



Hitotsubashi University's Support System for Accepting International Students Accelerates Globalization

Hitotsubashi University accepts outstanding international students from around the world. Many international students on campus work on research as long-term regular undergraduate students or graduate students. These students also participate in classes and seminars as short-term exchange students. This article describes Hitotsubashi University's acceptance situations for international students and the support available to these students.

The Highest Ratio of International Students among Japanese Universities

From undergraduate school to graduate school, Hitotsubashi University has many international students. Hailing from all over the world, international students come to Japan from a total of 52 countries and regions, particularly in Asia (Figure 1). These students can often be seen interacting with one another in the first floor lounge of the East Campus International Research Building, where the acceptance desk of the International Affairs Office is located.

According to data from May 2015, there are 732 international students at Hitotsubashi University, 264 undergraduate students, and 468 graduate-level students. Although the number of international students has gradually increased each year, the university

does not have a high number of these students compared with other universities throughout Japan. The percentage of international students is 5.9% at the undergraduate level and 24.3% at the graduate level, or 11.5% of overall students (Figure 2). Through a full-fledged support system that includes the aforementioned English courses and Japanese language instruction, Hitotsubashi University has a plan in place to increase the number of international students accepted for short-, mid-, and long-term study and to promote globalization internally.

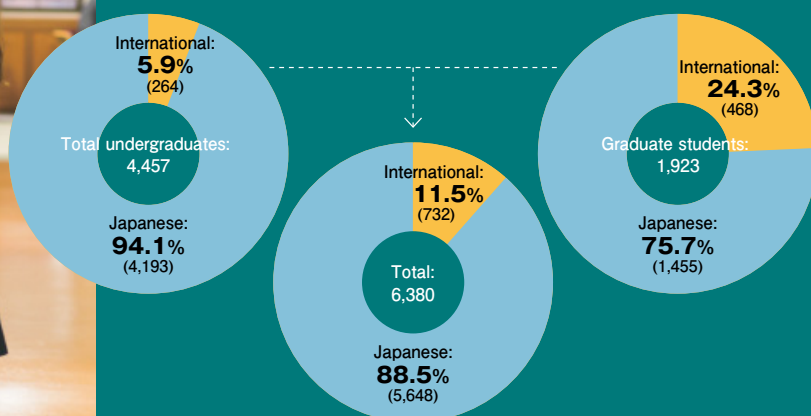
Types of international students include international undergraduate and graduate students in long-term regular courses, exchange students as well as MEXT scholarship recipients in Japan for Japanese Studies at the undergraduate level and foreign research students at the graduate level. Our exchange students have been recommended by universities with which Hitotsubashi



Figure 1. Five-year trend in international students by country and region (as of May 1 of each year)

| Category | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| China | 197 | 233 | 256 | 287 | 300 |
| South Korea | 192 | 195 | 192 | 191 | 173 |
| Taiwan | 28 | 37 | 38 | 45 | 56 |
| Vietnam | 25 | 24 | 25 | 29 | 32 |
| Mongol | 32 | 28 | 24 | 25 | 21 |
| Other | 149 | 160 | 154 | 150 | 150 |
| Total | 623 | 677 | 689 | 727 | 732 |

Figure 2. The ratio of international students to Japanese students at Hitotsubashi University (as of May 1, 2015)



University has exchange agreements, and their numbers have more than tripled in the past five years, from 21 to 71 (Figure 3). These international students come to Japan for various academic purposes and continue to work on their studies and research while they are here. (Figure 4).

Exchanges on Campus Create a Global Environment

One factor behind the growing percentage of international students at Hitotsubashi University is the Hitotsubashi University Global Education Program, or HGP, which is a training program unique to the school. Through the efforts of HGP, which determines undergraduate courses taught in English, Hitotsubashi University provides greater learning opportunities for foreign students who are not extremely fluent in Japanese. These efforts result in an environment that makes it easier for the university to enter into exchange agreements with foreign universities because the school provides Japanese language education via the Center for Global Education. The high level of education provided by the Center is attested to by foreign universities. Its effectiveness can be seen in international students' improvements in Japanese communications. The fact that the university provides classes in English enables exchanges, with students taking complete curriculums while learning about Japanese language and culture. The impact of the HGP is linked to the increase in the number of exchange students being accepted.

