

Confronting social realities, and meeting the challenges of social change

With my inauguration as the 42nd President of Kansai University in October this year, I would like to assert my determination to fully pursue my responsibilities in leading this university, with its long and splendid history and sense of tradition.

Kansai University has seen remarkable development over its many years. We celebrated our 130th anniversary in November. We have 13 faculties, 13 graduate schools, three professional graduate schools, as well as a preparatory course for international students. Over our long history, all those involved in building our institution have had to overcome various hardships to achieve such prestigious standing. While always keeping this in mind, we now need to make a courageous new start in order to explore an even brighter future, and a new era of further reform that balances reality and ideals. In order to proudly pass on “the burning torch of intelligence” at our 150th, or even 200th anniversary, we must gather all our collective wisdom to engineer a concrete plan for reform, and proceed boldly.

The keys to cementing a robust set of reforms are research and education for the further growth of the university, and social and international engagement to strongly connect with the outside world. These are the most important elements necessary for the university to pursue its mission as an essential organ of higher education, and as part of our society, community, and indeed the world, for a richer, brighter future.

1. Further enhancement of research as the driving force of our university

Providing a free and energetic environment for research is one of the key elements required to invigorate our university. Therefore, we will strive to raise research standards university-wide through the creation of a strategic research-promotion structure. In this way, we will establish an intellectual and creative climate to initiate new research organizations aiming at scholarly breakthroughs, as well as to strengthen our existing research institutes.

2. Education that disseminates a broad base of knowledge

The knowhow created through good research should be passed on to the next generation through solid educational activities. To realize this, our team of teachers and staff members will work together to provide support to students so that they may learn in an independent and autonomous manner. We will be sensitive to what is happening in the world and greater society, by learning from a diverse pool of exemplar projects for improving university education, with the aim of fostering students who can think, act and make a difference to the society they live in.

3. Fruitful collaboration between the university and society

We believe that we can assure the kind of sound academic environment where active research and learning profoundly rooted in society can be established through interaction with the world outside of the campus. Therefore, we will make every effort to involve ourselves in a range of activities that foster comprehensive exchanges with the society we serve, extending beyond the framework of business-academia collaborations.

4. International activities as a commitment to globalization

Our university will continue to make bold moves from a strategic perspective in a variety of ways. These include greater diversity among university staff and teachers; promotion of cross-cultural education; international education addressing global issues, such as the environment, energy, terrorism and conflicts; regional studies; foreign-language education of English and other languages; and an increase in the number of students who study overseas.

As President of Kansai University, I am firmly committed to demonstrating and perpetuating our outstanding, original presence as an institution. Furthermore, I resolve to take on the significant responsibility of promoting our university as an institution that fosters students who can think and act effectively toward a brighter future. This, of course, is of the utmost importance to our students, their families, alumni, business, corporations and local communities and, in fact, contemporary global society as a whole.

Shibai Keiji, President

Globalizing Kansai University



Vice President
Dean, Division of
International Affairs
Maeda Yutaka

As Japanese society becomes more connected to global society, understanding and respecting diverse cultures, languages and people is essential especially for the younger generation. It is important for Kansai University to foster human resources with specialized knowledge and technology skills, language proficiency, practical communication competence, problem-finding and solving capabilities, and adaptability to an intercultural environment.

Through “Globalizing Kansai” initiatives undertaken in 2004, and “Kansai University Global Initiatives” in 2010, Kansai University has achieved promising results. Vibrant student and researcher exchange programs with universities all over the world have been initiated with the support of all of our faculties and graduate schools. Our language education programs have also been continually improved, and more and more students are demonstrating a high level of linguistic proficiency and confidence.

One of our university mottos is “*gaku no jitsuge* (学の実化).” This roughly translates as “harmony between academia and society,” and it was promoted by Juntaro Yamaoka—one of our early presidents who rejuvenated Kansai University during the early part of the twentieth century. Education, research and social contribution are conducted under this driving principle at Kansai University. Now is time to realize this philosophy from a global point of view as well.

