

Report on the Department of International Programs (Admissions Office and G30 Program), 2019-2020

Matthew Linley¹

Department of International Programs, International Education and Exchange Center
Nagoya University

This report summarizes the activities between April 2019 and the end of March 2020 of the Department of International Programs in the International Education and Exchange Center at Nagoya University². I focus on the Department's collaboration with the International Admissions Office (AO). Together, these two organizations coordinate the G30 program with the central administration and individual schools and graduate schools. They also recruit students, manage procedures for admissions, scholarships, and visas. In September and October, faculty members and staff provide orientation and support the enrollment of incoming students. This report focuses on activities related to the undergraduate program³.

The G30 Program, 2019-2020

The G30 Program is the moniker for Nagoya University's English-taught full degree undergraduate and graduate programs. In 2019, the G30 program welcomed three new faculty members in the Graduate School of Economics, the Graduate School of Law and the Graduate School of Mathematics. The program changed in one fundamental way in 2019. The School of Engineering offered a G30 undergraduate program for the last time. The new G30 undergraduate Physics program integrates the two programs from the Schools of Science and Engineering into a single program in the School of Science. The G30 Program continues to encourage Japanese students to join G30 classes under the auspices of

the Nagoya University English as a Medium of Instruction (NU-EMI) project. This program has expanded with more Japanese students auditing and taking G30 classes for credit. They select classes from the list of G30 courses. After enrolling or deciding to audit, the class instructor assigns a G30 student to tutor those students who requested help. The G30 students provide both course content and English language support. The number of Japanese students taking part in the NU-EMI project increased from 91 (Fall 2018), to 108 (Spring 2019), to 133 (Fall 2019). In 2020, the novel coronavirus crisis has prevented Japanese students from going abroad. As a result, Japanese students interested in NU-EMI increased sharply in Spring 2020. Though not a substitute for study abroad, this project allows Japanese students to experience classes in their subject area taught in English.

Since February 2020, the COVID-19 crisis has caused problems with the delivery of classes to the G30 Program. The crisis began during the winter break for G30 students. Most had remained in Japan, but several had returned to their home country. An unofficial survey by the Department of International Programs suggested that approximately 15-20% of G30 undergraduate students were outside of Japan and unable to return to start the 2020 Spring semester. Since April 2020, Nagoya University offered only online classes for Spring 2020 semester. This allowed the G30 students unable to return to Japan to continue pursuing their degree with

¹ Please address any questions to linley.matthew@j.mbox.nagoya-u.ac.jp

² The Author wishes to thank Ayumi Kojima, Sophia Pabhakar, Marion Kinder, and Yoichi Oda for their help in preparing this report.

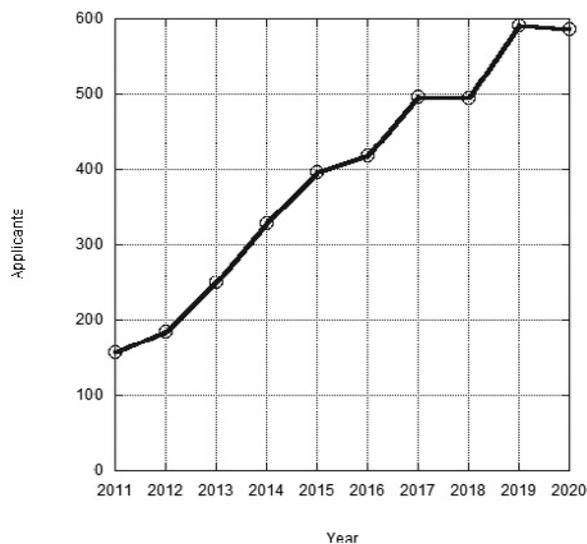
³ Admissions to the G30 graduate programs are the responsibility of each graduate school.

minimum interruptions. Although it is uncertain how the rest of the semester will go, at the time of writing this report, G30 students and faculty members have adapted to the new reality of online classes.

Admissions

As the admissions period for the G30 program is from November to June, the COVID-19 crisis posed an obstacle only in the second round of interviews. Figure 1 displays the number of applicants to the G30 undergraduate program from 2011 to 2019.

