

Top Global University Project (Type B) Okayama University

Overview of the program

1. Outline of the Plan

[Name of the Plan]

PRIME program: producing practical-oriented human resources in a global community

[Future of the university to be achieved through measures for Top Global University]

Students and university staff will acquire high level abilities and launch into the world, while we will receive excellent students, teachers and researchers from all over the world to evolve Okayama University into a university disseminating outcomes of creative knowledge and fruits of technologies to the world. By changing people, regions and the world, Okayama University will become a university showing its presence in the world in the next 10 years.

[Outline of the Plan]

Under the PRIME (PRactical Interactive Mode for Education) program, students will not only be able to acquire three core powers (liberal arts strength, linguistic ability and specialized knowledge), but also be given opportunities to utilize the powers in the global fields through experiences in three faces (inter-discipline, inter- culture and inter-culture). As a result, students will be able to cultivate conversational abilities, creativities, abilities to take actions, leadership and decisiveness, and acquire abilities to make proper decisions in actual fields – abilities called the global practical wisdom.

1 Liberal arts education and development of linguistic ability

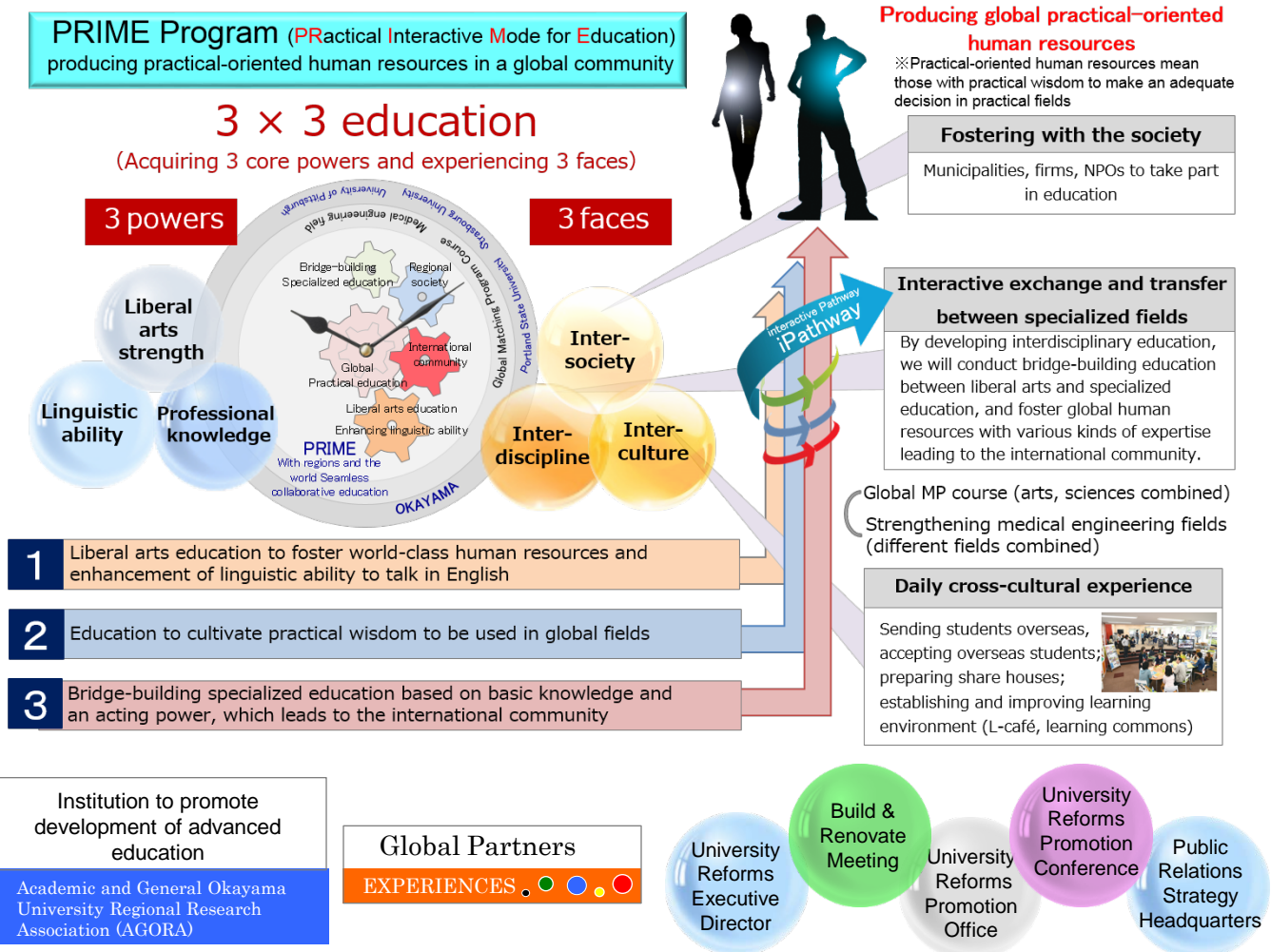
Through liberal arts education, we will build students' identities as Japanese necessary for them to play active roles globally and develop their communication skills to talk about their own ideas in English.

