



Left: The Noh club demonstrates its art.  
 Bottom Left: Conferred with pride – the diploma.  
 Below: Attending a lecture at the Graduate School of Law.  
 Right: Browsing the University Library bookshelves.  
 Far Right: The current clock tower was completed in 1925 to replace an older building that burnt down in 1912.







## Overview

Kyoto Imperial University was founded over a hundred years ago as one of three imperial universities. Since that time, many things have changed. However, the university has remained faithful to its principle of academic freedom and has since focused its efforts in developing a strong sense of purpose reflected in its mission statement: “To sustain and develop its historical commitment to academic freedom and pursue a state of harmonious coexistence within the human and ecological community on this planet.”

The College of Science and Engineering was established at the time of Kyoto University’s inauguration (see the chronological table in the accompanying Facts and Figures booklet). In the following year, the basic organization was completed with the opening of the College of Law, the College of Medicine, the University Hospital and the University Library. In 1919 the colleges became faculties, then Kyoto Imperial University was renamed Kyoto University in 1947. Since then, new faculties, graduate schools, research institutes, centers and other new facilities have been established regularly. In recent years Kyoto University has come to place a greater emphasis on graduate level studies and have established several new graduate schools to tackle emerging issues, expected to be of critical importance this century.

“As a university that is comprised of many graduate schools, faculties, research institutes and centers, Kyoto University will strive for diverse development in pure and applied research in the humanities, sciences and technology, while seeking new and varied interdisciplinary perspectives.” [KU Mission Statement – Research 2]

Creative research in venture businesses for information technology and electrical engineering has also been initiated, and substantial progress in advanced applied research fields, such as biotechnology and energy science continues, thus assuring that our efforts truly have an impact on society.

Yoshida Campus, the main campus of Kyoto University is near the centre of Kyoto City. The facilities at Yoshida Campus are housed in century-old red brick buildings standing side-by-side with state-of-the-art laboratories. Uji Campus, where the university’s natural science and energy research facilities are located, is about twelve kilometers to the south. Katsura Campus, seven kilometers west of the main campus, opened in October 2003. This campus, named after the region in which it is located, is made up of four clusters of buildings, and aims to merge technology and science disciplines to form a “Techno-Science Hill.” The Graduate Schools of Engineering and Informatics are currently in the process of moving to Katsura Campus from Yoshida Campus.