Figure 1: Number of Applicants to G30 Undergraduate Program, 2011-2019



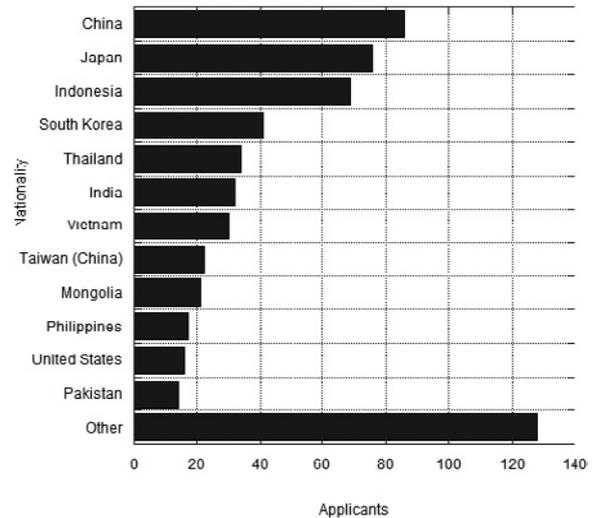
Source: International Admissions Office, Nagoya University

In nine years, the number of applicants has increased from about 150 to almost 600. The number of submitted applications was about the same as the previous year. Given the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we expect the number of applications to fall in the 2020 to 2021 period. Limited flights, government travel restrictions, economic difficulties in households, and uncertainty about delivering classes may discourage students from considering a full degree in another country.

As seen in Figure 2, most applicants to the G30 program in 2019 were from Northeast and Southeast Asia. This is

consistent with previous years.

Figure 2: Number of Applicants to G30 Undergraduate Programs by Nationality, 2019



Source: International Admissions Office, Nagoya University

The greatest number of applicants to the undergraduate programs were from China, Japan, and Indonesia. The United States was the only non-Asian country with 15 or more applicants. Although the United States ranked sixth in 2018, it dropped to eleventh spot in 2019. Thailand ranked eighth as a source of applicants in 2018 but rose to fifth place in 2019. The reason might be increased efforts by the AO to recruit students at Thai schools. Meanwhile, the overall number of applicants from the Philippines did not rank in the top ten in 2018 but ranked tenth in 2019. Still, despite AO efforts to make the G30 program more global, awareness and interest in the program remains stubbornly regional.

Recruiting

The Department of International Programs and the AO focused recruiting activities in 2019 on science schools in Southeast Asia and India.

Off-Campus Activities

Off-campus recruiting for the G30 program in 2019 included visiting schools, attending school and education fairs, and international professional development

meetings. Three trends pose challenges to future G30 recruitment. First, the total number of people around the world studying abroad remains high, but the rate of growth is slowing. One reason is that Chinese students now have more options for studying at domestic institutions. Second, North American, and European universities are aggressively recruiting students in Vietnam. This will make it more difficult to recruit good students from leading schools in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Third, more top Japanese universities are starting to become involved in international recruitment of undergraduate students. The G30 program needs to compete not only with private universities but increasingly with other national universities as well.

School Visits

Since 2011, the Department of International Programs and AO has built personal and professional networks with high school guidance counselors. Table 1 shows the activities of the AO during last year's primary recruiting period between July and November 2019.

During this period, the AO visited 130 schools. The most schools visited in a single country was the United States (45). Staff also traveled to schools in Vietnam (16), Singapore (14), Thailand (13) and China (12). After the CIS Forum in Spain, a Department of International Programs staff member visited schools in the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia, and Belgium.

School and Education Fairs

Compared to past years, staff and faculty members attend fewer fairs because they have not been an important source of enrollees to the G30 program. Most G30 students discover the program using the Internet or through personal recommendations. Still, the AO attends fairs when the cost is reasonable. As Table 2 shows, Nagoya joined fairs in Singapore, India, Thailand (twice), the United Arab Emirates, and Spain. The most important annual fair is the IACAC high school and college fair. In July 2019, it was at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada⁴. Attendees included 535 secondary school counselors from 82 countries⁵.

