Shiga University, founded in 1949, consists of three faculties: the Faculty of Education in Otsu and the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Data Science in Hikone.

With its origin as a Training Institute for Elementary School Teachers, the Faculty of Education aims to develop teachers with an attractive personality as well as having practical leadership qualities to respond creatively to new educational challenges. It also has a graduate school course offering a Masters Degree in Education.

The Faculty of Economics has its origin in Hikone Commercial College, and its aim is to develop specialists in economics with a global perspective combined with problem solving skills capable of responding to the needs of today’s global information society. The Graduate School of Economics has both a Master’s Course and a Doctoral Course.

The Faculty of Data Science, newly established in April 2017, aims to be a forerunner in the field of data science in Japan. Teaching statistics and computer science in a well-organized curriculum, the program fosters academic skills through seminars and practical workshops using real world data. Graduates from this new faculty will become professional data scientists, contributing to society through their expertise in data analysis (statistics) and data engineering (computer science).

As of May 2016, Shiga University’s current enrollment is approximately 4,000 students including international students from over ten countries. Both in the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Education, special examinations are given to privately-financed international students. Applicants are selected comprehensively on the basis of the results of entrance tests & personal interviews, prior academic achievement, and EJU scores.

Support for international students is provided through tutoring, counseling, and scholarships. In addition, Shiga University International provides intensive Japanese language classes especially designed for exchange students as well as foreign researchers.
Shiga University of Medical Science strives to cultivate excellent medical professionals, conduct outstanding medical research, and practice high-quality "holistic medicine" as “the university which is supported by its local community, contributes to the community and plays an active part in the world.” In our undergraduate education, we cultivate physicians, nurses, midwives, and public health nurses. Our graduates are active in the field of medicine and nursing from local communities to the global arena. In our graduate school, we focus to foster clinical scientists with a research mind who will be new generation of leaders in charge of high-quality research in medicine and nursing.

In the School of Medicine, students acquire a wide range of knowledge, sufficient expertise and sophisticated clinical skills in the curricula of liberal arts, basic medicine, and clinical medicine. The Research Physician Training Program is provided for students who aspire to be a physician scientist, where they can undertake research early in the undergraduate education and earn PhD earlier than in standard doctoral courses.

In the School of Nursing, liberal arts and specialized subjects are integrated into a curriculum organically. We also offer joint lessons with the School of Medicine and extensive nursing practices. Students can apply for a program for becoming a public health nurse or one for becoming a midwife in the 3rd year or later.

We have a high reputation for our unique research activities such as neurodegenerative disease research, biomedical research using cynomolgus monkeys and international epidemiological research on non-communicable diseases. We aim to lead development of medical science and medical care in the new era, promoting reliable high-quality clinical research centering on our Center for Clinical Research and Advanced Medicine.
A tradition of non-traditional thinking has defined Kyoto University over its 120-year history.

President Juichi Yamagiwa's ambition is to preserve Kyoto as a safe haven: free from societal pressures, free from prejudice, and free from existing paradigms.

"Universities should protect students and researchers. Free thinking arising from the liberal atmosphere here helps pioneer the future."

Yamagiwa plans to make Kyoto an incubator for ‘frontier science’ — progressive research based on interdisciplinary communication.

"Transcending national borders and differences between the arts and sciences," he says, “our researchers are the pioneers that plough the field for others to follow."

Take astronomer Mariko Kimura (pictured center), a master’s student, who put Kyoto University’s international network to full use when she witnessed the binary black-hole system V404 Cygni generating a rare outburst. Within minutes, she had collaborators across the globe supporting her with unprecedented amounts of observational data. “We now know that we can make observations based on visible light, without high-spec X-ray or gamma-ray telescopes,” Kimura says.

Meanwhile neurologist Wataru Sato has used fMRI to identify the part of the brain that ‘feels’ happiness. According to his study, happiness is a combination of emotions and satisfaction with life coming together in the precuneus, a region in the medial parietal lobe. “People bond through emotions, but we can’t access our subconscious minds directly. Being able to understand that could help us solve problems associated with the mind and spirit — including how to be happy.”

For Yamagiwa, this is only the beginning. Even in the face of the uncertainty of this globalized era, he believes that Kyoto can lead the world with its creativity. And he is not merely talking about edgy science.

“We wander in academic freedom with a purpose,” Yamagiwa says. “These innovations will lead to solutions for a harmonious, sustainable, global society.”
Outline of University
The university is conveniently located in the southern part of the historic city of Kyoto. The spacious, 14-hectare campus provides plenty of greenery despite being in an urban area.

