



KANAZAWA UNIVERSITY

## Nurturing the Ability to Thrive in a New Era with Kanazawa University Global Standards (KUGS) at its core

### Developing human resources with “Kanazawa University brand” quality

Under its Top Global University Project that focuses on the “development of human resources with the ability to play a leading role in the global society and establishment of the Kanazawa University brand through intensive internationalization,” Kanazawa University has been working on greatly improving and internationalizing its education to achieve its vision for the university upon completion of the project. To be specific, Kanazawa University aims to become:

- (1) A university that provides high-quality education based on the Kanazawa University Global Standards (KUGS) to develop globally-minded human resources;
- (2) A university that leads the globalization of Japan by nurturing human resources with “Kanazawa University brand” quality, who take active roles in the world;
- (3) A university that is the core of the world’s network of higher education and research in East Asia.

### Developing the ability to play an active role in the world

### Enhancing English proficiency through curricular and extracurricular studies

One of the skills necessary to play an active role in international society is English profi-

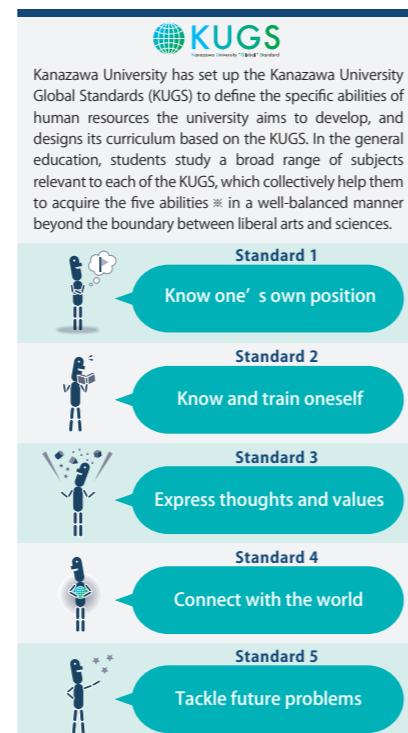
ciency. Kanazawa University requires students to achieve English proficiency equivalent to at least a TOEIC score of 760, or TOEFL iBT score of 80 before graduation, and offers various programs, both curricular and extracurricular, to help students achieve this level.

In the general education for first-year undergraduate students, the university offers English courses which place importance on improving practical English skills, such as presentation and academic writing skills. In the specialized education for upper-year students, it offers courses taught in English to develop students’ ability to understand and explain topics of their majors, both in Japanese and English.

In AY2015, the university established the Kanazawa University Super Global English Language Programs (ELP) Center in cooperation with Tufts University in the U.S., one of Kanazawa University’s international partner universities with a track record of providing high-quality English education programs. At this center, native English-speaking professors help students prepare for the IELTS and TOEFL tests, and give lessons in the style of American universities.

The university also offers various other extracurricular opportunities to help students improve their English communication skills, such as by organizing exchange events between Japanese students and international students. These events include “English Hour!” hosted by the university library, and

the English learning advisor system, which allows students to talk casually with a native English-speaking instructor. The university’s dormitories, Sakigake and Hokumei, accommodate both international and Japanese students, creating an environment for communicating in English in daily life. Thanks to these initiatives, the number of students who have achieved the required English proficiency has doubled since the beginning of the Top Global University Project.



### Encouraging students to take the “First Step” toward developing global awareness

Leveraging its overseas liaison offices, Kanazawa University launched the Study Abroad First Step Programs, which offer opportunities mainly for overseas beginners to study abroad for about two weeks cheaply, safely, and securely. Each year, approximately 100 students, mostly first-year undergraduates, participate in these programs. As a next step, the university offers more than 100 short-term programs, such as programs to intensively study English and other foreign languages, overseas training programs focusing on specific fields, and overseas internship programs. The university has also expanded its support for students to study abroad by launching its own study-abroad scholarship system, and appointing coordinators who provide advice on studying abroad and take care of program participants while abroad. As a result, about 30% of all undergraduate students who graduated from Kanazawa University in AY2019 had studied abroad during enrollment.

Many of the students who have participated in these short-term programs have become interested in studying abroad for longer periods. As a result, a growing number of students are going abroad on a longer-term basis through such programs as the Outbound Student Exchange Program to study at one of the international partner universities for at least three months, research programs at overseas universities, and the TOBITATE! Young Ambassador Program.



Study Abroad First Step Program conducted in Thailand

### Connecting with the world from Kanazawa

#### Expanding the international network in cooperation with the alumni of Kanazawa University

Kanazawa University appoints alumni who work as academic staff at overseas universities to the post of Collaborative Professor (CP). Currently, more than 160 CPs are working with the university at its overseas bases, providing support to Japanese students studying abroad, and recruiting international students. There is a virtuous cycle of international students who have studied at Kanazawa University serving as CPs after graduation, and helping the university attract international students.



General Conference of Kanazawa University Overseas Alumni Associations

To develop a broader organizational network besides the appointment of CPs, Kanazawa University established overseas alumni associations in Thailand, China, Indonesia, and Russia after it was selected for the Top Global University Project, in addition to the existing alumni associations in Boston, Vietnam and Myanmar. The university also organizes the General Conference of Kanazawa University Overseas Alumni Associations to bring together members of these alumni associations and foster partnerships among them, thus strengthening cooperative ties between the overseas alumni associations and the university, and among the overseas alumni associations as well.

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URL: <https://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/en/>Website of Kanazawa University's  
Top Global University Project

### Internationalization efforts amid COVID-19

#### Promoting online interactions through international networks

Kanazawa University is actively promoting internationalization activities in a manner suited to the COVID-19 situation, starting with the online study-abroad program launched in July 2020 under the Inter-University Exchange Project, which was followed by the online student exchange program with Ghent University and the Japanese language teacher training program conducted online in cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities. CPs have played a leading role in the development and implementation of these programs, taking advantage of the international networks the university has built.

#### Developing globally-minded human resources with the ability to cope with adversity

The unprecedented crisis that the world now faces is an opportunity for each individual to renew awareness of their current state and strive for self-improvement, which may result in new ideas and values. One will need to present those new ideas and values by actively connecting with the world, which would help tackle future problems. In other words, the five abilities specified in the KUGS are required in this COVID-19 era. Nurturing human resources with the ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis exactly matches the goal of Kanazawa University to develop human resources with the ability to cope with adversity, in line with the KUGS. The university remains committed to accelerating its ongoing initiatives to nurture human resources with “Kanazawa University brand” quality, who can play an active role in the world.