

Number of Undergraduate Students: 1,620

[Target Faculty: Faculty of Liberal Arts (160)]

1. Specific Objectives and the Image of the Ideal Global Human Resource

Our goal for this project is to train capable individuals who can play active roles on the global stage, furnishing them with practical problem-solving capabilities and a thorough education, including an understanding of Japan and other cultures.

2. Summary of the Plan

Efforts to meet international standards and to design educational programs addressing globalization will be promoted throughout Saitama University. The Faculty of Liberal Arts will play a pioneering role in this, carrying out global human resource training which focuses on overseas internships that entail credit acquisition and rigorous grading of performance.

1. Internationalization of the Curriculum

(I) Bring our curricula up to international levels

Using the curricula of overseas partner schools (American state universities) as models, we will improve our course guidelines to promote active studies and increase study time outside of class, at the same time introducing course numbering and creating scoring rubrics that confirm scholastic achievements.

(II) Enhance strategic domestic and overseas transmission of information related to education

Information related to education—such as guidelines for conferring degrees, as well as the scale and content of educational activities, international educational partnerships, university strategies, International student policies, and the details of external evaluation results—will all be provided in Japanese and English.

(III) Bring administrative organization up to global standards

By allocating full-time staff who possess administrative skills and practical proficiency in English and, moreover, carrying out overseas staff development training, we will endeavor to bring the qualifications of our employees up to global levels. We will also translate rules and procedural documentation into multiple languages.



Questions for the Mexican ambassador in an International Development class

2. Efforts to Cultivate Global Human Resources

(I) Provide a rigorous liberal arts education, including a keen understanding of other cultures and Japan

Our goal is to develop curricula that meet international standards and also foster the requisite general skills and depth and breadth in specialized fields so that students acquire high scholastic achievements. With these curricula, students will gain an education underpinned by an understanding of other cultures and Japan, thereby developing the ability to play a central role in collaborative, multicultural networks.

(II) Impart practical problem-solving skills

Hands-on problem-solving qualifications and skills will be acquired not through short internships, but in overseas internships that entail extensive guidance before and afterward as well as rigorous grading.

(III) Promote the pursuit of qualifications needed for active participation in the global arena

A powerful command of English is a must to play a part on a global level, and overseas exchange study experiences are effective in fostering that skill. We will encourage overseas studies that include residence in other countries equivalent to two semesters or more, receiving passing grades at universities overseas, and acquiring credits before returning.

3. Improvement of Foreign Language Competencies

(I) Carry out appropriate evaluations of foreign-language skills and overseas study experiences during secondary education at the time of the entrance exam

Along with the existing entrance examination designed for Japanese students who grew up in foreign countries and are returning from overseas, we will conduct special tests to select entrants from among applicants with overseas study experience prior to enrolling in university. This exam's selection process will be based on overseas study experiences while attending high school, TOEFL or other English exam scores, academic achievement, and interviews.

(II) Create a more effective language training and educational system

Along with classes based on proficiency levels, we will establish classes tailored to the project for global human resource development. In addition, we will conduct special English-language training classes for the TOEFL and IELTS exams, individual academic composition instruction, small group language training, and pre-overseas study training.

4. Faculty Development for Global Education

(I) Imbue the educational organization with a more international character

Faculty recruitment will be in principle international recruitment, and the selection process will emphasize experience teaching in foreign languages and overseas settings. Further, we will actively employ teachers of foreign nationalities.

(II) Bring teaching skills up to global standards

Using faculty development (FD) at overseas partner schools for reference, we will conduct practical FD seminars meant to bring teaching skills up to global standards. Additionally, instructors from overseas partner schools will be invited to conduct workshops on topics with a focus on FD, and FD training will also be conducted at our overseas partner schools.

5. Support System to Promote Study Abroad

(I) Prepare and motivate students who will be studying overseas

Preparatory training for students who will be studying overseas will be conducted early on, and classes meant to motivate students to study abroad will be set up. We will also establish an overseas study support office, gather and provide information related to overseas studies in an integrated manner, and provide individual guidance about overseas studies.

(II) Ensure that our support system extends from the time of overseas study to after the students return

After consulting with a student who wants to study abroad and the overseas university the student will attend, the overseas studies support office will draw up a learning agreement and provide guidance and advice during the student's time overseas. Skill enhancement course clusters will be established for students studying abroad, and we will help students find employment that will allow them to put their overseas study experiences to use.

Specific Competencies for Graduates

The guidelines for the global human resources project include fulfilling all of the following conditions:

1. GPA of 2.8 or higher, based on international grading standards
2. Complete an overseas internship program that entails rigorous grading and guidance before and after the program
3. TOEIC score of 700 or more
4. Study abroad for two or more semesters and acquire credits
5. Complete four or more credits in multicultural understanding classes
6. Complete four or more credits in the Understanding Japan Educational Program (which promotes understanding of Japan and its culture), whose classes are taught in English
7. Complete four or more credits in a second language other than English

Indicative Outputs of the Project

Total		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Number of students who meet requirements for foreign language proficiency				40	50	60	70	
Of the above, Number of students not to study abroad (A)				10	10	10	10	
Number of students studying abroad (b)		27	26	30	40	50	60	
Number of graduates (C)		200	200	200	200	200	200	
Ratio ((A+B)/C))				20.0%	25.0%	30.0%	35.0%	
Faculty of Liberal Arts	Requirement for Foreign Language Proficiency	TOEIC 700		40 (10)	50 (10)	60 (10)	70 (10)	
	Number of Students Studying Abroad		27	26	30	40	50	60
	Less than 3 months		0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 months to 1 year		27	26	30	35	40	50
	More than 1 year		0	0	0	5	10	10
Number of graduates		200	200	200	200	200	200	

Note:

*1 The number in "()" indicates "Number of students not to study abroad with credit recognition or credit transfer" out of "Number of students who meet requirements for foreign language proficiency".

*2 "Number of students studying abroad" excludes the number of students studying abroad without credit recognition or credit transfer.