

International Exchange

Global academic network and overseas bases

Akita University has concluded agreements for academic and student exchanges between the university and various educational and research institutions around the world. As of May 2023, our inter-university agreements cover 73 universities in 35 countries and regions, and our inter-faculty agreements cover 38 faculties in 22 countries and regions (see P39 Overseas Partner Universities). Based on these agreements, we are actively promoting exchanges with these partner institutions, including exchanges of students, faculty staff and researchers, as well as collaborative research. We will continue to actively expand international exchanges with participating institutions along with the development of new programs.

Furthermore, as of May 2023, we have established eight overseas offices in six countries as bases for global education and research, and are utilizing these as bases for joint research, exchange of researchers and educational activities with our overseas partner universities (for details, see Akita University Overseas Hubs). In future, we will work to further increase the number of our overseas offices and to put in place educational and research exchange programs with our overseas partner universities through our overseas offices.

During the period of our Third Mid-Term Objectives and Plan (FY2016-2021), we steadily increased the number of inter-university agreements and overseas offices, accepting 200 overseas students annually. Based on these achievements, we have set new goals in our international strategy and Fourth Mid-Term Objectives and Plan in order to further promote the internationalization of the University.

International Strategy and Fourth Mid-Term Objectives and Plan

In May 2021, we revised our international strategy. We have formulated four strategies and specific performance objectives: “Fostering of rich international human resources,” “Collaboration with overseas universities,” “Promotion of joint international research,” and “Fostering of faculty talent in response to the

〈Akita University Overseas Hubs〉

2023 May 1

Country	Base name	Installation date
Mongolia	Akita University Mongolia Office	8 October 2012
Thailand	Akita University - Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory	25 April 2013
	Akita University Bangkok office	1 October 2014
Indonesia	Akita University Faculty of International Resource Sciences - Trisakti University Joint Research Laboratory	28 April 2015
	Akita University - Padjadjaran University Joint Research Laboratory	1 April 2019
Botswana	Akita University Botswana Office	28 June 2017
UAE	Akita University - UAE University Joint Research Laboratory	1 April 2019
Uzbekistan	Akita University Satellite Lab in Uzbekistan for Earth Resources Studies	3 April 2023

internationalization of universities.”

In response to this, each faculty and graduate school has developed action plans that define their objectives along with specific action guidelines for each fiscal year and is working toward the achievement of our international strategy.

In addition, in our Fourth Mid-Term Objectives, which apply from April 2022, we set out our goal as follows, “We aim to cultivate internationally-minded individuals with different values through expanding our overseas student exchange activities, attracting outstanding international students, maintaining our ties with them after they graduate and complete their studies, and providing international educational programs in collaboration with overseas universities.”

Based on this, the Fourth Mid-Term Plan set out specific performance objectives in different categories, including the ability to transfer academic credits, the provision of double degree programs, expansion of international student places, and strengthening of students’ language skills.

〈Performance objectives in the Fourth Mid-Term Plan〉

- Ability to transfer academic credits: 7 new universities
- Implementation of double degree programs: 2 new universities
- Establishment of inter-university agreements: +30% compared to FY2021
- Establishment and utilization of overseas offices: Four new locations
- International students enrolled: 250 students per year
- Strengthen student language skills: Improve English language education programs through use of e-learning materials
- Percentage of students who have studied abroad: 20%
- Percentage of students who have engaged in resource science field work abroad: 100%

We will continue to actively promote the internationalization of our university in accordance with our international strategy and the Mid-term Objectives and Plan through 2026.

From a research base for resource development to PR for international students

The International Center for Resource Education and Research (ICREMER) was established with the aim of becoming a center for education and research and developing human resources with an international perspective. ICREMER provides educational support for resource-producing countries, including visiting lectures and technical guidance, and engages in a variety of activities, such as organizing “Short Stay Programs” (training programs) for graduate students in resource-producing countries, arranging international symposia on resource science, developing joint research opportunities with overseas partner universities and inviting co-researchers to the university on a short-term basis.

In particular, the Short Stay Program is expected to play a role in promoting the University overseas, with an increased number of students who have completed the program and returned to their home countries coming back to the University either as regular students or as overseas exchange students.

Akita University is planning to expand the international exchange program, in keeping with our role as a university which is open to students all over the world. To achieve this, the Global Center for Higher Education (GHE) has been established to promote the internationalization of the University and the

development of human resources who play an active role in global society.

GHE supports students who study abroad, provides information on studying abroad, organizes exchange events, establishes inter-university agreements, and promotes the globalization of the University.



President Yamamoto (center) with international students

Improving education and living support for foreign exchange students

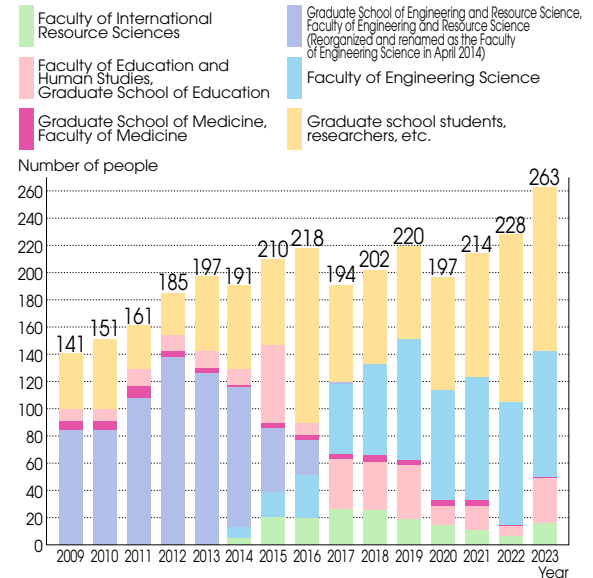
We are also improving education and living support for international students. We have two dormitories for international students: International Student House and International House. For international students who wish to live in private accommodation, Akita University acts as guarantor and also provides subsidies for “Comprehensive Renters’ Insurance for Foreign Students Studying in Japan.” In addition, we engage in food projects together with food banks to provide economic support to students. To deepen students’ appreciation of Akita culture, we plan, offer, and implement community events such as farm homestays and ski trips. In addition to the above, we have exchange programs between international students and Japanese students and have put in place a “tutoring system” in which current students provide assistance to international students in their daily lives and studies. In addition, we have a Multicultural Lounge to promote exchanges between international and Japanese students, where students and teaching staff can study independently to learn a variety of different languages.

Fostering human resources with an international perspective

Akita University dispatches young educational staff to foreign universities and other institutions to develop human resources with an international perspective through the “Akita University Researcher Overseas Visit Project.” Since the establishment of the program in 2008, a total of 33 researchers (two to three per year) have taken part in research at overseas universities.

In addition, the University offers the “Akita University Exchange Program” for students to study abroad at partner universities, and the “Short-Term Overseas Study Program” organized by the Global Center for Higher Education and our different faculties. In order to provide financial support for students studying abroad under these programs, Akita University offers the “Akita University ‘Miraisozo Fund’: Student Overseas Visit Project”

<Transition in International Student Numbers>



and the “Akita University Student Overseas Short-Term Study Support Program,” which provide partial funding for travel expenses related to study abroad.

There are also other study abroad programs providing scholarships as part of the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) “Overseas Study Support Program.”

With government border control restrictions lifted and overseas travel expected to recover, we are strengthening our framework for the development of human resources with an international perspective.



Akita university student in Canada



Akita University student in Germany (second from left)

For more information on Akita University’s international exchange initiatives, please refer to the following website.



Japanese version



English version