In addition, most HGP courses can be taken by any student, regardless of the department to which they belong, and whether they are Japanese or foreign. The program provides opportunities for deeper interactions between exchange students and Japanese students. Japanese students welcome international students and

Figure 3. Five-year trend for international students by level (as of May 1 of each year)

| Category | | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-----------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Faculty | Regular | 178 | 188 | 195 | 189 | 193 |
| | Exchange students | 21 | 46 | 51 | 65 | 71 |
| Graduate School | Masters | 156 | 192 | 204 | 215 | 219 |
| | Professional School | 105 | 101 | 96 | 96 | 91 |
| | Doctorate | 124 | 112 | 118 | 116 | 112 |
| | Research students | 39 | 38 | 25 | 46 | 46 |
| Total | | 623 | 677 | 689 | 727 | 732 |

Figure 4. Five-year trend in international students by faculty (as of May 1 of each year)

| Category | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Faculty of Commerce and Management | 92 | 97 | 105 | 107 | 103 |
| Faculty of Economics | 44 | 56 | 51 | 52 | 51 |
| Faculty of Law | 27 | 35 | 39 | 37 | 40 |
| Faculty of Social Sciences | 36 | 46 | 51 | 58 | 70 |
| Graduate School of Commerce and Management | 74 | 91 | 106 | 112 | 121 |
| Graduate School of Economics | 70 | 74 | 78 | 97 | 91 |
| Graduate School of Law | 33 | 36 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Graduate School of Social Sciences | 58 | 57 | 46 | 44 | 46 |
| Graduate School of Language and Society | 81 | 80 | 83 | 88 | 83 |
| Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy | 55 | 57 | 56 | 54 | 52 |
| School of International and Public Policy | 53 | 48 | 45 | 48 | 44 |
| Total | 623 | 677 | 689 | 727 | 732 |

communicate with international students from around the world on campus. These international exchanges lead to much broader perspectives. The HGP has a positive impact on exchange students and Japanese students alike.

A familiar setting is being created as international students from around the world gather at the Hitotsubashi University campus with a strong desire to study and interact with other international students and Japanese students. The school's international student program is the reason for this global environment.

A Broad Support Program for International Students

Hitotsubashi University has various support programs for international students not only in its curricula and schoolwork but also for general aspects of life outside school as well. Some of these programs are described below.

Japanese Language Education

Hitotsubashi University offers Japanese language classes for six levels of students, from beginner to advanced. Its curriculum for oral expressions and other areas supports improved speaking of Japanese by international students.

Individual Tutor Program

This program supports individual study and research by international students through the use of Japanese students and advanced international students who are available as tutors and through classes in Japanese provided the first year after admission. Students are also able to use a tutoring program for support in writing masters and doctoral theses.

Housing Support

International students have three student housing facilities available to them: the Residence Hall Kunitachi, Keimeikan in Kunitachi, and the Residence Hall Ikkyo-Ryo in Kodaira. Monthly fees for the dormitories vary by accommodation type. Fees for the Kunitachi vary from 20,000 to 25,000 yen, between 40,000 and 50,000 for the Keimeikan, and between 10,000 and 20,000 for the Ikkyo-Ryo.

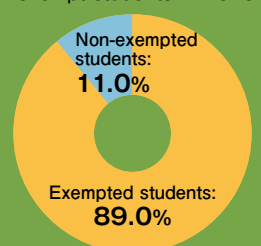
Career Support

The Career Support Office (in the main building of the West Campus) supports employment activities for international students when in Japan and often consults with students on job search activities, in addition to providing information on seminars and internships.

Scholarships and Tuition Exemptions

Disbursement of scholarships and exemptions for tuition are ways of providing financial support to international students. Scholarships are provided by private entities, in addition to "Tuition Exemptions (complete and partial)," "Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship," the "Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students," and the "Hitotsubashi University Foundation Scholarship for International Students." The school provides information on applying for scholarships and support. As can be seen in the figure to the right, approximately 90% of those that apply for tuition exemptions at Hitotsubashi University actually receive such exemptions.

The percentage of privately-funded tuition-exempt students in 2015



For more details, contact the International Affairs Office within the Center for Global Education: <http://international.hit-u.ac.jp/>