

Congratulations to all new students!

I'm afraid the entrance ceremony has been canceled this academic year due to the coronavirus pandemic. A cherry tree near the front gate of the university is in full bloom and it is so beautiful. I do hope that you will enjoy this photograph of it.

The commencement of the academic year has been postponed. We highly recommend that you abide by the World Health Organisation's advice to self-quarantine and avoid public places.

Some of you may be considering what to do at this time. Here is my suggestion!

Let's take a different approach! I assume you may have been ever so busy with studying, playing, doing club activities and various events from elementary through to middle school time. Please put down your smartphone and game devices for a while and sit quietly and ask yourself...

How do you want to live your life?

How would you like to spend your next four years of university life?

I would like to recommend you do the following three things (or any of them) during this next month as a preparation.

1. Let's read books and newspapers!

Pick up any book you may be interested in. You will stimulate your imagination by not only reading lines of text but also by reading between the lines. You will broaden your perspectives by reading domestic and international news in newspapers. As you read books and newspaper articles, you gain various perspectives but also you can see and develop what you are really interested in.

Prepare one notebook and write down what made you interested in a topic and find out more about the issue. This will be the beginning of your upcoming 'My Project' task.

2. Let's study English!

If you are not confident in your English, please review your junior high school level English. The tip is to read English text aloud every day. Check out various TEDTalks on YouTube. There are many good presentations and some of them may touch your heart. There are also many free, helpful smartphone/tablet applications. For example, with 'Tune In Radio,' you can access radio stations around the world to listen to news, stories, music and more. BBC Radio 4 is my favorite. Don't worry if you do not understand the entire conversation or audio. Just play and enjoy it, and sometimes try to listen carefully and speak out what you hear. This method is called 'Shadowing'. You will get used to it soon, if you keep going.

It would be fun to 'become' one of your favorite characters, acting and speaking out with the English subtitles of a Disney movie (or any movie you are familiar with).

If you are interested in studying abroad, why don't you start with looking into the English STEP (Eiken) test? The style of the English STEP test has changed since 2016. English Composition has been added to conventional Listening and Reading (including vocabulary, grammar, and English conversation) test. Once you improve your proficiency by the Eiken test, you will definitely gain higher scores when you take TOEIC tests as well as TOEFL and ILETS.

Of course, you can study other languages besides English. Pick up your favorite application from various ones. Also, NHK radio language courses are reasonable and useful.

With your language skills and your specialty, your life will be changed!

3. Let's master using a PC!

If you are not familiar with using a PC, start with Word, Excel and PowerPoint now. Don't forget the benefits of mastering 'touch typing' (typing without looking at the actual keyboard). You will need PC skills for writing reports, a graduation thesis, TOEFL, etc., but quite likely it will be necessary after you start working at offices. Therefore, now is your chance to gain such skills! You can simply download your favorite touch-typing app available and practice for about 20 minutes every day, then you'll be able to do so within one month. Isn't it exciting to be able to do something you could not before?

There are two approaches to study at the university: academic study and practical learning.

A combination of these two is essential.

My college life changed my life completely. I studied hard for the first time during a university in rural England. I had to read an abundance of books, write reports called 'essays', and sometimes give presentations and discussions to the class. One day, the theory "language ineffability" by Wittgenstein (1889 - 1951) from Austria, a philosopher/linguist and the theory of 'Eight Negations' (八事) of Nagarjuna (龍樹 2nd century) one of the Indian founders of Buddhism, were connected. I was so excited and almost for two weeks, I hardly slept, just thinking about how to construct and prove it. That experience triggered me to go to graduate school. Studying means to create a universe beyond space and time in oneself.

Through travelling and volunteer working once a week for a home for children with disabilities in the form of brain damage, I learned about various sides of society I had never experienced before. Also, I realized how much I was privileged to be able to study and I am grateful to my parents for giving me such an educational opportunity. Thanking others and being thankful gives you strength.

It is my sincere wish that you will have a great university life which may become a foundation for

the rest of your life.

Being healthy is the most important. Please wash your hands, practice high levels of hygiene and maintain social distancing.

We are very much looking forward to seeing each of you in the new semester at the university.

Have fun and stay safe!

Harumi Go

Board Chairperson of Kanagawa University Coop