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News

Doshisha University Action in Response to Novel Coronavirus Infection

【In Preparation for the Fall Semester】



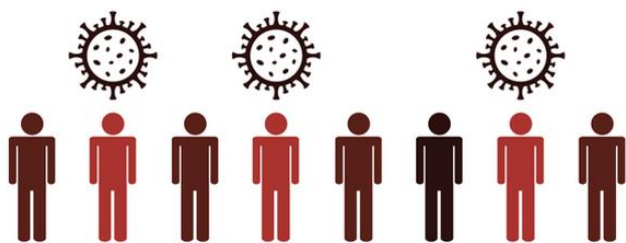
With the start of the Fall Semester on September 21 (Mon), classes will be conducted in the format corresponding to WITH-Corona.

In order to prevent spread of infection of the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), Doshisha University is currently conducting the Spring Semester courses online. From the Fall Semester onwards, we will resume in-person classes at the same time with continuing online classes.

Accordingly, we have established the “Doshisha University Guidelines for Preventing Spread of Infection of Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)” with which we will conduct classes while paying attention to avoid the so-called Three Cs. We will also gradually expand the scope of students permitted to enter the campus and available gates in four phases in preparation for the start of the Fall Semester on September 21 (Mon).

Doshisha University has launched the "COVID-19 Research Project"

All Doshisha Research Model



ポストコロナの新しい社会に向けて
何を提言し、何を成すべきか
**What Should We Suggest and Achieve
Toward the Post-COVID-19 Society?**

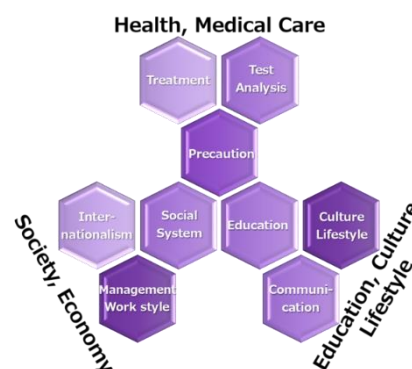
Doshisha University has launched the "COVID-19 Research Project" with 77 subjects of 9 fields covering 3 areas including "Health & Medical Care", "Society & Economy", and "Education, Culture & Lifestyle".

At present, the whole world is under the pandemic of COVID-19 which is said to occur once in a hundred years. It is also said that, after the pandemic is calmed down, new era of drastic changes, including changes in social structure and values, will come. However, even in these

changes, responsibility of a university in education, research and social contribution does not change.

What should the post-COVID-19 society be like? Is it possible to sustain values of liberty and equality? Can we develop technologies needed? What should we suggest and achieve for the post-COVID-19 era?

Doshisha University will take our advantage as a comprehensive university to capture post-COVID-19 from every standpoint and area, integrate the findings, and disseminate our achievements as valuable direction for society. Please visit the link below for the list of Urgent Research.



"Observe the real thing is valuable," Guidance by sending microscopes to the homes of students who are unable to attend the lab.



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, most universities continue to be unable to offer face-to-face lectures. In the midst of this situation, Associate Professor MIYASAKA Tomohiro, who is in charge of the lecture called "Experiments in Structures and Functions of Human" at the Department of Medical Life Systems of the Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences, started "home experiment", in which he sent microscopes to the homes of 73 third-year students of the said department, so that they can observe and sketch tissues at home. Specimens of the tissues from mouse or rat were enclosed with the microscope, and the students sketch the tissues and cells under the microscope and email it to Associate Professor Miyasaka. He provides guidance to them online once a week, such as pointing out cells that have been overlooked.

Kotani Seminar, Faculty of Policy Studies, won first prize in the competition of the “INTRAS—a waste reduction project supported by university students” by Kyoto City, on which the seminar has been working since July 2019.



INTRAS is a team competition project in which university students post efforts to reduce the amount of waste on social media and compete for the total number of “likes” and the quality of the contents. Many people have a negative impression about or a burdensome image of waste problems. With the expectation of transforming such a situation by exploiting the students’ sense and ability to disseminate information, six universities in Kyoto, including a graduate school, (Kyoto University graduate school, Ryukoku University, Kyoto Prefectural University, Kyoto Seika University, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, and Kotani Seminar from Doshisha University) have been appointed as project members.

