A Vision for the Future

WINDOW

2018.03

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Juichi Yamagiwa
President, Kyoto University

Since its founding over 100 years ago, Kyoto University has sought to cultivate a spirit of autonomy, independence, and creativity through a philosophy of academic freedom based on frank and open dialogue. It has pursued excellence in higher education and cutting-edge academic research with the ultimate aim of tackling complex global problems and contributing to peaceful co-existence within the Earth's human and ecological community. In these times, we have a growing responsibility to foster the capabilities of aspiring scholars from Japan and around the world to gain international competence, pursue diverse research, and share the findings of that research as the common property of all humanity.

At the same time, many 20th-century problems—deterioration of the global environment, mounting tensions between different ethnic and religious groups, international competition for resources, financial crises, social disparities, and insecure livelihoods, to name a few—have been carried over unresolved into the 21st century, where they continue to escalate. We are experiencing rapid changes in world affairs and in the conditions surrounding our own country. In Japan, demographic change and a fundamental fiscal imbalance have generated an expectation that national universities reform their operations and structures. Of particular note is the optimization coefficient-based annual reduction in university grants from the national government, which is placing our university's finances under ever-greater pressure.

In 2014, as we accelerated our reform agenda in alignment with our third set of medium-term goals and plans, I felt it was necessary to establish a set of principles, grounded in an accurate appreciation of the situation facing our university, to guide the reform process and its implementation.

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THE WINDOW CONCEPT

In 2015, to orient Kyoto University in its response to the abovementioned challenges, I formulated the WINDOW Concept. The concept envisages the university as a "window" opening into society and into the world as a whole, and based on that concept I aim to describe and clarify the university's overarching mission: to develop the capabilities of talented students and young researchers, and send them out into their respective fields of endeavor. University education is not dedicated solely to the accumulation of knowledge and cultivation of understanding. The real question is how the knowledge and skills acquired can be applied in order to generate new ideas and discoveries. It is when university faculty, staff, and students come together in a way which enhances this creative spirit that innovation is born. Innovation does not occur when every student is working towards the same objective, even if each improves their own abilities. The way to generate new ideas is to provide opportunities for different types of abilities to come into contact and healthy competition with one another. My vision for Kyoto University is that it does not merely provide a competitive environment, but it is also a place where people are exposed to different abilities and ideas beyond their own fields, enjoy dialogue, and build cooperative relationships. Our university should use such encounters and dialogue to foster ambitious, intelligent students, open windows to a world in which they can flourish, and guide them gently out into that world. This is the dream and goal which I hope all Kyoto University faculty and staff members can share.

To represent this idea, I formulated the acronym "WINDOW" in 2015, and this year, we have revised and updated the concept, building upon the efforts we have made since its original formulation, and in response to ongoing social and environmental changes. Several new measures have been added to the WINDOW Concept to reflect our changing circumstances and priorities. Notably, in 2017, Kyoto University was officially appointed as a Designated National University* by the Japanese government, and the measures that we will implement under that designation have been included in the revised WINDOW Concept.

Under the revised WINDOW Concept, we will advance the newly added policies and initiatives together with the work already in progress under the original version, remaining faithful to its original vision and content. As always, we welcome your valuable opinions and feedback as we strive for the constant development of Kyoto University and its endeavors.

At Kyoto University, we aim to provide our students and researchers with a WINDOW to society, the world, and all of the possibilities therein.

W — WILD AND WISE
Fostering in our students the practical skills and resources to venture into new realms of knowledge, together with sound judgment and decision-making skills.

I — INTERNATIONAL AND INNOVATIVE
Enhancing and internationalizing our education and research environment to provide increasingly fertile ground for innovation and new developments.

N — NATURAL AND NOBLE
Looking to nature as our closest and greatest teacher, and maintaining an awareness of our human dignity as part of the natural world.

The Six Objectives of the WINDOW Concept

D — DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC
Maintaining an open mind towards diverse cultures and ways of thinking, and providing a calm vantage point from which our scholars can approach their studies, informed by the vast span of history.

O — ORIGINAL AND OPTIMISTIC
Cultivating the ability to fearlessly embrace errors and criticism as opportunities to learn new perspectives and integrate them into our path to success.

W — WOMEN AND THE WORLD
Providing an environment that fosters aspiration and confidence through the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and support for student career-path development.

WILD AND WISE

Fostering wisdom and an adventurous spirit in our students by developing a diverse education and research environment that provides practical opportunities to explore uncharted academic terrain.

"W" stands for *Wild and Wise*, as these are qualities that we hope to foster in our students. Students today are said to be wrapped up in their own world, carrying information technology devices with them at all times to maintain constant connections with a small group of peers. As a result, they are increasingly prone to making self-serving judgments based on a limited perspective. To make reasoned, quality choices and actions, you need to be firmly committed to interpreting information correctly and making decisions on your own by mobilizing all available knowledge and experience—both your own and that of others. I aim to provide students with numerous opportunities to engage in such dialogue and practices, both on campus and elsewhere. Through those opportunities, I seek to train our students to be both smart and resilient.