It is our intention to further accelerate the internalization of our university. To this end, Kansai University is introducing what we call the Intercultural Immersion Initiatives (TripleI). Our campuses offer many opportunities and activities for students and faculty to immerse themselves in various languages and cultures. Moreover, we are providing and increasing number of groundbreaking international programs promoting student mobility with our partner universities, language courses, and other enterprises. For example, the Kansai University

Global Frontier curriculum provides both Japanese and international students the opportunity to study content courses in various fields in English. We also offer courses using interactive online collaboration with students at foreign universities. The Kansai University Collaborative Online International Learning subjects are taught in our newly established Multilingual Immersion Room. Through these programs, students can engage themselves in an intercultural environment inside the university.

I am convinced that the Triple I initiatives will be hugely successful. Japanese and international students benefit greatly through studying together, and we are confident that we are nurturing a generation of motivated global leaders with high aspirations.

It is our mission at Kansai University to contribute to a sustainable global society. We appreciate your cooperation and support.

Kansai University

2016–2017

Faculty

Law / Letters / Economics / Commerce / Sociology / Policy Studies / Foreign Language Studies / Health and Well-being / Informatics / Safety Science / Engineering Science / Environmental and Urban Engineering / Chemistry, Materials and Bioengineering

Graduate Schools

Law / Letters / Economics / Commerce / Sociology / Informatics / Science and Engineering / Foreign Language Education and Research / Psychology / Safety Science / East Asian Cultures / Governance / Health and Well-being

Specialist Professional Graduate Schools

School of Law / Graduate School of Accountancy / Graduate School of Professional Clinical Psychology

Our Mission

Kansai University places the three mainstays of “Education”, “Research”, and “Social Contribution” as its core objectives. At Kansai University, we encourage our students and faculty members to discover and analyze issues encountered in the course of everyday living, and return the fruits of their findings to the wider community through the promotion of education and research. Our purpose is to nurture talented individuals who are able to play an important role in society, and who can participate at a local and global level with eyes open to the world, and the future.



About Kansai University

Kansai University, one of the leading comprehensive universities in Japan, celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2016. Kansai University is a prestigious private university with 13 undergraduate and 13 graduate programs along with 3 professional graduate schools. There are over 30,000 students enrolled at the university including more than 800 international students.



Kansai University Global Educational Reform Initiatives

Kansai University has always been active in two-way international student exchange through various programs of the Division of International Affairs, undergraduate faculties and graduate schools. As the globalization of universities is becoming necessary today more strongly than ever before, Kansai University remains committed to the development of globally competent human resources armed with a mastery of specialized knowledge, outstanding foreign language proficiency, efficient communication skills, the ability to tackle cross-cultural issues and think and act beyond cultural boundaries, and the ability to understand and adapt to different cultures.

Meanwhile, for Japan's further development in this increasingly globalizing world, it is essential to improve the environment of English language education so as to better assist students in realizing substantial progress in their English language competence. Kansai University has already been making efforts in this regard through various measures, such as the formation of separate English language classes based on students' achievement levels as General Education subjects and the operation of a textbook pooling system. Yet, more is needed today, given the urgency of the acquisition of operational foreign language skills expected in a globalized society. Under the educational reform initiatives presented hereunder, by vigorously promoting the improvement of English language education at Kansai University, we aim to construct at the earliest possible time a mechanism that will enable all students to acquire basic foreign language and communication skills responsive to a globalized society.

