

Leading university reform

Kyoto University selected as a Designated National University (DNU) by the government of Japan

For universities to effectively address contemporary global issues, it is vital that they adapt and evolve to keep pace with the rapidly changing global society. To promote innovative reform among Japan's national universities and elevate the standards of its higher education, Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) launched the Designated National University (DNU) program. The program differs from more conventional government-led reforms in that it facilitates the revision of key regulations, allowing universities greater control in proactively designing their own institutional approaches and strategies.

Selected as one of three institutions for the launch of the program, Kyoto University's DNU initiatives are organized into four pillars, each of which complements the others. The reforms are anticipated to inspire institutions throughout Japan, and spearhead a new era for its national universities.

Kyoto University's DNU initiatives: Generating knowledge, fostering innovation, and guiding social and academic development

1

A flexible and dynamic approach to knowledge creation, cultivating originality

Advancing the frontiers of interdisciplinary research and enhancing international collaboration



Provide dynamic research environments where leading researchers mutually enhance each other's work, including the Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study (KUIAS).

Promote international collaboration through the "on-site laboratory system" (laboratories mutually established in Japan and overseas in cooperation with international partners).

2

Generating a high-level and diverse flow of talent

Promoting international mobility by students, researchers, and staff



Launch a new undergraduate program for students seeking Japan-related careers.

Expand the range of programs offered in collaboration with renowned international partners.

Enhance the university's strategy for international student recruitment.



3

Exploring new forms of social engagement

Developing new strategies to maximize the social impact of research and education through industry-government-academia collaboration

The “Kyoto University Model”—an innovative approach to industry-government-academia collaboration centered on the establishment (under a holding company) of three university subsidiary companies for consulting, technology transfer, and venture support.



Developing a new approach to the social sciences and humanities to address global issues

Build on the university’s history of scholarship on Eastern thought and culture to pursue new approaches in the social sciences and humanities that incorporate evidence-based methods and diverse scientific fields.

4

World-class management style

Implementing agile management with an international perspective



Strengthen governance by establishing the University Strategy Council (headed by the newly-appointed Provost) to coordinate strategic planning in cooperation between “top-down” policy and “bottom-up” ideas.