2 Practical wisdom education to make students succeed at global fields

Students will be able to acquire abilities to make adequate decisions by solving problems in actual fields through hands-on experiences in regions, companies and the international community. Global practical education also aims at maintaining a reciprocity between the university and the community. We will implement collaborative education not only with regions but also with the international community in the whole university.

3 Bridge-building specialized education leading to the international community

Based on basic knowledge and action acquired through liberal arts education, we will foster human resources possessing various kinds of expert knowledge by making use of the strength as a university.



【Outline of the 10-year Plan】

Courses to promote internationalization

Expanding the Special Course for Global Human Resource Development (student quota increased from 50 to 150); opening and expanding the Foundation Course for Postgraduate Studies and the Short-Term Student Exchange Program (the yearly student quota increased from 60 to 200).

※ 2,000 international students and 1,200 students having studied abroad; all students have cross-cultural experiences.

Education system reform

Introducing the Numbering Code System, with the execution rate at 100 percent; introducing 60-minute classes and the quarter system in the whole university in academic year 2016; starting new liberal arts education by establishing an institution to promote development of advanced education in academic year 2016

※ Full introduction of the Numbering Code System, 60-minute classes and the quarter system

Global practical education

Implementing practical education in the whole university and offering the education for graduate students and working adults; promoting practical education by a conference established in cooperation with local communities

※ Providing global practical education for all students.

Increasing freedom in studying: Matching Program (MP) Course

Introducing the International Baccalaureate admission; opening the Global Matching Program Course (student quota increased from 17 to 250)

※ Teaching 2,100 subjects in foreign languages; the rate of courses in which students graduate only by taking classes conducted in foreign languages is 45 percent.

Expanding strength: International medical engineering

Opening the Division of Biomedical Engineering: opening an overseas campus; creating a graduate school of international medical and biological engineering

※ Teaching 2,100 subjects in foreign languages, the rate of courses in which students graduate only by taking classes conducted in foreign languages is 45 percent. (written again)

Governance system to support internationalization

Reorganizing the International Center; expanding the annual salary system; strengthening the structure to promote university reforms; implementing the 5-U strategy (URA, UEA, UGA, UPR, UAA)

※ Ratio of employment through the annual salary system: 53.1 percent for teaching staff and 31.3 percent for university officials; ratio of foreigners: 60 percent for teaching staff and 10 percent for university officials

【Distinctive measures: Internationalization, governance reform, education reform, etc.】

Implementing global practical education in the whole university

Implementing global practical education subjects featuring collaboration between the university and the community in the whole university.

By creating a cross-faculty team of Japanese and international students, they learn histories, cultures and industries in regions and the world together. With knowledge acquired through classroom lectures, they will launch into actual fields in the society. The students and the community will cooperate to tackle problems faced by the community. Students will be able to acquire the global practical wisdom to solve problems from a global perspective, and the community will be able to solve problems.

Global Matching Program Course, which evolves our characteristics

In the current MP Course, students can learn cross-faculty and cross-department degree programs based on tasks they set on their own. We will expand the course to create the Global Matching Program Course.

We will conduct thorough language education from the first year by establishing a course in which students can take an English degree in liberal arts and sciences, respectively. We will conduct education in both English and Japanese and open a mixed seminar in which international and Japanese students learn together. In addition, we will provide opportunities for both Japanese and international students to learn in different cultures and societies through long-term internship programs. Through these measures, we aim to foster human resources who can play an active role on the global stages.

