Memorandum of Intent

The educational aim of the University of Tokyo is to foster students who are able to bear the next generation “more resiliently, more globally”.

Here the word ‘resilient’ holds our hope that the students, while stretching their power of intellect in the world of academia, are able to temper their skills so that they can prove to be useful when they join the real outside world.

The word ‘global’ holds our hope that the students will become “étudiants de Todai sans frontières”, or ‘Todai students without frontiers’ in English, by maturing through facing and taking active part in the diverse facets of international society.

Today globalization is taking place in a wide variety of settings at an incredible pace and the ability to be both competitive and co-operative is being sought in someone who will be able to take on the role of leader in such a time.

In order to acquire such skills, the students need to receive stimuli by interacting with behavioral patterns, sense of values, thoughts and expressions totally different to those already experienced.

At the University of Tokyo, we are looking at ways for students to obtain such diverse experience in the real world, domestic or international, in addition to their normal curricular activities in order to fulfill our educational aim.

I would be grateful if you would provide such an opportunity to the students of this University. Thank you very much.

Junichi Hamada
President, The University of Tokyo
May 15, 2012
May, 2012

Supplementary Attachment to the Announcement

Working Group regarding the ‘Promotion of Hands-on Activities’
Executive Vice President in Charge: Yoshiteru Mutoh
Working Group Chairman: Hiroyuki Yamato

Additional information to support the "Announcement" from President Hamada is given below.
Please bear this in mind when considering taking on the program for the “Hands-on Activity”.

The “Hands-on Activity” which the University is considering to implement in this academic year is:
1) Unlike previous internships etc., which was carried out with future job hunting in mind, the purpose of this activity is to get the students to think about 'what am I learning at university' and so on.
   With this in mind, this program will have no direct link to their specialty subject at the University or directly lead to employment afterwards.
2) Although the University is currently considering the issue of ‘gap term’, this program is in no way linked to introduction of Autumn Enrolment.
   The aim is to foster students who are "more resilient, more global", which is the overall educational aim of this University.
3) Our aim is for approximately 300 ~ 600 students from the Junior and Senior Divisions of the undergraduate programs to take part in this activity. (The number of students in one year of the undergraduate program is 3,063.)
4) The activities are to take place between August and December of this year. We envisage that the activities will generally take place during the summer holiday period in August/September. However, depending on the nature of the activity, it will be possible for the students to take part between October and December (weekday afternoons/evenings or weekends).
5) A member of the academic staff will be appointed to take responsibility for the activity.
6) An active member of the University staff may turn up at the site of the activity to observe and inspect.
7) As this will not be graded or lead to awarding of credits, there will be no burden placed on the supporting organization with the need for evaluation.
8) Students taking part will be required to submit a report at the end of the program on which they will be required to write about the experiences and results they have achieved. In addition the reports submitted may be presented at debriefing sessions of the Hands-on Activity which will take place within the University.
9) Based on the experience and outcome of this year, internal evaluation will take place in order to consider whether or not this program will take place in the future.