

International Relations

As a modern higher education institution dedicated to the pursuit of a harmonious and stable global society, international cooperation and exchange are vital components of Kyoto University's operations.

The Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR)

www.opir.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/

The OPIR is responsible for coordinating and managing Kyoto University's international cooperation and exchange activities at the university-wide level. A considerable part of the OPIR's activities are focused on assisting international students, researchers and faculty during their time at Kyoto University (for example through the activities of the International Service Office and its various publications). Other activities include the provision of financial support for researchers, the organization of symposia for the professional development of administrative staff and participation in international university alliances. The following is a brief overview of some of the OPIR's main activities:

General Memoranda for Academic Exchange and Cooperation

Kyoto University has concluded cooperation agreements with many research-oriented universities and institutions worldwide (details can be found in the facts and figures booklet at the back of this book). Through those agreements, the university is engaged in numerous academic exchange and cooperative research programs in various fields.

Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization (Global 30)

www.uni.international.mext.go.jp

The G30 Project was launched by the Japanese Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2009. The project aims to radically enhance the opportunities and academic environment for international students in Japan. Kyoto University is one of thirteen core universities selected by MEXT to spearhead the project.

Kyoto University Programs for Future International Leaders (K.U.PROFILE)

www.opir.kyoto-u.ac.jp/kuprofile/

K.U.PROFILE is Kyoto University's initiative under the G30 Project. The initiative comprises a diverse range of English-taught degree programs for international students, with all entrance procedures and student support services also provided in English. Further details on K.U.PROFILE can be found on page 38.

Overseas Offices

Kyoto University has forty-nine overseas offices and facilities around the world. They are mainly utilized to facilitate field research and education for local students, gather and provide information, and promote research collaborations with overseas universities and companies. Kyoto University is in the process of enhancing its overseas activities through the establishment of these offices.

(The overseas offices are listed in the 'Facts and Figures'.)



1.2. Kyoto University President Matsumoto attended the Suzhou Symposium Commemorating Forty Years since the Normalization of Diplomatic Relations between China and Japan, which was held in Suzhou, China on September 6, 2012.



University Associations

- The Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU)
- The Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
- International Association of Universities (IAU)
- ASEAN University Network (AUN)

Through its active participation in university associations, KU maintains strong cooperative ties with leading academic institutions around the world. APRU (www.apru.org), of which Kyoto University was a founding member, is an association of forty-two leading universities in the Pacific Rim region. AEARU (www.aearu.org) comprises seventeen of East Asia's major research universities, and the IAU (www.iau-aiu.net) is a UNESCO-based worldwide association of higher education institutions spanning approximately 150 countries.

AUN (www.aseansec.org) is a university network for members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Although Japan is not a member country of ASEAN, Kyoto University strongly promotes international cooperation with the member universities.

Exchange Programs

Kyoto University offers two types of exchange programs: the Kyoto University International Education Program (KUINEP) and the Kyoto University General Exchange Program. Both programs last for a maximum of one year, and are open to international students from institutions with a student exchange agreement with KU.

KUINEP provides undergraduate level lectures in English to undergraduate exchange students as well as KU students. In General Exchange Program, exchange students mainly take ordinary courses which are generally taught in Japanese in undergraduate faculties or in graduate schools each student is affiliated. Graduate students are also allowed to research under his/her academic advisor's supervision without taking courses.

3. Prof. Mori, Director of OPIR attended the 1st ASEAN+3 Rector's Conference on November 1, 2012.
4. President Matsumoto attended the 16th Annual Presidents Meeting of APRU, held at the University of Oregon on June 27-29, 2012.
5. Kyoto University held a research collaboration workshop with universities in Saudi Arabia on November 7 and 8, 2012. The participants visited Ninna-ji after the workshop.
6. APRU Research Symposium on University Museums was held at Kyoto University on September 11-14, 2012.

7. 8. Kyoto University had concluded an internship agreement with UNESCO on November 6, 2012. Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, gave a special lecture after the signing ceremony.

