

9. AY2021 Progress

Common Indicators and Targets

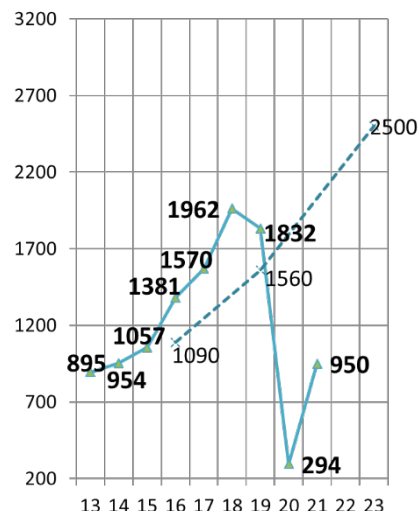
Internationalization

1. Expanding online international education programs

Given continuing travel restrictions and the suspension of international and exchange programs, KGU has continued to develop high-quality, online programs aimed at facilitating a co-learning environment with partner university students across the university.

In AY2021, online programs increased by 25 to a total of 55, representing a 180% increase compared to the previous year. This includes programs unique to various School disciplines. To further drive KGU's "internal internationalization", the university has allocated funding towards the development of these programs, and for faculty development, the university has continued to facilitate the exchange of pioneering teaching and learning methods related to Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Virtual Exchanges. Furthermore, a scholarship scheme aimed at encouraging participation in online programs has resulted in a **320% increase of Japanese students enrolled at partner university programs compared to the previous year, totaling to 950 students.**

Beginning Fall Semester of 2021, KGU has resumed exchange programs and other approved exchange programs after due considerations were made to ensure student safety. As of Spring Semester of 2022, 60 students were sent on exchange programs and 4 students were deployed in the United Nations Youth Volunteer program, after meeting KGU's own travel safety requirements.



•Number of outbound students on partner exchange programs
(solid line: actual figures; dotted line: target)

2. Preparing for the resumption of international travel and related student support

KGU, in anticipation of the lifting of border control measures, has begun preparations for the resumption of study abroad and international education programs and established a financial support system to increase students' appetite for study abroad even during Covid-19.

Strategies for promoting study abroad (examples)

◆Increasing the number of accompanying staff to strengthen safety measures

KGU is providing funding support to facilitate additional staff to accompany students on study abroad programs with the objective of increasing the capacity for safety management.

◆ Establishing a compensation system for cancellations due to Covid-19

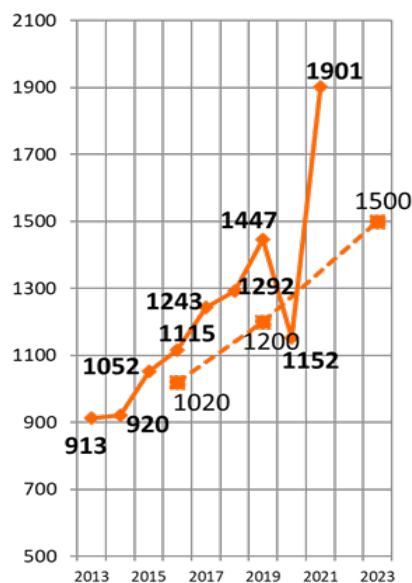
In the event that a program has been cancelled by the university due to Covid-19-related travel restrictions, a compensation system has been established to cover cancellation fees incurred.

Student support strategies to encourage participation in overseas programs (example)

◆Scholarship for students who missed out on study abroad due to Covid-19

For students who had missed the chance to embark on study abroad due to Covid-19 and wish to do so by prolonging their degree program duration, the University has established a scholarship to pay for any extended semesters, thereby increasing the attractiveness of make-up study abroad.

3. International Student Programs In AY2021, the number of inbound international students increased by 749 compared to the year before, to a total of 1,901.

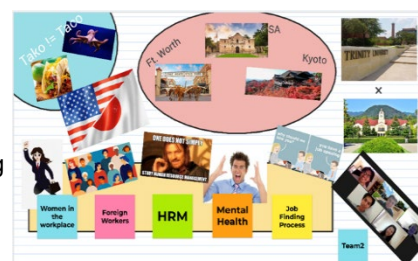


International student numbers
(Solid line: actual figures;
dotted line: target)

KGU has continued its support for international students affected by border control measures, such as through providing online classes, special considerations for attendance, funding for quarantine costs, and flexible arrangements for deferrals.

