Niigata University of International and Information Studies

Making it Happen - Living the Dream
Across today's Japan, a new breed of university is appearing on the horizon. Their ambition: To open their students' minds to the ever-developing, ever-changing world beyond Japan's island shores. One school at the forefront of this movement that has received both national and regional recognition is Niigata University of International and Information Studies (NUIS).

**A New Sun is Rising**

**Our Motto**

The NUIS motto is "Making it Happen—Living the Dream". It says a lot about the enthusiasm and optimism that has gone into creating this university. Situated on the western coast of the main island of Honshu, NUIS was established in 1994 with the mission of contributing to the betterment of all within both Japan and beyond, to lead the way towards a post-industrial information-based society while respecting Japanese, regional and individual cultural values.

NUIS is attaining this goal by applying Information Technology and Systems to a core curriculum of Cross-cultural and Global Studies. The result is a greater openness and awareness on the part of students of how international issues affect their lives both on a regional and local level. This is accomplished by constant and sustained student-faculty interaction in small classroom settings. To promote excellence both on campus and in the community, NUIS provides comprehensive support for student career development and academic achievement.
Classes are small in comparison to the norm in Japan, where it is not uncommon to have 50 or more students crammed into a room. The average class size at NUIS is under 30 students. Many upper-level courses have only between 10 to 20 students per class. This allows teachers to know most of their students by name.

NUIS offers a wide variety of majors to students, from Regional Studies and International Relations, to Information Systems and Personnel Management.

One of the things a person notices right away when coming to NUIS are the smiles. Students everywhere are talking, laughing, and smiling. When they are not in class, many participate in one of over 15 different campus organizations. Students apply what they have learned in class, discover future opportunities, expand their knowledge and develop vital interpersonal skills through extra-curricular activities and conferences.

Small classes and a competitive curriculum are not enough. The quality of the teacher is equally important. Tour the academic building of NUIS, and you will find open doors, brightly lit offices, and caring professors. While other schools relegate general education courses to their part-time or adjunct instructors, at NUIS, students will learn from qualified full and assistant professors right from the very start. Faculty members serve as advisors for up to two years, and guide students in their decisions about classes, student organizations and finding a career.

In addition to the educational experiences in class and in student organizations, NUIS also provides students with a number of opportunities in special certifications and qualifications. This following is just a sample of what is offered:

- Civil Servant Exam Preparation
- TOEIC Testing
- Chinese Language Achievement Testing
- Korean Language Achievement Testing (Levels 1 to 4)
- Information Technology Engineer Examination
- Software Design and Development Engineer Examination
- Fundamental Information Technology Engineer Examination
- Systems Administrator Certification

Qualifications such as these help NUIS graduates stay ahead of the game in Japan's competitive job market.
A Cutting Edge Curriculum for the 21st Century

Trends in Japan towards globalization and IT development have led many schools to teach a curriculum centering either on International Studies or Information Technology. NUJS successfully teaches both. The faculty at NUJS believes that a well-rounded education focusing on international and information studies is not only attainable, but that the NUJS Curriculum fosters an educational environment surpassing that of many private universities in the Tokyo area.

An International Education

The NUJS curriculum educates students in the exciting world of cross-cultural understanding. As well as a progression of courses ranging from Literature to Sociology, all students study one of the four languages: English, Chinese, Russian and Korean. Whether it is through the innovative Communicative English Program (CEP) or the Two-Year Graded Language Study Program, NUJS encourages students to master a foreign language and take their place as members of the global community.

Every year, a large number of students take part in the NUJS Study Abroad Programs at affiliated universities in the US, Canada, China, Russia and Korea. Students are immersed in the native language for up to an entire semester. NUJS has agreements with universities in each of these countries, and the credits students earn transfer to allow them to still graduate within four years.

An Information-Based Education

Walk around NUJS, and apart from the sleek facility and beautiful campus landscape, you will notice state-of-the-art computers in virtually every room. Students need computer and information literacy not only to survive college, but also to compete in today’s world. At NUJS, there is a computer for every student—something unheard of in most Japanese universities. NUJS provides Internet access, e-mail, and the latest software for all its students—giving them the tools they need to build their careers.

Students get hands-on training in computer systems and software management from the very first day. Before graduating, each student is equipped to create homepages, handle network systems, and acquire a real-world understanding of today’s most important business and systems software packages.
Giving Students a Head Start

Japanese universities take a key role in helping students to make career choices and find the job that is right for them. NUIS is no exception, with a proven track record of graduate placement. Over the past several years, 92 percent of NUIS graduates were gainfully employed upon graduation. NUIS provides students with the tools for getting that first job through resume critiquing, interview workshops, and on-campus interviews. Advisors are there all the way to assist in the process. Many advisors and faculty have an inside track on career placement within Niigata Prefecture, and access to a considerable amount of information for finding jobs in the Tokyo area. NUIS also utilizes Internet-based vocational placement for a number of their graduates.

