1. Outline

A Leading University Cultivating Global Leaders from Kumamoto University

Kumamoto University is open, compatible, and mobile
Introducing an internationally standardized education system offering compatibility and mobility

Kumamoto University is a regional globalization
Promoting regional human resources, supplying innovative talent who can help advance a technology-oriented nation

Kumamoto University continually improves, researches, and develops
Enriching an advanced education system and research activities

Summary of Project
Through this project, we aim to become a truly global university by implementing various educational reforms. To that end, we will contribute to the globalization of the local community as a globally competitive research hub with the following 4 targets:
1. An education system highly conducive to internationalism
2. Global atmosphere for the inclusion of international students
3. Strengthened and globalized graduate education to support cutting-edge research
4. Global campus as a driving force for internationalization in the local community
[Summary of the 10-year Plan]

Top Global University Project Roadmap

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<td>Number of international students (all year)</td>
<td>(2013) 764</td>
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<td>Number of students who have studied abroad (all year)</td>
<td>(2013) 514</td>
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<td>700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establish and improve the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies</td>
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<td>Develop and implement a global education curriculum</td>
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<td>Governance reform-related</td>
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[Featured Initiatives (Internationalization, University Reform, Education Reform)]

Toward refining our university to be "a truly global university" based on educational reforms, these initiatives aim to establish our university as a globally competitive research hub. In particular, we have set the following 4 targets to take bold and effective reforms.

1. **An education system highly conducive to internationalism**
   We are introducing a new education system that is compatible with the academic year of other countries and allows graduate students to enroll early or stay abroad, and offers flexible credit transfer. Furthermore, the newly established the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies (the College), which facilitates the globalization of our university education, offers liberal arts courses in English and support Special Courses to Develop Global Elites.

2. **Global atmosphere for the inclusion of international students**
   In order to enhance our high quality curriculum to students learning about Japanese language and culture, the College promotes enrollment of international exchange students and researchers.

3. **Strengthened and globalized graduate education to support cutting-edge research**
   We are beginning a global education program that applies to both undergraduate and graduate-level studies with the aim of educating elite graduates going on to be active throughout the world. A Globally Coordinated Education Program is also being created for the purpose of sending students abroad and to partner with universities primarily in the US and Europe to offer double degrees and support collaborative research.

4. **Global campus as a driving force for internationalization in the local community**
   The College is the core of our KU Global Youth Campus program. This program not only provides opportunities for local teens to receive an early global education, but also promotes globalization of local community by assisting study abroad programs.
2. FY2014 Progress

- **Common indicators and targets**

**Internationalization**

**Establishment of the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies, and the Globalization of Education**

For the globalization of education, and to provide total care for our international students, we established the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies to help drive our global education activities. The Center for Global Communications started conducting a new short-term study abroad program (USA) for Japanese students, developing global curricula in which liberal arts are taught in English, and strengthening the Short-Term Exchange Program taught in English (receiving international students). The Center for Open Education offered opportunities for global education to local youth, such as conducting overseas training for students of a Super Science High School in Kumamoto prefecture.

**Hosting the Top Global University (SGU) Project Kickoff Symposium**

With the presidents of other universities, including the University of Leeds (UK), that are taking advanced approaches to globalization invited as guest lecturers, we held a symposium on January 31, 2015. We introduced the SGU project and exchanged views about collaborations aimed at globalizing Japanese education. Approximately 250 people from universities, high schools, local administrations and Kumamoto residents, participated in the symposium. It helped raise interest and understanding of the purpose, targets and realization of the SGU project.

**Creation of Promotional Video to Attract More International Students**

With the participation and cooperation of current international students and local citizens, we created a new promotional video with multilingual captions to attract more international students. It can be viewed on the university’s SGU project website. The video was shown to partner universities when we visited, and was used in events such as the Study Abroad Fair.


**Governance Reform**

**Establishment of a New Organization to Promote the SGU Project and Globalize Kumamoto University**

We established the Organization for Globalization in March 2015. Headed by the president of the university, this action is meant to accelerate our all-university efforts for globalization under the governance and leadership of the president. We also established the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies under the control of the Organization for Globalization, and launched various programs to promote the globalization of education. We will start construction of the facilities for the college during the 2015 academic year.

**Seminar for Administrative Staff to Improve International Administrative Work Skills (SD Seminar)**

To improve international administrative work skills among administrative staff, we provided a half-year language course in the 2nd half of the 2014 academic year in Kumamoto, and 11 staff members completed the course. We also dispatched one member to the Philippines to receive English training and to participate in interviews at partner universities, which were all helpful in improving our ability to handle international administrative work. In 2015, we will provide several SD seminars at universities in Europe and the US, including The University of Glasgow.

**Education Reform**

**Preparation to Establish Special Courses to Develop Global Elites**

A study to establish special courses to develop global elites has started as to cultivate elite global graduates through undergraduate programs. A new syllabus system was launched in January 2015 to enhance international compatibility and to systematize the education programs. The new system, implemented in January 2015, supports course numbering and can be provided in different languages. We began discussing the introduction of the quarter system as well, which is scheduled to start in the 2016 academic year, in educational conferences, etc., and looked at precedents set at other universities.
University’s own indicators and targets

Enhancing Our Globally Coordinated Education Program
To enhance our Globally Coordinated Education Program, including our double degree program, we concluded a double degree agreement with the University of Bordeaux (France) in March 2015 for the Doctoral program of the Graduate School of Science and Technology. We launched exchanges with universities in sub-Saharan African countries such as the Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Djibouti. In the 2014 academic year, we concluded 24 new exchange agreements with the University of Rwanda and other universities, and actively promoted partnerships with overseas universities.

KU Global Youth Campus Program
We established the KU Global Youth Campus Program to return the resources accumulated from our globalization activities to local society. We held a high school-university symposium "Honest Talk between High School and University Students!" on December 14, 2014, and 24 students from 12 public and private high schools in Kumamoto Pref. participated and discussed global human resource competition and studying abroad.

Overseas FD Training to Promote Global Education
To support faculty members who lecture in English for the global curriculum provided under this program, we dispatched some of them for a week to the University of Alberta in Canada, one of our partner universities, in March 2015. They learned how to teach in English, including useful English expressions for classroom and communication presentation skills. We will dispatch faculty members overseas again in the 2015 academic year for 2-week training sessions.

Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university

Promoting Globally-Advanced Research and Education Programs as a Research University
As we were selected for the “Program for Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities” by MEXT in 2013, we have established International Collaborative Research Groups for Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Social and Cultural Sciences in the Division of Excellence in Research of the Priority Organization for Innovation and Excellence (POIE) in order to globalize our research activities and strengthen the ability to research. Under the management of top professors in each research group, we invite researchers from abroad, recruit talented young researchers, regularly hold international seminars, establish overseas joint laboratories, and do much more. We have also assigned URAs and international research coordinators to support globally collaborative research activities for the whole university. They offer a broad range of services, such as attracting research funding, acquiring intellectual property rights, holding events for international joint research, and providing international researchers and students with administrative support.

Developing Talented People Who Can Learn from and Solve Issues in the Local Community as the Center of Community (COC)
Kumamoto University was selected for MEXT’s Center of Community (COC) Project in 2014. As a university rooted in the community, we aim to develop individuals who can learn from the community and solve community issues in a creative way. To strengthen the management structure, we set up the Organization for Community Development (Director: President) in 2014. We also added "Kumamoto Studies" to the liberal arts curriculum for freshmen so that they can learn about the history, culture and current issues of local communities. By knowing the problems of each community and raising awareness of regional contributions, globally-minded students will be nurtured.
3. FY2015 Progress

- Achievements and Goals

**Internationalization**

- **Enhancement of Short-Term Program for International Students**
  We previously offered a short program taught in Japanese for undergraduate students from overseas partner universities only during summer. In the 2015 academic year, we added summer and spring programs taught in English for the first time, to provide a total of 3 short-term programs for international students.
  In total, 111 students from East Asia, ASEAN countries and the U.S.A. participated. They studied Japanese and experienced Japanese culture through various activities including lectures and educational excursions.

- **Enhancing Overseas Language Training Programs**
  We increased the number of overseas language training programs during summer and spring vacations from 5 universities to 8.
  The universities that have started offering the programs include Montana (U.S.), Leeds (U.K.), and Massey (NZ) and Thailand. Over 100 students participated in 8 programs. The students who participated in this program, even those who joined only for a short period of time, communicated with people in foreign countries and experienced real cross-cultural exchange. They often become proactive in improving their language ability and in engaging with international students after returning to Japan. Some of them become motivated to study abroad for a longer period, and aim to become exchange students.

- **Establishment of Global Curricula**
  In September 2015, the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies started teaching 20 liberal arts subjects in English for both international and Japanese students. The main targets of the classes are students enrolled in the Short-Term Exchange Program in English. A total of 74 students have registered for the curricula. 20 Japanese auditing students also participated in the class discussions.
  To launch liberal arts courses in English for all students in April 2016, 31 subjects were developed and enhanced in one year.

**University reform**

- **Improvement of the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies**
  The College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies hired faculty members via international open recruitment. These faculty members are both non-Japanese and Japanese who have earned a degree overseas, worked overseas, and acquired diverse international experience. This has helped strengthen our organizational structure in an effort to globalize the university through promotion of the Top Global University Project.
  The new faculty members play central roles in providing international exchange opportunities to current Kumamoto University students and to high school students at leading high schools in Kyushu. They are also preparing for the launch of our global curricula, tentatively scheduled for the 2016 academic year and beyond.

- **Staff Development**
  Staff have been stationed overseas to improve practical skills. One member planned the training contents by herself and participated in a 4-week interview-based training program at The University of Glasgow in the U.K. Another member participated in a 2-week English training course in the Philippines, and 5 members participated in work training, including one at a Study Abroad Fair. In addition, we provided e-learning TOEIC lessons and offered assistance with the TOEIC examination fee. As a result, the number of staff members who satisfy the English proficiency criteria (equivalent of TOEFL-iBT® score 80) increased to 38 (as of February 2016).
Education reform

- Establishment of the Global Leader Course in the 2017 Academic Year
  We decided to establish the Global Leader Course with the aim of educating top graduates who will go on to play active roles in all corners of the world. The course will provide an original education program under the GOKOH School Program with cooperation from the 4 faculties. Students will acquire international communications skills and specialized basic knowledge during their first 2 years after entering the university by attending lectures given in English, by studying specialized subjects, and by studying abroad. Before advancing to the third year, they will select their desired department and course, and will acquire advanced expertise that builds on their well-rounded knowledge with an understanding of diverse values and international sensibilities. In the 2016 academic year, we will study the curricula in more detail and provide pre-entrance education.

- Establishment of the System for the Globalization of Education
  To adopt a flexible academic calendar, we decided to introduce a quarterly system to liberal arts education in the 2016 academic year, and throughout the university by the 2019 academic year. We also decided to assign a numbered code to each subject to systematize the curriculum in each education program. To enhance the international compatibility of the education system, we started making a new syllabus system (both in Japanese and English) available on the internet, offering access from anywhere in the world. This new system can be utilized when academic advice is needed, when credit transfers are conducted, when Kumamoto University students study abroad and when international students come to study at Kumamoto University.

■ Kumamoto University’s Achievements and Goals

- Kumamoto University Global Youth Campus Program
  We offered high school students in Kumamoto the opportunity to engage in exchanges with students from our overseas partner universities who were participating in our summer and spring programs. A total of 74 high school students and 72 international students took this opportunity to learn more about each other.
  During Kumamoto University’s Open Campus in August, we held the Global Youth Campus Summer Festa event, which was joined by over 100 students from more than 30 high schools in Kyushu. The event included live conversation via the Internet with Japanese exchange students at a partner university in Australia. Through these exchanges with international students and Japanese students who have studied abroad, the high school students found greater interest in studying abroad.

- Enhancing Our Globally Coordinated Education Program
  During the 2015 academic year, we established 40 new exchange agreements. We also established a double degree agreement with 4 universities in the science and technology field. To promote education through international joint research projects, we invited faculty members from our partner universities and hosted international symposiums and seminars for graduate students. In addition, the International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS) implemented the Research Internship Program. Eight students from 7 countries participated by conducting research with an eye toward acquiring advanced experimental techniques.

