

# Study Tour Kintsugi: the Art of Healing

The Biomedical Engineering (BME) and Technical Medicine (TM) study programs of the University of Twente have established a tradition of organising a joint intercontinental study tour once every two years since 2005. A study tour is dedicated to experiencing healthcare with its technological developments, work ethic and culture outside Europe.

In September 2025, the Study Tour “**Kintsugi; the Art of Healing**” will take place, consisting of a three-week visit to Japan. During the tour Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima will be visited by 30 Master students accompanied by two professors from the University of Twente. A minimum of 10 full days will consist of visits to companies, universities, hospitals and institutes. The visits relate to the theme of “**Kintsugi; the Art of Healing**”, as “Kintsugi” represents both the art form, and the philosophy rooted in Japan’s culture of healing. Before the study tour, participating students will conduct an academic research project focused on how Japan’s culture of healing has developed and how it can shape the future of the technical (bio)medical sectors.

## Kintsugi: the Art of Healing

Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken ceramics with gold, teaches us to embrace imperfections and transform scars into strengths. This philosophy mirrors the shift in modern medicine: from masking wounds to achieving true healing and improvement through regenerative techniques and innovation. By learning from the past and recognising resilience, Kintsugi inspires breakthroughs in fields like early diagnosis and exoskeletons. On this study tour, future researchers, clinicians, and designers will explore how Japan’s culture of healing can shape the future of medicine. Nothing, as Kintsugi shows us, is beyond repair.

## Our Participants

The participants are master students from the Biomedical Engineering (BME) and Technical Medicine (TM) study programs. As future Biomedical Engineers, BME students are experts in research, design and development of innovative healthcare technologies. They operate in a dynamic, interdisciplinary field by combining engineering and life sciences, such as biology, nanotechnology, physics, electrical engineering, chemistry and mechanical engineering. As future Technical Physicians, TM students are interdisciplinary experts linking human physiology with medical technology and professional procedures. They aim to create and apply (new) technical-medical solutions for better diagnostics and therapies in direct patient care. There will be two professors accompanying the students who will guide academic discussions and facilitate connections throughout the study tour.

## Our Goal

The goal of the Study Tour is **to gain insights into Japanese culture, business practices, and technological advancements in the field of (bio)medical technology, expanding both our horizon and international academic and/or business network**. This goal will be achieved via both preparational activities and activities at the site.

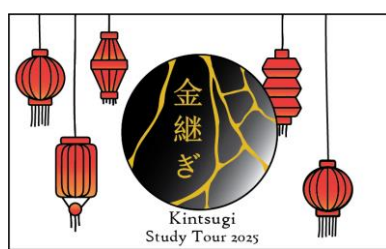
## FACTS

**Destination:** Japan; Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima

**Travel Period:** 9 to 30 September

**Profile Participants:** Biomedical Engineering & Technical Medicine, 30 students

**Collaborations:** Company visit, part of preliminary academic research, sponsorships



Prior to the study tour, the participating students will carry out research on topics like the culture, history, economy and biomedical advancements in Japan. Later on, this research will go more in-depth regarding relevant biotech topics for the visits to Japan's companies and institutes. The students will also receive lectures on these topics to gain in-depth knowledge and broaden their research. Apart from the educational research, the participating students will also carry out a 120-hour contract research or case study. The contract research aims to gain professional experience as well as finance a major part of the study tour.

During the study tour, the students will visit companies, institutes, universities and local hospitals. At the locations, we hope to organise activities such as presentations, discussion sessions and network events to exchange knowledge in the field and engage in meaningful discussions with international experts, both on biomedical and cultural matters. The acquired information and obtained new insights will be applied to complete the research project. This, together with our preliminary research, will result in a thorough final report on the art of healing in Japan.

### **Collaboration Opportunities**

The activities of the Study Tour, both during preparation and the tour, offer opportunities for collaboration partners to introduce themselves to a group of highly motivated Biomedical Engineers and Technical Medicine students, who both bear the potential of becoming future employees or partners. Participation also grants the opportunity to strengthen connections with the University of Twente and establish professional relationships with the Netherlands.

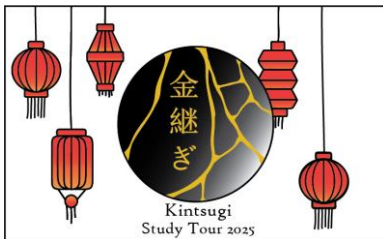
The participants' academic research prior to the study tour holds the potential for a collaborative partnership. A literature or market study corresponding with the research topics and/or interests of your organisation can be conducted. The outcome of these studies can be presented and discussed during a site visit to your organisation. Another possible cooperation could be an inventory of potential partners for your company in the Netherlands and within the University of Twente.

We also invite your organisation to provide financial support for our self-funded study tour. This could take the form of setting up a contract for one of the 120-hour contract research projects or opting for a sponsorship package where your organisation will be showcased as a valued partner in our promotional materials and social media. This is a great opportunity to highlight your commitment to innovation and global collaboration.

Additionally, your support could extend to introducing our initiative to potential contacts in Japan for company visits or in the Netherlands for contract research opportunities. You may also consider joining our Committee of Recommendation, which enhances the credibility of the study tour while strengthening its negotiation power for securing additional partnerships and company visits.

### **Company Visit**

Hosting a company visit would be the most valuable and engaging collaborative opportunity for both the study tour and your organisation. A visit to your organisation would provide invaluable insights into your innovative technologies, unique business practices, and contributions to Japan's healthcare sector. Such a visit would directly align with our theme, ***"Kintsugi: The Art of Healing,"*** by showcasing how resilience, precision, and innovation come together in real-world applications. These experiences will inspire our participants, equipping them with new perspectives to address challenges in healthcare.



A visit could start with a presentation to introduce your organisation, its main goal and the organisation's specialization. This could be followed by a guided tour, perhaps along the research and/or manufacturing facilities, product showroom or simulation centres. In the end, a presentation from us could be given on the University of Twente and the preliminary research we have carried out, possibly referring to your organisation's activities, concluding with a network drink or perhaps a shared lunch or dinner. Other activities can include an interactive workshop or brainstorming session, e.g. on a case or real-life problem often encountered in your company. There are many different possibilities to tailor this opportunity to fit your interest.

### **Towards Collaboration**

We hope we have provided a clear outline of the “**Kintsugi**” academic research project and its purpose. If you are considering taking part in this tour by any means of collaboration, we would love to discuss the opportunities via an online meeting or call.

If any questions arise, more information is provided on our website: <https://studytourkintsugi.nl/>. Also, feel free to contact us:

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We sincerely hope that you will join us in making this study tour a remarkable success. By embracing the values of “**Kintsugi**”, transforming challenges into strengths through collaboration and innovation, your support and participation will not only enhance the students' learning experience but also contribute to a global dialogue on reimagining healthcare and the art of true healing.

Yours sincerely,

Study Tour ***Kintsugi: the Art of Healing***

Paradoks Study Tour Committee 2025

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