

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There are approximately 200 active student clubs and circles at Kyoto University, covering practically every conceivable sport, hobby, or field of interest – from volunteer work, to photography, to dance and beyond. This diversity means that every student can find a group of like-minded friends to share their interests with. The university's music circles, for example, range from classical to popular, and there are literary circles covering classical poetry, manga comic books and almost everything in between.

For sports, a distinction is made between informal “circles” which emphasize friendship and playing for fun, and the very competitive “clubs,” which train intensively and participate in inter-university competitions. Several of the university's sports clubs have achieved a great deal of success, such as the boat club, which has won the national championships many times over, and the American football club, which has been the number one amateur team in Japan four times.

Going beyond the amateur level, some ex-KU club members have even distinguished themselves internationally, such as track and field athletes Naoto Tajima and Masao Harada, who won the gold and silver medals in the triple-jump at the 1936 Summer Olympics, and world-famous conductor Takashi Asahina, who honed his musical sense playing violin in the KU Law School Orchestra.