Students on the Omoro Challenge program

The Learning Commons: an open space for group-work and discussion in the university library

Students participating in the Wild & Wise Collaborative Learning Program

Strategic Priority 1-1

In order to deliver enhanced education programs that maximize learner-driven, self-directed creativity and original thinking, and to enable a qualitative shift towards education that puts students first, we will pursue educational quality assurance by making class and program content more transparent, as well as providing flexible options for undergraduate and graduate programs.

Flexible options for undergraduate and graduate programs

1. In order to foster human resources with rich general knowledge and advanced specialist skills, we will introduce flexible options for undergraduate and graduate programs, such as the introduction of unified curricula from bachelor's through to master's degree level, and systems for re-enrollment in undergraduate courses. We will also provide flexible options for transition from master's to doctoral programs, including five-year single-course doctoral programs. We will provide internationally-oriented academic career paths and enhance our systems for early admission and early graduation.

Qualitative shift in education

2. In order to internationalize our education, promote self-directed learning, and enhance the provision of learning support for students, we will introduce course trees, course numbering,* and GPA systems.* We will develop joint and double degree* programs, implement a revised academic calendar that facilitates internationalization, and further expand our Open Course Ware (OCW),* Small Private Online Courses (SPOCs),* and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).*

Enrichment of educational content guided by social awareness

3. In order to develop the human resources needed by society in the face of changing global circumstances, we will endeavor to endow our students with skills which will enable them to play vital roles in society. We will enhance and expand our Common and Interdisciplinary Learnings* to foster essential fundamental knowledge, research abilities, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills, we will train data scientists at the Center for Innovative Research and Education in Data Science of our Institute for Liberal Arts and Science (ILAS), and we will enhance our education and research internship programs in Japan and abroad.

Promotion of lifelong learning

4. In response to the increasing complexity and diversity of society's human resource needs, we will develop our transfer admission system and system for extending the period of registration to facilitate enrollment by working adults, and promote graduate school enrollment by people from diverse backgrounds. We will also provide certificate-bearing programs that promote continuing education by working adults.

Strategic Priority 1-2

We will reinforce our efforts and infrastructure for cultivating the next generation of global human resources, to produce strong, bold leaders capable of showing others the way forward.

Global human resources with intercultural understanding and international capability

1. Through initiatives such as the Kyoto University Japan Gateway Project,* the Program for Leading Graduate Schools,* the Kyoto University International Undergraduate Program (Kyoto iUP),* and short-term international student exchange programs, we will seek to develop global human resources with superior knowledge, a broad outlook, creativity, and the ability to play active roles in the international arena, and who are informed by an understanding of the cultures of their own country and others. In the International Academic Research and Resource Center for Language Education (i-ARRC), we will implement a ground-breaking approach to language education attuned to the needs of global society, recruit talented and motivated international students to create opportunities for intellectual and cross-cultural exchange, and foster students' understanding of their own and other cultures.

Development of globally-capable entrepreneurs

2. In order to cultivate ambitious graduates with world-class creativity and entrepreneurship, we will develop education programs to teach practical innovation, which connect fundamental education with the real world. We will provide motivated students and faculty members with hands-on entrepreneurship education and guidance based on industry-government-academia collaboration projects that foster innovation.

Strategic Priority 1-3

In order to promote interactive and independent learning, we will develop an academic environment which supports diverse forms of student-centered learning, and provide assistance for extracurricular activities that contribute to students' personal development.

Enhancement of educational infrastructure

1. In order to promote self-directed learning wherein students reflect on their own learning experiences, we will pursue the development of an academic infrastructure that supports a variety of student-centered learning activities, including the use of information and communications technology (ICT). This will include the implementation of "bring your own device" (BYOD) initiatives and the development of e-Portfolio systems.*

Enhancement of infrastructure for extracurricular activities

2. In order to support students' self-directed, independent extracurricular activities, we will make improvements to the infrastructure for extracurricular activities, including the development of facilities.

INTERNATIONAL AND INNOVATIVE

Internationalizing research through the foundation of an interactive education and research environment, and fostering innovation.

"I" stands for *International and Innovative*. By providing our students and researchers with a richly international environment, keeping abreast of international developments, and engaging in ongoing dialogue with the international community, we aim to provide fertile ground for the production of epoch-making innovations. We aim to enhance our activities in these areas through a diverse range of interaction with overseas universities, research institutions, and industry.

TEDxKyoto University 2017

Strategic Priority 2-1

Creating a richly international environment.

Promoting international research collaboration

1. We will pursue strategic and multifaceted joint research projects with internationally competitive universities overseas, including research team exchanges through on-site laboratories* mutually established with partner institutions. In order to further promote international exchange, we will form partnerships based on academic and student exchange agreements.

2. We will develop and utilize the university's approximately sixty overseas offices and facilities to hold international symposia and promote joint research projects with overseas institutions in order to acquire external funding and accelerate our international research collaboration.
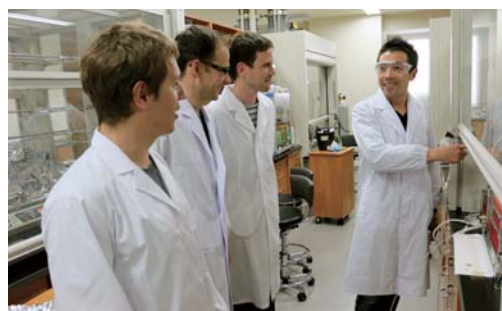
Research meeting at a KUIAS laboratory

Strategic Priority 2-2

Establishing international research hubs that attract top researchers from Japan and overseas by providing a truly international research environment and comprehensive support systems for researchers.

