

9. FY2021 Progress

■ Common indicators and targets

Internationalization

○ Increasing the number of outbound exchange students

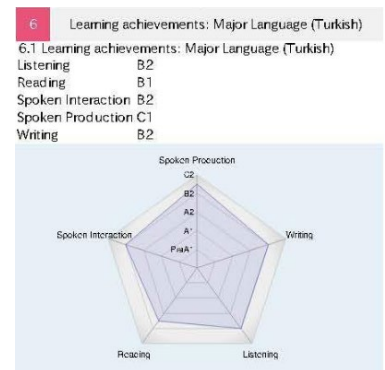
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) signed 12 new international academic exchange agreements (3 of which are or include student exchange agreements). Short-term study abroad programs involving physical travel were canceled due to COVID-19, but long-term exchange programs resumed with preventive measures against infections. The total number of participants in the summer/winter short-term online study abroad program was 132, an increase of 30% from the previous year.

○ Increasing the number of inbound exchange students

Building on its experience in online education, TUFS opened the pre-departure online Japanese language course for undergraduate and graduate students whose entry to Japan had been delayed due to COVID-19. The post-lecture questionnaire indicates that students rated the teachers highly and were satisfied with the course. This course, also open to other universities, helped deepen students' understanding of the country before their arrival in Japan. We plan to continue providing online Japanese language study support.

○ Efforts to Enhance Language Education

The language proficiency of all TUFS students is listed on the Multilingual Global Human Resource Portfolio based on the CEFR-J criteria. Additionally, the Multilingual Global Diploma Supplement, distributed to students upon graduation, also lists their language proficiency on the CEFR-J scale. The students have responded well to the unified criteria and an equal learning environment for the 28 languages. TUFS's commitment to cutting-edge language education has raised student motivation. The "Multilingual Lounge" on Zoom was attended by a cumulative total of 561 students in the spring quarter and 236 students in the fall quarter, meeting our students' educational needs during the pandemic. In addition, the courses entitled "Basic Studies of Language Education 1 & 2" were offered as part of the graduate school career development program to continue to nurture foreign language education specialists who are proficient in language education incorporating CEFR.



Multilingual Global Diploma Supplement

University Governance Reform

○ Diversifying and improving levels of teaching and administrative staff

Recent faculty recruits included 4 foreign nationals, 1 Japanese with a foreign university degree, and 3 with at least one year of education/research experience overseas. TUFS also sent 7 faculties overseas training through sabbaticals under a comprehensive COVID-19 support system for international travel. In addition, the new faculty evaluation criteria were introduced, which place greater weight on research achievement and efforts so that young tenure-track faculty can receive higher evaluations. TUFS recruited 6 new tenure-track faculty members and granted tenure to 8 existing tenure-track faculty in FY2021.

Education Reform

○ Strengthening Japan's information dissemination capacity

In the third year of establishment, the School of Japan Studies launched a series of courses in its core seminar program. The major courses provided systematic and specialized knowledge in various fields: multicultural society, Japanese politics and economics, Japanese foreign diplomacy and international relations, Japanese history, Japanese philosophy, Japanese culture, Japanese classical/modern and contemporary literature, classical Japanese grammar, Japanese linguistics, second language acquisition, and Japanese language education. Additionally, the "Approaches to Interdisciplinary Practice" course invited experts in various fields from outside organizations such as newspaper companies to give relay lectures to introduce and cultivate multifaceted ways of thinking that transcend the disciplinary boundaries.

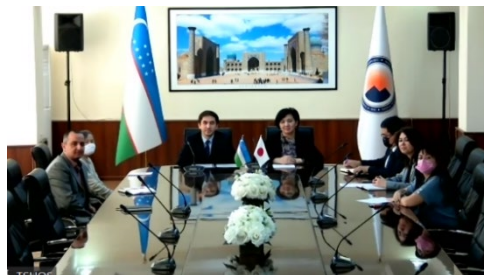
■ University's Own Indicators and Targets

○ Initiatives for International Joint Education

The number of joint education programs conducted with overseas partner institutions increased by 70% from the previous year to 53 cases. To run the joint education programs, we utilize the "Specified Part-time Lecturer System," which enables online lectures by distinguished foreign faculties.

