

Common indicators and targets

Internationalization

Promotion of study abroad opportunities for Japanese students (reopening of study abroad/effective use of online tools)

- With the easing of travel restrictions, on-site study abroad programs that had been previously restricted have resumed. Along with newly launched programs, 17 training sessions were held in summer and 22 in spring, with over 610 participants in total.
- Continuing from the previous year, the university participated in the COIL-type education project of the "Forum for Promoting University Internationalization" centered on Kansai University, providing modules (course groups).
- Three new countries were added to the list of international partner universities, expanding the network to 260 universities in 68 countries and regions.

Enhancing support for international students

- Held a signing ceremony to renew the agreement for the "UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP)," a graduate school recommendation admission system for refugees in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Japan and the Japan UNHCR Association.
- In collaboration with the Pathways Japan (PJ) and the Japan ICU Foundation, the university accepted five Ukrainian students who wished to continue their studies in Japan amid the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.



Signing Ceremony of the Agreement with UNHCR for the "UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program"

Activities of overseas offices

- As part of the efforts under the Top Global University Project, the university established the "Soka University Thailand Office" at Thammasat University in 2014. In 2023, a joint seminar was held with the university on the theme of "Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution in Modern Society."

Promotion for international students

- Signed an MOU with Delhi Public School (Bangalore) in India. Conducted recruitment activities in 2023, resulting in four students being admitted to the university through the designated school recommendation system in 2024.



Delhi Public School, Bangalore: The high school in India where a designated school recommendation system was established

Governance reform

Utilization of the cross-appointment system

- By utilizing the cross-appointment system, the university has been able to recruit a larger number of international faculty members in a more flexible manner for both parties. The system was launched in 2023, with 34 cross-appointment agreements concluded.

Full-fledged activities using BEVI

- Signed an MOU with the International Beliefs and Values Institute (IBAVI), which promotes activities using BEVI, and established a Japan branch at the university in 2022. BEVI assessments have been continuously implemented for students participating in study abroad programs and have been extended to all first-year students from 2022 onward to measure their achievement of diploma policies. Regular BEVI assessments will be conducted to analyze students' growth over time.

Educational reform

Introduction of a "Sub-major: SDGs"

- From 2022, a section on the relationship with SDGs has been added to the syllabus, allowing students to identify links between courses and the 17 SDG goals and take courses of their interest. From 2023, the university launched a sub-major program allowing students to study specialized SDG-related courses in addition to the curriculum of their major field of study.
- The "SDGs Good Practice" system was also introduced to recognize and support student groups' initiatives with significant contributions or high feasibility in achieving SDGs.

Initiatives to foster global perspectives

- Continuing from the previous year, the university held a series of lectures titled "Soka Global Perspectives," providing opportunities to deepen global knowledge. Distinguished speakers included the Vice President of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, ambassadors from India, Nepal, and Rwanda, among others.
- In July 2024, a "Kickoff Symposium" was held as part of the post-SGU initiative. Melissa Parke, Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), delivered the keynote lecture.



Lecture by Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan

Lectures by the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- With ambassadors from SADC member countries to Japan as guest lecturers, the university held SADC lectures, now in their second year since their introduction in 2022.

■ University's own indicators and targets

○ The number of students advancing to overseas graduate schools

- A total of 63 students advanced to overseas graduate schools. Major destinations included the University of Sussex (UK), Oregon State University (USA), Soka University of America (USA), and Tsinghua University (China).

○ The number of students reaching the standards of proficiency in a foreign language other than English

- Financial support for exam fees is provided to students who achieve a certain level in multilingual language proficiency tests (languages other than English and Japanese).

○ Raising the motivation of students, faculty, and staff through the campaign for the project's final year

- To address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, campaigns were conducted. Specifically, the number of students participating in overseas programs significantly declined due to travel restrictions. In response, the university increased the number of short-term programs and provided financial support for overseas training costs. Additionally, due to a drop in motivation caused by study abroad restrictions, efforts were made to encourage foreign language proficiency by subsidizing intensive TOEIC courses and adding prizes to the awards system. Various courses and events were also linked to the campaign.

■ Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the University

○ Enhancement of collaborative research and partnership with exchange universities and institutions in Japan and overseas

- Since 2017, the university has co-hosted an academic symposium, "Peace Forum," with Kyungnam University (Korea) and Chinese Culture University (Taiwan), aimed at promoting joint research for peace in Asia and the world. In 2023, the forum was held at Soka University under the theme "Pathways to Cooperation and Coexistence."
- As a key research hub, the Faculty of International Liberal Arts at Soka University established the "Malaysia Research Center." This center collaborates with Malaysian universities such as the University of Malaya, National University of Malaysia, University of Science Malaysia, and International Islamic University Malaysia to research the coexistence of diverse ethnicities, religions, and cultures from a humanities and social sciences perspective. In 2023, the center held an opening ceremony and a commemorative seminar.
- The university signed an academic exchange agreement with the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and held a signing ceremony.



Peace Forum: Scenes from the event held at Soka University

○ Hosting the ASAIHL Annual Meeting at Soka University

- Soka University has viewed Southeast Asia as: 1. A rapidly developing region (in terms of population and economic growth) and 2. An environment conducive to fostering global talent (with diverse cultures, religions, and histories). Since joining the ASAIHL (Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning) in 1983, Soka University hosted the ASAIHL Annual Meeting in June 2023.



ASAIHL (Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning) Annual Meeting: Group Photo

○ Hosting the Holocaust Exhibition at Soka University

- In July 2023, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Soka University hosted the exhibition *Testimonies of Courage: The Holocaust, Anne Frank, and Chiune Sugihara's Choices*. The event aimed to highlight the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with an opening address by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Vice President of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, emphasizing solidarity in promoting a culture of human rights.

○ Rankings and Achievements

- In the QS Asia University Rankings 2024 (announced in November 2023), Soka University ranked: 72nd for international faculty (5th in Japan), 81st for outbound exchange students (3rd in Japan), 107th for inbound exchange students (6th in Japan), and 154th for international students (21st in Japan).
- In the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings (announced in June 2024), Soka University achieved: 201–300th for SDG 14: Life Below Water (tied for 4th among private universities), 301–400th for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production (tied for 4th among private universities), 401–600th for SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities (tied for 2nd among private universities), and 401–600th for SDG 13: Climate Action (tied for 8th among private universities).

■ Others

○ Student activities

- In the 1st SDGs *Good Practices* competition of 2023, a student from the Faculty of Business Administration won the Grand Prize in Type A (highly impactful initiatives). Their initiative, which involved starting a social business while studying at the university to address marine pollution, was highly commended.