

Activity Report

[Third Joint Program by 30% Club Japan University Group and TOPIX President's Committee]
Seminar hosted by Sophia University and supported by 30% Club Japan University Group

On June 26, 2025, a dialogue titled “*Supporting Female Students' Career Choices – Exploring Careers and Graduate School Pathways*” was held in a hybrid format—both in-person at Sophia University's Yotsuya Campus and online hosted by Sophia University and supported by 30% Club Japan University Group. Approximately 120 participants attended the event.

In response to the trend of female students, particularly in the humanities, being less inclined to pursue graduate studies, the seminar aimed to provide an opportunity to reflect on the value of graduate education and its impact on career development.

Main Highlights:

- In the opening remarks, the President of Sophia University emphasized that graduate school is not only a place to deepen expertise but also to cultivate critical thinking and practical skills, and that pursuing graduate studies can serve as a foundation for career building.
- In the keynote speech, a Director from NEC's Human Resources and Organizational Development Division shared insights into how women around the world continue to pursue learning, highlighting the significance of graduate education.
- Three Sophia University alumni who completed graduate programs shared their experiences regarding graduate school and career development:
 - One graduate from the Graduate School of Global Studies, now working at PwC Consulting LLC, spoke about how logical thinking skills were acquired during the master's program form the basis of their current work.
 - A graduate from the Graduate School of Science and Technology, currently employed at CyberAgent, Inc., shared how fully engaging in what they found “fun” during graduate school has become a source of confidence today.
 - Another graduate from the same school, now working at Dentsu Inc., mentioned that their parents' words — “Better to regret doing something than regret not doing it” — encouraged them to pursue further studies.
- A panel discussion followed, moderated by Professor Tamao Saito from the Department of Materials and Life Sciences, where panelists openly discussed the benefits and challenges of graduate school, as well as balancing it with different life stages.

Feedback from participants included:

- “Seeing the speakers made me feel like I want to be like them.”
- “I learned that there are diverse career paths beyond becoming a researcher.”
- “It was impressive to hear that graduate school experiences can lead to self-confidence.”

In the closing remarks, Vice President for Student and General Affairs Prof. Kyoko Yokoyama encouraged students to cherish even a vague desire to learn and expressed the university’s commitment to supporting students’ aspirations for further education.

This seminar provided students with a concrete understanding of how graduate school can expand career possibilities, serving as a significant step toward future career decisions.

For more details, please refer to the official Sophia University website.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/article/news/topics/30club0626/>