Enhancement of research support systems

1. We will cultivate internationally-minded administrative staff who are fluent in English and highly skilled in administrative operations. We will provide comprehensive support for researchers through our University Research Administrator (URA)* system and the development of ICT infrastructure, thereby creating an environment in which talented people working in diverse fields can fully devote themselves to research and education.

Cultivating the next generation of leading researchers

2. We will develop enhanced employment systems, including tenure tracks,* utilize our Superior Graduate Programs (tentative name),* the John Mung Program,* the Kyoto University Research Development Program (Ishizue),* and establish the Graduate Student Training (GST) Center (tentative name), in order to build a strong institutional foundation upon which to cultivate the next generation of research leaders through coordinated research and education activities.

Utilization of the Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study (KUIAS) (World Premier International Research Center*)

3. The Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study (KUIAS), a newly established international research hub, will develop new cutting-edge research that capitalizes on Kyoto University's particular strengths, and cultivate research professionals through researcher exchange with institutions in Japan and overseas.

Strategic Priority 2-3

We will promote and disseminate the university's creative research internationally.

Pioneering frontier science fields

1. In order to contribute to the advancement of academic research through intellectual endeavors encompassing basic, applied, and developmental research, we will promote cutting-edge and creative research activities leveraging the university's strengths, and pioneer fields at the frontiers of research in the international academic community.

Disseminating the university's new approaches to the social sciences and humanities

2. We will further enhance internationalization in order to advance Japan's research in the social sciences and humanities. We will promote interaction with and enhance support for international students and researchers with a strong interest in the culture of Kyoto and Japanese thought. Building on the university's long history of humanities studies, we aim to develop new approaches to the humanities through enhancing collaborative efforts in our strongest research areas, including collaboration with the natural sciences. We will share the knowledge generated throughout the world, and through our efforts, we aim to contribute to addressing the diverse issues currently facing global society.

Utilizing the university's academic resources

3. In order to develop new knowledge and share our academic achievements, we will promote the international use of the diverse academic resources that have been accumulated by the university, and which have supported research in various fields of the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences. We will maintain and develop those resources as internationally valuable assets.

Enhanced sharing of information

4. In order to more effectively promote Kyoto University's research undertakings and achievements, and as part of our efforts to effectively disseminate information as a global center of scholarship, we will enhance our website and other media from an international perspective, and provide information in multiple languages.

Opening ceremony for the 2017 Universität Hamburg-Kyoto University Symposium

President Yamagiwa chairs a session at the 3rd ASEAN-JAPAN Workshop (organized by the STS *forum*)

Strategic Priority 2-4

We will seek to address social problems and improve the health of the general public through industry-government-academia collaboration, the promotion of social engagement and other programs, and by providing high-quality medical care.

Promotion of venture development programs

1. In order to maintain Kyoto University's advancement of original research and development to the highest international standards, and draw on domestic and international resources to connect our research findings to the establishment of new industrial ventures, we will engage in "universal technological development" through a thoroughgoing promotion of basic research, and pursue industry-government-academia collaboration through our International Science Innovation Building. Particular emphasis will be placed on the promotion of university-based venture development programs that can become sources of innovation.

Development of industry-government-academia collaboration and establishment of the "Kyoto University Model"

2. To provide training, consulting services, and support for commercialization efforts, we will establish a 100%-owned subsidiary of the university (the Kyoto University Original Co., Ltd.), and establish a new industry-government-academia collaboration model in cooperation with the university's existing subsidiaries engaged in technology transfer and venture support.

To further enhance our research and education activities and develop international human resources, we will strengthen our comprehensive industry-academia cooperation, including organization-to-organization research collaboration with proactive participation from industry and a view to pursuing open innovation.

Moreover, in order to share our diverse research output with wider society, we will develop an intellectual property portfolio management system* with a view to the future needs and requirements of the industrial sector, and we will pursue strategic approaches to technology transfer grounded in the basic sciences. As part of these initiatives, we will conduct training programs designed to develop the practical and innovative capabilities of future entrepreneurs.

Promotion of social engagement and other programs

3. In order to raise our university's profile, attract new benefactors, and cultivate a sustainable framework of support for the university, as well as contribute to addressing the various problems in contemporary society, we will extend the reach of our cutting-edge educational and research output through public lectures and public access to facilities, and conduct debates which are open to the wider community.

Additionally, in light of the fact that many of society's problems are in fact global-scale problems, we will endeavor to involve students enrolled in our Leading Doctoral Programs in making practical contributions to tackling the challenges that confront humanity as a whole.

Sharing Kyoto's unique academic culture with wider society

4. Through the Kyoto Academia Forum established in Marunouchi, Tokyo, we will disseminate academic information on culture, art, and science from Kyoto in cooperation with the city's arts-oriented universities. We will promote exchange between faculty members/researchers and companies/economic organizations as a center for technology transfer and venture capital investment activities.

Development and provision of cutting-edge medical care

5. Centering on the Kyoto University Hospital, we will utilize new medical technologies and high-quality biological sample storage and analysis technologies in areas such as regenerative medicine, and use genome and other accumulated medical information together with the latest information technologies to establish a safer, high-quality medical care system and develop revolutionary drugs, medical equipment, and medical software, in order to contribute to medical innovation in Japan.

