

A PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE RYUKYUS

As the first public institution for higher education to be established on Okinawa, the University of the Ryukyus was formally opened on the ancient site of Shuri Castle on May 22, 1950, by the United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyus. When Okinawa was returned to Japan, in May 1972, it became a national university.

The University now consists of seven faculties: Law and Letters, Tourism Sciences and Industrial Management, Education, Science, Medicine, Engineering, and Agriculture, with the Graduate School (Humanities and Social Sciences, Education, Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering and Science, Agriculture and Law), the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University, the Non-Degree Graduate Program for Special-Needs Education Program, the Library and the College Elementary and Junior High Schools. Other facilities such as the University Hospital, the Tropical Biosphere Research Center (on Iriomote, Sesoko and Nishihara), the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Experimental Forest (in the northern part of Okinawa Island), the Radioisotope Laboratory, the Center of Molecular Biosciences, and the Foreign Language Laboratory offer unique opportunities for advanced research and training, whereas the Computing and Networking Center provides various supports for academic, administrative, and instructional university programs.

The Faculty of Engineering is composed of four departments; Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and Department of Information Engineering. These departments offer both Undergraduate and Graduate Programs leading to Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Engineering degrees. A Doctoral Program in Material, Structural and Energy Engineering and Interdisciplinary Intelligent Systems Engineering have been established in 1997. In addition to this Special Graduate Program, the Faculty of Engineering accepts International Students in its regular Undergraduate and Graduate Programs given in the Japanese language. The eligible students attending these regular programs may also be able to obtain the scholarship from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Monbukagakusho).

The University of the Ryukyus has concluded Academic Exchange Agreements with other universities abroad: Michigan State University, University of Guam, University of Hawaii, University of California, Davis, University of Nevada, Reno, Fort Lewis College (U.S.A.), University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), University of Canberra, James Cook University (Australia), College of the Marshall Islands (Marshall Islands), Palau Community College (Palau), University of Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinea), National University of Samoa (Samoa), University of New Caledonia (New Caledonia), University of the South Pacific (Fiji), College of Micronesia-FSM (Micronesia), Atenisi University (Tonga), Sun Yat-Sen University of Medical Sciences, Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou University, Guangxi Medical University, Dailan Medical University, Yunnan Agricultural University, Yanbian University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (China), Keimyung University, Cheju National University, Suncheon National University, University of Seoul, Yonsei University (Korea), Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, Khon Kaen University, Chiang Mai University, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (Thailand), Sam Ratulangi University, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Diponegoro University (Indonesia), Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (India), Hanoi Agricultural University, Thai Nguyen University Teachers Training College, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi University of Technology, Thai Nguyen University Agricultural and Forestry (Vietnam), National Taiwan University, National Sun Yat-Sen University, National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, National Taiwan Ocean University (Taiwan), National University of Laos (Laos), Health Science University of Mongolia (Mongolia), University of Tehran (Iran), Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (Germany), Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail, Université Toulouse 1 Sciences Sociales (France), The University of Sheffield (U.K), University of Cape Town (Republic of South Africa). Approximately 288 students from 45 countries now study at this University.

※ Institution names underlined part are those with which the University of the Ryukyus has academic exchange agreements for inter-faculty exchanges.

The University, since its establishment, has endeavored to cultivate persons of ability who will contribute to international cooperation and the development of society. With that experience, and its geographical and historical backgrounds, the University aspires to be an international university open to South-East Asia, and the Pan-Pacific region and also its own local community.

Tropical Biosphere Research Center

This Center aims to carry out research on aspects of biodiversity, coral reef ecology, the functional physiology of animals in coral reefs, applied plant science, the functional physiology of bioresources, and forest resource science. The Center consists of the Nishihara Station, Sesoko Station, and Iriomote Station. The Center has 24 professional members, three foreign visiting research fellows and five domestic visiting research fellows. Visiting scientists and students are also welcome. In 2009, this Center has been combined with Center of Molecular Biosciences (COMB), and the research area has been extended to include functional genomics, molecular biotechnology, bioremediation, immunobiology and molecular microbiology. The Center is dedicated to higher education and the promotion of research in the field of tropical biosciences at cellular and molecular levels. All equipment and facilities are, in principle, available for use by students and faculty members from every school and department on campus.

