

KYOTO CITY UNIVERSITY OF ARTS



A Letter from the President

At the end of the 8th century, in 794, Heian-Kyo, the capital of Japan, was established here in Kyoto. Since that time, the city has seen the development and blossoming of a culture unique to Japan. Kyoto now retains the precious treasury of Japanese culture as she continues to inherit the tradition of artistic creation into the new millennium.


In the middle of the 19th century, in 1858, after more than two hundred years of self- imposed isolation, Japan finally opened her doors to the outside world. The raging billows of western civilization, carrying the experience of the Ages of Renaissance and of Revolution, surged over these secluded islands. Soon, in 1868, Japan moved its Emperor and capital from Kyoto to Edo, which was renamed Tokyo, or the East Capital.

In 1880, a new school of art was established in Kyoto and this was the beginning of what is now Kyoto City University of Arts as described in this prospectus. One hundred and twenty years of its history have been a continuous innovation in the higher education of art. In the future as in its past, an abiding pursuit of the creation of art based on the eternal love of beauty will continue to heighten the special quality of art education here in Kyoto, the cultural capital of Japan.

Watching young students on campus earnestly devoting themselves to the making of art and faculty encouraging the spirit of genuine creation, these lines from the poem Four Quartets by T. S. Eliot came to mind:

Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future
And time future contained in time past.
If all time is eternally present
All time is unredeemable.

Come visit us at Kyoto City University of Arts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yasunori Nishijima". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Yasunori Nishijima

Introduction

KCUA's continuing tradition is to attract and educate the next generation of outstanding artists in the creative fields of art and music, while maintaining flexibility in its vision to adjust to the changing conditions of contemporary society. The university is characterized by its intimate scale and a rich array of facilities and ample studio spaces. The large faculty to student ratio forms the basis for an intensive degree of personal tuition, and while the prevailing atmosphere on campus is free and respectful of a variety of viewpoints, self-motivated studio work forms the central pillar of the education system.

University Archive

The Archive started to acquire art works and artifacts for educational purposes in 1880 with the founding of the Kyoto Prefectural School of Painting. Some 3,500 students' graduation works acquired since 1894 and a wide variety of reference materials constitute the main body of the collection. It takes pride in its large selection of preparatory drawings from the Tosa School of Japanese painting. In addition to five annual exhibitions from its collection, the Archive also shows work at outside locations and loans to other museums and galleries.

University Library

The library features a large reading room, a piano studio where printed music can be played and a listening/screening room for recordings on various formats such as phonographic records, CDs, LDs and videos. The collection concentrates on books and journals specializing in arts and music, and include a large selection of exhibition catalogs. It also holds colotype and woodblock reproductions of Japanese picture scrolls. The library has several private collections of former faculty members including the Ogo and Nagasaki Collections.

University Calendar*

First Semester: April 1 to September 30

Summer Vacation: July 11 to September 10

Second Semester: October 1 to March 31

Winter Vacation: December 24 to January 7

Spring Vacation: Late February to April 10

Undergraduate Entrance Examination: Late February and early March

Graduate School Entrance Examination: Mid-October

Annual Exhibition: Mid-February

Regularly Scheduled Concerts: June, November, January

*Dates are subject to change without notice.

History

- 1880 Founding of Kyoto-Fu Gagakko (Kyoto Prefectural School of Painting) in the Kyoto Imperial Palace Grounds.
- 1889 Administration transferred to Kyoto City. Renamed Kyoto-Shi Gagakko (Kyoto City School of Painting).
- 1909 Authorized by the Ministry of Education. Renamed Kyoto-Shiritsu Kaiga Senmon Gakko (Kyoto City School of Painting).
- 1926 Moved to Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto.
- 1945 First female students admitted.
- 1950 Changed to Kyoto Shiritsu Bijutsu Daigaku (Kyoto City University of Art).
- 1952 Founding of Kyoto-Shiritsu Ongaku Tanki Daigaku (Kyoto City Junior College of Music) in Kita-ku, Kyoto.
- 1969 Renamed Kyoto-Shiritsu Geijutsu Daigaku (Kyoto City University of Arts) with the inclusion of Kyoto City Junior College of Music as the Faculty of Music.
- 1980 Moved to new grounds in Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto. Founding of the Graduate School of Art.
- 1986 Founding of the Graduate School of Music.
- 2000 Ph.D. Program to be established.

