

International Exchange

A Worldwide Academic Network and Overseas Hub

Akita University has concluded inter-university agreements for academic and student exchanges between the university and various educational and research institutions around the world. As of May 2021, our inter-university agreements cover 66 universities in 33 countries and regions, and our inter-faculty agreements over 31 faculties in 19 countries and regions. 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 develop international exchange opportunities with participating institutions along with the development of new programs.

In addition, our Third Mid-Term Objective and Plan outlines an aim “to establish a world-class education base and to develop as a global resource science education and research center, centered on the Faculty of International Resource Sciences, utilizing the accumulated knowledge of Akita Mining College, the Faculty of Mining and the Faculty of Engineering and Resource Science, to train human resources who can play an active part for companies and government bodies in fields related to domestic and foreign resources and who can contribute to Japan’s resource and energy strategy.” With this in mind, we are planning “to establish joint overseas research bases in five or more locations by the end of 2021, developing resource science bases in Africa and the Middle East, as well as expanding our global education and research and hub capabilities in Asia and the Pacific Rim.”

Based on this plan, as of May 2021, we have established overseas bases in seven locations in five countries (see the List of Overseas Offices at Akita University for details).

In 2012, we established our first overseas office, the Akita University Mongolia Office, in partnership with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. This was relocated to the New Mongol Academy in 2016.

In April 2013 we opened Akita University-Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. In 2014, we established the Akita University Bangkok Office at in the Hokuto Bank Bangkok Liaison Office. The Joint Research Laboratory serves as a base

for researchers from both universities to conduct research and fieldwork, and as an administrative base in the Southeast Asian region. It liaises and coordinates with relevant local institutions and conducts public relations activities to attract foreign students.

In 2015 we opened the Akita University Faculty of International Resource Sciences/Trisakti University Joint Research Laboratory at Trisakti University in Indonesia. Here, the Faculty of International Resource Sciences conducts joint research, regional investigation and development on the theme of underground resources in Asia.

In 2017, we opened the Akita University Botswana Office in the Botswana International University of Science and Technology. As well as conducting research and educational activities in the South Africa region, this is used as a base in the region for the mandatory “International Resource Fieldwork” course in the 3rd grade of the Faculty of International Resource Sciences.

In April 2019, we set up the Akita University-UAE University Joint Laboratory at the United Arab Emirates University and the Akita University-Padjadjaran University Joint Laboratory at the University of Padjadjaran in Indonesia. These laboratories serve as hubs in the Middle East, focusing on educational research activities in resource science fields and joint research programs, for example on geothermal heat utilization technology. The latter laboratory is also a base for joint research on resource science subjects and fieldwork by researchers and students of the University, and serves as the operating base for the University’s first double degree program (Graduate School of International Resource Sciences and the University of Padjadjaran).

Activities range from research on resource development to PR campaigns to attract international students

The International Center for Research and Education on Mineral and Energy Resources (ICREMER) was established in 2009 with the aim of creating an education and research center that contributes to sustainable resource development and the securing of resources in the international community. ICREMER offers educational support for resource-producing countries, including visiting lectures and technical guidance, and engages in a variety of activities, such as “Short Stay Programs”(training programs) for graduate students in resource-producing countries, international symposia on resource science, development of joint research opportunities with overseas partner universities and invitations to co-researchers to study at the University on a short-term basis.

In particular, we hope that the Short Stay Program can play a role in publicizing our University overseas, with an increased number of students who have completed the program and returned to their home countries subsequently 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. In February 2008, we established the International Exchange Center, an organization established to drive our international exchange strategy. In 2019, the International Exchange Center and the Center for Promotion of Educational Research and Affairs were integrated to create a new organization, the Global Center for Higher Education, with

〈Akita University Overseas Hubs〉

2021 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

the aim of improving and enhancing basic education in general, as well as offering specialized education and international exchange opportunities.



President Yamamoto (center) with international students

Educational and Daily Life Support for International Exchange Students

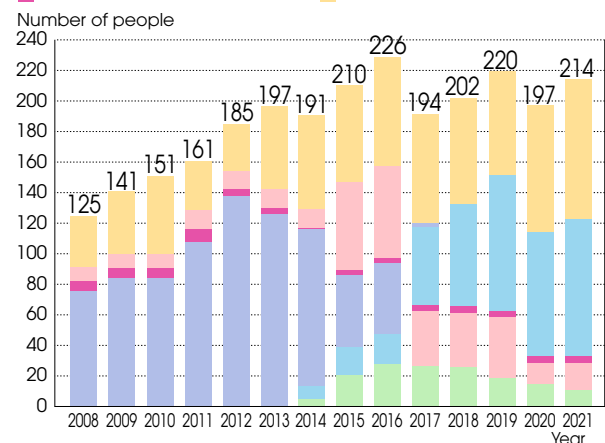
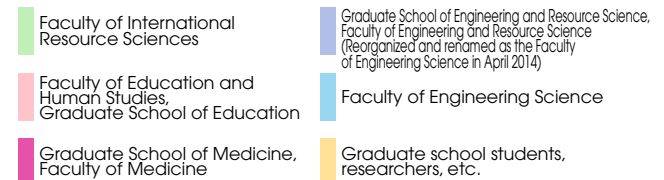
We are also enhancing our education and living support system for international students. We have two dormitories for international students: International Student House and International House. For international students who wish to live in private accommodation, Akita University will act as guarantor for the student and will also provide a subsidy for “Comprehensive Renters’ Insurance for Foreign Students Studying in Japan.” We also engage in food projects in cooperation with food banks to provide students with economic support. In addition, 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. The Multicultural Lounge was established in April 2010 to promote exchange between international students and Japanese students, and to enable students, faculty and staff members to learn a variety of languages on an independent basis.

Fostering Students and Faculty with International Perspectives

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 32 researchers (around two to three per year) have used the program to conduct research at overseas universities as of 2020.

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 by 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” and the “Akita University Student Overseas Short-Term

<Transition in International Student Numbers>



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.”



Akita students studying in Zambia (right)

International strategy and further globalization

With globalization continuing apace, Akita University revised its international strategy in May 2021. We have formulated four strategies for our revised international strategy: “Fostering rich international human resources” “Collaboration with overseas universities” “Promotion of joint international research” and “Fostering faculty and staff talent in response to the internationalization of universities.”

We have set specific targets to be achieved by 2024, including accepting 250 international students per year and increasing the percentage of our students who have studied abroad to 20% or more.

We will continue to actively promote the internationalization of our university based on this international strategy.