A University on the Go

NUIS is aggressively pursuing its quest for a truly international curriculum and a progressive program in Information Technology. With top-notch teachers, motivated students, an active campus life, opportunities for additional qualifications and a successful vocational placement program, NUIS is fast becoming a college that is turning heads both nationally and regionally.

When students graduate, they have studied a wide range of international and information-oriented subjects. They have learned to think globally and act locally. They can apply their new insights from abroad to make a positive impact on their local community and their workplaces.

That's why we are here. We are making it happen and living the dream: Niigata University of International and Information Studies.
Where is Niigata City?
Niigata City, the capital of Niigata Prefecture, is located about 330 kilometers northwest of Tokyo. It is the largest city on Japan's western coast, with a population of 550,000. It is on the same latitude as San Francisco and Lisbon. About two hours from Tokyo by bullet train, Niigata City is in the heart of the Rice Basket of Japan. It is a region famous for sake, rich coastal fisheries, tertiary industries in the commerce and service sector, and is also the location of a major petrochemical port.

Niigata University of International and Information Studies is located in a rapidly developing suburb on the outskirts of Niigata City.

How did NUIS get started?
Niigata was the brainchild of Tatsuo Ozawa, the former national Minister of Health and Welfare, and head of the political organization Niigata Heisei Kukai. NUIS also received major funding for the construction of the university's facilities from the Niigata Municipal and Prefectural Governments, as well as several corporate sponsors.

How many teachers hold PhDs at NUIS?
At present, a significant number of faculty members hold PhDs. Traditionally, a good Master's degree, five to eight years of college-level teaching experience and at least five publications in major journals were seen as sufficient for college instructors. However, in recent years, there have been efforts to improve credentials and raise the standards of college faculty across Japan to bring it to the level found in the West. The faculty at NUIS is actively engaged in professional development and research. Many regularly present papers in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Do Japanese universities have a Homcoming Festival?
Colleges and Universities in Japan have what is called a koshosai, which is roughly translated as a School Festival. This is similar to the American Homecoming Festival both in spirit and focus. Depending on the size of the university, alumni may come at this time to visit the university. Even though NUIS is a new university with a relatively limited alumni base, the School Festival is still an exciting and fun event on campus that receives wide support from its graduates from across the country.

What is the student residential life like?
Niigata, like many Japanese colleges, does not have residence halls. The majority of the students attending NUIS live in Niigata City or within a short train ride of the suburbs. While some students live in their own apartments, Japanese students will often live with their families until sometime later, usually when they marry or get their first job.

Does NUIS participate in sports activities or have teams that compete with other universities?
Niigata has teams in Basketball, Track and Field, Baseball, Tennis, Soccer, Volleyball and Martial Arts, to name just a few. Teams participate in regional and national intramurals. Team sports such as these are vital for the development of group social skills in Japan.

These teams train at the NUIS sports facility—one of the finest of its kind in the region, which is complete with a modern gymnasium, indoor basketball court, well-equipped training rooms, a wide range of training and exercise machines, free weights, and an aerobics training studio. In addition to a number of outdoor tennis courts, NUIS has a well-kept 400 meter outdoor track and a fully-illuminated soccer/rugby turf field.
Niigata University of International and Information Studies is a private, four-year regional university. It is a comprehensive Electronic Campus with a computer for every student on campus. Founded in 1994 with a vision for quality international education and a cutting edge curriculum in Information Technology.

- **ENROLLMENT:** 1300
- **Faculty:** 40 full-time faculty
- Faculty represents some of the best minds in Japanese industry and academia.
- Assistant, Associate and Full Professors representing five different countries and nationalities.
- Almost half of our professors have the highest degree in their field.
- **PRESIDENT:** Dr. Terukazu Muto.

Located in Niigata City, Japan, the largest city on Japan's western coast, with a population of 550,000, and is only two hours north of Tokyo by Bullet Train.

- **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POPULATION:** Over 90% from Niigata Prefecture, with roughly 70% from Niigata City.
- **COLORS:** Blue and White.
- NUIS has affiliations with universities in Russia, Canada, the United States, China and Korea.
- 98% of undergraduate students are employed upon graduation.
- **ATHLETICS:** Softball, basketball, track and field, tennis, kendo and badminton.
- **ALUMNI BASE:** 1500
- Over 15 student organizations.

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