■ Featured Initiatives Based on the Characteristics of the University

- Establishment of an International Research Network
  We established the International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS) under the International Collaborative Research Group for Life Sciences to strategically oversee several research organizations. We have invited some of the world’s most-noted researchers to our international seminars and symposiums, and developed talented young researchers who we discovered through global open recruitment events. In the International Collaborative Research Group for Science and Technology, a total of 14 memoranda on international joint research were signed between research groups of Kumamoto University and overseas research institutions to promote networking between researchers.
4. FY2016 Progress

**Common indicators and targets**

**Internationalization**

- Activities of the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies for globalization of Kumamoto University

We officially adopted some liberal arts subjects (global curricula) taught in English in our general education program on a university-wide basis. Having increased from 20 to 31 subjects since FY 2015, our liberal arts courses had 612 total students. To improve students' English skills, the extracurricular activity "english-TALKmon" was set up and had 520 participants over a one-year period. We also increased the number of IELTS classes, one of our initiatives to encourage students to study abroad, from twice to four times a year, in which 85 students participated. Meanwhile we held the IELTS group test twice at Kumamoto University for the first time in the prefecture. From the 6th (FY 2017 first semester) TOBITATE! Young Ambassador Program, we further enhanced the preparation courses to help students pass the program's document screening and interview. With cooperation from students who had completed the program, a record 10 Kumamoto University students were accepted.

- Increasing Overseas Bases

We set up the Kumamoto University Sudan Office in the sub-Saharan region, an of focus for Kumamoto university, to implement programs in which our staff members visit the region to engage in public relations activities and conduct research in the pharmaceutical field. Under the framework established by the Consortium of Six National Universities of Japan, the European Office was opened in Leiden, Netherlands, aiming to enhance our presence in the Netherlands and other European countries and to create more opportunities for academic and student exchanges. In addition, the Kumamoto University Alumni Association in China, one of our alumni associations, was established in Shanghai by Chinese graduates, which helps us further promote our activities in China using their network.

**University Reform**

- Holding Kumamoto University Global Advisory Board Meeting

The first Kumamoto University Global Advisory Board Meeting was held on January 27, 2017 as an external committee for the project. Having invited five committee members, including two non-Japanese, from overseas universities, we discussed the project’s progress and challenges faced by Kumamoto University for its globalization, and obtained much beneficial advice for our future activities. On the same day after the meeting, a special seminar was presented for the public by the two non-Japanese members as part of the Kumamoto University Global Youth Campus Program. Around 160 participants, including local high school students, teachers, and Japanese and international students at Kumamoto University, listened to the lectures on cross-cultural understanding, global experience, and career development.

**Education Reform**

- Kumamoto University Global Leader Course (GLC)

We selected 48 students for the Global Leader Course through an admissions office entrance exam. Then we provided the Pre-GOKOH School Program to students who were to enroll at Kumamoto University for five months before enrollment to prepare them for the global education they will receive after they enter the University. In this program, students participated in online courses using Kumamoto University’s e-learning system and schooling sessions held on the campus. We also set up details of the GOKOH School Program, which starts after enrollment. This curriculum consists of the Global Learning Program, in which students develop abilities and basic skills necessary to become global leaders, and the Global Extracurricular Education Program, in which they learn how to play a global leadership role. In particular, the Global Extracurricular Education Program, a special feature of the GLC, aims to allow students to enhance their international communication skills, information distribution abilities, creative intelligence, and leadership abilities, which are difficult to obtain only through regular classes.
Establishment of the Headquarters for Admissions and Education

The Headquarters for Admissions and Education was established in June 2016 to supervise and control entrance exams, liberal arts education common to all faculties, and educational assessment, as well as to push through reforms and improvement plans that enhance and maintain the quality of university education.

As a main measure for educational reforms, this new organization has rebuilt the liberal arts education system and reviewed the programs to be provided from FY 2017 in terms of quality assurance. It established Multidisciplinary Studies, in which international and Japanese students learn subjects in the same language. Accordingly, it decided to launch 25 courses in 13 subjects of liberal arts taught in English by mainly non-Japanese instructors. It also implemented other educational reforms for the University’s globalization by introducing a partial quarter in the liberal arts curriculum, as well as by playing a leading role in launching the admissions office entrance exam, pre-university education courses, and other education programs in the Global Leader Course.

Kumamoto University’s own indicators and targets

KU Global Youth Campus Program

Students from the designated Super Science High Schools in Kumamoto Prefecture gave poster presentations on a variety of scientific themes, and international students at Kumamoto University participated in a question and answer session to discuss the study methods and results in English. Our international students also visited designated Super Global High Schools to help proofread theses written in English. To contribute to globalization of local communities, we also sent them to the Minami-oso area and other distant places in the prefecture to hold international exchange programs for students in elementary, junior high, and high schools. On the campus itself, we held the Go Global Seminar, in which people who play active roles in the world gave lectures to high school students as part of career education. A total of 499 high school students participated in 12 events, including the above-mentioned programs, held in FY 2016.

Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university

Strengthening Globally Advanced Research Bases

The Kumamoto University International Research Organization for Advanced Science and Technology (IROAST) was established in April 2016 to conduct a variety of projects: strategically supervising Kumamoto University’s research groups in the natural sciences; conducting globally advanced research; progressing global top-class unique research and swiftly carrying out new researches, in cooperation with the world’s leading research institutes; promoting cross-field studies. We will further enhance our research capabilities in the natural sciences by holding international seminars and symposiums, inviting the world’s top-class researchers. Together with the International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS) established in 2015, we are working hard to develop globally advanced research bases to create new fields that can lead the world.

Free description

Activities of International Students on the Occasion of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake

After the Kumamoto Earthquake occurred, the shelter which was placed on campus was operated by student volunteers. International student volunteers supported the translation of information. Led by the Center for Open Education of the College of Cross-cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies, our international students and other members participated in a variety of volunteer activities, such as foreign language and Japanese classes, calligraphy, Turkish dance, and movie screenings, from April 25 to 28, 2016. These activities were held to cheer up Kumamoto University students and local residents who had been affected by the disaster. A total of 269 people participated in the activities over four days including our students, and many local residents who had taken shelter.
5. FY2017 Progress

Common Indicators and Targets

Internationalization

O Enhancement of Japanese Student and International Student Mobility
Under the programs available for undergraduate students from overseas partner universities, we accepted 68 students for the Summer Program in English held in July, 44 students for the Spring Program in English and 7 students for the same program taught in Japanese in February 2018. Thus within our Summer and Spring Programs we have welcomed a larger number of international students than in previous years. Since the international students interacted with Japanese students in these programs, we were also able to help Japanese students develop more global perspectives. In each program, we provided the participating international students with explanations about how they can study abroad at Kumamoto University and the procedures they should follow, encouraging them to enroll as regular students or under the Short-Term Exchange Program.

O Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents within the Local Community
We offered a 12-lesson beginner course in the Japanese language to 10 students with the aim of providing international students, researchers and their families with an opportunity to learn the basic Japanese language skills necessary for living in Japan. We had previously offered beginning Japanese language courses only to international graduate students and researchers; we have now extended the opportunity to the families of newly-arrived international students and researchers, offering them the chance to study basic Japanese. This year, five of the ten participants were family members of international students and researchers.

O Preparations for the Establishment of an Overseas Alumni Association
In March 2018, an alumni reunion was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, to prepare for the establishment of a Kumamoto University Alumni Association in Viet Nam. This will be the third overseas alumni association of Kumamoto University.

O International Public Relations Activities
The web page “Publication of Educational Information” on Kumamoto University’s website was changed from Japanese to English, and released on the English website. We also produced a video encouraging Japanese students to study abroad, aiming to boost the number of Japanese students studying overseas. At the same time, we produced and distributed posters to introduce and promote Kumamoto University to students of overseas partner universities as part of our initiatives to increase the number of international students studying at Kumamoto University.

University Reform

O Familiarization and Development of Global Education within the Local Community
In March 2018, Kumamoto University hosted a Top Global University Project Symposium titled “Globalization of Universities and Community-based Development of Global Human Resources.” The purpose of this symposium was to share information and exchange opinions for solving the various challenges related to regional globalization. In the first half, we introduced the projects currently being undertaken by Kumamoto University and the course of their future development. In the second half, three speakers invited from universities within Japan gave lectures regarding the advanced initiatives of their universities for global human resource development in their region. The event attracted approximately 100 participants from high schools, universities, and companies in and outside of Kumamoto, and through the symposium we were able to introduce our approaches to the issue and their results to the community. We also believe that this event has helped our initiatives toward globalization become more widely known throughout the community.
Education Reform

- Initiatives under the Global Leader Course (GLC)
  We implemented a new and unique curriculum, the “GOKOH School Program” comprising the Global Learning Program and Global Extracurricular Education Program. As part of the Global Extracurricular Education Program, we hosted a weekly GLC Foundation Seminar, a training camp in June, and an international internship in August in cooperation with local companies. Six students who participated in the internship attended a Business Expo held in Hong Kong, China, improving their English skills by providing explanations of the products to visitors in English. In addition, we planned a number of new short-term overseas exchange programs aimed at developing global leadership skills. One such program was held in Indonesia in February with participation from 20 students. This program was not a language seminar but featured unique contents based on fieldwork. Participants independently worked on their assignments and further developed their leadership abilities.

- Establishment of the System for the Globalization of Education
  To promote the globalization of education, we revised the university Rules and academic calendar, and introduced the quarter with summer term system (4+1-term system). As a result, the optimal term (class period) can be set for each course according to each course’s individual characteristics in order to maximize the educational outcome. The new system also allows the acceptance of short-term international students during the summer holidays of their universities, as well as allowing Japanese students to shorten their learning period, select early enrollment in graduate school, and secure time for studying abroad.

University Indicators and Targets

- KU Global Youth Campus Program
  Kumamoto University dispatched teaching staff and international students to Super Science High Schools and Super Global High Schools to provide practical instruction in English to help the students give research theme-based presentations and poster presentations. A total of 183 high school students received instruction.
  We also offered numerous English-based intercultural exchange opportunities in which 297 high school students participated. One such event was the Role Model Café, which guided students in designing their future path through the life stories of internationally minded people active in Japan and around the globe. Another event was the International Student Meet & Greet, which provided the opportunity for direct one-to-one interaction in English with international students participating in the Summer and Spring Programs. Summer Fest was an event held during Open Campus at Kumamoto University, which offered demo lessons taught in English. Finally, the Soseki Global Café was held as part of a university-wide festival, where an English performance of Lafcadio Hearn’s “Kwaidan” were made by Japanese students. We also dispatched teaching staff and international students to international exchange events organized by junior high schools in Kumamoto City, and provided 79 junior high school students with opportunities for international exchange in English, contributing to an early global education within the region.

- Globally Coordinated Education Course
  In July and January we implemented internal support projects aimed at enhancing double-degree programs and other programs as part of the Globally Coordinated Education Course. Support was given to five programs on each occasion, 10 programs in total. During fiscal year 2017, 2 new Globally Coordinated Education Courses were added, for a total 16 Courses now being offered. Through this, we are now able to provide more diverse educational programs in a better environment to improve student mobility.

Initiatives for the Enhancement of International Reputation / Featured Initiatives Based on the Characteristics of the University

- Employment support for international students
  We have established the Career Development Program (CDP) Office to support employment of international students in Japan. This Office provides practical education in business, Just-in-Time Education to promote understanding of working in the community and in Japan, various courses to help students acquire skills required in finding employment, and individual career support for international students. We are also developing an environment to enable international students to independently collect and learn corporate and career information, such as the Career Training Studio and the Learning Commons (room for interaction and learning). In the future, we will further advance cooperation with the Kumamoto prefectural government and business organizations in Kumamoto, in order to provide more internship opportunities for international students as well as networking events with company personnel.
6. FY2018 Progress

■ Common indicators and targets

Internationalization

- Initiatives to promote international exchange and understanding of Japan
  Selected as one of the first participants of the KAKEHASHI Project (as part of ‘Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs’ undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Kumamoto University established a friendly relationship with Miami, Florida. We accepted a delegation from Miami Dade College, comprising 25 students and escorting staff, and helped promote their understanding of Japan through exchange activities with our students as well as lectures and hands-on programs on Japanese culture. In return, a 25-member delegation from Kumamoto University visited the United States, and paid a courtesy call on the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami and made a study tour of Japanese companies. They also visited a university and a high school in Miami and gave presentations and performances to let local students know about Japanese culture and what they have learned from the Kumamoto Earthquake. The delegation thus conveyed the characteristics and attractions of Kumamoto and Japan to the local people.