We will provide world-class medical care, both locally and in other Asian countries, through strengthening our partnerships with regional hub hospitals and local governments and further developing our medical personnel exchange programs with overseas hospitals, particularly those in Asia.

Natural and Noble

Developing engaging curricula and comfortable learning environments to raise awareness, throughout the university, of the importance of a close relationship with nature as the basis for broad and deep learning and the cultivation of personal integrity and character.

"N" stands for *Natural and Noble*. Kyoto City, Japan's historic cultural heartland, is embraced on three sides by mountains and blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. Through the ages, researchers at Kyoto University have enjoyed the benefits of this rich environment and the inspiration that it brings. There is no doubt that the university's setting has played a major part in the development of its distinctive character, and in inspiring our scholars towards innovation and new discoveries. To date, Kyoto University has produced nine Nobel laureates, two Fields Medalists, and numerous other recipients of prestigious international awards, and our scholars have pioneered new frontiers in many academic fields, including primatology and philosophy (with the development of the famous Kyoto School of philosophy by Kitaro Nishida). The people of Kyoto have traditionally maintained a close bond with the students of Kyoto University, often providing them with support in their academic endeavors. I believe that the natural and social environment of Kyoto has helped to nurture the integrity and ethical sense of our students. I hope to maintain these admirable traditions, and carry them forward in a manner appropriate for our changing times.
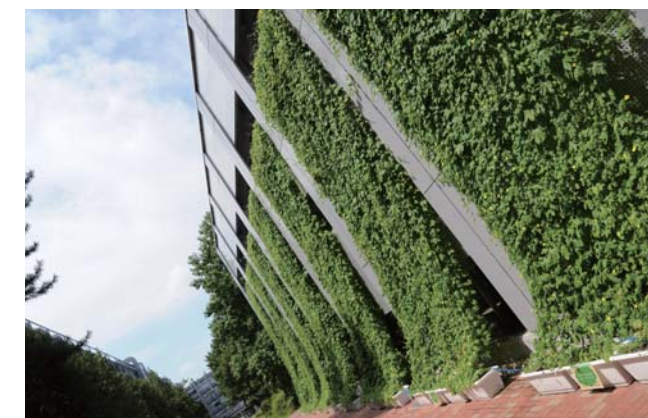

Observation tour at the Ashiu Forest Research Station

The China-Japan Korea SERVE Initiative 2017 (summer program)

The ÉCOle de Kyodai Early Summer Campaign

A "green wall," which contributes to the reduction of building temperature and energy conservation

Strategic Priority 3-1

We will develop and enhance the university's education and research environment.

Provision of a comfortable campus environment

1. We will ensure that our campus environment is conducive to a comfortable student life. We will endeavor to maintain sustainable campuses,* and regularly update the Kyoto University Campus Master Plan* (2013). We will continue our efforts to maintain and manage facilities appropriately to prolong their service life based on the Plan to Prolong the Service Life of Infrastructure. We will reduce the university's environmental load using our environmental tax system, and raise awareness among our students, faculty, and staff of contributing to harmonious coexistence within the world's human and ecological community.

Promoting the health of students, faculty, and staff

2. With the aim of promoting the physical and mental health of people and society, we will advance the efforts of our Healthy Campus Project. We will not only promote the health of our students, faculty, and staff members, but also foster a culture of valuing health in cooperation with the general public.

Strategic Priority 3-2

We will provide increased opportunities to learn from nature and interact with different cultures.

Fieldwork and curricular enhancement

1. Based on the values that have been held by the university since its establishment (such as self-directed learning, self-reliance and self-respect, and spontaneity and personal responsibility), and with an emphasis on practical experience, we will expand curricular opportunities for students to learn from nature, experience Kyoto's historical and cultural heritage, and experience different cultures. We will enhance exchange activities in cooperation with government, industrial, and private sector organizations.

Strategic Priority 3-3

We will strengthen our compliance framework.

Stronger compliance

1. In order to maintain a sound ethical sense among our students, faculty, and staff, and in order to maintain and increase society's confidence in the university, we will employ a comprehensive framework to enhance compliance education and awareness of compliance responsibilities. We will also develop the university's systems and infrastructure with an emphasis on risk management and preventative measures.

Discussion about student perspectives on health promotion at the Kyoto University Healthy Campus kick-off forum
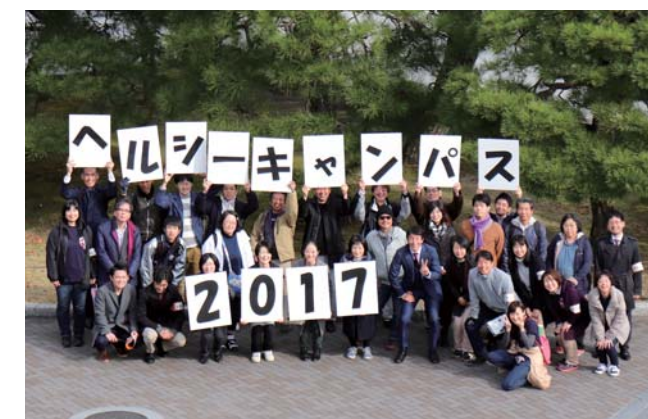
Participants of the Kyoto University Healthy Campus kick-off forum

DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC

Cultivating an environment that encourages academic freedom, and which welcomes diverse cultures and ways of thinking.
Fostering in our students and researchers an awareness of their place in the long span of history, and the conviction to step forward with confidence.
We aim to provide a place of calm and thoughtful scholarly endeavor that pursues these goals.