The university also has six affiliated schools, the university library, Educational Support Center and other institutes.

Our Objectives
At Kyoto University of Education, our objectives are to encourage students to reach a deep understanding of academic disciplines and to cultivate knowledge, passion, and perspective in them, developing their skills and the qualities they need to become good education.

Message from University
From our earliest days as the National Kyoto University of Arts under the postwar education system and the 1949 reestablishment of the Kyoto Prefectural Instructor’s School, which was founded in 1876, Kyoto University of Education inherits 141 years of history and tradition in the development of educators. We have adapted our organization and subject matter in response to changes in society and the times, but our basic philosophy and goal remain training educator. With our vision fixed, we have continued to produce many excellent teachers engaging in school education, social education, lifelong learning, and more.
One hundred years has passed since Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT) was first established as Kyoto College of Technology and Kyoto College of Textile Fibers. Located in Kyoto, Japan’s former capital which remains a bastion of traditional culture, KIT has established a unique academic environment combining wisdom, a highly developed aesthetic sense and technology.

KIT has a single undergraduate school feeding into the Graduate School of Science and Technology, which is divided into the five major academic fields of Materials and Life Science, Engineering Design, Architecture and Design, Fiber Science and Engineering, and Arts and Sciences. Although small in scale, its education and research are unique in pursuing “practical science,” creating products ranging widely from cutting-edge science and technology, such as biotechnology, material science, information, mechanics and environmental science, to formative arts and design.

In 2014, KIT marked a turning point. KIT was selected as one of the Top Global University Project Universities in Japan. It helps us to promote and expand international student and researcher exchange, and globalize our campus. In addition, the “Expertise Enhancement Project” is the one we have been working hard on since 2014, and we’ve also gotten special funding for this from the government. We are taking a focused approach in the following three fields; KYOTO Design Lab, Future Textile Initiative, and Green Innovation Center. Thanks to this project, world renowned researchers are on campus, which gives a great opportunity for our students to come in contact with the state-of-the-art research.

When these two schemes reach completion, KIT will have become a center of international and domestic research on engineering, a center of industry, and a gathering place for top researchers in education.
Osaka University was founded in 1931 as the sixth imperial university of Japan and now has expanded to one of Japan’s top research-intensive comprehensive universities. The number of world-renowned researchers pioneering breakthroughs in their respective fields placed the university as one of the top universities listed in the publication of Reuters’ “World’s Most Innovative Universities” in 2016. We take pride in the spirit of innovation and progress: the cornerstone of our current endeavors in education and research.

Osaka University’s origins date back to two thriving academies of the Edo period, known as Kaitokudo and Tekijuku. Both institutions were established with the support of local citizens. The university has embraced the spirit, diversity, and aspirations of these schools. Our motto, “Live Locally, Grow Globally,” manifests our inherited commitment to always give positive change to society.

Osaka University has put into action “Osaka University Vision 2021”: a plan building on our inherited historical legacy and social responsibility. While affirming our fundamental commitment to outstanding research and education, the vision also calls for openness – internally among departments in the university, and externally through open dialogue and interaction with the global community. This openness will be the unifying principle of our further institutional improvement and academic excellence over six years, culminating with our 90th anniversary in 2021.

By facilitating the “協奏 (orchestration)” and “共創 (co-creation)” of scholarship, we aim to compose, orchestrate and harmonize knowledge by integrating innovation from all disciplines and all sectors of society, as well as mobilize our students, faculty and staff. Open academic endeavors will in turn bring new ideas that will strengthen our university community. It is through this openness that we will create new knowledge and lasting impact for society.
Osaka Kyoiku University

Osaka Kyoiku University (OKU), which was founded in May 1874 (the 7th year of the Meiji Era) as a teacher training school, boasts over 140 years history and tradition. The current number of undergraduate and graduate students totals approximately 4700, with another 4800 students matriculated in affiliated schools. Among Japanese universities, OKU is a one of the leading producers of qualified teachers and a leading large-scale college of education.

The main campus of OKU was established in the Kongo Ikoma Kisen National Park, in Kashiwa City, Osaka. This campus is approximately 670,000 square meters in area. In addition, OKU also has a campus in Tennoji, in central Osaka, an international city with easy access that is a mainstay of information technology and industry in Japan.

