

Project for the Promotion of Global Human Resources Development by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Japan

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Background & Objectives (extracted from MEXT's Application Guidelines FY2012)

In the twenty-first century world's economy, globalization has been accelerating requiring Japan to consistently cultivate global Human Resources. These invaluable people should 1) have insatiable intellectual curiosity, both advanced and ample language and communication abilities, and experiences of being exposed to different cultures; 2) relate actively to the international society and make contributions; and 3) be the basis for making the future Japan to be richer and stronger, and accepting of a wider variety of viewpoints.

This project aims at developing such invaluable Human Resources, who can actively challenge and participate on the center stage of our global society while overcoming the internal tendency of the younger generation, improving Japan's industrial competence worldwide, and strengthening the ties between nations.

Overview of Kyorin University's Project

While English has been considered by many to be the most common language in our global society, the Faculty of Foreign Studies of Kyorin University puts emphasis on Chinese education as well as English education. We believe that Chinese language ability is necessary for global cooperation and competition in the fields of development, technology, and economy. For a Japanese businessperson, having the ability to speak both English and Chinese will be a cornerstone for business expansion and negotiations in Asia, and will eventually create more business opportunities world-wide in the future.

Our project aims at developing human resources with "prominent language abilities" and "strong and focused negotiation skills." The Faculty will fortify the above-mentioned language education of English and Chinese that has already been put into practice, and it will also launch new joint programs with the Faculty of Social Sciences which provides inter-disciplinary educational resources focusing on Asia including China. Eventually, this project will expand to all the faculties of Kyorin University, as well as accumulate general know-how applicable to other universities.

1. The Cultivation of Prominent Language Abilities

The Faculty of Foreign Studies interprets the degree of "prominence" in language as a degree of proficiency in pursuing a responsible business matter. In order to achieve this goal, the

Faculty of Foreign Studies will continue to carry out its originally developed programs for English and Chinese practical language education, PEP (Practical English Program) and CIC (Chinese for International Communication). It will conduct these programs in smaller-group classes to make them more effective, and it will develop a “Chinese salon” along with the current “English salon.” In these salons, students are guaranteed to have more chances to speak with native speakers and brush up on practical language skills. Other methods such as e-learning, the broadcasting of BBC, CNN and Chinese National TV to get more language exposure, and application of our simultaneous interpretation system will be some of the ways through which the students are expected to heighten their language skills.

2. The Cultivation of Strong and Focused Negotiation Skills

A person with “strong and focused negotiation skills” should have a highly educated mind, deep understanding of his/her own culture, and a respect for cultural traditions outside his/her own, because these qualities are indispensable for an equal-footing, intercultural negotiation which leads to an innovative solution. We encourage the student to take such subjects as “International Relations” and “Politics in Asia,” provided by the Faculty of Social Sciences. Another subject in this Faculty, “Case Studies,” will foster the student’s debating skills—which cannot be assessed by language proficiency tests alone—by offering a problem/project based learning style. This learning style is aimed at improving his/her “problem finding ability,” “problem solving ability,” and “self-expressing skills.” As a culmination of these practices, the student is required to demonstrate his/her oral presentation and discussion skills in English or Chinese upon completion of his/her training program, and at the “Graduation Report” opportunity. On these occasions, his/her overall negotiation skills will be assessed by an external board.

3. The Promotion of Study Abroad Programs

It goes without saying that study abroad opportunities play an increasingly important role as we foster the marketable person with advanced linguistic and negotiation skills. We offer a wide range of support to help our students make their study abroad a success by establishing our own scholarship and tuition exemption system. Through our “Active Study Abroad Program,” students are expected to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become more active international citizens.

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