

Kyoto University

In 1897, Kyoto University was established in Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto as the country's second national university. Ever since its founding in this historical and cultural center, the university has worked towards the realization of a peaceful and harmonious international community while taking a dialogue-based free academic style as its foundation. Today, it boasts eighteen graduate schools, ten faculties, and thirteen research institutes. They span from the humanities and social sciences to science, engineering, life science, medicine, and pharmaceutical science. Kyoto University is one of the top research universities in Japan, as well as the alma mater of many scholars and researchers active on the international stage, including 11 Nobel Laureates, several Fields Medalists, and a Gauss Prize Winner. Visit our website at <https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/>.

KURA

The Kyoto University Research Administration Office (KURA) was launched in April 2012 with a grant from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. While at first it only had eight research administrators (referred to as URAs), after staff increases and restructuring, today it has grown into one of Japan's largest URA organizations. Our URAs are professionals that contribute to strategically strengthening the university's research capacities. They particularly keen to connect and link researchers from different disciplines and steer academic conversations towards joint and multidisciplinary research projects. The URAs are also part of efforts to strategize for the future research planning at Kyoto University. In particular, they aim to influence and help design the overall academic ambitions for the university and assemble institutional pathways by which Kyoto University can acquire a commanding international position.

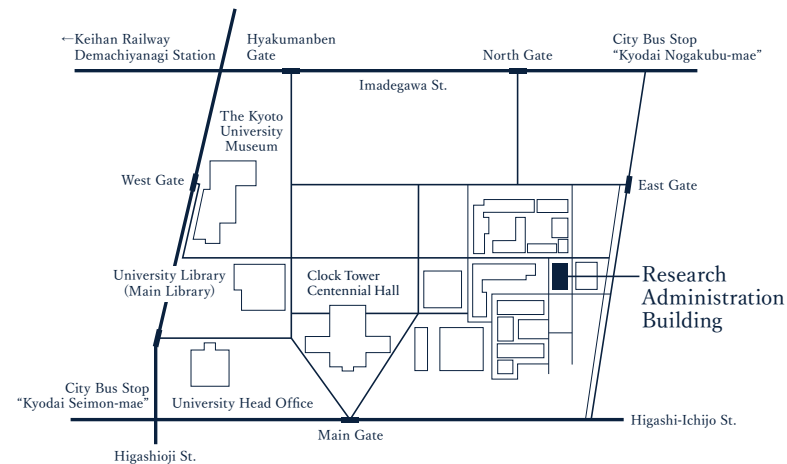
URAs in Japan

In recent years at Japanese universities, an excessive burden is being placed on scholars by work unrelated to their research. This is for various reasons, including the increased importance of securing external funding with national government university grants having been reduced. In order to ameliorate this situation, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology launched the Program for Training and Securing Research Administrators in 2011. Since this program began, many universities have adopted the URA system. Currently there are over one thousand URAs active in Japan, and a URA network organization has also appeared.

URAs are university research management personnel who have specialized research-related knowledge and experience. Recently, the roles sought from URAs are expanding to, for example, advancing collaboration between industry, government, and academia, as well as providing support in university management.

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Enhancing Research Capabilities

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