Number of Staff (as of April 1999)

Faculty of Fine Arts		Faculty of Music		Number of Students	902
Full Time Faculty	67	Full Time Faculty	23	Undergraduate	760
Professor	35	Professor	12	Fine Arts	520
Associate Professor	22	Associate Professor	10	Music	240
Assistant Professor	10	Assistant Professor	3	Graduate	142
Research Associate	0	Research Associate	0	Art	102
Part Time Faculty	115	Part Time Faculty	102	Music	40

Faculty of Fine Arts

The Faculty of Fine Arts is comprised of four divisions: Art, Design, Craft, and General Science of Art. Students elect one of these at the time of their application for admission and later choose a major within their division. The Art Division has five departments: Nihonga (Japanese-style Painting), Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, and Conceptual and Media Art. Visual Design, Environmental Design, and Product Design constitute the Design Division. The Craft Division's three departments are Ceramics, Urushi Lacquering, and Dyeing and Weaving. There are a total of twelve departments, each of which grants a B.A. Degree.

General Foundation Course

Incoming students are introduced to the fundamentals of artistic activity during their first six months. They are exposed to various practical and theoretical aspects of art by a broad spectrum of teaching staff before going on to the more specialized education of their chosen major in one of the four divisions.

Academic Studies

All students are required to take credits in academic subjects which are divided into three main groups: Culture, Science, and Science and History of Art. Each group is subdivided into Fundamental Lectures, Specialist Lectures, and Seminars. Students must take a number of requisite credits in one of the groups as well as elective credits in all these groups. The rest of the compulsory subjects are foreign languages such as English, French and German, and physical education. Courses in computer studies are also available. The total credits must reach a specified number for graduation. Teacher and curator certifications are granted on successful completion of relevant specialized courses.

Annual Exhibition

KCUA holds its annual exhibition in February at the Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art and on the university campus. All undergraduate and graduate students participate in this exhibition. Outstanding works are recognized with various awards.

International Exchange Study

There are three student exchange programs with: the Royal College of Art in London, United Kingdom, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Canada, and the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris, France.

Fine Art Division

In the Fine Art Division, there are five departments, all of which have their own foundation course. Students wishing to major in Nihonga must take the complete two-semester foundation course. Painting, sculpture and printmaking departments require a minimum of one semester enrollment in their foundation course. Conceptual and media art students are encouraged but not required to do the same.

1. Nihonga (Japanese-style Painting) Department

A strong emphasis is placed on mastering the fundamentals of traditional Japanese materials and techniques using principally natural subject matter such as flowers, vegetables, fruits, fish, birds and stones. The curriculum is designed so that students progress step by step through a highly structured training to a self-motivated project in their final year. There is also a studio for copying classical art.

2. Painting Department

On the foundation course, students study a broad spectrum of painting disciplines through project-based assignments covering figuration to abstraction. They then elect to enter one of three separate studios each of which has a distinct curriculum: painting from direct observation, figurative to abstract painting, diverse and experimental modes of expression. A studio for fresco and wall painting is also available.

3. Sculpture Department

Students in their foundation year are grounded in the basics of sculpture such as the theories and techniques of space, modeling and use of material. The three curricula are divided by an emphasis on natural sources, materiality, and concepts of site and environment. There are six main studios, each defined by a particular material: metal, casting, wood, stone, resin, and ceramics.

