

History of Kyoto University



The view through the main gates (circa 1900)



The university library in the Meiji period (circa 1909)

1897

Founded as
Kyoto Imperial University

1919

Colleges renamed as
"faculties"
Faculties of Law, Medicine,
Engineering, Letters, and
Science established

1946

First female students
matriculated

1947

Kyoto Imperial University
renamed
Kyoto University

13

Nobel
laureates

1949

Hideki
Yukawa

Nobel Prize in Physics,
becoming the first
Japanese Nobel laureate



1965

Shin-itiro
Tomonaga

Nobel Prize
in Physics



1981

Kenichi
Fukui

Nobel Prize
in Chemistry



1987

Susumu
Tonegawa

Nobel Prize
in Physiology
or Medicine



2001

Ryoji
Noyori

Nobel Prize
in Chemistry



2008

Makoto
Kobayashi

Nobel Prize
in Physics





Students signing the enrollment pledge book (1928)
(Photos courtesy of the Kyoto University Archives)



Students in front of the university clock tower (circa 1928)



and more...

1949

Institutional structure reorganized in accordance with Japan's new educational system

1950

Bunko (branch school) opened in Uji

2003

Relocation of Graduate School of Engineering to Katsura Campus

2004

Kyoto University incorporated to become a National University Corporation

2022

125th anniversary of the university's founding

2008
Toshihide Maskawa

Nobel Prize in Physics



2012
Shinya Yamanaka

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine



2014
Isamu Akasaki

Nobel Prize in Physics



2018
Tasuku Honjo

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine



2019
Akira Yoshino

Nobel Prize in Chemistry



2025
Shimon Sakaguchi

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine



2025
Susumu Kitagawa

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