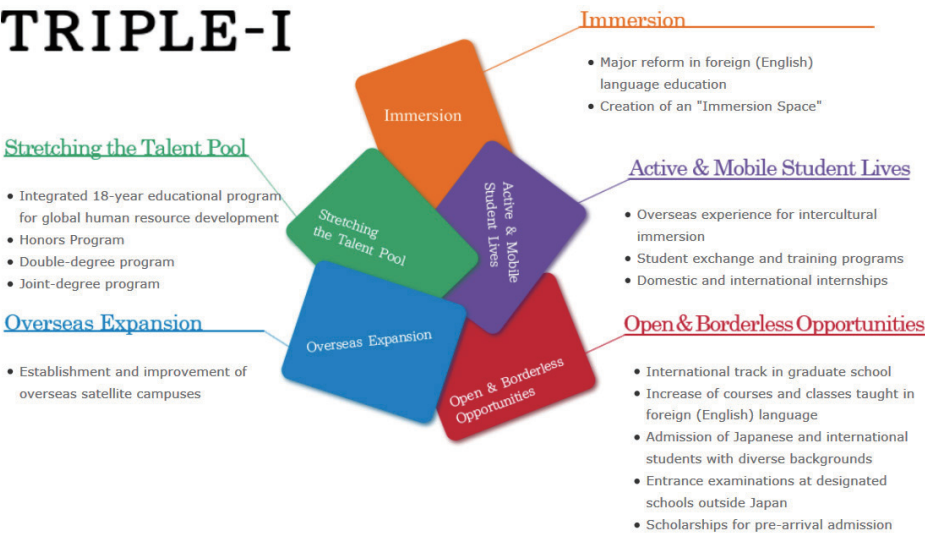
At the same time, we will promote Intercultural Immersion Initiatives ("Triple-I Initiatives") to provide Japanese and international students with the opportunity to participate together on and off campus in a range of training and academic programs conducted in English so as to develop their communication skills, empathy, creativity, proactive attitudes, and cross-cultural adaptability.

In these envisioned programs, one of Kansai University's unique assets, that is, strong collaborative ties with local communities, will be put to maximum use. The participating Japanese and international students will be able to deepen their understanding of the regional customs and cultures, leading them to a better understanding of Japanese customs and culture and repeated comparative cultural studies. The ultimate purpose of these programs is therefore the personal growth of each student as a person with deep understanding of his or her own culture, respectful of other cultures, and capable of identifying global issues and finding solutions in cooperation with others from different cultural backgrounds. In other words, the Triple I Initiatives also aim at nurturing future global leaders and team players who can face up to challenges in various situations in a collaborative manner.

In Japanese society, in which population aging and birth rate decline are advancing, it is essential that Japanese and foreign residents representing different backgrounds and values cohabit peacefully at the grass-roots level. In view of this, the objectives of these initiatives perfectly resonate with the founding spirit of Kansai University, which has always worked closely with the local communities and dedicated much effort for education of the general public. Although focused on education in their major reform measures in English and other educational subjects, our global educational reform initiatives represent a roadmap to educational reform to realize the University's founding vision.

As already stated, Kansai University has always actively promoted distinctive globalizing measures in its faculties and graduate schools. Under the new initiatives, they will be integrated, rearranged, and developed into diverse programs and measures for the development of next-generation global human resources.

TRIPLE-I



Ensuring a brighter future

Global Frontier Curriculum

The courses are taught entirely in English, and cover a range of subject areas, and they are open to both Japanese and international students. The purposes of this courses are to improve language proficiency and communication skills, develop a high level cross-cultural understanding, and foster global leadership skills.

Conceptual Diagram for the KUGF Modules

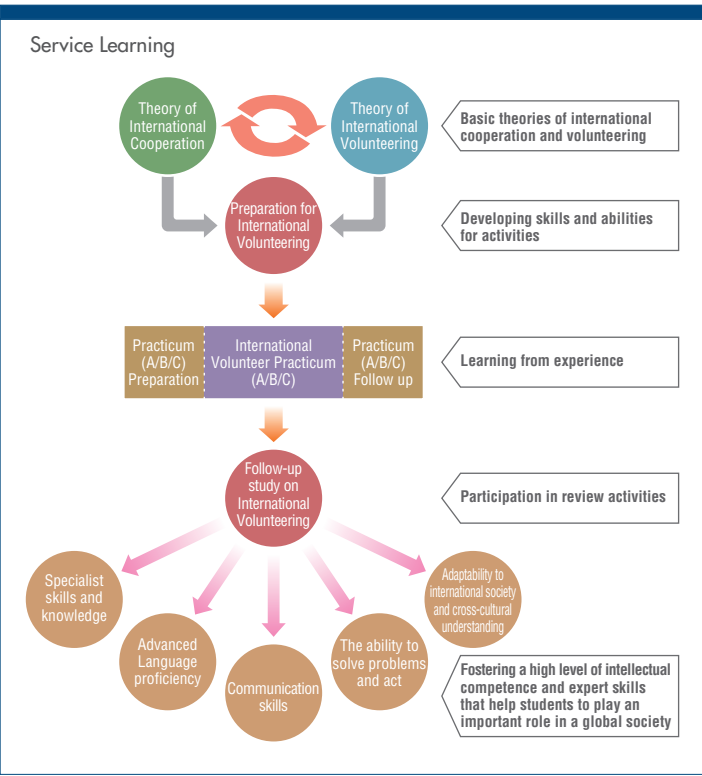
Module 1	Disaster Reduction & Resilient Society
Module 2	Food Science & Biotechnology
Module 3	International Business & Entrepreneurship
Module 4	Japan Studies
Module 5	Language Teaching & Communication
Module 6	Studies on Foreign Affairs
Module 7	Fundamentals of Social Science Studies
Module 8	Applied Science and Engineering



