



University of Tsukuba's Strategic Plans to Advance Internationalization

Since its establishment, our university has accumulated and disseminated knowledge, based on high-level researches including the achievements of our three Nobel Prize laureates (Dr. Sin-Itiro Tomonaga, Dr. Leo Esaki, and Dr. Hideki Shirakawa). We will also sustain our efforts to produce future leaders that can vigorously participate in international activities, and provide solutions to urgent global-scale challenges such as environmental problems, infectious diseases, and international disputes. To carry out these tasks as our primary mission, we will undertake further internationalization of the university.

Grounded in our basic philosophy, we have been encouraging many students from abroad to study at our campus. As of May 2009, we have 1,522 international students, including full-time degree-seeking students as well as short-term exchange students, from 101 countries. By the year 2020, we plan to accept 4,500 international students and increase the number of foreign teaching staff to 160. This will mean that as for the student population, 1 in 4 will be international students, and for the teaching staff, 1 in 10 will be foreign professors.

Selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as one of the thirteen core universities to promote internationalization, the University of Tsukuba plans to focus on the following four key pillars:

1. Establish More Degree Programs offered in English

Currently at our university, courses taught in English total 148 within the undergraduate schools, with 272 having been offered at the graduate school level, making up 11 degree programs. From the academic year 2010, three newly developed undergraduate level programs and at least six graduate level programs will be launched. Fields that have a high degree of international importance and urgency, such as in the life/environmental sciences, medical care, and international relations, will have English degree programs both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

2. Improve Campus Environment for International Students

Principal support for students studying in Japan will include: improving dormitory rooms and facilities; expanding the student counseling system; promoting multilingual documents within the campus; strengthening support for administrative assistance, etc. In particular, concerning the student dormitories, of the presently 3,927 rooms available, international students are given priority, and nearly all international students desiring space in the dorms have moved in. As the number of international students expected to rise, we will prepare to accommodate more students. Furthermore, financial aid, Japanese language and culture learning opportunities, and career support systems will be expanded.

3. Encourage our Japanese Students to Study Abroad

In order to provide opportunities for our Japanese students to study abroad, we have signed student exchange agreements with 172 universities and international institutions in 49 countries. As a result, 221 students have studied at our partner universities during the academic year 2008. As we plan to send 1,000 Japanese students abroad by the year 2020, we will create exchange programs that meet the needs of our undergraduate and graduate students.

4. Expand Overseas Office Activities

Currently, the University of Tsukuba has overseas offices in Northern Africa (Tunisia) and Central Asia (Uzbekistan). These two offices helped achieve successful joint research and educational activities, and stimulated student exchange. We now plan to set up offices in Vietnam, China, and Germany to further expand our international activities. Moreover, as we are selected as one of the core universities for internationalization, our office in Tunisia has been designated as one of the "Foreign Offices for Shared Utilization by Universities."

As a core institution of the Tsukuba Science City, we will also help create closer ties between our international students and the neighborhood community, thereby realizing a unique sort of internationalization in campus life.