

8. FY2020 Progress

■ Common indicators and targets

Internationalization

○ EFMD Accreditation Renewed Successfully

The Meiji Business School (MBS) MBA program successfully renewed its accreditation by the EFMD (Brussels, Belgium), an international accreditation body for universities and graduate schools specializing in management. In 2018 Meiji Business School became the first EFMD Accredited business school in Japan and successfully renewed accreditation in March 2021. The EFMD Accredited MBA is a system whereby the EFMD gives accreditation to business schools on a major-by-major basis. In the process, 80 criteria are assessed by a multinational panel of experts, including the internationality of the major, curriculum design, strategic thinking, and quality of education and research. The final decision is then made by the EFMD Board of Examiners, which is made up of business school and company representatives from over 10 countries.



MBS scored high marks from the EFMD as an accredited MBA in the following areas;

- The curriculum design is based on a university-wide grand design and is rooted in strong links with the business world.
- Its establishment of clusters specializing in management education for family businesses and start-up businesses.
- ILOs (Intended Levels of Achievement) are clear.
- It offers a wide variety of courses taught in English.
- Overseas business trip courses are available for working students.
- High level supervision for students by the faculty
- Appropriate management and administration system based on the MBS strategy.

We will continue to actively communicate and exchange information with EFMD accredited business schools around the world in order to solidify our position as a business school providing an MBA program that meets international standards in the fields of comprehensive practical education and specialization in family business and start-up business.

○ Overseas Internship Program Wins Excellence Award at the “Internship Awards 2020”

On May 18, 2020, Meiji University won an Excellence Award for its overseas internship program at the “Internship Awards 2020”. The “Internship Awards” are held every year with the aim of providing students with an effective internship program to help them develop a better sense of their job. This year, 482 applications were received from 361 corporations. The Meiji University was awarded this prize for its “Internship and Global Career Program in Jakarta” conducted in September 2019 in collaboration with the Japan Airlines Corporation. This is an Industry-Academia Collaboration type internship in which students from Meiji University and our partner university, Universitas Indonesia, work together to propose a strategy on how to become the most beloved airline in Indonesia and conduct face-to-face marketing in a shopping mall. The program was highly evaluated for its meticulous preparation and teaching and for its ability to provide better suggestions through local exchange and research. The award-winning Meiji University Career Center released a statement saying, “By experiencing the attractiveness, competitiveness, and motivation of international companies on the ground, we have implemented overseas internships with the aim of cultivating a business career view with a global perspective. We will continue to work hard to broaden the students’ perspectives.”

○ Discussion Meeting with Students who have Experienced the Online Study Abroad Program

Meiji University International Student Center held an online discussion meeting with 5 students who experienced an online study abroad program this year. In 2020, 12 students experienced an online study abroad program at our partner universities. Their intended trips to study abroad were cancelled, due to the spread of COVID-19. At the beginning of the meeting, Professor Kikuchi, Director of the International Student Center, gave a speech in which he said, “This online study abroad program was the first trial run not only for students but also for faculty members. Tell us your honest feelings about the program.” The students then presented their experiences and exchanged opinions. A lively discussion took place among the students, who gave their reasons for their decision to participate in the program. Their responses included the following, “Because I wanted to experience real student life”, “I thought it was the best thing I could do now.” They also stated their candid opinions such as “It was difficult to make friends because I could not experience and interact with other cultures.”. Furthermore, regarding the advantages of online study abroad, it was a valuable opportunity to hear the voices of those who had a meaningful time despite the limitations. They included opinions such as “It saved me money and time compared to actually studying abroad.” and “By taking classes at both Meiji University and a partner university, I was able to compare the study contents”. The video of the discussion meeting is available on the Meiji University website.

University reform

○ IR Forum at Meiji University, Kansai University, and Hosei University

On March 6, 2021, Meiji University, Kansai University and Hosei University jointly held an online IR Forum with the theme, “A Study on the Future of University Education in the Current Situation of COVID-19: What to Learn from the Results of the Student Survey and How to Make the Most of it”. This is the second event since it was jointly held by Meiji University and Kansai University in December 2018. The first part of the workshop started with topics introduced by the three universities. In the second part participants were divided into several groups under the theme of “Study on the future of university education based on the results of a survey of students under the Current Situation of COVID-19”. On the Google spreadsheet shared by each group, various images of required university education in the future were presented. About 1,230 people from all over Japan participated, and the event was successfully concluded with many questions from participants in real time.

Education reform

○ ENGLISH-MEDIATED INSTRUCTION ONLINE PROGRAM for Professors

From February 20, 2021 to March 3, 2021, Meiji University conducted an online program for faculty members who use English in their courses. This year, the program was conducted online by instructors from one of our partner universities, the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Faculty members from Meiji University attended seven lectures, exchanged opinions with instructors, and on the final day, teaching demonstrations were given by the participants. The purpose of the program was to improve effective class management and teaching methods using English. However, as a result, it was also an opportunity to learn what techniques and methods we can use in a wide range of university lectures. Meiji University set the target for the “number of courses using English” for AY 2023 at 850 subjects, and in AY 2020 we successfully achieved a figure of 915 subjects. We will continue to enhance the quality and quantity of our courses to meet the needs of our students.

■ University’s own indicators and targets

○ Global Workshop Online

Due to the spread of COVID-19, most institutions have been forced to accept that they cannot implement international activities. Meiji University held an online workshop called “Meiji University Global Workshop Online” to provide an opportunity for Meiji students to interact and study with students from partner universities across the world.

<workshop theme>

“Let’s talk about a Linguistic Landscape that will lead to appropriate advertisements and signs for multicultural and multilingual societies!”

Round 1: 46 students participated from Meiji University, Srinakharinwirot University (Thailand), Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia (Italy), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong) and Macquarie University (Australia).

Round 2: 61 students participated from Meiji University, Srinakharinwirot University (Thailand), Universität Wien (Austria) and The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong).

Participants were able to deepen their understanding of the multilingual cultural society that was the theme of the workshop. Through discussions and presentations, they were able to gain a real understanding of other cultures and improve their language skills. Despite the time differences and differences in Academic Calendars, the online format allowed participants to have the experience of studying with other students without traveling abroad.

■ Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university

○ Online Exchange Student Program – “Law in Japan Program @ Home”

From July 23, 2020 to July 29, 2020, the School of Law hosted a trial online program entitled “Law in Japan Program @ Home”. Three hundred students and community members, including those from our partner schools at the University of São Paulo (Brazil) and Nanjing Normal University (China) participated.

The Law in Japan Program, a short-term summer exchange program in which participants learn about the Japanese law system in English, had been held every summer since 2009, was unfortunately cancelled due to the spread of COVID-19. This time, as part of preparations for taking the Law in Japan Program online in the future, students living abroad participated real-time in online classes being taught mainly at Meiji University. The program included lectures, presentations and discussions in English on the five themes of Japanese law and society, labor laws, economic law, comparative law and forensic anthropology. On the first day of the seminar given by Professor Teruhisa Komuro of the School of Law, three groups of Meiji University School of Law students made presentations on policies to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, discrimination, and same-sex marriage and civil partnerships. Afterwards, participants exchanged opinions with students from other countries. Participants actively took part and made remarks in the Zoom meetings, and comments about the presentations filled the meeting’s chat box. Based on this trial, School of Law is considering that it might offer the program online in the future.