

平成27年度情報科学研究科・情報文化学部 留学生相談室状況報告

国際教育交流センター教育交流部門

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1 Independently Financed Research Students Application Improvements

Most of the work of the International Student Advisor revolves around applications from Independently Financed Research Students. Students who are approved via the MEXT scholarship are independently vetted, yet independently financed students and students with other sources of funding are vetted individually in the School of Informatics and Science and the Graduate School of Information Science. During the 2014 academic year Skype interviews were conducted with all students, however each student submitted a different set of documents and a different set of information. Therefore, information obtained in Skype interviews was impossible to verify until the formal application documents were received just before the final deadline. Given this situation, the Post Graduate School Section and the International Student Advisor decided to request a standard set of documents prior to the Skype interview during the 2015 academic year.

First, students were requested to submit their transcripts, research plan, and proof of Japanese/English ability before the interview. Second, students were asked to submit a standardized “Entry Sheet”, which is similar to Entry Sheets given by other Nagoya University Schools. Third, students were asked to submit a “Questionnaire,” stating why they wished to study in Japan, at Nagoya University, and why they wished to study with their prospective professor. Moreover, they were asked to state how they would be financially supporting themselves.

The Skype interview would then be conducted referring to all the above documents. In conversation with

professors after the interview, several professors noted that prior to the interview they did not know what to ask prospective students, but were very impressed with the standard set of Interview Questions. Having a set list of questions, and the addition of the questionnaire sheet allows professors to have a more meaningful conversation with their prospective students regarding the content of their prospective study.

Record keeping in the School of Informatics and Science and Graduate School of Information Science has been an important goal for the current International Student Advisor. Given there were no documents showing how students were evaluated prior to arrival or guided while students at Nagoya University prior to the current International Student Advisor’s term of employment, the International Student Advisor relied heavily on both the Post Graduate School Section of the Office and working groups of her fellow International Student Advisors in devising an appropriate application system.

The seven applicants for April 2016 entry completed their applications with far less mistakes and far quicker after the changes to create the 2015 edition of the application guidelines and application forms. Students were also given more information regarding when they would hear results and dates of enrollment if accepted on the newly created application guidelines.

Currently the International Student Advisor is creating a webpage devoted to Independently Financed International Students (Japanese and English). Students will be able to view the list of documents required prior to Skype interview and the deadlines for students living in Japan and abroad, among other important information.

The webpage has been approved by the Enrollment Committee, and has gone live.

2 Student Advising

After arriving in April 2015, new students were invited to come to the International Student Advising office one by one to take their Information Security Training and Information Security Self Check to ensure that all students completed the requirements. As of 2015, the international students of School of Informatics and Science and Graduate School of Information Science have one of the highest compliance rates throughout the university. One of the difficulties for new students who arrived in April of 2015 was being unable to open a Japanese bank account. The International Student Advisor is currently researching banking institutions that will allow foreign students who have just arrived to open banks.

In April 2015 and October 2015, arriving students were invited to the School of Information Science and Graduate School of Science Guidance. As there were no materials prior to 2014, materials provided by Professor Watanabe were updated and added to for the April 2015 guidance. All materials were provided in English and Japanese, which was sorely needed given the fact that several students in both the April and October guidance do not read or speak Japanese fluently enough to read the Japanese materials. Also a new addition to the guidance was a tour of the Information Science Library facility. The Central Library has orientations frequently in English, Chinese, and Japanese, but there are no orientations for the Information Science Library so students receive a special advantage and a quick look at a facility that will become very important to them while studying at Nagoya University.

During the 2015 school year, many current and prospective students have contacted the International Student Advising Office. Individual student advising has included one on one conversations and emails with students about many facets of life in Japan, including supermarkets and Japanese food, housing, scholarships, classes

available, and more. Each semester, the International Student Advising Office has distributed a flyer containing a welcome message and the Advising Office location, phone number, and email to all incoming students as well as to each professor in the Graduate School (See appendix).

平成27年10月現在状況：

	平成27年4月 入学	平成27年10月 入学	合計
私費 研究生	6	14	19
国費 研究生		1	1
NUPACE 学部生		4	4
国費 大学院研究生	1	2	3
私費 大学院研究生	3		3
単位互換科目履修生	2		2
特別研究生(12月入学)		1	1
合計	12	22	34

3 Activities in the School of Informatics and Science and the Graduate School of Information Science

On May 12, 2015, the first School of Informatics and Science and Graduate School of Information Science “Information Session about Studying Abroad” was held. Nineteen students participated and this was great turnout for the inaugural session. At the Information Session, Akinari HOSHINO from the Study Abroad Office led the session with talks about their real life experiences by three students from the Undergraduate and Graduate School. Later in the year, on November 9 and 10, two students sought out the International Student Advisor for advice on their applications. The meeting raised awareness of both the Study Abroad Program and the International Student Advising Office. (see photos below)

On May 13th and 14th “Tutor Guidance” was held for new and existing tutors. As no materials existed for Tutor Guidance prior to 2014, Professor Rumi Watanabe created materials and conducted the October 2014 guidance. Professor Watanabe’s materials were updated and added to for the May 2015 guidance. For the May guidance, I introduced the new theme of “culture shock.”