4. Printmaking Department

On the foundation course, students experiment with and acquire basic printmaking skills. Among the specialized areas of study are lithography, etching, silkscreen, woodcut, relief, and photographic techniques. Students are free to work in a multiple of these areas.

5. Conceptual and Media Art Department

The planning core of this department is based on the three areas of media, image and material, each of which evolves into eight possible modes of expression: computer graphics and animation, video, simulation and visualization, multi-media installation, sound and environment, body and performance, telecommunications, and interactivity.

Design Division

Design Foundation Course

The three design departments share this one-and-a-half-year course in which students study lettering, drawing, drafting, photography, silkscreen and wood working through daily and weekly assignments. It is taught by all the design faculty on a rotating basis.

1. Visual Design Department

The central curriculum is based on visual communication making use of digital and analog printing media. Art direction and conceptual development skills are also acquired through training in marketing and presentation expertise. There are also courses in related subjects such as glass and textiles.

2. Environmental Design Department

Students are introduced to the theory and practice of planning and design of environments. The assignment-based curriculum covers disciplines ranging from furniture, interior design, architecture and landscaping to town planning. Students concentrate on one area for their graduation project.

3. Product Design Department

The design of household items, electronics, automobiles, machinery and equipment in all their aspects of use, durability, manufacture and distribution are studied through project assignments. Field trips to factories and design laboratories are an important part of the curriculum.

Craft Division

The Craft Division is divided into three departments: Ceramics, Urushi Lacquering, and Dyeing and Weaving. Students have a choice of three specialized courses after finishing the craft foundation course.

1. Ceramics Department

After the ceramic foundation course, students are required to enter one of three specialized studios. The first one concentrates on the functional aspects of ceramics such as tableware. The second one explores ancient, traditional and contemporary techniques before students embark on individualized expression. The third studio is concerned with experimental uses of ceramics challenging established norms.

2. Urushi Lacquering Department

Upon finishing the urushi lacquering foundation course, students have a choice of two studios. The first studio teaches techniques relevant to inlay, maki-e, ornamentation and pictorial decoration. The second studio, while grounded in understanding the particular nature of conventional and unconventional materials, encourages individual exploration and innovation.

3. Dyeing and Weaving Department

The one-year foundation course prepares students for entry into a studio of their choice. The first two studios follow the same curriculum but are differentiated by the two techniques of stencil dyeing and wax resist dyeing. The curriculum includes instruction in the making of traditional Japanese apparel. In contrast, weaving is the principal focus of the third studio. It starts from thread making and encompasses felt, macramé and basketry. Textile art and industrial product development are important features of the studio.

General Science of Art Division

The two distinctive characteristics of this newly established division lie in the inclusion of studio practice in the structure of an academic course, and in the educational aim of going beyond fixed notions of critical theory in response to rapidly changing social conditions. The academic curriculum is built around three core seminar groups: History and Theory of Art, Cultural Theory, and Art and Society.

Graduate School of Art

Two-year master degree programs are offered in all the undergraduate fields and the Science of Art. Although built on the bachelor curriculum, a much stronger emphasis is placed on personally motivated research with a high expectation of professionalism. All students are assigned a personal tutor who oversees their entire program of study. Students are also required to take academic credits for graduation from a choice of courses in theory and history of art as well as liberal arts.

Science of Art

Unlike the undergraduate program, the Science of Art graduate program concentrates solely on academic research. Fields of study include Aesthetics, Science of Art, History of Japanese Art, History of Asian Art, History of Western Art, History of Crafts, Theory of Design, and Theory of Art Education.

Foreign Students

There are two programs available for foreign students: Non-Degree Research Program and Graduate Degree Program. A minimum of one-year study in the Non-Degree Research Program is required before admission to a Graduate Degree Program. Eligibility and requirements for admissions to the Non-Degree Research Program are as follows.

