

President's Address for Entrance Ceremony

It is my great pleasure to welcome two new students to the Graduate School of Human and Social Sciences, three students to the Master's Program, and three students to the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology. On behalf of all Shimane University professors and staff as well as the existing students here, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you.

Seven of the new students are international students. Due to the infectious spread of COVID-19 and changes in the situation around the world, some of you may have been anxious about the schedule of entering Japan. I'm delighted to be here with you today to congratulate you on your enrollment.

Because of the infectious spread of COVID-19, the world has changed in a way that no one would have imagined. Countries around the world have been trying to respond to this pandemic while maintaining social activities. Now, we are shifting to society with fewer restrictions on our activities, taking necessary prevention measures. At Shimane University, we will be conducting face-to-face classes for most of the classes while utilizing online classes. This is in order to ensure the health, safety, and security of students, as well as providing high-quality education. By promoting digital transformation in education, we will strive to enhance the learning environment so that you can learn to the fullest and conduct research that will lead to the creation and discovery of new knowledge.

I assume you have expectations for learning at the university and various concerns under these circumstances. If you have any concerns, please consult your academic advisor or the Health Service Center. Shimane University will fully support you, your studies, and your research.

You enrolled in our graduate school with clear goals and enthusiasm for learning. You as a graduate student are expected to learn further advanced fields based on the general education, specialized knowledge, and those universal basic skills and literacy acquired in your bachelor's course. Furthermore, Shimane University is promoting education to increase practical skills to apply your graduate school learning in society, through offering joint classes with companies, Project-Based Learning (PBL) classes, and various internship experiences. I am hoping that you will gain skills to contribute to a knowledge-based society and advanced intellectual grounding through graduate school learning so as to be a highly-skilled professional who can play an active role in the regional community and the world along with the ability to broadly overlook. For

international students, we provide support to gain employment at local companies, through financial support for internship programs at local companies in Shimane Prefecture through giving made by those companies and offering intensive lectures to learn business Japanese. I am expecting that you will be interested in joining companies in this prefecture after completing your graduate school studies.

You are expected to fully utilize the educational and research environment of our university and acquire the knowledge and abilities to play a role in leading the production of knowledge and value creation in a highly advanced and complex society. The COVID-19 pandemic and ICT in our lives are bringing significant changes in our lifestyles. In order to realize a society in which each of us has a diverse sense of value and lives safe and secure life with a feeling of happiness, the convergence of diverse knowledge is necessary. I encourage you to acquire solid knowledge in your majors based on your own intellectual pursuit. I also hope that you will move away from your conventional thought pattern and enjoy your learning and research with new ideas beyond your own major. I would like you to gain the ability to think and design, think and act proactively, and eventually contribute to the creation of innovation. The value of the knowledge you acquire will be highly appreciated when it is employed in the real world. It is my hope that you will develop an outward mindset, then acquire the knowledge that will be widely utilized in society.

Shimane University formulated the "Shimane University Principles for SDGs" in November 2019. We are actively working towards achieving the SDGs. You can check the syllabus to see how the content of each class relates to the SDGs. You are expected to be highly aware of the SDGs in your study and research activities.

Shimane University aims to be “a university rooted in the regional community and standing out in the world.” I hope all of you will look forward to the future, engage in learning with a broad perspective encompassing local to global views, and spend a fulfilling life of study at the university surrounded by abundant nature, history, and rich culture while interacting with friends, faculty, and staff members.

My best wishes for your success!

October 5, 2022

HATTORI Yasunao, Dr. Sci.

President of Shimane University