Kotani Seminar (Faculty of Policy Studies) organized the team “Doshisha Eco’s Club,” taking advantage of the fact that legal policies related to waste problems, such as the Zero Waste policy, have been one of their research subjects. The main team members are HIRAI Yui, KATO Rina, MATSUMOTO Masaki, FUJIKI Naoto, and YANAGASE Tatsuhiko. The team posts many articles with ingenuity to make waste problems more familiar to us: writing multilingual articles, taking into account the characteristics of Kyoto, where many international students live; and trying to include much environmental activity information in local areas. The team has strived to write influential articles, sometimes suggesting the reuse of tableware at local events and planning the idea as an eco-friendly event. The Doshisha Eco’s Club has posted more than 40 articles in total. Before posting them, the team held discussions many times so that it could share ideas leading to raised awareness of waste problems and waste reduction by introducing efforts to reduce waste on social media. Those efforts led to the highest number of “likes” and high evaluation for the contents, and thus the club was commended as the winning team.

We hope that the members will apply valuable lessons learned through the project to their individual activities.

* INTRAS is an acronym for “instructor of trash-free society” and is a project named by Kyoto City, with the idea of being an instructor who leads us in making efforts to the realization of a society without waste.



Assistant Prof. Waku and Prof. Kobayashi (Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences) discovered a new oncogene that promotes tumorigenesis and metastasis—a molecular mechanism of cancer development through dysregulation of proteolysis by a transcription factor NRF3.

(Key points of the research)

- The expression level of a transcription factor NRF3 increases in various tumor tissues, including colorectal cancer.
- An increase in NRF3 expression level promotes tumorigenesis and metastasis.
- NRF3 enhances the activity of proteasome, a proteolytic enzyme, thereby inhibiting the anti-cancer function of tumor suppressors.

(Outline of the research)

In normal cells, tumor suppressors are constantly monitoring the cells to prevent tumorigenesis and metastasis caused by unregulated cell growth. In previous studies, genetic mutation was considered to be the main cause of inactivated tumor suppressors. Meanwhile, recent studies have reported many cases of cancer cells without genetic mutation of tumor suppressors. However, the genetic mutation-independent mechanism of cancer development remains unclear. Waku and his colleagues reveal that a transcription factor NRF3 inhibits the anti-cancer function of tumor suppressors. The research group found that the expression level of NRF3 increases in various tumor tissues, including colorectal cancer. The experimentally increased NRF3 promotes tumor formation and metastasizes in mice. Interestingly, the higher levels of NRF3 expression enhances the activity of proteasome, which is a proteolytic enzyme, while the lower NRF3 reduced the proteasome activity. More importantly, the lower NRF3 leads to not only the increase of the tumor suppressor proteins, but also the death of cancer cells. Moreover, Clinical analysis indicated that higher NRF3 is correlated with poor prognosis of colorectal cancer patients. In summary, this study demonstrates a novel mechanism of cancer development in which NRF3 inhibits the function of tumor suppressors with abnormally increased proteolytic activity. These findings further provide the important insights into the design of a new anti-cancer drug.

These research results were published online in the US scientific journal *Molecular and Cellular Biology* on March 2, 2020 (EST) (JST: March 3).

*For further information, please refer to the link below.

Molecular and Cellular Biology:

<https://mcb.asm.org/content/40/10/e00597-19>

The Doshisha University Yacht Club participated in the 28th All Japan Intercollegiate Women's Sailing Championship and won in the Snipe class! (Dec 24th 2019)

The Doshisha University Yacht Club participated in the 28th All Japan Intercollegiate Women's Sailing Championship and won in the Snipe class!

Comments from the winners of the championship are as follows.



MIURA Nagisa (freshman, Faculty of Health and Sports Science)

The 28th All Japan Intercollegiate Women's Sailing Championship was the first national-level tournament for me since I joined the yacht club. As I had not taken part in races in other waters by then, honestly, I was not sure how effectively I could compete with other participants. I was able to build a good relationship with Ms. Higashida, who was my pairs partner, although we had only a short time to practice together, because her way of thinking about the wind, race planning, and personality are similar to mine. Thanks to that, we made a good start and took the lead over the other yachts in the first race, without being very nervous. As a result, we were able to maintain good momentum in all races. I will join this tournament with a new member of the club next year and do my best to become a two-time consecutive winner of the championships. I appreciate your continued support.



HIGASHIDA Marie (senior, Faculty of Law)

Winning the All Japan Intercollegiate Women's Sailing Championship has been one of my goals for a long time. It was also a milestone tournament in the run-up to the All Japan Intercollegiate Sailing Championship scheduled in November. For these reasons, I put pressure on myself to definitely win the championship during the races. I feel that the strength of our pair lies in the good chemistry between us, which maximizes each other's strong points. Since having full confidence in Ms. Miura, although the time for practice as a pair was short, I was able to sail as calmly as usual. Furthermore, the staff and male sailors of the club came to support us in this tournament. I believe that the most important factor in our victory was that we were able to fight as Team Doshisha. Support from many people enabled us to win the championship. I would like to express my gratitude to you all.