Though it may seem strange to discuss culture shock with students living in the country they were born and raised in, as tutors their tutee may experience culture shock and they should be prepared to help their tutee.

Bimonthly reports of the International Student Advising Office's activities were submitted to the International Education and Exchange Office as well as a yearly report submitted to the Graduate School of Information Science. This annual report was edited and published in the 名古屋大学国際教育交流センター紀要.

4 Activities Related to International Students On Campus

As a member of the International Education and Exchange Center, the International Student Advisor participated in the Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 Campus Wide International Student Orientations. In the Spring Orientation, I was in charge of the English version of the Insurance and Residence System sections. Over the next six months I was a part of the Orientation Working Group and suggested many improvements (including the use of a "clicker") and created and translated all English content. During the Fall 2015 orientation, the English orientation was switched to morning and both orientations were lengthened. The new innovation, the "clicker" allowed each student to answer quiz questions and see the results in real time. Participation rates for the clicker were over 90% of the audience and showed that many students had incorrect assumptions or knowledge about laws and procedures in Japan. It is hoped that the use of the clicker will improve comprehension

of the important daily life information given during the 2.5 hour long orientation session.

As an International Student Advisor, I have also participated in student focused activities, including a trip to Gifu to see Ukai (cormorant fishing) with Nagoya University International Students. (see photos below)

5 Working Group Activities Etc.

The International Student Advisor is currently participating in several working groups on campus including the Campus Wide Orientation Working Group, Research Student System and Graduate School Entrance Exam Working Group, and the Resident Assistant Handbook Working Group. Details regarding the Campus Wide Orientation WG may be found above.

Meetings with the Research Student System and Graduate School Entrance Exam working group have been extremely educational given the broad range of experiences in the different departments. Advisors have been able to share information regarding application methods, application forms, and interview methods. Several of the methods and forms introduced in the Working Group have already been applied in the School of Informatics and Science and Graduate School of Information Science as noted above. Moreover, the fact that nearly every department in Nagoya University had a website devoted to information for prospective research students spurred the International Student Advisor to create the new website.



The International Student Advisor has also participated in an information-gathering mission to Hokkaido University and a recruitment mission to two Universities in China. The information-gathering mission took place on September 10 and 11 with Professor Watanabe and Professor Zeng. The International Student Advisor took part in all meetings and created a pictorial view of Hokkaido University facilities upon return. The recruitment mission to China took place between November 15 and 18 and the International Student Advisor gave a thirty-minute “mock lecture” on the Illustrated Tale of Genji fragments held in Tokugawa Museum in Nagoya at both Kitsurin University and Northwestern University. More than 150 students attended the first lecture and approximately 40 students attended the second.

The Resident Assistant Handbook Working Group has been working on creating a handbook for Resident Assistants in Nagoya University dormitories for international students. The International Student Advisor has been in charge of creating an appendix with general information including a glossary of terms related to international students, maps, phone and email lists, and lists of clinics and hospitals nearby the international student dormitories.

The International Student Advisor continued to participate in the Open CourseWare Steering Committee, supervise the English website content, and oversee and hire translation staff. On April 8, 2015 the International Student Advisor attended the New Faculty Guidance, which introduced the Faculty mentor program, and the “JSPS Application Aid Office.” The International Stu-

dent Advisor successfully applied for the JSPS Grant-in-Aid Start-Up and was accepted for the 2015-2016 year. The applicant received substantial financial aid to begin a research project cataloguing pre-modern Japanese books in American collections.

6 Conclusion

During the 2016 year, it is the International Student Advisor’s hope to continue the improvements to advising and orientation for international students. Now that its efficacy has been confirmed in student surveys, future Campus Wide Orientations will see more use of the “clicker.”

In conclusion, the 2015 year has included many changes for the School of Informatics and Science and Graduate School of Information Science International Student Advising Office, but we can be sure that the students are being better advised and better prepared for their life in Nagoya with the current improvements in orientation and creation of a new webpage. Already the effects of the webpage can be seen in the unprecedented number of applicants for April and October 2016 entry. Plans for the 2016-year include the introduction of credit card payment for the application fee for Privately-Financed Research Students and other ways to support the increasing numbers of International Students in the Faculty of Informatics and the Graduate School of Information Science.