

Educational support tailored to meet diverse academic needs

Providing programs to assist education and research essential to a dynamic university

University Contribution Award in Education

This award recognizes University faculty members who make outstanding achievements in classroom teaching of liberal arts curriculums, refining education methods, providing study support to students, and taking a creative approach to teaching the curriculums.

Professor Tsuneyuki Abe,
Graduate School of Arts and Letters



Of all the social science classes offered in the liberal arts curriculums, his class was rated extremely highly by students in terms of student satisfaction and learning outcome; he contributed to keeping the quality level of the curriculums high.

Associate Professor Minoru Katsuyama,
Graduate School of International Cultural Studies

His class on literature took an ingenious approach to classroom teaching by engaging students' spontaneous motivation with good results, and was rated extremely highly by students.



Associate Professor Hironobu Higuchi,
Graduate School of Medicine

His physical education classes, especially tennis classes, were rated extremely highly by students in terms of student satisfaction.



Presidential Prize for Educational Excellence

This prize recognizes University faculty members who demonstrate outstanding dedication and excellence in teaching classes, assisting students in extracurricular activities, and supporting international exchange programs.

Steering Committee of the Special Education Project for
Advanced Mathematics and Physics, Graduate School of Science

This project, with the support of MEXT's Math and Science Students Support Project, helped improve students' math and science proficiency by facilitating an exchange-class program between departments, offering a short-term overseas study program, and having a dedicated assistant professor give a special exercise lesson.



Professor Hitoshi Yonekura,
Graduate School of Agricultural Science

He made a significant contribution to promoting international exchanges between Tohoku University and an Indonesian university by helping conclude an agreement for exchanges between the two; developing a double-degree program; and teaching and helping Indonesian students at the University under the International Program in Liberal Arts.



Associate Professor Minoru Katsuyama,
Graduate School of International Cultural Studies

In liberal arts curriculums, his humanities classes engaged students' spontaneous motivation with good results, and were rated highly by students.



Professor Hitoshi Tanaka and Professor
Toshikuni Yonemoto, Graduate School of
Engineering

They were the first at Tohoku University to develop and deploy a portfolio-based evaluation system to track each student's academic progress.



Committee to Implement an Education Program
for Professional Ecosystem Managers

The committee helped doctoral students achieve academic excellence in environmental studies through the Global Center of Excellence Program, bringing the University's doctoral programs to a new level.



Educational Development Core in International Cooperation

Tohoku University's Center for the Advancement of Higher Education was accredited as a joint educational development center by MEXT in March 2010 to support professional development of university faculty and staff at various higher education institutions in Tohoku area and across Japan.

The center's mission is to engage with organizational development and to develop and provide professional development programs that reflect career stages of university staff members including graduate students who wish to pursue an academic career path. Through these activities, we aim at contributing to create Japanese universities world-class.

Building on its previous achievements in promoting international collaboration in various fields, the center works with the University of California at Berkeley in the United States, the University of Melbourne in Australia, Queen's University in Canada, and other overseas institutions on research and program development.



Tohoku University Preparing Future Faculty Program abroad session in the University of Melbourne

Small-group seminars for first-year students

Most of first-year students attend small-group seminars of their choice during the first semester. They choose from among 150 seminars on diverse subjects given by more than 200 teachers, including faculty members of the University's undergraduate schools, graduate schools, institutes, research centers, and hospital as well as professors emeritus. Freshmen with any majors from any undergraduate schools may choose from any of these 150 seminars that interest them—even if a seminar's subject is not immediately relevant to their majors.

These seminars are intended to help freshmen make smooth transitions from the cramming style of learning they adopted when preparing for entrance examinations to a more academic style of learning by placing a greater emphasis on a hands-on approach to learning, which includes laboratory work and field trips, than on formal lectures. Each seminar accommodates an average of 15 freshmen, who research subject matters on their own and debate the findings with fellow students. This approach gives students an opportunity to acquire a self-driven style of learning. Students have an opportunity to give a formal presentation of their research findings, and those who make outstanding presentations receive recognition. This helps students improve their communication skills and broaden their academic perspectives.



Student giving a presentation of research findings

The project of Student Learning Advisers



SLA members



At Tohoku University, juniors, seniors, and graduate students staff to serve as Student Learning Advisers (SLAs) to assist freshmen and sophomores with their liberal arts studies under the slogan "TOGETHER we learn, TOGETHER we grow, TOMOSODACHI!" SLA provides their services out of the Kawauchi Learning Plaza, which is located on the first floor of the Multimedia Education and Research Complex.

SLA provides: (1) one-on-one tutoring; (2) class-specific academic assistance; (3) SLA-initiated academic assistance; and (4) assistance with student learning groups. First-year and second-year students learn from SLAs how to write a good report, how to learn in the university, and how to organize and manage a student learning groups.

The Kawauchi Learning Plaza accommodates the SLA Support Office, which handles inquires about the SLA program, and the Consultation Desk staffed by SLAs.