“Monko -Listening to Incense- Workshop” (presented by SIED)

On December 13, SIED hosted an event, “Monko -Listening to Incense- Workshop” at Yamadamatsu Kobokuten (Yamada-Matsu co. Ltd). This event was held under the purpose to help participants understand the appealing aspect of the Japanese culture more in depth. Nine students from Doshisha (including international students) participated in the event.

During this event, participants experienced “listening” to incense instead of “smelling” it. There are some unique procedures to “listen” to incense, so an instructor explained it one by one. The experiencing of “listening” to incense was conducted in the form of a game; therefore, participants were able to enjoy the process in a fun way.

This event made it possible for participants to experience and learn about the Japanese culture through the experience of listening to incense.



“Calligrapher Tomoko Kawao Workshop and Performance” (presented by SIED)



On January 11th (Sat.), SIED and A Study Group of Management in Kyoto co-hosted an event, “Calligrapher Tomoko Kawao Workshop and Performance” on Imadegawa campus.

We invited Ms. Kawao who is a calligrapher undertaking various projects around the world. In the event, participants were divided into small groups, and they wrote Zen words on Kakejiku (a hanging scroll) together under the instruction of Ms. Kawao. When doing Shodo (calligraphy), we usually follow a sample. However, in this event, we didn’t use the sample and wrote the way we wanted to. All the works were really high quality and artistic. They seemed to enjoy the works a lot. After that, we watched the performance by Ms. Kawao. As soon as the performance began, the atmosphere became tense. It was very impressive and amazing! We hope that this event helped participants deepen their understanding of Shodo.

After the event, ‘meet-and-greet’ was held. We talked a lot of things and had broaden our perspectives.

SIED will host many kinds of events such as hands-on learning like this event. *This event was conducted only in Japanese.

Overseas Offices

Doshisha University's overseas offices were established in order to further promote its rapid and effective internationalization. At our overseas offices, we are implementing mainly public relations activities to increase the profile of Doshisha University, while at the same time making the most of the characteristics unique to each office. In addition, we are undertaking various efforts to recruit overseas students, support our students while they are studying overseas, and provide on-site support to members of our faculties while they are overseas.

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Message from Director of International Center

Greetings from Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan

The whole world is experiencing unprecedented pain and anxiety evoked by the global spread of COVID-19. The global pandemic also causes serious damage to the international mobility of this academic year. Most of the study abroad programs that were scheduled to be held at Doshisha University were forced to be suspended or canceled. Our students who were longing for starting their new life at our partner universities abroad also had no choice but to change their plan. At the same time, it was a tough decision for us to stop accepting international students from our partner universities for the Fall semester 2020. We are very sorry for the students who must have been excited with expectations of studying at Doshisha. During this challenging time, Doshisha University is trying to adapt and overcome current predicament collaborating with our partner universities and organizations all over the world in preparing for the post-pandemic era.

Doshisha University will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2025. As of April 2020, Professor UEKI Tomoko has been appointed as the first female president in our long history over 140 years. It is a great milestone for creating a diverse campus in which people with a variety of backgrounds and from a variety of cultures coexist in harmony. I believe that the current global pandemic not only makes us in trouble but also provides opportunities to reconsider the value and importance of diversity. We are very much looking forward to welcoming international and domestic students back to our campus as well as restarting international exchange in-person in the near future. Please stay safe and we'll see you soon.

Yonghoon CHOI, Ph.D.,
Director, International Center,
Professor, Faculty of Commerce



Greetings

Greetings from Office of International Students

Dear Partners,

The year 2020 has turned out to be a year of unprecedented uncertainty and challenges for all of us in the world due to the global pandemic of COVID-19. The circumstances at Doshisha University are no different, with restrictions on entry into the campus and Spring Semester classes conducted entirely online. The university is currently preparing to conduct Fall Semester classes with a combination of both online and face-to-face formats. We the staff of the Office of International Students are also working hard to get everything back to normal little by little.

There are three sections in our Office of International Students: first is the Section for International Admissions which handles the entrance examination for international students and public relations. The second and third are the Section for International Students at both Imadegawa and Kyotanabe campuses, and they are in charge of supporting currently enrolled students. For all international students interested in pursuing their studies in Japan, Kyoto and Doshisha University, be at ease as we will embrace you with hospitality spirit.

Warm Regards,

Office of International Students



Great Voyage is published by the International Center at Doshisha University.

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