- Encouraging Japanese students to study abroad
  We upgraded our short-term study abroad programs. One of the initiatives for this purpose was to introduce and implement language programs for students from all faculties and schools in new places (Latvia, Canada, and the Philippines). We organized a total of 11 programs in summer and spring, through which we were able to provide our students with opportunities to have diverse experiences overseas, improve the program contents, and eventually increase the number of Japanese students who studied abroad.
  As another new initiative in FY2018, to encourage more students to utilize the ‘Tobistate! (LEAP for Tomorrow) Young Ambassador Program’, we conducted an explanatory sessions to explain how to prepare application forms for this program, and the number of the applicants had increased.

- International public relations activities
  As part of the activities by SixERS (consortium of six national universities: Chiba University, Niigata University, Kanazawa University, Okayama University, Nagasaki University, and Kumamoto University), we participated in academic seminars held in ASEAN countries (Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, and Thailand) in March 2019, introducing our university and interacting with local teaching staff. Most notably, we organized a seminar in Surabaya, Indonesia in cooperation with our local liaison office and our partner, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS), to introduce the six national universities to over 200 local students. We successfully improved our visibility through effective promotional activities utilizing our liaison office and alliance.

- Employment support for international students
  We have supported international students in finding jobs in Japan. To help them learn Japanese language used in business settings, we offered 10 classes of business Japanese. To provide career education, we organized 16 seminars by outside lecturers including business managers, HR representatives, and former international students. Besides these, we encouraged international students to participate in internships and provided lectures of various kinds. In FY2018, the system of “Global Student Assistants” (Japanese students at Kumamoto University who support international students) was newly introduced, which helped international students enhance their Japanese communication skills and their understanding of Japanese culture and companies.

- Launch of a new center and an alumni association overseas
  In March 2019, we launched the Kumamoto University Liaison Office at Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology (STUST) in Tainan City, Taiwan. The opening ceremony was jointly organized by Kumamoto University and our partner, STUST, honored by the attendance of approximately 40 participants from the two universities and other organizations. The ceremony was widely covered by the media, which led to the improvement of our university’s visibility.
  Taking this opportunity, we held an alumni meeting for the first time in Taiwan, which inspired the establishment of a system allowing our alumni in Taiwan to share information about Kumamoto University within Taiwan.

University reform

- Support for the cross-appointment system
  To further enhance, strengthen, and vitalize our education and research activities in cooperation with other institutions in and outside Japan, we have formulated rules regarding the cross-appointment system, which came into effect in April 2018. Thanks to this, we are now able to promote acceptance of excellent talent through the system, contributing to further improvement of education and research activities at Kumamoto University.
Education reform

- **More diverse programs in the Global Leader Course**
  As part of the global extra-curricular educational program (which is typical of the Global Leader Course), a short-term study abroad program in Malaysia was implemented in August 2018, focusing on fieldwork aimed at fostering global leaders. The 12 participants conducted pre-program learning with teaching staff of the accepting university from April 2018, thereby clarifying their challenges related to the program before leaving Japan. As a result, upon reaching Malaysia, they could work on their challenges in a proactive manner. They also conducted post-program learning in a similar way and more assuredly developed their leadership abilities. As part of the extracurricular program for second-year students, they issued the GLC Magazine, documenting activities conducted in the past year in the Global Leader Course.

- **Further enhancement of educational globalization**
  In FY2018, we increased the number of subjects taught in English ("Multidisciplinary Studies") from 28 themes to 36 themes (13 subjects), and attracted more international students to such subjects. Thus, Japanese students enjoyed more opportunities to learn with international students, which contributed to the enhancement of the global mindset of Japanese students. In addition, to ensure more sophisticated contents in the Multidisciplinary Studies, we called on professors from Spain, Thailand, and the Philippines to introduce new “global team teaching” classes in the form of an omnibus lecture series.

  Regarding the Kumamoto University Visualization System for Learning Outcomes (ASO), which allows visualization of students’ learning outcomes by making graphs of performance rating, GPA, credits earned, scores of English Proficiency Test such as TOEIC and TOEFL, etc., we have developed a function to output registered data. Since it is now possible to output the data also in English, students can create materials that visually showcase their strengths and growth levels, which can be used when continuing their education both in Japan and abroad.

■ University’s own indicators and targets

- **Improvement of the Kumamoto University Global Youth Campus Program**
  Thanks to improvement in the visibility of the Global Leader Course, many high school students who were interested in the Course, including those from Super Global High Schools, participated in the university’s promotional events such as Meet & Greet (an opportunity to interact in English with international students) and Summer Festa at the Open Campus (trial lessons taught in English). After these exchange events, we received many inquiries about the Global Leader Course, which has led to an increase in the number of Course applicants. Furthermore, we have launched a working group to establish the structure that provides global education for high school students in Kumamoto Prefecture, and started preparations for a “global leader program for high school students.”

- **FD training sessions aimed at promoting educational globalization and spreading its effects to local communities**
  In September 2018 and March 2019, we invited outside lecturers to provide global FD training sessions, with the main purposes of establishing a system to provide classes in English and improving skills for teaching and communicating in English of the teaching staff who will play a leading role in education and research in the next generation. In particular, the March session was jointly organized with the Consortium of Universities in Kumamoto (organization comprising as members universities and other institutions in Kumamoto Prefecture) with a view to spreading the effects of educational globalization to local communities. By accepting participants from other universities in Kumamoto Prefecture, we were able to provide more people with an opportunity to participate in the session.

■ Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university

- **Diverse initiatives by globally advanced research bases at Kumamoto University**
  Kumamoto University has the International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS) and the International Research Organization for Advanced Science and Technology (IROAST), established with the purpose of improving the university’s global research capabilities in the fields of life science and natural science. During FY2018, the IRCMS and IROAST hosted 12 seminars and 28 seminars, respectively, to make their global, cutting-edge research activities widely known within the university. In addition, the IRCMS, IROAST, and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) hosted two joint symposia in October 2018 and January 2019, thus contributing to the creation and promotion of international and interdisciplinary collaborative research.
Internationalization Area

Communication from and Exchange with International Students
An exchange event, “Poster Session 2019,” in which international students studying Japanese at Kumamoto University communicate their experiences and the knowledge they have gained studying in Japan to Japanese students in Japanese, was held at the university library on the Kurokami North Campus in July and December. This event aimed to provide an opportunity to promote communication between international students and Japanese students and to encourage Japanese students to gain an interest in other countries, through the transmission of information from international students.

