

Message to Students and Guardians



Dean of the Faculty of Global Engagement
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Dear Students and Guardians,

The Fall 2020 Semester will commence soon, on October 1st. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had no choice but to conduct all classes online during the Spring Semester. It is unfortunate, in particular, that first-year students have not yet had the opportunity to experience campus life at all. However, it goes without saying that the health and safety of all students, faculty and staff comes first.

For this coming Fall Semester, our University has decided to resume a “face-to-face” type of traditional classroom teaching on a very limited basis, taking into due consideration the opinions of experts in the fields of public health and medical science. Of course, we will take the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 on campus. For example, we will limit the number of students who can enter campus at any given time, checking everyone’s temperatures to ensure that no infections are present. We will also limit each lecture to one large classroom per day, making sure that adequate ventilation and social distancing measures are in place, and then thoroughly sanitizing the room afterwards. Furthermore, we will have bento lunchboxes available, and designate several large classrooms as temporary cafeterias, etc. In spite of these measures, there is still a possibility that our University might have to change its policy depending on the COVID-19 situation. In any case, everyone’s health and safety are of paramount importance.

The motto of the Faculty of Global Engagement is “Be a Changemaker.” That is, our Faculty strongly encourages students to be pro-active, not to merely sit passively through classroom lectures, but instead to take on challenges that interest them. This spirit is embodied most strongly in our Community Engagement Programs (CEPs). Unfortunately, all overseas CEPs are currently suspended, and some restrictions are in place even on domestic CEPs due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, we are committed to continue providing opportunities for our students to become actively engaged in community life, so as to best prepare them for a bright future. Our students are also very active in extra-curricular activities, field research, internships, various events, etc., all of which have also been adversely affected. Our Faculty will keep encouraging these activities as the situation allows.

As the saying goes, “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” There is no doubt that this pandemic has presented us all with a very difficult situation. However, we can turn our misfortune into a big chance as well. Together, let’s tackle this pandemic, learn from it, and take advantage of the opportunities that it provides us. Then it becomes the soil into which we can plant the seed of future success for us all.