Making the world a better place

International Cooperation & Service Learning Curriculum

Students are taught theories on international cooperation through actual experience. This is designed to develop students' global competence by encouraging them to participate in various international contribution programs.



Study Abroad

Academic Program for Exchange Students at Kansai University

The Division of International Affairs at Kansai University provides a well-developed academic program in which exchange students can learn the Japanese language and various topics related to Japanese culture. In the Japanese Language Course, we offer 6 different levels of classes from beginner to advanced. In each level, the classes focus on developing both oral and literacy skills.

In the Japan Studies Course, students study a wide range of subjects related to Japanese history, contemporary social systems, cultural arts, martial arts, the economy, philosophy, religion, and many more topics. The Japan Studies classes are all taught in English.

In addition to the academic curriculum, the DIA organizes various extra-curricular activities providing students with opportunities to meet with Japanese students at Kansai University, and explore aspects of Japan outside campus life. In the past, we have held events such as an introduction to Japanese sweets, a trip to the Panasonic factory in Hikone, a two-day trip to Asuka in Nara, and a one-day *kyogen* (Japanese theater) seminar. All international students at Kansai University are invited to participate in these monthly events which gives them valuable exposure to many facets of Japanese culture not easily accessible in the classroom setting.



Kansai University Intensive Japanese Language and Culture Course (IJLC)

The Kansai University Intensive Japanese Language and Culture Course (IJLC) is held for 2 to 3 weeks in summer and winter. The purpose is to provide instruction to international undergraduate and graduate students in the Japanese language and Japan Studies. The course includes field trips to Kyoto and Osaka, and Japanese cultural experiences which enable participants to learn and understand the Japanese language, culture and society from various perspectives.



Website

<http://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/Kokusai/english/from/short.html>

Kansai University Japanese Language and Culture Course Program (JLC)

The Kansai University Japanese Language and Culture Course Program (JLC) is held for 1 or 2 semesters. The purpose is to provide instruction in Japanese language and culture to those students enrolled at foreign universities or graduate schools, or have graduated from one of these. The course offers 6 levels of Japanese language from the beginner to advanced level. The language classes are conducted in Japanese, and the Japanese Studies classes in English. In addition, many other English mediated classes are available. Each student is issued with student ID to use facilities at Kansai University. Also, students can participate in a variety of activities with exchange students and Japanese students.

Japanese Language and Culture Program Preparatory Course (*Bekka*)

Purpose

Kansai University's "Japanese Language and Culture Program Preparatory Course (*Bekka*)" is a one-year program. The purpose of this course is to provide instruction in the Japan language, Japan studies and Japanese culture to international students who intend to enter Kansai University or another Japanese university as a degree-seeking student after passing the entrance examination. The course has been designed to meet the needs of *Bekka* students from basic language acquisition through to academic courses.



Characteristics

1. Students will improve their Japanese language proficiency and critical thinking skills needed for studying at undergraduate and graduate school level.



2. Student will develop the ability to process information needed for studies at universities.

3. Students will be assisted to continue their studies at Kansai University

4. Students will become a part of Kansai University's community

5. Student will enjoy living with other students from diverse backgrounds at Minami-Senri International Plaza Dormitory



6. Students will develop intercultural flexibility through cultural exchange with other Kansai University students and people from the local community

Website

<http://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/ku-jpn/English/>