

International Exchange

A Worldwide Academic Network and Overseas Hub

Our inter-university agreements cover 60 universities in 30 countries and regions, and our inter-faculty agreements cover 24 faculties in 13 countries and regions. We will continue to promote academic and student exchanges with our partner universities as we actively develop our international exchange 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 governmental 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 plan “to set up joint overseas research hubs in five or more locations by the end of 2021, developing resource science hubs in Africa and the Middle East, as well as expanding our global education and research and hub capabilities in Asia and the Pacific Rim.” In 2012 we established our first overseas hub, Akita University Mongolia Office, in partnership with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. We relocated to the New Mongol Academy in 2016, which serves as a hub for education, public relations and the exchange of researchers from Akita who are located on-site or foreign students who wish to go onto Akita University from the New Mongol Academy. In April 2013 we opened our second overseas hub, Akita University-Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. In 2014, we established a liaison office with Hokuto Bank, Bangkok. The joint laboratory is used for research and fieldwork by researchers from both universities. The Bangkok office is a practical hub for our activities in Southeast Asia, allowing us to co-ordinate with institutions in the region, as well as to attract exchange students. In 2015 we opened the Faculty of International Resource Sciences, Trisakti University Joint Research Laboratory at Trisakti University. The Faculty of International Resource Sciences conducts joint research, regional

exploration and development on the theme of underground resources in Asia at the laboratory, for example using test samples of data on oil resources put together received from the state-owned oil company, Pertamina. 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 “Resource Science Field Work Abroad” 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 Padjadjaran University in Indonesia. The Akita University-UAE University Joint Laboratory serves as our hub 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 Akita University-Padjadjaran University Joint Laboratory is a hub for joint research on resource science subjects and fieldwork by researchers and students of the University, and also serves as the operational hub for the University’s first double degree program (Graduate School of International Resource Sciences and the Padjadjaran University).



A signing at the UAE University

〈Akita University Overseas Hubs〉

2019 May 1

Country	Base name	Installation date
Mongolia	Akita University Mongolia Office	29 September 2016
Thailand	Akita University - Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory	25 April 2013
	Akita University Bangkok office	1 October 2014
Indonesia	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

From Establishing Research Bases for Resource Development to PR Activities for Student Exchange Programs

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 business trip lectures and technical guidance, and engages in a variety of activities, such as organizing “Short Stay Programs” (training programs) for postgraduate students in resource-producing countries, holding international symposia on resource science, developing joint research opportunities with overseas partnership universities and inviting researchers to the university on a short-term basis.

With our Short Stay Program, we have seen an increased number of students in recent years who have completed the program and returned back to the university, either as regular overseas students, or else as exchange students. The program plays a part in publicizing our activities overseas.

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 that end, given the growth in overseas study and overseas placements for students and teaching staff, as well as the increase in foreign students coming to study from abroad, we are working to establish an environment which is conducive to receiving them. In 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 establish the Global Center for Higher Education with the aim of improving and enhancing basic education in general, as well as specialized education and international exchanges.

Educational and Daily Life Support for International Exchange Students

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

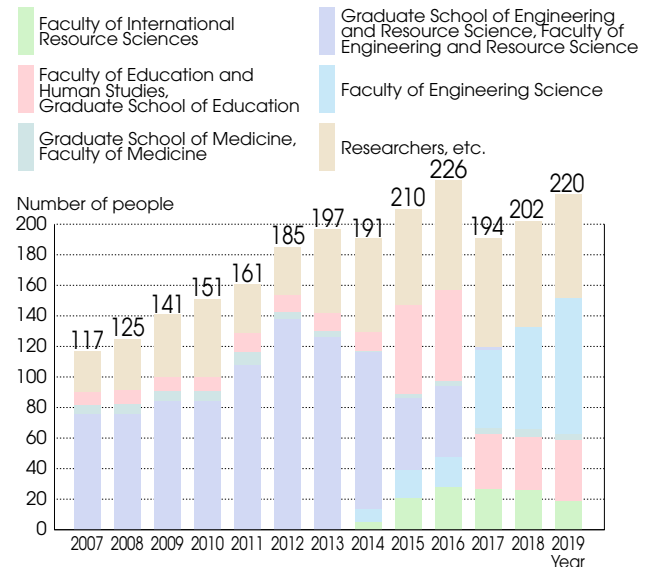
In order to deepen students' understanding of Akita culture, various community-rooted events are planned, such as an overnight farmhouse stay, mochi (rice cake) making, overnight Skiing tour and others. By adopting a "tutoring system" Japanese students help exchange students with their Japanese language study and provide support for their daily lives.

In April 2010, the "Multicultural Lounge" was established to enable students and faculty staff to independently study a variety of different languages.



Skiing tour

<Transition in International Student Numbers>



Fostering Students and Faculty with International Perspectives

In order to train faculty members with international perspectives, we have "Akita University Researcher Overseas Visit Project" to encourage our faculty members to research in overseas universities. Since 2008, Two to three researchers per year (30 in total) conducted research abroad under this project.

Also, in an effort to provide financial support to university students studying abroad at partner universities we have set up the "Akita University 'Miraisozo Fund': Student Overseas Visit Project" and the "Akita University Overseas Student Short-term Training Fund." These can be used to pay a part of students' international outbound airfares (up to 40,000 yen within Asia, and up to 100,000 for other locations). The projects provided support to eight students in 2018.



Study Abroad Orientation