Table 1: School Visits by Month and Country, City or Region, 2019-2020

ID	Year	Month	Country/Region	School Visits	Conference/Fair
				130	
1	2019	April	Singapore	7	GUCC (2.5 days)
2	2019	July	Malaysia	12	
3	2019	July	Singapore	10	
4	2019	July	Canada	0	IACAC (4 days)
5	2019	August	India	5	IC3 Conference
6	2019	August	Australia	3	
7	2019	September	Taiwan (China)	1	
8	2019	September	Hong Kong (China)	9	
9	2019	September	Thailand	8	CIS EARCOS (2 days)
10	2019	September	Vietnam	7	
11	2019	October	USA	45	
12	2019	October	United Arab Emirates	1	NAJAH Fair (3 days)
13	2019	October	Vietnam	7	
14	2019	October	Japan (Nagoya)	1	
15	2019	November	Netherlands	2	
16	2019	November	Germany	9	
17	2019	November	Spain	0	CIS Forum
18	2019	November	Croatia	1	
19	2019	November	Belgium	2	
20	2020	February	Thailand	0	Japan International Student/Work Fair

Source: International Admissions Office, Nagoya University

⁴ <https://www.internationalacac.org/conference-2018>

⁵ https://www.internationalacac.org/assets/Conference2018/2018%20conference%20press%20release_draft%20final.pdf

Professional Development

The International Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) is the most important annual meeting for high school counselors and university admissions officers. Three Nagoya University staff and faculty members attended the annual July event in London, Ontario, Canada. IACAC scheduled the 2020 event in Albuquerque, New Mexico but because of the COVID-19 crisis, they will hold it online. The other important professional development meeting was in November 2019. The Council of International Schools (CIS) held their annual meeting in Bilbao, Spain⁶. One representative attended from the Department of International Programs

On-Campus Activities

While international recruiting and admissions need off-campus activities, the AO maintains a strategy for recruiting students using on-campus resources.

G30 Website

The AO continues to maintain and develop the English and Japanese-language G30 Nagoya University websites⁷. There were no significant updates in 2019. However, the AO opened a new English language G30 alumni portal in the summer of 2019. This allows staff to contact former students and let them know when they will visit a city. Although international travel remains on hold because of the coronavirus outbreak, the AO hopes to host future informal gatherings with alumni.

Social Media

The AO also manages social media accounts for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Staff announce information about recruiting and admissions, and post news stories published in English language media. As of June 2,

2020, The Nagoya University public Facebook page had 8533 followers (7 444 followers a year earlier); Twitter had 761 followers (742 followers a year earlier); and Instagram had 631 followers (436 followers a year earlier).

Blog

The AO blog publishes brief essays by G30 students describing their academic and student life in Nagoya⁸. Unfortunately, the AO has not posted a blog post since June 2019. The AO in 2020 will increase the frequency of blog posts.

Campus Visitors

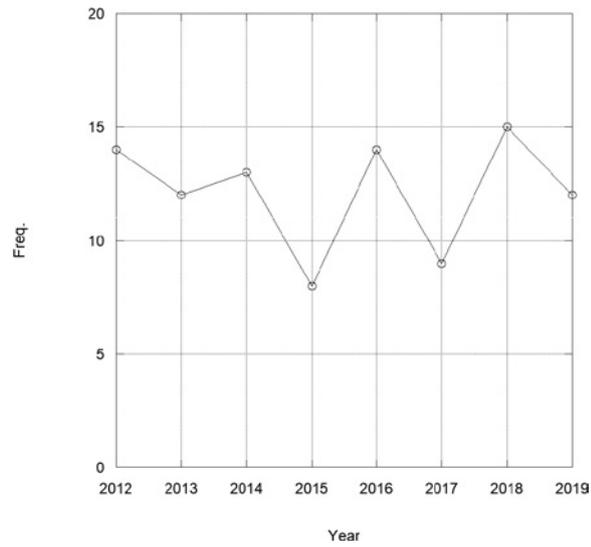
The AO welcomes potential applicants, their parents, and high school teachers and counselors to the Nagoya University campus. Staff and faculty members receive both individual visitors and groups of high school students. Figure 3 shows the annual number of groups visiting the admissions office. The number of annual visits every year ranges from eight to fifteen. In 2019, there were 12 group visits. Between April and November, 40 individuals or families inquired about the G30 program at the Nagoya University Higashiyama Campus. Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, unfortunately, the AO has refused in-person visitors.

⁶ <https://www.cois.org/colleges-and-universities/student-recruitment/europe>

⁷ <https://admissions.g30.nagoya-u.ac.jp/>

⁸ <https://nagoyauniversityao.wordpress.com/>

Figure 3: Group Visitors to Campus, 2012-2019



Source: International Admissions Office, Nagoya University

Conclusion

This report has summarized the activities of the Department of International Programs in the International Education and Exchange Center at Nagoya University. The G30 program continues to play an essential part in internationalizing education at Nagoya University. The Department of International Programs will continue to work with the International Admissions Office to coordinate the G30 program and the administration of admissions and international student recruitment.