"D" stands for *Diverse and Dynamic*. The onset of globalization has dramatically increased the degree of interaction among the world's diverse cultures. In the past, Japan has drawn on its homogeneity as a source of strength, but today, as international competition intensifies, that same homogeneity is said to impair creativity and stifle innovation. I believe that Kyoto University should be a place of uninhibited learning that is always open to a diversity of cultures and ways of thinking. At the same time, it is important not to be swayed by short-term trends; we must look carefully at our own circumstances and act with conviction, based on a proper understanding of our place in the long span of history. Kyoto University should be a place of calm and thoughtful scholarly endeavor that gives full play to such ideas.

The Rediscovering Nature Tour, an event held for the general public by the Hida Observatory of the Graduate School of Science

The Wild & Wise Collaborative Learning Program

Strategic Priority 4-1

In order to maintain and develop Kyoto University's distinctive character, we will pursue the University Campus Kyoto initiative, which conceptualizes the whole of Kyoto City as a "campus"—a place of learning, and promotes involvement in the local community and wider society. The initiative also promotes internationalization through stronger ties with government, industry and with other academic institutions.

Implementation of a credit transfer system

1. We will promote an inter-university credit transfer system for courses in the field of Kyoto studies, in line with the Kyoto Vision 2040 initiative (proposed by the Social Gathering to Think about the Future of Kyoto) and the College Town Kyoto International Student Support Program (currently being implemented by the Kyoto City government).

Partnerships with Kyoto Prefecture and Kyoto City

2. We will work in partnership with Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City, and other municipalities, as well as with public and private facilities (such as botanical gardens, zoos, museums, and art galleries) in the prefecture and its vicinity, thereby creating an academic culture unique to Kyoto, which we will communicate to the world.

Reuse of dormant facilities

3. Through the above partnerships, we will make full use of Kyoto's historical and cultural heritage as a tourist city, and re-use dormant facilities in order to expand and enhance the infrastructure available to international researchers and students.

Promotion of researcher exchange

4. We will introduce and make effective use as necessary of annual salary systems, cross-appointment systems,* and tenure track systems,* thereby increasing mobility without disadvantage to faculty members, and providing a stable environment for education and research.

Interaction with local communities and wider society

5. We will expand opportunities to hold performances and meetings in a variety of languages, furthering exchange between non-Japanese and local residents. These activities will be used to develop students' communication and debating skills, and to boost their interdisciplinarity, international competence, and creativity.

6. We will organize public lectures, seminars, and symposia, public access to facilities, exhibitions, and other initiatives to promote exchange among students, researchers, local residents, and companies.

A lecture in Kyoto University's Shunju Kougi (spring and autumn) public lecture series

Strategic Priority 4-2

We will develop venues and opportunities for Japanese and international students to interact, as part of our infrastructure for pro-actively enrolling diverse, globally-minded students.

Development of student interaction and welfare facilities

1. In order to expand opportunities for interaction among Japanese and international students, we will develop and expand welfare facilities and co-residential facilities for such students.

Strategic Priority 4-3

We will employ flexible and agile university management to steadily achieve the goals of our plans and initiatives.
In order to enhance the university's research capacity through systematization and the development of a next-generation academic environment, we will develop our information infrastructure and develop a unique system to enable the comprehensive organization and management of our diverse activities.

A dynamic and steady approach to plans and initiatives

1. We will employ flexible and agile management of university-wide and cross-organizational initiatives, plans, and organizational reforms through the Kyoto University Provost system, which was established to coordinate top-down and bottom-up processes, and formulate and implement strategies to dynamically and steadily achieve the goals of university initiatives.

University management utilizing IR

2. We will utilize the large quantities of data generated in the course of the university's activities by employing Institutional Research (IR)* methods, and pursue evidence-based planning and operations that give full play to ingenuity and innovation in education and research practices. We will pursue organizational reforms and other initiatives that support the university's sustainable development and produce new fields of interdisciplinary scholarship.

Comprehensive student support

3. In order to enable students from diverse backgrounds to concentrate on their studies and research free from extraneous problems and concerns, we will enhance our comprehensive support framework, tailoring it to student needs in areas such as counseling, career support, and support for students with special needs. We will also increase the effectiveness of education support services through initiatives such as Integrated Student Support System (ISSS)* and the provision of accessible English-language information for international students.

ORIGINAL AND OPTIMISTIC

Cultivating an environment in which errors and criticism become positive opportunities to incorporate new perspectives and integrate them into one's path to success. Supporting forays into uncharted domains of scholarship and the creation of new academic fields through diverse interdisciplinary collaboration.