Admission to Non-Degree Research Program

1. Persons qualified for admission to the Graduate School of Arts must have a sufficient command of the Japanese language and meet one of the following conditions:
 - a) to have finished an undergraduate course in a college or a university.
 - b) to have finished a school education for 16 years outside Japan.
 - c) to be a recipient of the Japanese Government Scholarship.
 - d) to be recognized by the KCUA Graduate School as having qualifications equal to those of an undergraduate degree.
2. The applicant should submit to the university the following documents:
 - a) Application form.
 - b) Official transcripts of Bachelor's Degree certification and academic records.
 - c) Research proposal.
 - d) Portfolio of slides or photographs, or a copy of graduation thesis.
 - e) Certificate of Japanese language proficiency.
 - f) Letter of recommendation.
 - g) Health certificate.
 - h) Letter from a guarantor in Japan and evidence of financial independence.
 - i) Four portrait photographs (4cm × 4cm).
3. Regarding schedule, for April admission, the application should be mailed between October 1 and 31; for October admission, between April 1 and 30. Applicants for April admission will be notified of final decisions in November, and for October admission, in May. The period of attendance for foreign research students is limited to two years. The academic year is from April 1 to March 31. The first semester is from April to September and the second semester, from October to March.
4. KCUA offers no financial aid or living accommodation either on or off campus.
5. Tuition (as of April 1999): 469,200 yen per year or 234,600 yen per semester. Registration Fee: 82,500 yen, to be paid on admission. Additional costs for materials, living expenses and accommodation must be considered.

Faculty of Music

With a commitment to quality, the Faculty of Music concentrates on the acquisition of the higher techniques of artistic expression and creativity required of a professional musician. It offers individual lessons in specialized studies and second instruments, group lessons in supplementary studies and a wide range of lectures and seminars in musicology, theory of music and other academic studies related to musical performance. The students' education is enhanced by guest lectures and recitals by distinguished visiting artists.

The Bachelor of Arts Degree requires four years of study. All students take up one of six specialized departments from their first year. There are lectures and seminars in subjects applicable for teaching careers which are open to all.

The six departments are as follows.

1. Composition.
2. Conducting.
3. Piano.
4. Strings, composed of Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass.
5. Winds and Percussions, composed of Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, and Percussions.
6. Vocal Music.

Concerts

Three regular concerts are held annually: two orchestral and choral in the Kyoto City Concert Hall, and one solos and ensembles in the University Auditorium. A graduation concert is given in March where a small number of selected students are given a chance to perform or to have their compositions performed. Each Department gives one extramural concert sponsored by the Society for the Promotion of Art Education which attracts a large audience of music lovers from far and wide. There are also occasional operatic productions on varying scales.

The faculty encourages students to engage in their own concert activities in which they perform various kinds of instrumental and vocal music. More than thirty student concerts are given every year on Tuesday evenings in the University Auditorium.

Graduate School of Music

The two-year master's program provides a highly specialized musical education and training which produces researchers, composers and performers with the highest academic, artistic and technical expertise. The School of Music takes pride in acknowledging that many of our alumni have been making a significant contribution both to the academic world and to the musical scene in Japan and abroad.

The Graduate School of Music has three departments that offer seven majors:

1. Composition and Musicology.
2. Instrumental Music, consisting of Piano, Strings, Winds, Percussions.
3. Vocal Music.

To complete the two-year master's program, composition students must write an original musical score, musicology students, a thesis, while instrumental and vocal students are required to give a public recital. All graduate students must either submit a supplementary thesis or give a supplementary recital.

Foreign students

There are two programs available for foreign students:

1. 2-year Non-Degree Research Program.
2. 2-year Degree Program.

The Graduate School of Music has so far received graduate students from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Norway, and the Republic of Peru.

The Research Centre for Japanese Traditional Music is scheduled to open in April, 2000, and a close cooperation with the Faculty of Music is expected to further expand and diversify the study of music at this university.

For further details, please refer to the office of the Graduate School of Music.



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