Faculties and graduate schools of medical engineering field, which help enhance our strength

Based on the Division of Biomedical Engineering, which opened in academic year 2015, we will create a graduate school of international medical and biological engineering in academic year 2018 to develop researches combining different study fields, mainly medicine, engineering and agricultural science.

In the current aging society, human resources who can lead the development of new medical equipment, diagnostic treatment technologies and drug development technologies, all of which help improve patients' quality of life, are required in the fields of medicine, nursing care and welfare. To foster such human resources, we will create a graduate school of international medical and biological engineering in academic year 2018. We also plan to enhance collaboration with affiliated overseas university hospitals to promote international research on medical engineering.

2 Progress situation of measures (academic year 2014)

■ Common outcome indicators and performance goals

Measures related to internationalization

1 International Baccalaureate admission

International Baccalaureate admission for April enrollment had been conducted in Faculty of Science, Faculty of Health Science at Medical School, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture and Matching Program Course until academic year 2013, the admission was introduced in all faculties and departments in academic year 2015.

2 Foundation Course for Postgraduate Studies

In October 2014, we opened the Foundation Course for Postgraduate Studies to support international students intending to apply for graduate schools of the university and the Short-Term Student Exchange Program accepting undergraduates who finished the third year as special auditing students. The number of students accepted by the Foundation Course for Postgraduate Studies was 28 for the second semester in academic year 2014 and 30 for the first semester in academic year 2015. The number for the second semester in academic year 2015 is expected to exceed 60.

3 Introducing Numbering Code System and translating syllabus into English

We input a numbering code on trial basis in August and September. Based on the results of the test, we presented a draft numbering code "AREAtGETxpqW" at a meeting of the the Board of Trustees for Education and Research in November, and obtained an approval from the whole university. Translation of the syllabus into English was completed before the end of academic year 2014, and the translated syllabus for academic year 2015 was made available for students in March 2014.

4 Support for international students before and upon arrival

We have compiled a booklet providing a clear explanation about support to obtain a student visa and procedures upon arrival as a pre-guidance. Since the second semester in academic year 2014, we have been providing transportation support to and from airport in response to arrivals of international flights.

Orientations are separately provided in Japanese and English. We increased guidance information on matters necessary for students' daily lives, such as explanations about the university co-op and cell phones. We also enhanced the contents of support for international students to smoothly provide assistance for them after arrival through the help of resident assistants at the university's dormitories, students assigned as help staff and others.



〈 Support by help staff 〉

Measures related to governance reform

1 Meetings for university reforms

We created the University Reforms Promotion Meeting in April 2014 and started exchanges of views between university executive members on a strategy for university reforms, policy formulation and other issues. At the same time, we created the Build & Renovate (BR) Meeting to provide opportunities to exchange opinions and share information with department heads concerning such issues as implementation of concrete measures for university reforms. Both bodies have been holding a regular meeting every month respectively.

2 Employing highly-skilled professionals as university staffers

Under the university president and relevant executive directors, we decided to employ business professionals acting on their own initiatives, called 5U (UEA, URA, UAA, UGA, UPR) from outside using the annual salary system. In academic year 2014, we employed three people as URA to further build up the university's research support system, such as making proposals on research policies as well as understanding and analyzing information about research activities worldwide. We also employed one as UPR to draw up a public relations strategy for the whole university and implement it.

3 Expanding the annual salary system

We established a system to apply the annual salary system to full-time teaching staff in academic year 2014. In the year, we planned to apply the system to 190 teachers, accounting for 15 percent of all, while we actually could apply it to 214 teachers, or 17 percent.

Measures related to education reform

1 Establishing an institution to promote development of advanced education

In October 2014, we established the institution to promote development of advanced education as an education research organization supporting collection of information, research and development and planning on advanced education and other issues; research study on education reform; examination on curriculums and educational methods and; promotion of university-wide education. We made discussions on the introduction of 60-minute classes and the quarter system.

2 Securing spaces for self-directed learning

After aseismic renovation works of the Central Library and the Shikata Branch Library, we secured spaces for self-directed learning such as learning commons, a seminar room, and a group-learning room in both buildings. Thanks to the effects of the new facilities and various events including pilot classes aimed at developing education programs to foster students' critical thinking skills and to enhance their communication ability through Finnish interactive techniques, among other reasons, the number of visitors to the Central Library increased by about 1.5 times from a year earlier to 451,894 in academic year 2014.



〈 Learning commons 〉