Computing and Networking Center

The Computing and Networking center aims to promote computer education and to offer information processing services such as E-mail and internet access to all students, faculty, and staff by administering several UNIX servers and campus computer network facilities. The center possesses three computer rooms in the Computing and Networking Center building and six other computer rooms on campus. Each computer room provides 20 to 50 personal computers with both Windows and Mac operating systems. The center also has more than 30 personal computers for student use in the University Library. Students need a user ID for computer access; user ID application forms can be obtained from and submitted to the center. The campus network (RAINS: Ryukyu Academic Information Network System) is available on campus at 10 gbps bandwidth and connects to each room by means of 100base-T. RAINS is connected to the Internet via SINET (Science Information Network) at 1 gbps bandwidth.

Radioisotope Laboratory

The main equipment of the Laboratory includes a low-background automatic beta counting system (Aloka LBC-4211), several GM scalers (Aloka TDC-102, 103, and 105), a liquid-scintillation counting system (Aloka LSC-6100), a NAIG multichannel pulse height analyzer, and a TN pulse height analyzer with a multichannel scaling system. Altogether, 18 nucleides of up to 6.17937 GBq/year have been licensed by the Science and Technology Agency.

Low Temperature Center

Liquid helium (-269°C) and liquid nitrogen (-196°C) are manufactured in the Low Temperature Center and are supplied to users in the University of the Ryukyus. The Center also supports and promotes research and education in the field of low temperature.

University Library

The University library is situated at the very center of the university campus. We are an open stack library equipped with the "OPAC: Online Public Access Catalog" book search engine system and our collection consists of nearly 962,000 vols.

Currently we subscribe to 7,000 Japanese and foreign periodicals as well as 17 newspapers. Further-

more 10,000 titles of electronic journals and 14 subscribed databases are accessible via our website. The library provides seating space for 956 users and is well equipped with seminar rooms, a satellite broadcasting room for foreign students, and single study rooms, which are available for intensive research by graduate students and faculty members.

The library opening hour is 8:30 to 22:00 on weekday, 10:00 to 20:00 on Saturday, Sunday and holiday.

Health Administration Center

The Center has four full-time staff members: a doctor, a counselor, and two nurses. It is ready to offer the campus community various health services, such as first-aid, health examination, and counseling in order to preserve and promote the health of the students as well as that of the academic and administrative staff.

Foreign Language Center

The Foreign Language Center provides language learning opportunities for all members of the University. It manages four language laboratories and carries audiovisual aids to promote language education and research in such foreign languages as English, French, German, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Indonesian, etc. In addition, the Center makes Japanese language learning materials available to foreign students studying at the University.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF OKINAWA PREFECTURE

Okinawa Prefecture consists of the main island and more than 60 other islands, both inhabited and uninhabited, with a total population of approximately 1.37 million people. Its capital city, Naha, is a busy center of commerce and is the gateway to mainland Japan and the rest of the world.

In winter, it never freezes. The minimum temperature rarely falls below 10 degrees Celsius. Typhoons or tropical cyclones are frequent in July to October. Owing to a warm ocean current, called the Kuroshio, most islands are surrounded with beautiful coral reefs which attracts numerous tourists from the mainland Japan and overseas.

Okinawa remained under U.S. control after the end of the Pacific War until its reversion to Japan in 1972. Although Okinawa is an integrated part of Japan, and Japanese is the language spoken by Okinawans, the culture of the islands maintains its unique traditions in many aspects such as the festivals, dancing, music, craft work, etc. The most commonly followed religion in Okinawa is ancestor worship, with elaborate family tombs being a common sight throughout the islands.