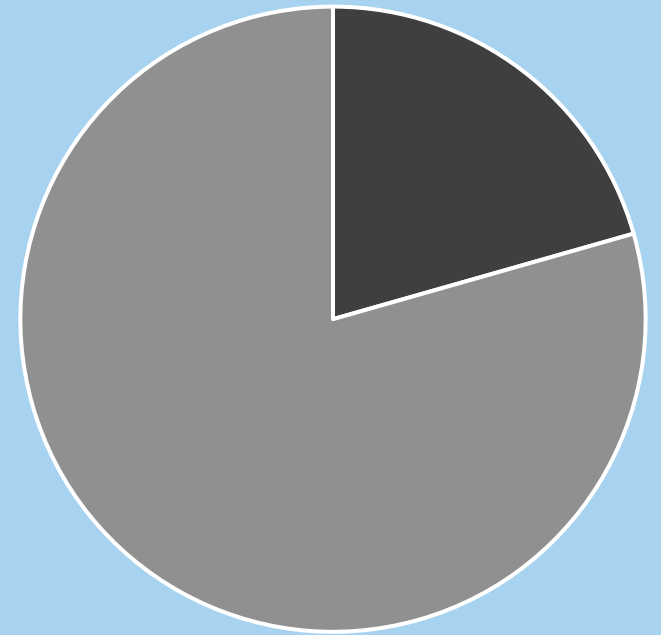
2023 (n=26)



■ Spring ■ Fall

Spring 13 Fall 13

2024 (n=34)



■ Spring ■ Fall

Spring 7 Fall 27



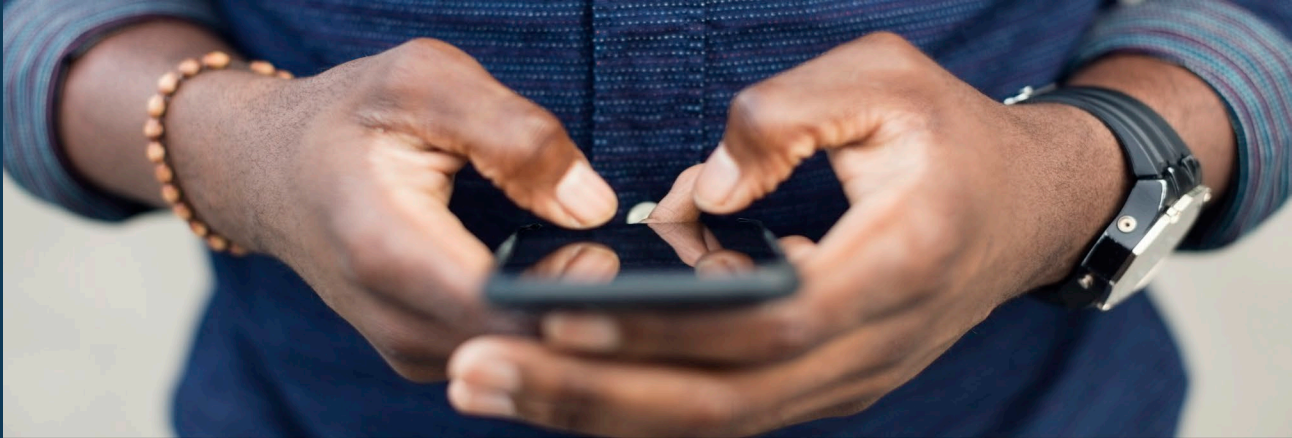
# Discussion about Trends in Students' Participation

## RE: # of posts & replies

2022, 2023 & 2024 saw increases in # of posts & replies in Fall Semester

2023 data was less differentiated (11 of 26 wrote more in spring)

Generally, students posted more in Fall Semester, so, experience with participation may have encouraged more interactions



## Average # of posts / replies

	Spring	Fall
2022	10	31
2023	13	12
2024	19 (15)	32 (29)

Note: In 2024, 1 student wrote 150 posts in spring & 126 posts in fall—avg. in parentheses excludes this student's data. 2 other students posted 158 and 175 times in fall semester, so those students' data may skew results. Excluding these results still resulted in increased fall semester participation.

# Discussion about Trends in Students' Participation

RE: # of words written

2022 & 2024 saw increases in # of words written in Fall Semester

2023 was evenly split

Generally, students wrote more in Fall Semester, so, experience with participation may have encouraged more language production



Average words written

	Spring	Fall
2022	403	1547
2023	1001	1091
2024	1372 (859)	1909 (1520)

Note: In 2024, 1 student wrote 18,286 words in spring & 14,759 words in fall—avg. in parentheses excludes this student's data. 2 other students wrote 5,827 words and 6847 words in fall semester, so those students' data may skew results. Excluding these results still resulted in increased fall semester participation.

# Discussion about Trends in Students' Participation

## RE: Engagement levels

2022 & 2024 saw increases in engagement level in Fall Semester  
2023 was evenly split

Generally, students engaged more with the same partners than spring semester, so, experience with participation may have encouraged more sustained engagements



Engagement Levels Achieved  
Spring                      Fall

Level	1	2	3	4+	1	2	3	4+
2022	7	24	4	4	3	6	12	18
2023	11	4	5	6	15	5	1	3
2024	16	5	2	6	9	14	2	7



# Effect of Experience on Student Participation in Online Intercultural Collaborations in IVEProject

Increased interactions observed based on more posts / replies in fall semesters



Increased number of words written on average in fall semesters shows motivation to use more language



Increases in the max engagement levels in fall semesters shows more motivation to interact longer



Overall, having experience in online intercultural collaborations leads to better engagement





Any questions?

Please join us in the [IVEProject.org](https://IVEProject.org) this fall!

Contact me at [edward.forsythe.bg@hirogaku.ac.jp](mailto:edward.forsythe.bg@hirogaku.ac.jp)