

## International Students and the Multiculturalization of University Education

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Part of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies' (TUFS) grand design is that we are aiming to become a “central university for education research that will open up the future in an age of a global society”. In order for the university to become such a “center for education research in an age of a global society” the active acquisition of international students is a priority – but that alone is not enough. International students and Japanese students alike meet each other in their daily life, in the context of undergraduate and graduate education, at university events and student clubs, and when they meet they exchange ideas on a level that is not limited to simply that of knowledge. It is important that we are attentive to this living multicultural experience in which students acquire broader ways of seeing the world and the ability to objectively relativize their own cultures. It is important to develop human resources that can make a contribution to international society.

TUFS is pressing forward with the multiculturalization of university education by actively accepting linguistically and culturally diverse numbers of international students and creating a learning environment in which international students and Japanese students can live and learn together – a multilingual environment for communication.

At present a Team for the Promotion of the Multiculturalization of University Education established at TUFS is working on a university wide statement on the multiculturalization of university education. As we accept international students from a wide variety of countries and regions around the world, this statement is expected to make use of our research and education facilities spanning 26 languages to include articles arguing for the need to focus on accepting international students from newly developing countries, and accept students who not only have an interest in the Japanese language or Japanese culture and society but who have an interest in their own countries and the languages, cultures and societies of the world at large.