In April 2017, OKU introduced a newly established department, Department of Educational Collaboration, which nurtures human resources specialized in the field of education/learning support as well as reorganizing Courses for School Teachers. The new department aims to educate creative personnel capable of leading the development of school education and its related fields.

The Graduate School of Education (Masters Course), which comprises 18 majors, is one of the largest graduate schools for teacher training in Japan. In addition, the United Graduate School of Professional Teacher Education was established in 2015 with Kansai University and Kinki University to train highly skilled and professional teachers.

The university’s programs are designed to meet the high educational standards of a comprehensive teacher training university. OKU is made up 11 affiliated schools, including primary, secondary, and special needs education that are located in three areas of metropolitan Osaka: Tennoji, Hirano, and Ikeda city.

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Education

Number of Students
Undergraduate 4,257
Graduate 486
International Students 140

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Hyogo University of Teacher Education

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Hyogo University of Teacher Education: a University for Excellence in the Initial Teacher Education and Continuous Professional Development in Japan

Hyogo University of Teacher Education is a front-runner in the field of both practice of and research into teacher education in Japan. As a university specializing in this area, we have an excellent faculty of teacher education, as well as one of Japan's largest Master's and professional degree programs and Ph.D. program.

A large number of in-service teachers are enrolled as graduate students in the Master's and professional degree programs, to improve their expertise and to enhance practical abilities as an extremely talented teacher. Education and research at this university is oriented toward the "integration of theory and practice," and we have named this approach the "science of school education." Researchers in this field are being developed in the Joint Graduate School (Ph.D. program) in Science of School Education.

In response to the growing demands of globalization, this university is actively committed to the development of international exchange and contribution initiatives. We have so far concluded agreements with 26 universities in 12 countries in Asia, the United States, and Europe for the purpose of implementing exchanges between researchers and students. Through these initiatives, both professors and students from these affiliated universities and our university visit each other, and conduct joint research into effective teaching materials and instruction methods to be used in school education in countries around the world.

We have a variety of facilities, including residential houses for researchers and students from overseas. Citizens in Kato City also offer to be host families for students as powerful support for our university. These opportunities can be an extremely valuable and beneficial for them to enjoy Japan's beautiful nature and the hospitality of the local people.

APRIL, 2017

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The origins of Kobe University can be traced back to 1902 with the establishment of the Kobe Higher Commercial School. It is now one of Japan’s leading comprehensive universities with 10 faculties, 15 graduate schools, and a great number of research centers and institutions. We aim to pioneer new academic frontiers by promoting inter-institutional collaboration and advanced research that transcends the boundaries between academic fields.

Kobe University is actively involved in academic exchange with education and research institutes abroad. We have links with partner institutions in 53 countries and regions, and alumni associations in 14 countries. There are strong connections with the European Union: we coordinate the EUIJ-Kansai consortium, and are involved in EU programs such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020. Kobe University also provides English-taught programs and degrees across diverse disciplines.

While focusing on internationalization in academic activities, the University also contributes to society through industry-university-government collaboration. The Kobe University Integrated Research Center on Port Island collaborates with research organizations, other universities and industry to train specialists in computational science and promote cutting-edge research, including integrated biorefinery and advanced membrane engineering.

In April 2016 Kobe University established Japan’s first interdisciplinary independent graduate school, the Graduate School of Science, Technology and Innovation. This graduate school combines the four priority areas for flagship research at Kobe University (Bioproduction, Advanced Membrane Technology, Advanced Information and Communication Technology, and Advanced Medical Science) with education in the entrepreneurial skills necessary for business innovation. This new initiative aims to produce graduates who can lead innovation in many diverse areas of industry.
Our aim at the Nara University of Education is to teach and research both the theoretical and practical aspects of education and culture and to nurture education professionals who are both knowledgeable and experienced. We also enhance the local culture of our region.

Our core objective is to use our respect for education and culture we inherited from our predecessors to nurture educated and knowledgeable human resources equipped with the expertise for forming the next generation as well-rounded human beings.

To achieve this, our bachelor courses nurture primary and junior high school teachers with the practical knowledge and experience to deal with the issues that surround today’s education system.

Our graduate school carries on the mission of our undergraduate courses, nurturing educators who have leadership qualities as professionals, and offering life-long education for in-service educators and other adults.

In July 2007, our university became the first UNESCO Associated School of Japanese Universities. UNESCO Associated Schools aim to promote UNESCO values.

