

3. Program Implementation (2015 Academic Year)

■ Common Performance Indicators and Goals

Globalization

1. Approaches to improving the English competency of students

Meiji University has developed this program to enhance practical English ability and to help students acquire practical skills in English. In the 2015 academic year, the university held four such programs, including a course to assist preparation for TOEFL and IELTS exams, distance education from specialized teachers in other countries, and an e-learning course utilizing multiple forms of media. These programs attracted the participation of 1,125 undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, Meiji University newly instituted the Intensive Academic English Program in coordination with ELS, a U.S. English education institution. The program was taken by 14 students in the February session and 13 in the March session.

Starting in the 2016 academic year, Meiji University will require all new students take the TOEIC or TOEFL exams at the time of admission. These results will be used for the organization of English classes and checking of proficiency levels in the first year. In addition, more than half of the undergraduate schools will have their students take one of the aforementioned exams in the fall semester of the first year as well, the results of which will be used for organization of English classes in the second year.

2. Strengthening of information dissemination and overseas public relations in foreign languages

To attract talented international students, Meiji University produced English-language videos introducing the university and student life. Titled "About Meiji University" and "Life at Meiji University," these videos strengthened our dissemination of information both inside and outside Japan. In addition to WAKUWAKU JAPAN, a TV station broadcasting in the three ASEAN countries of Indonesia, Singapore, and Myanmar, broadcasting a special program on Meiji University, ads were placed in newspapers in various countries as well as banner ads (Internet) aimed at students in North America in general and on the West Coast of the United States.

Furthermore, Meiji University launched "ALL ABOUT MEIJI ~ Meiji in Numbers," a PR website conveying the strengths and specializations of the university through 25 topics in an easy-to-understand fashion. The university is strengthening its provision of information to other countries through public relations in 10 languages, including Japanese.



<ALL ABOUT MEIJI ~ Meiji in Numbers>

Governance Reforms

1. Implementation of overseas training for faculty

International faculty development (FD) training sessions aimed at raising the quality of teaching staff were held in the United States, at the University of California, Irvine. The eight teaching staff members who participated learned practical teaching methods premised on instruction in English, including interactive teaching and active learning. At the University of California, Davis, 11 teaching staff participated in an experience-oriented training sessions focused on study and work abroad. These training sessions were aimed at developing core human resources for the promotion of globalization. Upon their return, the 11 participants reported on the results of these training sessions and made proposals concerning the operation of Meiji University to the university administrative team (the Chairman and other members of the Board of Trustees). In addition, Meiji University decided to send teaching staff to Södertörn University (Sweden) for a one-year program in the 2016 academic year. As these activities indicate, the university is engaged in efforts to construct networks with universities in other countries and to develop human resources versed in the state of higher education in other countries.

2. Institution of the IR Steering Committee and issuance of analytical reports

Meiji University instituted the IR Steering Committee and established a system to support decision-making from a quantitative perspective. The committee built a data warehouse on a university-wide level, and began operating an IR database to assist analysis. Simultaneously, the committee engaged in discussion with the executive units in each undergraduate school on the data-based operation of education and learning. Based on these results, the committee released the "IR Data Catalog (2015)," a report presenting the findings of an analysis of education data, and shed light on matters such as trends in learning among international students. Hence forth, the committee will be conducting surveys and analyses as well as presenting reports and proposals mainly for the purpose of improving education.



<Presentation at the University of California, Davis>

Educational Reforms

1. Implementation of a new instruction timetable and promotion of comprehensive educational reform

Meiji University has decided to implement a new timetable (with 100 minutes per slot, consisting of two 50-minute modules), starting in the 2017 academic year. The new timetable will not merely expand the class time per slot from 90 to 100 minutes; but is also aimed at more flexible instruction matching the aptitude level of the class, in keeping with the diversification of teaching methods for a qualitative conversion in instruction. In connection with this, a training session was held on teaching methods related to the implementation of 100-minute classes. This training session consisted of reporting as well as questions and answers on the methodology for making the qualitative conversion of instruction at Meiji University, with descriptions of cases of active learning at other universities.

The university is also planning a change to the academic year calendar where a flexible academic year calendar enables the dividing of each 14-week semester into first and second halves lasting for seven weeks each. While retaining the semester class setup as a general rule, the new academic year calendar will permit the development of intensive classes based on completion in seven weeks, in accordance with the class purpose, method, and education effect or the globalization promotion policy in the particular undergraduate or graduate school. Our objective is to construct a framework allowing for the establishment of an environment that makes it easier for students to study abroad, in accordance with the globalization policy for each undergraduate school.

