Various Learning Support and Environment Improvement

Learning Commons

The self-study space “Learning Commons” is one of the largest such facilities in Japan. About 3,000 students are using the space daily for various activities including group studies and joint projects by Japanese and international students. Among its many sections, Global Village fosters multicultural exchange by offering a space for communicating with fellow students in English (use of Japanese is prohibited in this area). Global Village also provides various support services, from a place to watch international broadcasts to Study Abroad students.

Watching international broadcasts

Learning Commons has a space where students can watch international broadcasts of about 170 channels worldwide including BBC and CNN.

Study Abroad Coordinator / Study Abroad Assistants

Our new one-stop service system of private consultation by the Study Abroad Coordinator with a wealth of knowledge on studying abroad and Study Abroad Assistants who support the Coordinator, covering the overall process from the preparatory stage to after returning home, has been successful with about 1,400 cases of consultation with students planning study abroad in 2013.

Academic Instructors / Learning Assistants

Academic Instructors and graduate student Learning Assistants with high language proficiency are on site at the Academic Support Area of Learning Commons to offer students support on how to structure their presentations, write an abstract, and so on.

Measures for Cultivating Human Resources for Industries

In 2014 we have set up the overseas internship option in credit-bearing course “Career Development and Internship” for the purpose of cultivating human resources with the ability of understanding and accepting different values and creating new ones. The course, with 19 student participants in 2014, consists of preparation classes where students learn about the purpose of internship, how they should participate and the respective industries and enterprises, and the follow-up classes for reflection. In addition, facility-specific internship programs are available at the Faculty of Global and Regional Studies which offers multiple internship courses, and even at the Faculty of Science and Engineering that was not considered as possible participating faculty at the time of the planning of this project. From 2015, the Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences will offer their own overseas internship course in the help of enterprises and the local alumni organization.

We also conduct the cross-sectional “Global Career Fair” to give students an opportunity to think about working abroad from various perspectives through such events as the panel discussion of the representatives of global enterprises, a lecture on “working at an international organization,” seminars for global human resources, and orientation sessions for overseas internships, TOEFL, and IELTS.

Faculty and Staff Development for Globalization

For Japanese faculty who conduct classes in English, we have been offering the faculty development training for teaching in English annually (two days on each campus) since 2012. For administrative staff, we have started the compulsory distant-learning language training program for prospective employees to improve their language skills before joining our workforce. Eleven staff members participated in 2013. Also, in addition to the existing training programs, we established the Language Qualification Examination Fees Subsidy System to encourage staff members to take such examinations. We also recommend our staff to participate in outside programs such as the English training program for faculty and staff offered by the Consortium of Universities in Kyoto.

Selected for the Go Global Japan Project

Doshisha will mark its 140th anniversary in 2015. The past century and a half since our founder Joseph Hardy Niesima departed Japan against the travel ban has also been, for both the world and Japan, a history of globalization where distances have gradually shrunk and borders became meaningless. Perhaps because this word sounds like an inevitable process beyond the choice of humans, the present world is sometimes described by the word “globality,” indicating the state of completion of globalization. When we look upon our world with the word “globality,” we see problems and pains that remain to be solved. Since foundation, Doshisha University holds “Christian principles,” “liberalism,” and “internationalism” to be the key components of its “education of conscience.” This perspective is grounded in the understanding and accepting different values and creating new ones. The course, with 19 student participants in 2014, consists of preparation classes where students learn about the purpose of internship, how they should participate and the respective industries and enterprises, and the follow-up classes for reflection.

Study Abroad-Based / Domestically-Based – Two Original Programs

Go Global Japan Project (GGJ) * Doshisha University Initiatives

Objective of the Project and Specific Image of the Ideal Global Human Resource

Doshisha University holds “Christian principles,” “liberalism,” and “internationalism” to be the key components of its “education of conscience.” This plan aims to produce global human resources (individuals with global competence) who can “think and act” - who use their abilities as conscience dictator with a free and open mind grounded in an advanced foreign language proficiency and a Christian moral outlook.

Summary of the Plan

We set up two organically-linked educational programs: “Study Abroad-Based” and “Domestically-Based,” enabling students to acquire global competence inside and outside of Japan. By the final year of this project, 1,800 Study Abroad-Based Program students and 1,200 Domestically-Based Program students will have acquired global competence through these programs. With these programs and other measures based on our liberal arts education, we intend to lead the globalization of universities in Japan.

Study Abroad-Based

Students can cultivate a global perspective and high foreign language competency while remaining in Japan.

Domestically-Based

Students can cultivate a global perspective and high foreign language competency while remaining in Japan.

* The Project to Promotion of Global Human Resource Development was recognized as “Go Global Japan Project” under the Top Global University Project in March 2014.
Curriculum Enhancement

Intensive courses for TOEFL (ICT)

“Intensive courses for TOEFL” are credit-bearing and taught by specialist instructors offering two types of classes: “Practice” for improving students’ competency in listening, grammar, and reading which are required for the TOEFL ITP test, and “Tutorial” which aims to equip students with the skills needed for the TOEFL IET test in an environment similar to studying abroad. The total enrollment capacity for ICT has doubled from 360 students in 2013 to 740 students in 2014. We also offer various curricular and extracurricular programs for improving the language skills of our students, including “TOEFL seminars” where the ICT instructors introduce effective study methods, and “pre-TOEFL special course” during the summer recess. Next we aim to increase the capacity of ICT to 1,000 students, and by 2016 we plan to expand the placement test for new students (started in 2014) from the current trial basis to all faculties. These will help us develop language programs that have continuity, such as competence-based English learning and introduction to more advanced language programs.

