

FY2019 President's Award Winners and Citations (second-round announcements)

Awardee	Category	Citation
Takuya Maeda Second-year doctoral, Department of Electronic Science and Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering	Scholarship	Mr Maeda succeeded in accurately measuring hole impact ionization coefficients, one of the most important physical properties of semiconductors known to be difficult to determine. His paper describing how his original method helped determine the theoretical dielectric strength of the semiconductor gallium nitride (GaN) was published and featured in <i>Applied Physics Letters</i> as the Editor's Pick. It was also accepted for presentation at the International Electron Device Meeting (IEDM) where Mr Maeda spoke as the lead author and garnered worldwide attention. He went on to receive numerous academic awards.
Daiki Hiraoka Third-year doctoral, Division of Educational Studies, Graduate School of Education	Scholarship	<p>Mr Hiraoka achieved a number of important insights regarding the psychological and physiological mechanisms underlying child abuse. His psychology-based interdisciplinary approach drew on molecular biology and neuroendocrinology as well to address the biological factors involved.</p> <p>He presented these findings in six papers published in international journals, including <i>Psychoneuroendocrinology</i> and <i>Parenting</i>. The latter accepted two of these papers, citing their unique approach to and potential impact on nursing behavior research. Mr Hiraoka also received multiple early-career researcher awards.</p>
Mitsuhiko Ishikawa Second-year doctoral, Division of Behavioral Studies, Graduate School of Letters	Scholarship	<p>Mr Ishikawa, focusing on the gaze-following behavior of infants, conducted a study involving simultaneous measurements of the subjects' physiological responses and eye movements. This effort produced the first data of its kind and led to a highly original theory suggesting that gaze-following may be predicted by a physiological state. The paper describing this research appeared in <i>Proceedings of the Royal Society B</i> and attracted worldwide media attention.</p> <p>To date, Mr Ishikawa has authored and published seven papers in international peer-reviewed journals and co-authored two international joint studies.</p>

		He was also one of the collaborators in the award-winning international project ManyBabys 1.
Rina Nagata Second-year doctoral, Division of Systemic Life Science, Graduate School of Biostudies	Scholarship	Ms Nagata made an important discovery in the molecular mechanism of cell competition that challenged the common understanding of cell elimination involving cell-cell interaction. The finding was published in <i>Developmental Cell</i> and received extensive media coverage as well as numerous academic awards.
Yuki Nakata Third year, Faculty of Science	Extracurricular activity	Mr Nakata participated in the eighth Science <i>Inkare</i> (intercollegiate science competition) and won the best poster presentation award, conferred by the science and education minister, for a pure mathematics project that he had completed using readily available tools only.
Kyoto University Mechatronics Creators (Kikaiken) Representative: Ryohei Morita Third year, Department of Engineering Science, Faculty of Engineering	Extracurricular activity	Competing in NHK Student RoboCon 2019, Kikaiken came in first to qualify for participation in the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Association (ABU) Robocon 2019 Ulaanbaatar as well as receiving prizes from the Czech Republic and NOK Corporation. At the finals in Ulaanbaatar, the team finished eighth and won the Nagase and Best Design Awards.
Yacht Club, Kyoto University Sports Union Representative: Yutaka Fujita Third year, Department of Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering	Scholarship	Mr Fujita and his crew finished first in the Snipe class and fifth overall at the 84th All Japan Intercollegiate Sailing Championship. For the club this marked its first class win in 37 years and its first overall high placement in 26 years at the championship.
SHINOBI Representative: Tatsuya Takemori	Extracurricular activity	SHINOBI took first place in both the RoboCup Rescue Robot League and RoboCup Japan Open in 2019. It defended its title for the third straight year at the latter.

Second-year doctoral, Mechanical Engineering and Science, Graduate School of Engineering		During the same year, the team also successfully carried out a disaster response project in a landslide area near Mount Handa, Okayama Prefecture, using robots to retrieve items from some of the buildings damaged in the July 2018 west Japan torrential rains.
Iaido Club, Kyoto University Sports Union Representative: Satoko Kudo Third year, Faculty of Law	Extracurricular activity	The club won the 34th All Japan Iaido Championship and was prominently featured in the 2018 issue of the <i>Iaido Tora-no-Maki</i> publication.
Yoshikatsu Kitano Third year, Department of Food and Environmental Economics, Faculty of Agriculture	Extracurricular activity	Playing in the Kansai BIG 6 Baseball League, Mr Kitano finished the fall 2019 season with a .405 batting average as the season's top hitter, making him selected as one of the league's nine best players. His outstanding performance that season helped the KyotoU team achieve a fourth-place finish, instead of coming last as it had every season since fall 2000. Its seven wins from spring to fall made 2019 the club's most successful year since 1982.
Yoshitaka Nishikawa Fourth-year doctoral, Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine	Public service	<p>Mr Nishikawa has continued to work as a medical doctor in areas affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, supporting the local residents and communities through care, research, and other activities.</p> <p>As reported by multiple media outlets, his endeavors have included research on emergency transport to aid the rebuilding of local emergency medical systems, as well as a survey on stable iodine intake, conducted through detailed interviews with local residents.</p> <p>Through these and other activities, each carried out over an extended period, Mr Nishikawa has been connecting disaster-hit communities to Kyoto University while openly sharing the results of his life-saving research.</p>