"○" stands for *Original and Optimistic*. In practice, ideas that rewrite conventional wisdom are generally formed by bringing together the views and experiences of a large number of people. To generate such inspirational ideas, it is necessary first to engage in a process of becoming familiar with the words and actions of people that have impressed you personally, sharing and discussing them with your peers, and thereby deepening your own insights. This requires the mental fortitude to break through dead-ends in your own thinking and to be unperturbed by criticism. You need to develop a capacity to respond positively to failure and criticism—using them as opportunities to incorporate perspectives different from your own to further your success. I aim to create an environment at Kyoto University that offers as many opportunities as possible to engage in this process.

京都大学
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今年も
意欲 買います!
京都大学

平成29年度実施の特色入試から
「全学部学科」で志願者を募集します。

Poster publicizing the special admission system

An ELCAS class for high school students

Class being taught by a graduate school student at a high school as part of the Learning Coordinator Initiative

Strategic Priority 5-1

We will develop high-quality education befitting a comprehensive university, and create an environment in which all students and faculty members feel secure in devoting themselves to their study, teaching, and research.

Developing complementary relationships between education and research

1. We will take concrete steps to develop a complementary relationship between education and research, with a view to preventing situations such as education being overshadowed by research, or a conflicting relationship developing between the two. To this end, we will develop mechanisms for the accurate evaluation of faculty members' contributions, not only to research, but also to education and the management of educational systems.

Strategic Priority 5-2

We will advance projects to foster links between high schools and universities in order to develop the best admission policies for a comprehensive university, support the career choices of high school students, and facilitate a smooth transition between senior high school and university education.

Transition from high school to university

1. In order to attract talented applicants in accordance with our admission policy, we will conduct ongoing reforms of our entrance examination systems, including special entrance examination methods focused on fundamental academic abilities and the transition from high school to university.

High school-university partnerships

2. In order to achieve a smooth transition between senior high school and university education, we will utilize partnership agreements with local education boards as the basis for developing collaborative projects with high schools, Kyoto University summer schools, and the Kyoto University Science Festival (a research showcase featuring teams selected from different prefectures in Japan). We will also employ initiatives such as the Experience-based Learning Course for Advanced Science (ELCAS),* and the Learning Coordinator Initiative (courses coordinated and taught by graduate school students)* to deliver education programs that utilize superior education and research resources to cultivate intellectual excellence in highly-motivated, intellectually-curious high school students. We will work to create networks with high schools to facilitate a smooth transition from high school to university.

Strategic Priority 5-3

We will promote research in creative fields of scholarship distinctive to Kyoto University.

Exploring uncharted domains of academic endeavour through the promotion of interdisciplinary research

1. In order to break new ground in uncharted domains of academic endeavour, such as the creation of new disciplines, we will promote interdisciplinary research, and through our Faculty Consort/Platform system of academic staff organization, we shall implement flexible and effective reorganization that removes the boundaries of existing academic departments (education and research organizations).

Strategic Priority 5-4

We will employ a funding strategy that ensures that freedom of thought and creativity are unhampered by external constraints, and which will strengthen the university's ties with wider society and benefactors.

Independent procurement of funds and enhancement of support based thereon

1. We will work to procure our own funding sources and use them to enhance support for students, including our Student Projects for Enhancing Creativity (SPEC)* scholarship, and the Omoro Challenge.* We will also use the funds to strengthen assistance for young researchers venturing into new and emerging research areas.

Links with the university's supporters in Japan and abroad

2. In order to expand the university's base of support, we will strengthen our links with alumni, bolster our support of alumni associations, including international alumni associations, and provide facilities for alumni and international researchers to gather together, such as the Rakuyu Kaikan, the Kyoto University Tokyo Office, and the Kyoto Academia Forum.

オーロラの発生と同時に聞こえる
オーロラの音の謎②
音に成功していない

Students presenting their work on the Student Projects for Enhancing Creativity (SPEC) program

A reunion meeting of the Kyoto University European Alumni Association

WOMEN AND THE WORLD

Developing the university environment and support services in accordance with our Action Plan for Gender Equality. Implementing a system of flexible work options during the child-rearing period following maternity and childcare leave.

Providing an environment in which students can be ambitious in the pursuit of their chosen career paths.

"W" stands for *Women and the World*. To date, the Japanese government has promoted many initiatives to work towards the ideal of a gender-equal society. The proportion of females in Kyoto University's student body now exceeds 20%, while the proportion of female administrative and technical staff is close to 60%. Female faculty members, however, remain at around 10% of the total. I am sure that this proportion will continue to increase gradually, but first and foremost we need to create an environment which enables female employees to pursue fruitful careers and female academics to devote themselves to and excel in their scholarly activities. We will enable both men and women to take maternity and childcare leave easily, and find ways to ensure that such leave does not impede the continuation of work and study. We will also endeavor to develop more women-friendly facilities and systems. In addition to an improved environment and support systems to underpin a gender-equal workplace, we will develop a system that provides flexible work options in the child-rearing period, after returning from maternity and childcare leave. To this end, we have drawn up our Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and will continue to implement it. Furthermore, Kyoto University should function as a "window" to society and the world at large for all of our students, endow them with confidence in their abilities, and provide them with opportunities to venture forth and realize their full potential.

The Day Care Room for Infants on Waiting Lists for Nursery Schools operated by the Kyoto University Gender Equality Promotion Center

The Kurumaza Forum, a roundtable discussion forum for female senior high school pupils

The recipients of the 2015 Tachibana Award, an award acknowledging the achievements of outstanding female researchers at Kyoto University

The Kyoto University Future Forum

Strategic Priority 6-1

We will provide increased opportunities for women to attain leadership positions and promote a healthy work-life balance.