Study Abroad Program (SAP)/Classes

Classes run by SAP Centers on Doshisha campus such as AKP and KCJS are partly open to Japanese students who wish to experience an atmosphere similar to studying abroad. It also facilitates language exchange between SAP participants and Japanese students, contributing greatly to the creation of a global learning environment.

The Institute for the Liberal Arts (ILA) Courses

Along with international students, Japanese students from six faculties of humanities and social sciences (Letters, Social Studies, Law, Economics, Commerce and Policy Studies) are also taking ILA classes in a Western-style environment through the “International Specialization Program.” The number of students participating in the International Specialization Program is increasing every year, from 95 students in 2012 to 183 in 2013 and 298 this year.

General and Liberal Education Subjects

Upholding our founding spirit “education of conscience” based on the three educational philosophies of “Christian principles,” “liberalism” and “internationalism,” we continue our tradition of liberal arts education to this day, offering a rich variety of subjects across a broad range of academic disciplines.

Enhancement of Study Abroad Programs / Increasing the Number of Students Studying Abroad

Doshisha University offers a wide range of study abroad programs to students in all years, such as the Summer/Spring Programs with two to four-week language training and overseas experience during the summer or spring recess, Semester Programs where students spend the Fall semester abroad to improve their English skills, and one or half-year Student Exchange Programs with partner institutions. We continue to steadily increase the number of language training programs like Summer/Spring Programs and Semester Programs, from 22 programs in 2012 to 26 in 2013 and 32 in 2014. Accordingly, the overall number of students going on study abroad has also increased from 733 students in 2012 to 1,008 students in 2013, and in this 2014 academic year we expect the number will surpass the level of last year with over 1,250 students participating. As for individual faculties, the Faculties of Commerce, Culture and Information Science, and Law are all offering their own respective study abroad programs, and other faculty-based specialized study abroad programs and courses are in development in various formats like semester-long or overseas fieldwork. We strive to continue developing more university-wide study abroad programs, as well as faculty-specific specialized study abroad programs and overseas internship programs.

Establishment of Overseas Offices and Education and Research Bases

For a faster and more effective development of our measures for internationalization promotion, we are opening overseas offices and education and research bases in various regions of the world. Currently, seven overseas offices (Taipei, London, Hanoi, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul and Istanbul) and three education and research bases (Malaysia, United States and United Kingdom (Cambridge)) are in operation to develop new partnerships, support Doshisha students studying in the respective countries, and recruit international students to study at Doshisha.

Creating Opportunities of Exchange between Japanese and International Students

ISED (Student Staff for Intercultural Events at Doshisha)

ISED is a student organization formed in October 2013 as part of the International Center for the purpose of organizing and conducting student-initiated international exchange events. About 20 student staff members are currently working at both the Imadegawa and Kyotanabe Campuses, organizing various events to encourage mutual exchange between Japanese and international students and promote the globalization of the university. In 2014 (as of December), 1,542 students (885 Japanese students and 657 international students) participated in the events.

International Exchange Lounge

The International Exchange Lounge on both Imadegawa and Kyotanabe campuses is a place for Japanese and international students to learn about their respective cultures and deepen mutual understanding.

Utilization of Study Abroad Program (SAP) Centers

On Doshisha campus, prominent foreign universities have their SAP Centers where they run study abroad programs for their students and pursue Japanese language education and Japanese studies. Courses offered by these centers are partly open to Japanese students. Also, the directors of the respective SAP Centers act as our external evaluation panel for the Go Global Japan project, reviewing and evaluating the progress of Doshisha University’s plans in this project every year.

- The Associated Kyoto Program (AKP)1
- Tubingen University Kyoto Center for Japanese Language (TUB)
- Stanford Program in Kyoto, Bing Overseas Studies Program, Stanford University
- Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS) 2

Doshisha Global Archives

The SAP Centers of leading foreign universities on Doshisha campus have their respective documents and digital materials all stored in the Doshisha Global Archives. With the search system linked with Doshisha University’s library and spaces for reading and self-study using computers, the archives are utilized not only by SAP Center students but also by Doshisha students interested in global studies.

The Institute for the Liberal Arts (ILA)

Established under the Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization (Global 30), ILA is a Bachelor’s degree program offering liberal arts education in English. Students of the Institute are expected to cultivate a broad knowledge in a range of fields, from sociology, culture, economics, and business, to law, politics, public policy, and international cooperation, and to acquire the communication skills required for contributing to global society.

In addition to international students, many Japanese students with various cultural experiences such as returnees and those who attended international schools in Japan are taking courses in English at the Institute.

- The Associated Kyoto Program (AKP)1
- Tubingen University Kyoto Center for Japanese Language (TUB)
- Stanford Program in Kyoto, Bing Overseas Studies Program, Stanford University
- Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS) 2

Annual Numbers of International Students

1. Associated Kyoto Program is a consortium of 16 research universities including Kyoto University and Waseda University.
2. Associated Kyoto Program is a consortium of 21 research universities including Kyoto University, Waseda University, and others.

Annual Numbers of Doshisha Students on Study Abroad

SAP Centers

Utilization of Study Abroad Program (SAP) Centers

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Annual Numbers of International Students

1. Numbers include our degree seeking international students through a range of short-term programs.