1. Expanding online international education and exchange programs with partner universities

KGU has expanded online international education and exchange programs with partner universities across the whole university. This has resulted in a four-fold increase on the previous year of inbound students from partner universities. Employing COIL and Virtual Exchange elements across courses and programs at all Schools, the university has ensured students are still able to have co-learning opportunities with international students, helping to foster a conducive environment for "internal internationalization".



<Using Google Jamboard in COIL classes>

2. Introducing a web-based system for overseas entrance applications

In order to expand pre-departure entrance examinations for international students, KGU introduced a web-based system for overseas admission applications from the 2021 intake. This has allowed the university to maintain a consistent number of applications despite Covid-19, and resulted in 423 of 899, or 47% of total international applicants to be overseas applicants.

Governance Reform

Implementing the iterative processes in the Medium-Term Comprehensive Management Plan: Projects to streamline work through digitalization and allow greater value creation

A full review of the Medium-Term Comprehensive Management Plan which forms a part of the future concept “Kwansei Grand Challenge 2039” was conducted in 2020. This resulted in the addition of “Digital Transformation” to the Super Long-Term Vision and Long-Term Strategy, and a revision of the implementation plan in response to the changing external environment. In terms of digital transformation, several projects were launched to automate or streamline workflows, allowing work to be made more efficient and full time staff to deliver more value.

Educational Reform

1. Education reform at Schools

Hands-on Learning, which encourages students to leave the University (or “Home Ground”) and take part in real-life work experience (or “Away Ground”), has been expanded across the university, with more subjects made available, and the method regularized in programs. A Hands-on Learning Certificate Program has also been added from 2022 April.

Curriculum reform has also been taking place at the Schools level. At the School of Business, new curricula have been developed that utilize Hands-on Learning and Project-Based Learning under the themes of “Digital & Business” and “Global & Business”, starting in April 2022.

2. AI-Competent Human Resource Development Program offered as e-learning

To develop a new generation of talent that is well adapted to Society 5.0, KGU has collaborated with IBM Japan to develop the “AI-Competent Human Resource Development Program”. In 2021, three introductory courses were delivered via e-learning to further enrich the program, taking in a total of over 4,000 students.

The course utilises a versatile online platform and a chat bot that answers questions to maximise learning outcomes, and aims to equip beginners with practical knowledge of AI applications and related skills. **Using JV-Campus this course is also open to other universities and the public at a fee.**



<Homepage of the AI-Competent Human Resource Development Program>

<https://www2.kwansei.ac.jp/ai/>

University's Own Indicators and Targets

Graduate School Minor “UN & Foreign Affairs Course” offering online remote internship

The Graduate course “UN & Foreign Affairs”, which aims to foster global leaders with the ambition of working for international organizations or becoming diplomats, includes a compulsory internship at UN-affiliated and other international organizations. Due to Covid-19, online remote internships have been offered as in the previous year, with expanded capacity. In AY2021, seven students were deployed to organizations including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change headquarters, United Nations Development Plan Japan Representative Office, and the United Nations Population Fund Japan Office.

Initiatives Based on the Distinct Characteristics of the University

The 5th Kwansei Gakuin World Citizen Akashi School takes place after a year's hiatus

Integrating High School and University to foster the global leaders of tomorrow, the “Kwansei Gakuin World Citizen Akashi School” was held online. The event was halted due to Covid-19 in 2020 but has now returned after a year, celebrating its fifth time.

Welcomed by headmaster of the School, Akashi Yasushi, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, the event was held over two days on 4-5 August 2021 under the theme of “Challenges for SDGs! Future of Our Planet”. 31 students selected from high schools around Japan participated and debated on the topics of global climate change, marine and land resources, and the path going forward. At the conclusion, the cohort made a “Youth Declaration for the Future of Our Planet”.



<The keynote speech by Akashi Yasushi, School Headmaster>
(Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus)

Free Description

Online Study Abroad Open Symposium

KGU and Sophia University, based on their partnership agreement on educational collaboration, jointly hosted the online symposium “Let's talk about online study abroad! Discussing the potential of online international education with students” on 20 June 2021. Around 380 participants, including high school and university students, educators and parents, attended the symposium.

Two students from each university shared their experience regarding online study abroad. The lively session included over 30 questions from the audience during Q&A.

Prof. Ota Hiroshi from Hitotsubashi University stated in the conclusion, **“Based on the students' remarks it has become clear to me, that while online study abroad is not meant to replace travel-based study abroad, it offers another novel way for students to benefit from international education, providing many learning benefits.”**

KGU plans to continue offering online programs even after Covid-19 subsides, to provide an option for students to take part in a form of international education that has shown significant learning benefits.



<Scene from the Online Study Abroad Symposium held on 20 June 2021.>