2. Use of TOEFL and other external exams in undergraduate entrance exams

A study session was held for faculty members in each undergraduate school on using English qualification and certification exams in entrance exams. The study session introduced social trends as well as the current state of similar programs at other universities and undergraduate schools while profiling cases of other undergraduate schools that have already decided to implement the use of these qualification and certification exams in general selection entrance exams. The Admissions Center collected information on various external exams and periodically provided it to the undergraduate schools.

Beginning with the entrance exams for the 2017 academic year, the School of Business Administration decided to implement a method that uses four English language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in its general selection entrance exams. The School of Commerce has established a recruitment quota for the use of TOEFL in its special entrance exams using the National Center Test for University Entrance Examinations. The School of Political Science and Economics is newly implementing a global version of the special entrance exam, and the School of Global Japanese Studies will be expanding application eligibility for the English Track entrance exams to Japanese nationals as well.

The use of TOEFL and other external exams will make it possible to gauge the English language proficiency of students in regards to the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, which could not be assessed by conventional entrance exams. Through this, a system has been established that enables selection of students equipped with not only language proficiency but also intercultural understanding and logical thinking skills as well as the qualities needed to proactively and independently study abroad.

■ Performance Indicators and Goals Unique to Meiji University

1. Promoting acceptance of international students and creation of an international environment for cross-cultural experiences in Japan

In addition to a plan to send 4,000 students overseas every year, Meiji University also intends to accept 4,000 international students every year. Meiji University ranked first in the Universities of East Japan Liberal Arts Department in the Nihon-Ryugaku Awards for four consecutive years. These awards are based on selections by Japanese language school instructors of universities they would recommend to international students. The university was given high ratings for its acceptance of international students and it is augmenting its study abroad support for these students, including the strengthening of Japanese language education.

The creation of an international environment for cross-cultural experiences in Japan is a program that involves interaction with the 4,000 international students who will be accepted into Meiji University every year. This project provides venues and opportunities for cross-cultural experiences in Japan without having to study abroad. Short-term programs such as the highly popular Cool Japan Summer Program and the short-term Japanese Language Program recruit Student Supporters and volunteers, and provide a venue for cultural exchange.

Meiji University will continue to provide cultural exchange spaces in Japan, including the opening of the English Cafe in the International Lounge on the Izumi Campus in the 2016 academic year. It is also promoting use of the student resident supporter system in dormitories whose residents include international students, and developing a new community exchange program.



<Ranked 1st for the fourth consecutive year in the Nihon-Ryugaku Awards>



<The English Cafe opening on the Izumi Campus>

■ Distinctive Approaches Based on the Characteristics of Meiji University

1. A diverse international program and enhancement of the study abroad support system

Under the Top Global University Project, Meiji University plans to send all 8,000 students who graduate or complete their studies every year into the world as human resources brimming with a Frontier Spirit for the Future. For them to be imbued with this spirit, it is critical for students to practice proactive learning, and the most important means to this end is to study abroad. The goal for Meiji University is that in eight years time, it will be sending 4,000 students to study abroad every year. This would mean one out of every two students will have studied abroad by the time they graduate.

For this purpose, Meiji University currently offers a variety of international programs. These include Summer Sessions in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley, a study abroad program at Sciences Po Lyon, and the Walt Disney World Semester & Internship Program. Furthermore, to support students wishing to study abroad, Meiji University not only launched a study abroad counseling system in the 2013 academic year, but also began holding a new event titled "Study Abroad Festa" on each of its campuses in the 2015 academic year (continuing in the 2016 academic year as well), and opened a study abroad consultation counter on the Izumi Campus in April 2016.

2. Functional reinforcement of the Meiji University ASEAN Center

Located in Bangkok, Thailand, the Meiji University ASEAN Center provides Japanese language education for students from ASEAN countries before they come to Japan for study, and is engaged in distance education and other activities with Meiji University campuses. In study abroad programs for the ASEAN region, the Meiji University ASEAN Center offers life counseling and support for international students. In addition, it has played a front-line role in crisis management activities, such as confirming the safety of students sent to those countries in times of emergency. The capabilities and functions of the Meiji University ASEAN CENTER will be further developed in the future.



<Study abroad program at Sciences Po Lyon>



<At the Study Abroad Festa>