Global Engagement

International Partners/Overseas Offices and Facilities

Kyoto University connects with the global community in diverse ways: through academic cooperation and partnerships, its overseas facilities, multilateral networks, and its alumni associations in various countries. International partners are an essential asset to the university, contributing to the development of its research and education endeavors and enriching its activities with multicultural diversity.

Research fieldwork sites at locations around the world are also a part of the university’s international network, providing a foundation for local engagement and cooperation.

The university's overseas offices serve as its bridges to key regions around the world, implementing international outreach initiatives that capitalize on the unique qualities of those regions and providing support for researchers stationed overseas. Currently, the university has overseas centers in Heidelberg (Germany), Bangkok (Thailand), and Washington, DC (USA).

Kyoto University is itself an international hub where researchers from around the world gather to share and disseminate knowledge, promote research and technology transfer, and above all, connect with people who share their passions.

www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/global/global_partners

See p. 13 of this brochure and Facts and Figures pp. 7–10, 12–15

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Strategic Partnerships

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- 30

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(As of May 1, 2021)

Alumni Associations

Kyoto University maintains an expanding network of former students, researchers, and academic staff through its alumni associations. Currently, there are approximately 120 alumni associations in Japan and overseas.

The university promotes networking opportunities among its alumni around the world, and each regional association also plays a key role—bringing together people with shared personal experiences and a shared affection for their alma mater.

www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/alumni
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See p. 13 of this brochure and Facts and Figures pp. 7–10, 12–15

Overseas offices and facilities

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www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/alumni

(As of May 1, 2021)
Global Engagement

On-site Laboratory Initiative

"On-site laboratories" are locally managed laboratories established collaboratively by Kyoto University faculties/departments and overseas partners. The initiative aims to promote world-leading advanced research, increase its recruitment of talented international students, and expand its collaboration with industrial partners. Through these efforts Kyoto University seeks to strengthen the institutional infrastructure that enables it to be a key player in international academia and ranked among the world’s leading universities. Eleven on-site laboratories have been established to date. The laboratories’ promotion of new international research collaboration and collaboration with industry has a positive ripple effect on the university’s education efforts, including the launch of new double degree programs with partner universities.

Kyoto University International Undergraduate Program (Kyoto iUP)

The Kyoto University International Undergraduate Program (Kyoto iUP) has been designed to minimize the language and financial hurdles that often prevent talented international students from pursuing study, and ultimately careers, in Japan. It is a 4.5-year international scholarship program comprising a six-month preparatory course followed by four years of undergraduate study. A key feature of the program is that no Japanese language proficiency is required at the outset, as the program provides an intensive Japanese language component. Admission and tuition fees are exempted, and students receive a monthly scholarship of up to JPY 120,000 for the 4.5 years of the program.

In the first two years of the main program (following the six-month preparatory course), students take liberal arts courses and fundamental courses in their respective majors, which are taught in English and/or Japanese. The final two years of the program focus on specific subjects in the students’ majors, which are taught mainly, or exclusively, in Japanese. The international iUP students attend the same classes as regular Japanese undergraduate students, which imbues the classes with a rich multicultural component. Upon graduation, students are awarded a bachelor’s degree in their chosen major. Companies and organizations in the private sector provide various forms of support for the program, including support for student scholarships.

Student Voices

Montanez Marjana Yasella Oabel
Affiliation: 1st year of bachelor course, Undergraduate School of Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering
Country of Origin: Philippines

When I told my friends I would be studying in Japan, many of them were shocked. They knew I didn’t know any Japanese, and were worried about me living alone in a foreign country. But to me, those were the precise reasons why I chose Kyoto University. Of course, it was also obvious to choose one of the best chemical research institutions on the planet to achieve my goal of becoming a researcher. However, I think the true value of the iUP program is in what it helped me discover about myself. True to iUP’s slogan of “UPgrade yourself,” I thought that plunging headfirst into a completely new environment—language, culture, way of living—would be an exciting way to improve myself. Just six months as an iUP student has taught me so much—not only about Japanese and academic subjects, but about living life in general.

