

International Exchange

An Academic Network Stretching Across the Globe

Our present network of inter-university agreements consists of 55 universities in 29 countries and regions. Our network of inter-departmental agreements consists of 15 departments in 8 different countries and regions (as of April 1, 2015). In October 2012, the overseas base “Akita University Mongolia Office” was opened. In April 2013 the second overseas base “Akita University - Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory” was opened at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. In October 2014, the Akita University Bangkok Office was opened within the Bangkok Branch of Hokuto Bank (Kingdom of Thailand). We will continue to be proactive in promoting international exchange through academic partnerships and student interaction with our partner schools.



Akita University Bangkok Office (October 2014)

Challenging Resources Taking Akita University’s “Stage” Global

Japan’s great challenge is how to obtain resources, of which we have so few.

Rare-metals, resource nationalism, and urban mining are keywords we find in the media these days making it obvious to everyone that the world is turning upon the axis of resources. As countries go to war over resources, Akita University’s presence is becoming more prominent.

Akita University is the only university in the country where students can study the entire mining process from start to finish from resource prospecting, to mineral extraction, to mineral processing. Leading experts in the resource field gather here from all over the country and train students, interns and researchers from all over the world, including Japan, to become resource development experts.

“Akita University International Center for Research and Education on Mineral and Energy Resources” has been taking a central role in this challenge. Established in October 2009, it specializes in resource research, with the aims to be the research hub for resource development. The center is based in the Faculty of Engineering and Resource Science, which makes it easier for center staff to make long-term business trips. It also serves as a center of resource information for the entire campus.

Currently the center is concentrating its efforts on providing technological support to countries that possess high amounts of resources. The center began when the resource-rich African nation of Botswana requested that

Akita University train its resource engineers.

We are providing the know-how to resource-rich countries but have difficulties in developing them. In addition to Botswana, we began to support Mongolia, Kazakhstan and other countries with undeveloped resources.

Akita University has a proud history that began more than 100 years ago with the former Akita Mining College. Now, it acts as “resource diplomat,” gathering and refining professional knowledge and building a bridge to the future.

We know that our cooperative endeavors will lead to Japan’s resource security as well as a stable system of resource supplies. The technology cultivated over many years in Akita is now ready to take on the world.



Akita University is working towards expanding its international exchange program so that it may be a university open to the world. To that end we are striving to promote study abroad and international appointments amongst our students and staff, as well as increasing the number of foreign students we accept and maintaining an appropriate environment to host them. The International Exchange Center was established in February 2008, setting in place a framework for furthering strategic international exchange.

Ample Educational and Daily Life Support for Foreign Exchange Students

Along with the increased numbers of foreign students, we are making active efforts to maintain an educational support system for them.

In 2009 we established our own unique scholarship “the Akita University Scholarship for Privately Funded Students.” As a result, we are now able to award scholarships to students with excellent grades from partner schools who wish to study abroad.

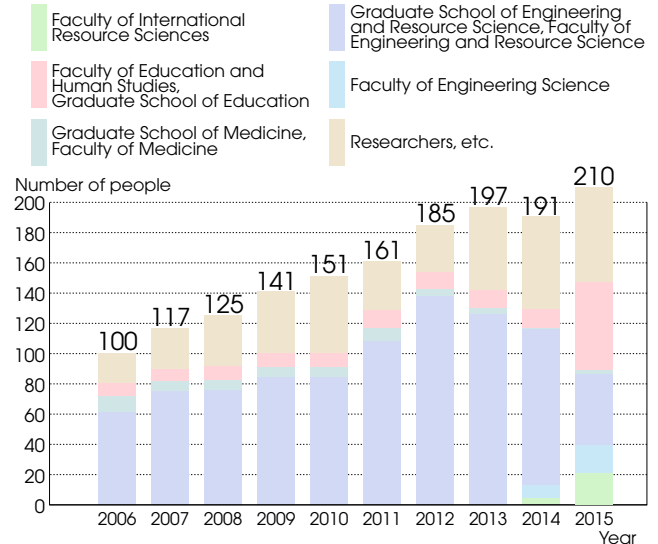
In 2014, the Japan Student Services Organization’s Student Exchange Support Program (for short-term students) adopted the “Akita University Experiential Program (AUEP)” for the 5th straight year, increasing the number of scholarship recipients, which in turn lead to the increase of exchange students from partner schools. The AUEP program aims to raise students’ communication ability and gain an understanding of Akita’s culture through experiential, multi-language classes, and specialized classes in English.

In order to deepen students’ understanding of Akita culture, various community-rooted events are planned, such as an overnight farmhouse stay, *mochi* (rice cake) making, a visit to Yokote to see the *Kamakura* (igloo), overnight ski trips, and others. By adopting a “tutoring system” Japanese students help exchange students with their Japanese language study and provide support for their daily lives. In April 2010, the “Multicultural Lounge” was established as a space to independently study a variety of languages, and study abroad orientation and information meetings are regularly held here..



Multicultural Lounge

<Shifts in International Student Numbers>



Nurturing Talented Students & Faculty with an International Perspective

Nurturing Talented Students & Faculty with an International Perspective In order to assign young faculty members to posts in foreign universities, and nurture talented professors with an international perspective, we have undertaken the “Akita University Researcher Foreign Assignment Project.” Each year since 2008 approximately 3 professors (23 in total) have used this system to conduct research at universities abroad.

Also, in an effort to provide financial support to university students studying abroad at partner schools we have established the “Akita University Student Overseas Assignment Support Project.” Part of the student’s international airfare is paid for (up to 40,000 yen within Asia, and up to 100,000 for other locations), with support provided to 5 students in 2013.



Study Abroad Orientation (May 23, 2014)