Dressed in uniform T-shirts in July and in folk costumes in December, all international students gave presentations on their country’s food culture, etc. and interacted with visitors and Japanese students. This event was featured in the local media. According to the results of the questionnaire after the completion of the session, the participants were highly satisfied and answered that they were motivated to further learn a foreign language and were interested in studying abroad, and that they expected the event to continue to be held in the future.

Summer/Spring Programs
The Summer Program (July) and Spring Program (February) were held as exchange programs for students from our partner universities, with 57 and 36 participants, respectively. The purpose of these programs is to provide international students with the opportunity to experience the positive aspects of Japan and Kumamoto Prefecture during a short stay in Japan, in order to motivate them to study at Kumamoto University in the future. The programs included lectures at the College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies, cultural and historical experiences of Japan and Kumamoto Prefecture, and field trips. Moreover, explanations were given about specific methods and procedures for studying at Kumamoto University. Through these programs, we were able to continue to recommend admission to Kumamoto University as a regular student or short-term exchange program student. Students from Kumamoto University participated in these programs as supporters and worked together with the international students, which helped to raise the global awareness of our students.

Japanese Language Course
Kumamoto University’s Japanese Language Course is designed for international students, foreign faculty members and researchers, and their spouses to learn the basics of elementary Japanese necessary for living in Japan. The course has been offered since AY 2017. In AY 2019, it was offered eight times on the Kurokami North Campus and twice on the Honjo Campus, with a total of 81 and 17 attendees, respectively. In the course, the attendees learned hiragana and katakana characters at the beginning, and then the basic grammar of Japanese. They also learned Japanese necessary for interaction with the local community and everyday life as well as Japanese culture and customs necessary for daily life.

Kumamoto University Special Lecture
In October 2019, a special lecture “Building a Resilient Nation – The Singapore Experience-” was delivered by Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, who served as President of Singapore for six years from 2011 to 2017, at the 100th Anniversary Hall of the Faculty of Engineering, Kumamoto University. The lecture gave an overview of the nation building method of Singapore, which has achieved remarkable development, the country’s current state of politics and the economy, and the challenges he believes Japan faces. After the lecture, President Shinji Harada awarded him the title of Honorary Fellow of the Kumamoto University. Held in Japan for the first time after the resignation of the President of Singapore, Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam’s lecture provided a valuable opportunity to faculty and staff members and students at Kumamoto University as well as local residents.

Governance Reform Area

Exchange of Views between the Vice President for International Affairs and Deans
An exchange of views took place between the Vice President for International Affairs and the Deans of seven faculties and six graduate schools of Kumamoto University. During the exchange of views, the Vice President for International Affairs explained the international relations initiatives, including the Top Global University Project, and its long-term international strategy. Meanwhile, the Dean of each faculty and graduate school explained its own unique international relations activities, the status of international exchanges, issues to be shared, and future policies.

Through this exchange of views, information on international relations activities within the university was shared, and Kumamoto University’s international strategy was reconfirmed. The direction of how to promote international projects in collaboration between all faculties and graduate schools was also confirmed.
Education Reform Area

Global Extra-curricular Educational Program
The Global Leader Course (GLC) offers a "global extra-curricular educational program" as a distinctive educational activity. The extra-curricular activity called "GLC Foundation Seminar," which is offered every week, consists of an exchange program with international students enrolled at Kumamoto University, special lectures delivered by lecturers from inside and outside the university, and a training camp held to consider local issues from a global perspective and cultivate international dialogue skills. Moreover, during long holidays, short-term exchange programs are offered, in which students can choose study destinations from a choice of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Latvia. The attendees learn about disaster prevention, multicultural coexistence, and leadership training according to each destination.

Performance Indicators and Achievement Targets Unique to Kumamoto University

KU Global Youth Campus
To provide junior and high school students in Kumamoto Prefecture with opportunities for early global education and international exchange activities, we implemented a total of 13 programs, including "Meet & Greet," an event aimed at helping participants interact in English with students from our partner universities who attended the Summer and Spring Programs, and "Summer Festa," in which participants experienced a class offered in English as an open campus event. These programs were attended by 901 students from high schools in Kumamoto Prefecture, including Super Global High Schools. We also conducted a special education program, "Global Leadership Training and Education Program for High School Students (Higo Jishukan)," on a trial basis, with the aim of developing global human resources with a highly international mindset. The program was attended by 33 high school students in the prefecture. In this program, high school students were given the opportunity to improve their practical English communication skills and experience deep learning and self-exploring learning that cannot be obtained in high school classes, through lectures and exercises in English and interaction with international students. We also contributed to early global education in the local community by sending international students to junior and high schools in various parts of the prefecture to carry out international exchange programs.

Joint Conference for Double Degree Program
In December 2019, the Joint Conference for Double Degree Program (DDP) was held at Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University in the Kingdom of Thailand. This conference was held in association with the start of the DDP between the Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Kumamoto University, the Faculty of Medicine at Siriraj Hospital at Mahidol University, the Faculty of Medicine at Khon Kaen University, and the Faculty of Medicine at Chiang Mai University. Presentations under the three themes of cancer, infectious diseases, and cranial nerves were given at the conference, which was attended by many students, teachers, and researchers, including students who were candidates for the DDP. In addition, concrete discussions were held on future joint research and student and teacher exchanges. As part of its globalization efforts, the Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Kumamoto University introduced a DDP in the doctoral course in 2018 and has accepted five graduate students over the past two years, thereby working to strengthen and expand overseas collaboration.

International Collaborative Learning through COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning)
A Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) activity was held between first-year students in the Global Leader Course (GLC) and students at the College of Staten Island (CSI) of the City University of New York in the U.S. The activity was conducted using Facebook under the theme of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, the students, divided into groups, selected one of the 17 goals of the SDGs and researched the current situation and the achievement status of the SDGs in both countries through video exchanges, and online chats and questionnaire surveys. The knowledge gained through the activities was summarized by each group, and a discussion was held among the GLC students. Collaborative learning with overseas students through this COIL activity helped the students to understand different cultures and acquire communication skills.

