



Press Release

Kyoto University Programs for Future International Leaders: K.U. PROFILE

August 2009

It is the duty of universities to contribute to the development of a stable global society by seeking solutions to the problems faced by human society in modern times, such as energy and environmental issues, poverty, and issues related to urbanization. K.U. PROFILE, Kyoto University's educational initiative under the Japanese government's Global 30 (G30) Project, aims to work toward those goals by gathering together talented students from around the world to provide them with the education, research experience and global perspective needed to prepare them to become future international leaders in their fields. By establishing an excellent environment in which to foster the next generation of international leadership, Kyoto University seeks to further increase its competitiveness in the field of higher education.

Through the K.U. PROFILE initiative, we aim to increase the number of incoming international students from last year's figure of 1,335 to 3,200, and double the percentage of our international faculty members from 5% to 10%, by the year 2020. We hope that the success of this program will not only benefit the international standing of Kyoto University and Japan, but will also contribute to an international knowledge base which will benefit the world as a whole.

In addition to our undergraduate Global Engineering Course, which addresses urban development and social infrastructure issues, we will offer eleven master's, doctoral and professional courses, conducted entirely in English, in the field of environmental studies, energy science, disaster prevention, life science, agriculture, informatics, primate research and business management. Several of these programs will begin in spring 2010. The initiative will give students an opportunity to carry out their studies at Kyoto University's unique facilities and research centers. We will also offer Japanese studies courses to enable students to study Japanese culture in Kyoto, the heart of Japan's traditional culture.

We plan to recruit faculty from overseas, as well as explore ways to further enrich the international experience of our Japanese faculty members. We will provide education at an internationally competitive level by drawing on the diversity and unique capabilities of our faculty, in addition to focusing on small class sizes and offering field-work experience.

Planning is in progress to improve our student recruitment methods by offering more information and by sharing overseas offices with other Japanese universities for recruitment activities. We will soon open an office in Vietnam for this purpose. We will also conduct the entrance process in English. In addition, we plan to enhance our facilities and services for international students.

As a high-priority initiative, K.U. PROFILE will be supervised by the president and executive staff in charge of education, student affairs and international affairs. In executing the initiative, we will seek the advice of an external advisory committee comprised of persons of diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

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