As a university in Nara Prefecture, which boasts the largest number of World Heritage Sites in Japan, our university has one of its themes of education and research is “enhancing education and research that makes the most of the World Heritage of Nara”.

We have worked hard to develop environmental and cultural education relating to preservation and protection of World Heritage, which UNESCO is promoting on a global scale.

Message for students thinking of studying abroad to Japan

The standard of education for overseas students in this institution has also gained a strong reputation due to its excellent educational content that exploits the special features of the ancient city of Nara.

Overseas students are privileged as their campus and dormitory are located close to the center of Nara City, making it convenient for them to access both the traditional and modern cultures of Japan.

For example, they are able to visit designated national treasure shrines, temples and statues on a daily basis in Nara, with those of Kyoto, another ancient city, not a great distance away too.

Alternatively, there are many modern attractions of Osaka to discover just a 30-minute train ride away.
Nara Women's University

About Nara Women’s University

Nara Women’s University, located in Nara, Japan’s ancient capital, has its beginning in the former Nara Women’s Higher Normal School founded in 1908. For over 100 years, as an institute providing women with education at the highest level, Nara Women’s University has fostered the development of women as leaders who contribute to society.

The campus is surrounded by many cultural sites, including world heritage properties and beautiful nature areas. Students can experience rich Japanese culture and history by walking around the community. The university comprises three undergraduate faculties, the Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Science, and Faculty of Human Life and Environment, as well as the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, all of which actively offer academic research and education in various fields of study.

We are a small university, with 2,711 students. This means students can always get a personal attention and support from professors, and can study in a relaxed, at-home environment.

International Exchange

Nara Women’s University has international exchange agreements with 44 universities overseas, and 142 international students from all over the world study at Nara Women’s University. Many researchers conduct research abroad and actively attend international conferences.

University-owned accommodation is available for international students and researchers. For international students who are new to Japan, we will arrange for a Japanese student to act as a peer tutor and support them with various matters related to daily life and study.
Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST) is a leading Japanese national university focused on advanced science and technology in three core fields: information, biological, and materials sciences. Composed solely of graduate schools, NAIST continues to gain worldwide recognition for its pioneering approach to education and research. The faculty's efforts have led to high levels of governmental (the Top Global University Project and the Program for Promoting the Improvement of Research Universities sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)) and private funding, and revenue for research expenses in Japan. Since its foundation in 1991, NAIST has achieved impressive results and has been highly recognized in research, education, and community engagement.

NAIST is conveniently located near the commercial and cultural centers of Nara, Kyoto, and Osaka, and a part of Kansai Science City where there is a high concentration of industrial, government, and academic research centers. The enrollment is limited to about 1,000 students in order to maintain the quality of education and research. With 25% of its students traveling abroad for research and education and about 22% of its current student population from overseas (31 countries/regions), NAIST is actively developing and expanding its global education and research network. NAIST has 83 partner institutions around the globe and it continues to support societal development through science and technology. With the strong support of NAIST's world-leading faculty members from various backgrounds, NAIST students develop into qualified and highly specialized researchers and engineers who will make significant contributions to humanity in the 21st century.
Wakayama University is the only national university in Wakayama Prefecture which consists of 4 Faculties and 4 Graduate Schools in Education, Economics, Systems Engineering, Tourism. We provide 2 Doctoral Programs in Systems Engineering and Tourism. Wakayama University offers education and assistance with the view to developing human resources who are capable of adequately meeting the needs of society, with a strong emphasis on our connection to the community.

The enrollment is around 4,500, with nearly 200 international students. We have international partnership with 32 universities in 15 countries and expanding our global network.

Regarding some of our prominent roles, since Wakayama area is known as an origin of organic chemical industry in Japan, the University has performed R&D in the chemical field and encouraged activities of the local companies. The latest development in the Faculty of Tourism is the Global Program, where the students will study in English for the whole 4 years, started April 2016. Wakayama University is the only national university providing tourism education through its bachelor’s and doctoral program. We are expected to contribute to the global development in Tourism Studies with the establishment of the Center for Tourism Research as the first tourism focused research entity in a national university, started also in April 2016.

The University is located in Wakayama City, which is about one hour from Osaka City and about half an hour from KANSAI International Airport. Wakayama City is a comfortable place to learn and live in, surrounded by beautiful hills and the sea. Moreover, our university is able to count on the support of the entire community residing in Wakayama to assist our international students. We receive support from the local volunteers who assist in learning Japanese and NPOs, so that our students may have a variety of opportunities to learn the current Japanese language and culture trends.