Unique Efforts based on the Characteristics of the University (Type B only)

GLC Employment Seminar
In September 2019, a GLC employment seminar was held for the purpose of instilling a positive mindset toward employment among students in the Global Leader Course who were about to start their job-hunting activities. A total of 57 students, mainly second- and third-year students, participated in the seminar. We invited one special lecturer each from a private company and a government agency and from among researchers (faculty members at Kumamoto University). In their lectures, they introduced their institution, their career view as a person who is active on the world stage, how to go on to an overseas graduate school, and subsequent career paths that may be possible. After the lectures, an individual Q&A session was held, in which an enthusiastic exchange of questions and answers took place between students and lecturers about the specific content of the lectures on a deeper level. The students who participated in the seminar gave their impressions, such as, "I thought concretely about working overseas."
8. FY2020 Progress

Common Performance Indicators and Achievement Targets

Regarding Internationalization

O International exchange learning through COIL
Kumamoto University conducts the COIL program yearly between Global Leader Course students of the university and students at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York in the U.S. In 2020, we started the new COIL program between students taking subjects in Multidisciplinary Studies at Kumamoto University and students at the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember in Indonesia. The participants learned about the effective use of biomass from global and diverse viewpoints through team teaching given by professors from the partner universities (in Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Spain and Australia). Collaborative lectures, discussions and exchange activities helped the participants improve their cross-cultural understanding and communication skills, and expand their network of contacts.

O Japanese Language Course
Since FY2017, Kumamoto University has offered the course to its international students, faculty and researchers, and their spouses so that they can learn the basic Japanese they need to live in Japan. In FY2020, due to the impact of COVID-19, the course was delivered partly in person and partly online: six sessions in total at Kurokami North Campus (including online sessions) and two at Honjo Campus (online only). Despite the online format, the participants learned the following in a homey atmosphere: hiragana, katakana, basic grammar, conversational expressions necessary for communicating with the local community, and some knowledge of Japanese culture and customs necessary in daily life. The number of participants amounted to 42 on two campuses.

O Public relations activities with online tools
Through the network of the Consortium of Six National Universities in Japan (SixERS), Kumamoto University conducted public relations activities targeting ASEAN members (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, etc.). The university also participated in study abroad fairs conducted online for students and researchers in Central Asia, the U.S., South America, Africa and the rest of the world. At the fairs, Kumamoto University’s international students shared their experiences at the university and their daily lives in Kumamoto City. The university also updated its website in English, enriching the content with interview articles with international students and videos where its researchers introduced their research. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Kumamoto University proactively sent out information, through the active use of online tools, to those who wanted to study at the Kumamoto University.

Regarding Governance Reform

O Establishment of the International Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences
On April 1, 2020, Kumamoto University established the International Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), which is affiliated with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kumamoto University. The center was established to reinforce Kumamoto University’s research function in the field of humanities and social sciences and to globally announce the fruits of its research, thereby increasing the international recognition of the university’s research in this field and promoting its regional and social contribution. With Minamata disease and other local themes at the core of its research, the IRCHSS promotes research projects suitable for global dissemination. Following the International Research Organization for Advanced Science and Technology (IROAST) and the International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS), the IRCHSS is the third organization Kumamoto University has established to increase its international research competence. From now on, with these three organizations at the core, Kumamoto University will strive to promote world-class research and education.

O Presidents’ meeting with Ege University (in Turkey)
On June 9, 2020, Kumamoto University and Ege University held an online presidents’ meeting commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of an university-level exchange agreement between them. Ege University is a Turkish national university in Izmir. Since concluding the university-level agreement in 2000, the two universities have actively conducted joint research projects and personnel exchange. At the meeting, views on future exchange plans were exchanged among the participants: from Ege University, seven people, including the President, Vice Presidents, and Dean of the Faculty of Science; and from Kumamoto University, the President, Vice President, and faculty members who conduct joint research with Ege University. This presidents’ meeting is expected to prove for further exchange between the two universities.
Regarding Education Reform

- **Pre-GOKOH School Program**
  The Global Leader Course (GLC) conducts the Pre-GOKOH School Program for prospective students who have gained admission to the course. In FY2020, the program was conducted entirely online due to the impact of COVID-19. The program provided exercises in English, and guidance and lectures by each faculty, contributing to the participants’ smooth passage from high school to university. Furthermore, in FY2020, the GLC started the system of giving credits to participants of this program. Depending on their performance during the period of the program, they were granted one credit in liberal arts education after being admitted to the GLC. This system aims to reduce the burden on students of earning credits after admission, thereby actively encouraging them to study abroad.

- **Performance Indicators and Achievement Targets Unique to Kumamoto University**
  - **Kumamoto University Global Youth Campus**
    The Summer Festa, an open campus event the Global Youth Campus holds every year, was held online this time. The event distributed a virtual tour of the campus, students gave presentations of their study abroad experiences via Zoom, and participants had an opportunity to talk with some of the current students of the Global Leader Course. We also conducted a special education program, “Global Leadership Training and Education Program for High School Students (Higo Jishukan)”, giving special lessons and schooling on demand and online to 34 high school students in the prefecture aspiring to become global leaders. Furthermore, the Global Youth Campus has strengthened collaboration with the National Institute of Technology, Kumamoto College. The campus delivered online lectures in English to 120 students in their second year at the College, thereby contributing to early global education in the region.
  - **FD workshop aiming to promote globalization of education and to spread it across the region**
    On March 9, 2021, under international travel curbs due to the spread of COVID-19, Kumamoto University held an FD workshop on the promotion of global education to widely share examples of new ways of conducting global education. This workshop featured COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) education. Lectures were given by two academic advisors who had already put this type of education into practice at Kumamoto University. They outlined COIL education and presented its practical considerations while giving examples. To the workshop, the university also invited faculty members from other universities in Kumamoto prefecture, contributing to the spread of educational globalization across the region.