Cultivation of women in leadership

1. In order to provide increased opportunities for women to attain leadership positions, we will pay due attention to gender balance in faculty and staff appointments, and implement training and awareness-raising initiatives for women's career advancement, including measures such as increasing the visibility of women's achievements and enhancing mentoring systems.

Support for a healthy work-life balance

2. In order to support a healthy balance between work and home life, we will provide improved services and facilities for employees and researchers, including child pick-up and care services, care services for infants awaiting public day care, and care for sick children. We will enhance our provision of support for the employment of research lab assistants during the maternity period and during maternity and childcare leave, and promote awareness of childcare and family care leave systems for men and women. Through such measures, we aim to eliminate gender disparities in the workplace.

Strategic Priority 6-2

We will maintain an environment that fosters the aspirations of both men and women.

Cultivating the next generation

1. In order to effectively demonstrate Kyoto University's merits to the next generation of students and researchers, we will publicize the university's activities and provide role models through open campus events, forums for female high school students, and other initiatives in partnership with high schools and the local community. We will also host discussion forums in which female undergraduate students can interact with graduate students and young researchers, and we will develop career paths to cultivate the next generation of female researchers.

Information and consciousness-raising efforts for faculty, staff, and students

2. In order to promote gender equality, we will invite our students, faculty, and staff to share their career aspirations with us, and look to international models of career development. We will seek to raise gender-equality awareness throughout the university, and improve our facilities and environment to enable men and women to work together effectively and harmoniously.

Strategic Priority 6-3

We will provide support for students to have confidence in their abilities and realize their full potential in society.

Enhancing the teaching and research capabilities of graduate school students

1. We will establish the Graduate Student Training (GST) Center (tentative name) to provide diverse training to foster comprehensive teaching and interpersonal skills in graduate school students and support their career development.

Support for student career development through cooperation with society

2. By providing opportunities for students to learn from the experiences of university alumni who are active in society through the Kyoto University Future Forum,* we will support students in developing clear career paths in consideration of the widest possible range of opportunities.

子育てサポートしています
2014.09 年認定事業主

"Kurumin," the certification mark granted by the Japanese Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare to organizations and companies that meet the accreditation standard of work-life balance based on the Act on Advancement of Measures to Support Raising Next-Generation Children. Kyoto University was granted use of the mark in 2009 (renewed in 2014).

Glossary

Campus Master Plan: A basic plan for the campus environment as a whole, based on a medium- to long-term perspective.

Common and Interdisciplinary Learnings: A range of courses launched in 2018 to enhance the general education provided to graduate school students. The courses are categorized as "Common Learnings" (courses in social/entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, information technology sciences, and communication sciences fields) and "Interdisciplinary Learnings" (a variety of elective courses provided by different graduate schools and interactive courses held by multiple graduate schools and research institutes).

Course numbering: The classification of curricular courses by appropriately assigning systematized numbers to each course, thereby specifying the different stages and sequences of study and clarifying curricular structure.

Cross-appointment system: A system whereby a researcher enters into contractual employment arrangements with two or more different universities, public research institutions, private companies, or other organizations, enabling the researcher to pursue different working roles with each employer.

Designated National University Corporation: A designation awarded by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to selected national universities deemed to have the highest levels of research capability, social engagement, and international collaboration. The designated universities are anticipated to lead national university reform and to implement initiatives that will contribute to the development of society and the economy in pace with the standards of leading universities in the competitive international academic environment. Kyoto University was granted Designated National University Corporation status in June 2017.

Double degree: A system whereby two or more partner universities, in the same or different countries, simultaneously award their own degrees to students who complete, within a prescribed time-frame, a set of study programs predetermined in accordance with a partnership agreement that includes provisions for mutual credit recognition.

e-Portfolio systems: Systems that use information and communications technology to store and manage educational records.

Experience-based Learning Course for Advanced Science (ELCAS): An education program run in cooperation with high schools for high school students who want to proactively study science using the university's education and research resources. The program is based on the university's philosophy of "self-reliant learning founded upon dialogue." The approximately 100 first- and second-year high school students on the program attend lectures, seminars, and laboratory courses at the university once or twice per month, and engage in research activities using the university's facilities and equipment under the guidance of faculty members or graduate/undergraduate students.

Grade point average (GPA) system: According to Japan's Standards for University Establishment, universities are required to present clear assessment criteria to students in advance, and follow those criteria throughout the assessment process to ensure objectivity and accuracy. The GPA system is an academic grading method used for objective and transparent student assessment. The most common GPA mechanism ranks student achievement for each credit in five levels (e.g. A, B, C, D, and F), each of which is given corresponding points from 4 to 0. A student's GPA is calculated from the average of their total scores, and may be used as part of a course's graduation/completion requirements.

Institutional research (IR): Survey research implemented within an institution of higher education. The centralized collection and analysis of institutional information allows the institution to achieve smoother planning, policy formulation, and decision-making. It also enables institutional information to be furnished as required, both internally and externally.

Integrated Student Support System (ISSS): An integrated system providing continuous support for students during the admission process, throughout their time at the university, and after graduation.

