

The Re-Inventing Japan Project (Keio University 2015 Academic Year)

【Project name】(Year adopted: 2011 academic year, Type B-II)

Development of a Japan–Europe Collaborative Program for Nurturing Global Engineers

【Objectives】Our participation in various international collaborative science and technology projects has allowed us to offer a variety of educational programs to our students. We hope these programs will develop students into talented engineers that can transcend cultural and linguistic barriers to achieve success on an global scale.

【Project summary】 By cooperating with higher education institutions of science and technology within the EU, we train engineers who can form solutions to problems common throughout the world with a global vision. We aim to create an environment that fosters global sensitivity through the development of double degree master’s programs, international collaborative ventures through the collaborative mentorship of Ph.D. students, and introductory programs and preparatory courses for undergraduate students.

■ Formation of a Top-class University Network

○ Development of a Double Degree Master’s Program

Keio has exceeded its targets for increasing the number of exchange students that come to the school from partner universities. This was achieved through faculty exchanges with universities that belong to the T.I.M.E. (Top Industrial Managers for Europe) Association, extensive discussions concerning applicant interviews and improvements made to our curriculum.

○ Developing International Programs Through the Collaborative International Mentorship of Ph.D. Students

As part of the Erasmus Mundus program—which aims to strengthen partnerships between European and non-European institutions of higher education—Keio has carried out research exchanges with its European partner universities under the banners of the BEAM Program and its successor: the EASED Program. Additionally, Keio has a mutual exchange program with Ecole Centrale de Nantes (ECN) and a consortium-style program (Erasmus+) with the Technical University of Madrid. These programs mark the first step towards strengthening Keio’s Ph.D. course partnerships.

■ Program Content and Preparing for the Start of the Programs

(Class in progress)



○ Offering Introductory Programs and Preparatory Courses for Undergraduate Students

To give students a taste of what double degree master’s programs are like, Keio sent 143 undergraduate students abroad to take part in a variety of short exchange programs. Keio also offered study abroad opportunities to first and second-year undergraduate students as part of the Global Leadership Seminar to give students an international experience early on in their academic career.

○ Events to Explain Studying Abroad in Japan to Partner University Students

During the spring and summer breaks, Keio students had the chance to visit Aachen, Germany and talk with local students who had an interest in Japan. The aim of these events was to encourage participating German students to study abroad in Japan.

■ Student Mobility

○ Outbound

Keio sends students abroad for its double degree master’s programs and to receive Ph.D. mentorship at foreign universities. Undergraduate students also go abroad in spring and summer as a part of the Global Undergraduate Education System. Other outbound programs run by Keio include internships and summer schools.

○ Inbound

Inbound exchange students come to Keio as part of double degree programs, the EASED program and other exchange programs.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Outbound	58	162	174	199	219
Inbound	15	30	65	53	120

■ Encouraging Increased Student Mobility for Japanese and International Students

○ Facilitating Study Abroad for Japanese Students

Keio provides students with a range of opportunities to gather information before their study abroad by holding a series of pre-departure orientation sessions and publishing monthly reports from students who went abroad in the previous academic year. The orientation covers what programs are offered at host universities, preparatory language study and the administrative procedures involved in going overseas. Students are also able to pursue independent language study using e-learning tools with the support of qualified staff, who follow the students’ progress and provide advice.

○ Facilitating Study at Keio for International Students

Keio has adjusted its academic calendar to be in line with the rest of the world by starting in September. We have also authorized several academic advisors specifically for giving study-abroad advice so that even international students who cannot speak Japanese are able to enjoy a rewarding student life. Students who study at Keio are provided with international student dormitories located within walking distance of the campuses and a tutoring system to assist them with their studies.

(The symposium)

■ Internationalization of the University Transparency and Results

○ Strengthening Ties with Other Universities and Mutual Exchange

To coincide with the annual T.I.M.E. Association General Assembly in 2015, which was co-hosted with Tohoku University, Keio also held an international double degree symposium. This symposium led to Keio deciding to form new partnerships with some of the institutions that were in attendance.

