



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY



Founded in 1876 as Sapporo Agricultural College, Hokkaido University is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious universities in Japan. Boasting one of the largest campuses in the country, the university houses cutting-edge research facilities, a university hospital, and a number of field research centers — including one of the world's largest research forests. Today, our researchers in the social and natural sciences, as well as in the humanities, are working towards the advancement of human knowledge and resolution of global issues through their outstanding work.

In Numbers (Data as of 2024)

Established in	1876
Students	17,920 (2,042 Int'l students from 99 countries/regions)
Faculty and Staff	3,937
Undergraduate Schools	12
Graduate Schools	21
Overseas Office	1 in Lusaka, Zambia
Alumni	247,058
International Academic Exchanges Agreements	763 (with partners in 73 countries/regions)

Key facts

- One of the first two higher education institutions in Japan to offer Bachelor's degrees.
- The largest university in Japan both by the number of schools, with 12 undergraduate and 21 graduate schools; and by area, covering a total of 660 km².
- Alumni include Inazo Nitobe, known internationally as the author of the book *Bushido: The Soul of Japan* (1900) and one of the first Under-Secretaries General of the League of Nations; Professor Emeritus Akira Suzuki, who was awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry; as well as Mamoru Mohri, the first Japanese astronaut.
- The campus is known for its seasonal beauty and was selected as Japan's most beautiful campus (*Asahi Shimbun*, 2009).
- Graduates of the University are considered the most impressive by Japanese employers (*Nikkei HR* and *Nikkei Inc.*, 2020 and 2021).
- Known for its motto "Be ambitious," taken from the words of the first Vice President of the college, William S. Clark, a renowned educator from Massachusetts, USA.
- Offers a wide variety of degree and non-degree programs for international students, including the Hokkaido Summer Institute (HSI) consisting of 150+ short courses during summer.
- The only member of the University of the Arctic (UArctic) from Japan, a global network of over 200 institutions concerned with education and research in and about the North.
- Has a number of ties with Russia: hosts the central offices for the Human Resource Development Platform (HaRP) for Japan-Russia Economic Cooperation and Personnel Exchange, as well as the East Russia-Japan Expert Education (RJE3) program.



Rankings

Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022
1st in Japan, **10th** in the world

Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2024
79th in Asia

QS World University Rankings 2023
8th in Japan, **141st** in the world

Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2022
5-7th in Japan, **151-200th** in the world

Nature Index Top Academic Institutions 2021
7th in Japan, **114th** in the world

Reuters Asia Pacific Most Innovative Universities 2019
28th in the Asia-Pacific region.

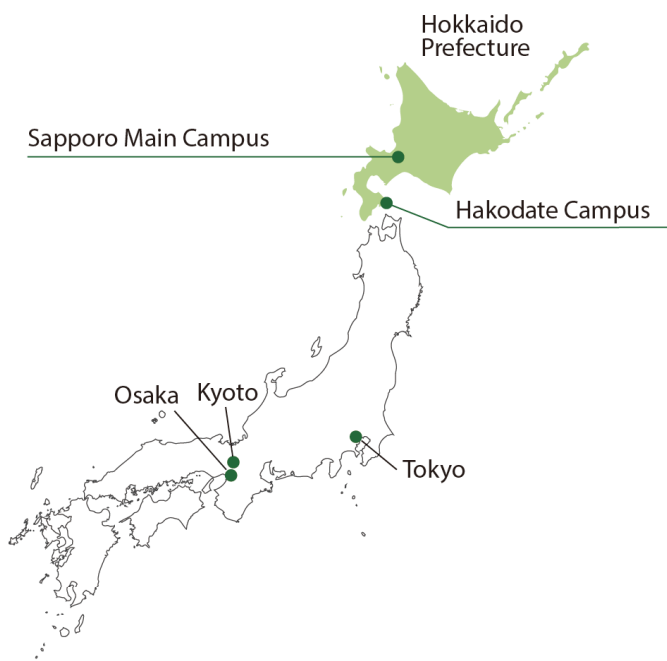
Reuters World's Most Innovative Universities 2018
90th in the world

More Features

Hokkaido University is a leading research institution. Historically renowned for research in agriculture, it is now also a leader in the field of chemistry, engineering, material science, environmental earth science, and zoonotic disease control, among others. Its International Institute for Zoonosis Control (IIZC) has strong historical ties with the University of Zambia, and has contributed to disease control and public health in African nations. The IIZC also plays key roles as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses Control as well as an OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza.

Uniquely in Japan, the university provides a comprehensive liberal arts education for one year before students choose their major. It offers diverse and comprehensive degree programs taught in English such as the Modern Japanese Studies Program (MJSP), Integrated Science Program (ISP) and the English Engineering Education Program (e3) attracting prospective students from all around the globe. The university maintains 11 overseas offices and liaison offices to facilitate student exchanges and inter-university partnerships.

Hokkaido University is situated near the center of Sapporo, the fifth most populous city in Japan, and has historical ties with the city itself. There is also a second campus dedicated to Fishery Sciences in the coastal city of Hakodate, as well as 21 facilities and field science centers across Japan. The university is thus the largest in Japan by area, covering a total of 660 km². The Sapporo campus was voted Japan's most beautiful university campus by *Asahi Shimbun* in 2009, and won the Traveller's Choice Award from *TripAdvisor* in 2020.



More resources:

Short
introductory
video



[or click here](#)

Campus
videos for
media use



[or click here](#)

University
Guidebook



[or click here](#)

Contact:

Public Relations Division, Hokkaido University
pr@oia.hokudai.ac.jp
<https://www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/>
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