Intellectual property portfolio management: Appropriate management and effectively utilization of intellectual properties in accordance with management strategies.

Joint degree: A system whereby two or more partner universities jointly design and implement an educational curriculum through which students are awarded a single degree issued jointly by all of the partner universities. By drawing on the individual strengths of the partner institutions, the system enables the provision of unique and diverse education and research activities. In Japan, the joint degree system was formally established on March 1, 2009 by means of a revision to Japan's Standards for the Establishment of Universities .

Kyoto University Future Forum: Aims to enhance the university's collaboration and linkage with society. Comprises lectures, discussion sessions, and other activities. The forum invites the participation of university alumni who are active in different areas of society, such as private companies, government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, research institutes, the mass media, culture, and the arts.

Kyoto University International Undergraduate Program (Kyoto iUP): A program to facilitate the increased enrollment of talented and motivated international undergraduate students. The program was designed in response to the important issue of maintaining a high standard of university education in the face of a declining number of 18-year-olds, and to cultivate the next generation of leading researchers who will be active domestically and internationally. Through the program, the university aims to foster the highly sophisticated international human resources needed by Japanese industry, and to encourage such individuals to settle in Japan, and thereby contribute to the internationalization of Japanese society and industry.

Kyoto University Japan Gateway Project: A program which aims to mobilize Kyoto University's many world-class research networks to partner with universities overseas on the mutual provision of high-quality curricula and internationally-recognized degree programs. Through such efforts, the initiative aims to strengthen the education and research capabilities and international competitiveness of both Kyoto University and its partners. The project is supported by the MEXT Top Global Universities Project.

Kyoto University Research Development Program (Ishizue): An internal grant to support early- and mid-career researchers in further advancing their research.

Learning Coordinator Initiative (courses coordinated and taught by graduate school students): A program run in cooperation with high schools whereby Kyoto University graduate school students create engaging and easy-to-understand educational materials about their field of research, and teach classes to high school students. The classes take place either at the high schools ("delivery classes") or at the university ("open classes"). The program aims to motivate high school students, enhance their knowledge of diverse subjects, and encourage individual study habits.

Massive open online courses (MOOCs): Large-scale open lectures made freely available to anyone online.

Omoro Challenge: An international program launched in 2016 to enable students to travel abroad to pursue unique projects planned by the students themselves. Applicants are required to submit a project plan and statement of purpose, and the successful applicants are provided with a scholarship. The program is financially supported by the Kanae-Kai, an association of Kyoto University alumni business leaders that is dedicated to supporting the university's vision.

On-site Laboratory: Locally-managed laboratories mutually established in partnership with overseas higher education and research institutions. Through the initiative, laboratories are established on the campuses of both Kyoto University and the partner institution, and used to promote exchange and collaboration between research groups.

Open Course Ware (OCW): Free-of-charge lectures and related information officially made available online by a university or other educational institution.

Program for Leading Graduate Schools: An initiative to develop graduate schools of the highest caliber through innovative reform of graduate education and the provision of degree programs of the highest global standards. The program aims to foster excellence in students who are highly creative and internationally attuned, and who will play leading roles in the global academic, industrial, and governmental sectors. The program brings together top-ranking faculty and students from both in and outside Japan, and utilizes the expertise of the academic, government, and industrial sectors in its planning and execution. The program provides continuity between master's and doctoral level education and curricula that encompasses multiple fields of specialization.

Small Private Online Courses (SPOC): Using a similar online environment to MOOCs, SPOCs are online lectures and learning resources provided by universities for their students.

Student Projects for Enhancing Creativity (SPEC): Launched in 2015 to provide students with opportunities to challenge new academic terrain and encourage creative thinking. Selected student projects are crowdfunded via the Kyoto University Foundation.

Superior Graduate Program (tentative name): A doctoral program to foster human resources (high-level "knowledge professionals") who can spearhead the development and utilization of new knowledge, create new values for the next generation, address social issues, and advance innovation for the benefit of society.

Sustainable campus: An environmentally-friendly university campus that can serve as a model for the development of a sustainable society.

Tenure track: A system designed to enhance an institution's activities by providing young researchers with a specified period of experience in independent research, conducting a stringent screening of their performance over that period, and granting them employment for an unlimited term if they are proven to possess the capabilities and qualities required of the institution's faculty members and researchers.

The John Mung Program: A university-wide program that seeks to proactively foster the next generation of global human resources by sending young faculty, students, and staff abroad to gain international experience. There are three types of program: for researchers, students, and administrative staff members. Each type is tailored to provide participants with experience that will develop their intercultural understanding, and their ability to excel in international work or study environments.

University research administrator (URA): A specialist staff member involved in the management of research at a university. Positioned midway between a researcher and an administrative staff member, a URA works in collaboration with faculty members and researchers to plan research activities, procure research funds, and utilize research outputs, thereby supporting the advancement of research activities and the strengthening of research systems.

World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI): A program initiated in 2007 by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to provide concentrated governmental support for projects to establish world-class research centers with high-level scholars. The program promotes autonomous measures by universities, such as the introduction of system reforms, with the goal of creating excellent research environments that attract top-quality researchers from around the world. Through these efforts, the initiative aims to foster Japanese research centers that produce superior research and have a high degree of international visibility.