- **Unique Efforts based on the Characteristics of the University (Type B only)**
  - **Progress in international exchange at overseas offices**
    Since its founding in April 2010, Kumamoto University Liaison Office at ITS has promoted student and academic exchange, and international collaboration activities both at the university and in Indonesia. In April 2020, the SixERS started to jointly use this office as the Six National Universities Network (SUN) Surabaya Office of SixERS, aiming to further promote exchange between the SixERS (Japan) and Indonesia. In December 2020, an opening ceremony commemorating the start of the joint use took place, and the SixERS introduced themselves to students in Indonesia. While faculty members introduced the universities, students and alumni shared their experiences in studying at the universities. More than 250 students participated in the event, and questionnaires filled in after the event showed high satisfaction among the Indonesian participants. In October 2020, Kumamoto University established Kumamoto University Liaison Office of Tanzania as a base for joint research in Tanzania and the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. Through the start of the joint use of its existing overseas office by the SixERS and the establishment of the new office, Kumamoto University has established a collaborative system that promotes student affairs, and academic and educational exchange.
9. FY2021 Progress

■ Common Performance Indicators and Targets

Internationalization

- International exchange learning and online programs through Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)

As part of its initiative to teach Multidisciplinary Studies subjects (liberal arts subjects taught in English), Kumamoto University worked with the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) in Indonesia, one of its partner institutions, to provide students with an opportunity for collaborative learning through Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). This program was offered through team teaching given by multiple instructors, including professors from Kumamoto University’s partner institutions in Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Spain and Australia. Students at Kumamoto University and the ITS engaged in discussions and interactions online.

In addition, we also offered online exchange programs where Kumamoto University Global Leader Course (GLC) students participated in group work, presentation sessions, and other activities together with students at the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, and with students at the Universiti Putra Malaysia.

These activities allowed Kumamoto University students to experience global learning while in Japan, obtaining diverse perspectives on various issues and increasing their communication skills.

- Japanese language course

Since 2017, Kumamoto University has offered a Japanese language course to international students, faculty members, and researchers, as well as their spouses, so that they can learn the basics of Japanese they need to know to live in Japan. In FY2021, still in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, this course was provided almost entirely online. However, in a homey atmosphere, the participants learned not only hiragana, katakana, simple kanji, and basic grammar, but also Japanese culture and customs, knowledge of which would be vital for them to communicate smoothly with local people. A total of 63 people attended the course in FY2021.

- International symposium organized by the Center for International Education

In December 2021, the Kumamoto University Center for International Education hosted the International Multidisciplinary Symposium on Contemporary Global Issues 2021: Sustainable Post-Pandemic World. The symposium was held in a hybrid style combining in-person and online formats, with the participation of 55 people from both Japan and abroad. The event mainly comprised lectures and panel discussions featuring Kumamoto University faculty members and guest speakers from Japan and abroad, and poster sessions in which GLC students gave presentations. This symposium provided the participants with a valuable opportunity to examine possible issues in a post-pandemic world from a wide range of perspectives, including local communities, culture, politics, Society 5.0, and education, and explore a path toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Governance Reform

- Opinion exchange between the trustee and deans, and between the trustee and GLC-related faculty members

With the aim of further enhancing the GLC, the Kumamoto University trustee in charge of global strategy exchanged opinions with the deans of the Faculties of Letters, Law, Science and Engineering, to which the GLC students belonged. In addition, the same trustee met periodically with a group of faculty members from the Headquarters for Admissions and Education who were in charge of GLC curricular programs and extracurricular education programs. Marking the starting point for efforts to identify challenges faced by the GLC and review its programs, these meetings are expected to lead the GLC to further increase the quality of the education it provides.
Education Reform

- Providing online English learning material to all students
  
  As one of the measures to improve the English proficiency of Kumamoto University students, we began to provide online English learning material intended for all students. With this online material, students can choose from three courses according to their own proficiency level and needs. Accessible 24 hours a day, this material is highly convenient for students. We are planning to continue to provide the material in FY2022. This initiative to offer a favorable environment for English learning to students motivated to engage in voluntary and independent learning of English is expected to help them enhance their English proficiency and establish English learning habits.

University’s Own Performance Indicators and Targets

- Kumamoto University Global Youth Campus
  
  Kumamoto University provided senior high school students with the opportunity to attend classes taught in English and interact with international students by offering two programs named “Nango-juku Terakoya” and “Kumamoto University Takachiho-juku” in collaboration with Kumamoto Prefectural Takamori Senior High School and Miyazaki Prefectural Takachiho Senior High School, respectively. We also conducted an education program named the “Global Leadership Training and Education Program for High School Students (Higo Jishukan),” offering special on-demand and online classes and in-person schooling to 64 senior high school students in Kumamoto Prefecture aspiring to become global leaders in the future. In addition, we offered classes taught in English to a total of 173 students at the Kumamoto College and Ariake College of the National Institute of Technology. Furthermore, Summer Festa, an annual program as part of an open campus event, was conducted online in FY2021. The program featured a virtual tour of the Center for International Education and an online dialog between senior high school students and GLC students.

  Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we successfully promoted the early global education of senior high school and technical college students by utilizing online tools and other means.

- FD workshop aimed at promoting globalization of education and spreading it across the region
  
  In March 2022, Kumamoto University held a faculty development (FD) workshop on the promotion of global education titled “Case Studies on Collaborative International Education Utilizing Online Tools: How to Facilitate Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL).” With the aim of sharing examples of online education and collaborative international education with a wide range of educators amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this workshop was open to not only Kumamoto University faculty members but also faculty members of member institutions of the Consortium of Universities in Kumamoto and the International Collaboration Division of the Consortium of Six National Universities in Japan. The workshop introduced not only the basic characteristics of COIL but also specific examples of initiatives concerning the SDGs and Society 5.0 and related education methods. In the Q&A session, the participants asked various questions, including those about the required English levels and whether or not there were international arrangements on the implementation of COIL. The workshop contributed to the promotion of collaborative international education amid the pandemic.

Unique Efforts Based on the Characteristics of the University

- Joint seminar series held by Kumamoto University and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)
  
  Kumamoto University’s International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS) and International Research Organization for Advanced Science & Technology (IOAST) are promoting pioneering international joint research and interdisciplinary research in life sciences and natural sciences at the university. From July to November 2021, a Joint Invited Speaker Seminar Series was held online through collaboration between Kumamoto University and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), one of its partner institutions. The seminar series was aimed at enhancing interdisciplinary research, such as research through cooperation between medicine, science and engineering, and exploring new research frontiers. In all 14 seminars, researchers from KAIST, Kumamoto University, and other institutions presented cutting-edge research, and a total of over 380 participants exchanged information and participated in discussions. The seminar series is expected to lead to the further development of international joint research.