

Current Initiatives at Kyoto University

Designated National University (DNU) Initiatives at Kyoto University

In 2017, Kyoto University was selected by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as a Designated National University (DNU). DNUs are expected to implement effective strategic initiatives to create a "virtuous cycle" that brings in talented human resources, strengthens research capabilities, and garners the acknowledgement and support of society. Each DNU sets its own timeline for the achievement of its initiatives. In line with its DNU proposal, submitted to MEXT, Kyoto University is implementing the following initiatives.

1. A flexible and dynamic approach to knowledge creation

Advancing the frontiers of interdisciplinary research and enhancing international collaboration

- Leveraging the University's unique strengths, the **Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study (KUIAS)** promotes cutting-edge research led by internationally renowned researchers, including Distinguished Professor Tasuku Honjo, the 2018 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine.
- Through its **San Diego Liaison Office**, the University is promoting international research collaboration and supporting industry-academia collaboration with partners on the West Coast of the US.
- As of 2019, Kyoto University has established a total of 10 On-site laboratories through its **On-site Laboratory Initiative**. (See P.12 for details.)

2. Generating a high-level and diverse flow of talent

Promoting international mobility by students, researchers, and staff

- The **Hakubi Project** is an initiative to foster early-career researchers by providing them with an ideal environment to fully devote themselves to their research for five years. As of 2019, the University has employed 167 researchers through the project. Approximately 70% of researchers who have completed the program have gone on to attain tenured or tenure-track positions at a university or research institution in Japan or overseas.
- The **Kyoto University International Undergraduate Program (Kyoto iUP)** was launched in 2018 to facilitate the enrollment of talented and motivated international undergraduate students. No Japanese language ability is required at the time of admission, as the program includes intensive Japanese study up to the level required to take specialized courses taught in Japanese.

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 University has established the **Kyoto University Open Innovation Institute** to develop a new "KyotoU Model" of industry-government-academia collaboration. (See P.10 for details.)
- In collaboration with the NTT Corporation, the University has established the **Prime Research Institute for Medical RWD, Inc. (PRIME-R)**. By collecting, analyzing, and utilizing real world data (RWD), Prime-R seeks to promote the advancement of innovative clinical practices, enhance medical safety management, improve medical technologies, and develop new forms of medical care.
- The **Unit of Kyoto Initiatives for the Humanities and Social Sciences** was established to conduct world-leading interdisciplinary research in humanities and social sciences fields. Research outcomes are disseminated through the unit's symposiums and publications.

4. KyotoU's world-class management style

- The University has established a **provost system** to enhance its governance. The Strategic Council, headed by the provost, facilitates the swift and effective implementation of DNU initiatives.
- The University is enhancing the functions of its **Institutional Research Office** and the **Kyoto University Research Administration Office (KURA)** to promote evidence-based management of the University with an international outlook.

www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/about/operation/designated

Developing the “KyotoU Model” and Promoting Innovation through Industry-Academia Collaboration

In accordance with its institutional mission and management policies, Kyoto University has been accelerating the development of the “KyotoU Model” for industry-government-academia collaboration. The model seeks to create new and large-scale businesses through practical cooperation between the Office of Society-Academia Collaboration for Innovation (SACI) and three university subsidiary companies: Kyoto University Original Co., Ltd. (training and consulting services), TLO-KYOTO Co., Ltd. (technology transfer and licensing), and Kyoto University Innovation Capital Co., Ltd. (funding activities to support venture businesses).

Additionally, the Kyoto University Open Innovation Institute was established in July 2019, as part of the University’s efforts to promote industry-academia collaboration as a Designated National University. The new institute seeks to promote the use of research outcomes for the benefit of society and advance innovation through the enhancement and acceleration of organization-to-organization research collaboration with industries. The institute is developing an integrated management system for industry-academia collaboration, including large-scale research collaboration. It also provides support for the practical application and commercialization of the knowledge “seeds” generated by the University’s researchers, while maintaining an awareness of pressing societal issues and exploring the true “needs” of industries. Through these efforts, the University advances creative research and education, and promotes innovation in cooperation with industry. The University will continue to promote industry-government-academia collaboration on an organization-to-organization basis, both in Japan and overseas.

Kyoto University Open Innovation Institute
www.oi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/

Office of Society-Academia Collaboration for Innovation
www.saci.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en

The KyotoU Model of Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration Organizational Chart