○ Deploying Global Japan Offices

The Global Japan Offices (GJO), centers for Japanese language education and cultural exchange, opened 3 new offices, bringing the total to 21. Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies (Uzbekistan), agreeing to offer free office space, held an online signing ceremony for the GJO memorandum. In Vietnam, a memorandum for the Global Japan Desk (GJD) was signed by the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, VNU – Ho Chi Minh City. Discussions are underway to realize a double degree program, and another GJD memorandum was signed with the University of Languages and International Studies VNU – Hanoi at the online signing ceremony.



Signing ceremony of Tashkent GJO

■ Featured Initiatives Based on the Characteristics of the University

○ English Speaking Test in University Entrance Examinations

BCT-S (British Council TUFS – Speaking Test for Japanese Universities) was expanded to the entire university for the first time in the first-term entrance examination. BCT-S is a university entrance exam speaking test jointly created with TUFS and the British Council. According to a survey of more than 600 newly accepted students, many of them had a positive feeling about BCT-S.

○ Developing language proficiency criteria for non-English foreign languages based on the international standard, CEFR

As part of the CEFR-J-based language education resource, we created CEFR-J x 28 Can-Do tests from Pre-A1 to B2.2 in 25 of the 28 major languages. By combining this with the resources we had compiled (the wordlists and phrase lists) and the general-purpose syllabus, we can now provide a foundation for a comprehensive foreign language education platform. The CEFR-J wordlists for most A-level major languages have been finalized, while the phrase lists are being compiled for each set of Can-Do lists for all CEFR-J levels. A CEFR-J x 28 vocabulary learning application (A-level for 25 languages and B-level for 5 languages) is available to students and faculty on mobile devices. In FY2021, we prioritized the release of Portuguese B-Level and Filipino B-Level. To publicize the outcome, we decided to launch the Lingua Test Center in April 2022.

○ Initiatives to Promote Study Abroad by TUFS Student Mobility Center

In order to resume some study abroad programs, crisis management briefings were held to ensure safe studies abroad, including measures against COVID-19, while enhancing online materials related to crisis management. The students wishing to study abroad were regularly updated on each country's latest COVID status and quarantine measures. We also accepted inquiries about studying abroad from outside TUFS. The "Study Abroad Fair 2021" was held online.

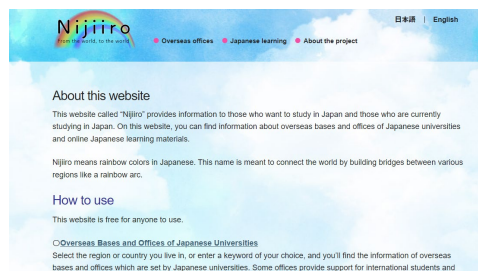
■ Other Initiatives and Efforts

○ Project Operation for Japan Forum for Internationalization of Universities (JFIU)

As the coordinating university, TUFS promoted the "Collaborative Project Between University Overseas Bases and Offices through the Provision of Online Japanese Language Education." After a needs assessment survey for member universities, we launched *Nijihiro*, a study abroad information website for students wishing to study or currently studying in Japan. The Online Learning Support Team (OLST) was established in March 2022 to promote online Japanese language education and develop teaching materials. The preparatory Japanese language course for international students prior to their arrival in Japan, offered from February to March 2022, was attended by 166 students from 30 institutions.

○ Support for Ukrainian Students

As part of GJO Ukraine activities to support Ukraine, TUFS offered online Japanese language classes to local Japan studies major students, held exchange programs for the local and TUFS students, and provided TUFS Japanese language learning materials to JV-Campus "Ukraine Student Support Box."



Nijihiro (<https://wp.tufs.ac.jp/nijihiro/en/>)

The website offers information on offices offering study abroad support around the world and online Japanese language learning materials accessible from overseas.