



SOKA University

SOKA UNIVERSITY

Becoming a global hub fostering creative global citizens to lead a diverse society

Initiatives based on the founding principles highly-praised both nationally and globally

“Be the highest seat of learning for humanistic education;” “Be the cradle of a new culture;” and “Be a fortress for the peace of humankind.” Soka University, established under these founding principles, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021. Towards our 50th anniversary and 10 years beyond, we have formulated the university’s Grand Design Initiatives which serve as plans for the next 10 years.

In 2014, we were selected for the Top Global University Project and implemented four initiatives starting with Global Mobility. Through these efforts, we have been fostering creative global citizens with the intellectual capability and strength of character to creatively open new paths in international society. For the project’s interim evaluation announced in February 2018, we received the highest rank of S in recognition of our achievements. Soka University has been ranked in numerous national and international university rankings.



President
Yoshihisa Baba

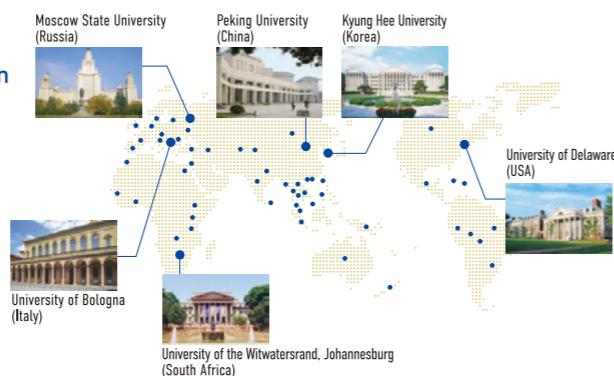
Contributing further to international society through cooperation with other countries

Diversity is the fundamental factor in Soka University’s Top Global University Project initiatives and diversity on our campus is steadily increasing. Since the project was launched, the number of exchange partners has continually increased to a total of 225 universities in 62 countries and regions worldwide (as of May 2020), and the number of incoming international students per year has increased from 313 to 878 students in 2019. Soka University proactively accepts international students through efforts such as explanatory meetings on admissions held in foreign countries through our overseas offices and participation in the Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP) since 2017, a program through which we accept one refugee student each year. Through our financial aid, international student dormitories, and job hunting support programs, we

Network of
225 universities in
62 countries and
regions worldwide
(As of May 2020)



◀◀◀
List of international
exchange partner
universities



provide comprehensive support to international students, creating an environment where they can focus on their studies and research.

The number of Japanese students from Soka University who study abroad each year has increased from 557 to 773 students. We have also developed new study abroad programs that link with our curriculum, as well as overseas internships and volunteer programs that allow students to earn credits toward their degree. Globalization on our campus is also progressing through initiatives such as the English Medium Programs, which allow

students to earn a degree by taking courses taught in only English, creating an environment where students can connect with the world wherever they are. Developing a deeper understanding of other cultures and enhanced motivation to study abroad has been contributing significantly to students’ career development. Many of our alumni are working all over the world in fields such as business and research.

In addition, we have also been focusing on educational exchange and collaborative research with Africa. We have been participating in exchanges with 13 universities in 9 African countries, and our international collaborative research project involving African universities and 4 Japanese institutions including Soka University was selected as one of the participants for the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) project. In 2019, we established the South Asia Research Center to promote academic

exchanges between Japan and South Asia. The center coordinates events such as lectures and international symposiums held in cooperation with universities in India and other South Asian countries. We also established the Soka University SDGs Promotion Center, further accelerating the university’s initiatives and student activities toward the achievement of SDGs. In the midst of the current global crisis, we are searching for a new form of education through initiatives such as the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) education program, which is conducting online exchange with overseas universities, and online study abroad programs, which enable Japanese students to take courses at overseas universities without leaving the country. Through these various initiatives, Soka University will continue to foster creative global citizens who can create value in the world regardless of the circumstances.

Interview with the Dean of the Faculty of International Liberal Arts

Learning Liberal Arts and Cross-Cultural Understanding in English

The Faculty of International Liberal Arts (FILA) aims to foster global leaders with a diverse liberal arts education and a respect for human rights.

English language skills are essential for global leaders. All classes at FILA are active learning courses taught in English. In the first year, students concentrate on developing their academic English language skills, and all students study abroad in the spring semester of their second year. It is also important for global leaders to have a broad perspective across academic disciplines and a deep cross-cultural understanding. Throughout the 4 years, students take a wide range of classes from the three fields of: 1. history, society, and culture; 2. politics and international relations; and 3. economics and business. Students develop a global mindset through active learning, critical writing, and discussions with faculty and classmates from different countries.

Currently, more than 50% of the faculty members

are foreign nationals from 8 different countries, and there are many international students in the faculty in addition to Japanese students. We believe that providing classes in such a global environment will help students deepen their understanding of diversity. The current situation, with its inescapable globally-shared challenges, is a good opportunity to experience the importance of international cooperation firsthand. It is precisely at times like these that we need global leaders with a deep cross-cultural understanding. FILA will continue to foster capable individuals who not only have English proficiency but who can also make the best decisions based on their academic knowledge leading to solutions for global issues.

Laurence MacDonald, Dean
Faculty of International Liberal Arts



Soka University

1-236 Tangi-machi, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo 192-8577, Japan
https://www.soka.ac.jp/en/

Top Global University Project
Official Website
Soka University Initiatives



QS Asia University Rankings 2020

International Faculty #4 in Japan
Outbound Exchange Students #8 in Japan



THE University Impact Rankings 2019

Worldwide:
Ranked
101-200
(Equivalent to
#4 in Japan)



Goal 16
Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
#61 worldwide

THE World University Ranking Japan Version 2020

Internationality
category
#6 in Japan



Online Exchanges at Soka University

A global campus with diversity

Explanatory meetings on admissions for overseas locations such as South Korea and Thailand were conducted online this year. The International Affairs Office set up a virtual contact window for international students which enables consultation with Soka University staff at any time and from any location. In addition, online student exchange events are being held with exchange partners in countries such as China and India, and online internships have started as well.

Lectures and symposiums featuring international experts

Soka University has started hosting a variety of online events with invitations sent to internationally well-known experts. Past events include lectures by the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Japan, Executive Director Beatrice Fihn of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and a screening event for a movie about refugee problems by Japan for UNHCR. In addition, the “Value Creation x SDGs” Week with peace and human rights as the core theme was held as part of the university’s 50th Anniversary Commemorative Project. For a full week, keynote speeches, symposiums, student-organized youth sessions, and exhibitions were held featuring invited experts from various fields.