Fauzan Abdul Hamid
Affiliation: 1st year of bachelor course, Faculty of Economics
Country of Origin: Indonesia

For me, choosing a university means not only choosing what kind of classrooms I will be studying in, but also what kind of city I will be living in. In that regard, I can hardly think of any place easier to live in than Kyoto. The pace of life here is relaxed, and people do smile and make small talk (unlike the stereotypical image of Japan). And whenever you miss the city buzz, you can always hop on the bus downtown. What I really like about my iUP friends is the diversity of experiences and knowledge that they have. An international environment, naturally, exposes us to different perspectives, but it doesn’t stop there.
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Kyoto University provides a number of short-term student mobility programs (both incoming and outgoing). The following are some selected examples.

**Short-Term Inbound Program**

**ILAS Seminar (Overseas)**

The ILAS Seminar (Overseas) provides students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on training overseas under the close guidance of faculty members, and to learn about the history, geography, and culture of the destination country or region.

**Kingfisher Global Leadership Program**

The Kingfisher Global Leadership Program is a US study abroad program for graduate and undergraduate students pursuing international careers. The program provides students with opportunities to participate in lectures and discussions, and to visit international organizations (such as the World Bank, NASA, and the National Institutes of Health), as well as local companies in Washington, DC.

**Short-Term Outbound Program**

**Kyoto Summer/Spring Program**

The Kyoto Summer/Spring Program is an annual short-term program open to both students from international partner institutions and domestic students enrolled at Kyoto University. The program is held jointly by the Kyoto University Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS) and the Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU). Students can choose to attend classes taught mainly in English or mainly in Japanese, and can experience Kyoto University’s cutting-edge research activities, while deepening their understanding of Japanese culture, language, and society.

[www.z.k.kyoto-u.ac.jp/summer-spring-program/](http://www.z.k.kyoto-u.ac.jp/summer-spring-program/)

**The Amgen Scholars Program**

The Amgen Scholars Program is a short summer program that provides scholarships for undergraduate students from around the world to engage in diverse cutting-edge science research at leading academic institutions, including Kyoto University. The program aims to foster the next generation of innovators by providing increased opportunities for students pursuing careers in science.

**Double and Joint Degree Programs**

Kyoto University offers double and joint degree programs in diverse fields that provide students with advanced value-added study opportunities that cannot be provided by a single university.

**Graduate School of Letters**

Transcending national and cultural borders to open the door to a transcultural research journey.

- **Joint master’s degree:** Heidelberg University
- **Double doctoral degree:** École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)

**Graduate School of Economics**

Global markets, local creativity—cultivating world-class researchers in the field of economics and business.

- **Double doctoral degree:** University of Glasgow
- **Joint master’s degree:** University of Glasgow, University of Barcelona

**Graduate School of Medicine**

Training data scientists who will lead the future healthcare, disease prevention, and therapy development through multi-dimensional analysis of the big data related to human life.

- **Joint doctoral degree:** McGill University

**Graduate School of Science**

Pursuing a new mathematical science field related to quantum information theory (QIT).

- **Double doctoral degree:** École Normale Supérieure de Lyon

**Graduate School of Agriculture**

Agricultural sciences for the global future of life, food, and the environment.

- **Double master’s degrees:** IPB University (Bogor Agricultural University), Gadjah Mada University, Institut Teknologi Bandung, National Taiwan University, Kasetsart University

**Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies**

Establishing a new field of global environmental sustainability studies that combines the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities.

- **Double master’s degrees:** Mahidol University, IPB University (Bogor Agricultural University), Tsinghua University

**Graduate School of Global Management**

Adding a new dimension to business management studies to cultivate global business leaders.

- **Double professional degrees:** National Taiwan University, Cornell University
- **Double master’s degree:** Universität Hamburg

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www.jk.kyoto-u.ac.jp/summer-spring-program/

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**Global Engagement**

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Double doctoral degree: École Normale Supérieure de Lyon

**Graduate School of Medicine**

School of Public Health

Providing students with advanced knowledge and skills to conduct global research in the field of public health.

Double master’s degrees (Professional): University of Malaya, National Taiwan University, Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University

**Graduate School of Agriculture**

Agricultural sciences for the global future of life, food, and the environment.

Double master’s degrees: IPB University (Bogor Agricultural University), Gadjah Mada University, Institut Teknologi Bandung, National Taiwan University, Kasetsart University

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