

College of Tourism

Tourism is a symbol of contemporary society. It is estimated that more than 700 million people worldwide travel for the purpose of sightseeing every year. This figure represents the largest movement of people on the planet, far surpassing the annual number of immigrants throughout the world. This movement of tourists has an immeasurable cultural and economic impact on society. Tourism contributes to international mutual understanding; many people carry fond memories of the good times they had during their travels. On the other hand, tourist activity also destroys the natural environment. People also discard their own culture in the name of tourism. As it grows, tourism not only undergoes diversification but also changes rapidly.

To clarify the present state of tourism, the College of Tourism's two departments, the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management and the Department of Culture and Tourism Studies, focus on the three main themes of tourism as business, tourism and local society, and tourism and culture. To enable students to gain an overall picture of the diverse and complex tourist industry, both departments offer a comprehensive education based on the humanities and social sciences, such as geography, sociology, anthropology, and economics. When graduates come face to face with tourism as company employees, employees in a public organization or in the field of journalism, or in some other capacity, they need to have the insight to view tourism from a broad and objective perspective, and the analytical skills and the ability to boldly blaze new paths. Over the past half century, Rikkyo University's tourism studies and the activities of the program's graduates have enabled the College of Tourism to achieve a unique position as an institution capable of comprehensively conducting research and providing education on tourism. The College has a truly unparalleled presence. The faculty provides every possible assistance to students, who are encouraged to freely build a curriculum best suited to their needs.

Education Grounded in Reality and Fact-based Instruction

Tourism is not something that can be learned by merely reading books while seated at a desk. The College of Tourism provides students with diverse and broad-ranging opportunities for personal experience, such as internships in early experience programs and overseas fieldwork. Based on this training, students fashion and then develop their own personal awareness of issues in their studies.

Global Education Utilizing our International Network

The College of Tourism has assembled a strong network of international partners. We carry out a variety of programs which make use of this network, including student exchanges with our overseas partner universities, language and culture education

abroad, and classes which invite respected scholars from overseas. Such programs serve to sharpen the students' internationally-minded understanding.

Hospitable Guidance Devoted to Small-group Education

The true appeal of a university education lies in seminars carried out in small groups of students engaging with their instructors. Consideration is taken to give all students the opportunity to participate in these seminars, with some 20 courses being offered each year by a diverse group of professors. This ensures education on a small-scale, 12 to 13 students per faculty member, while providing students with personal guidance.

An Effective Combination of Practical Knowledge and Theory

What is required in tourism is theoretical analytical ability and information concerning the constantly changing global environment. In addition to our diverse Faculty members, we also invite practitioners from Japan's leading tourism-related enterprises to offer classes in their specialties. These people combine findings from the field with an analytical capacity grounded in the humanities and social sciences.

Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management

Balancing Basic Skills and Applied Skills

There is a tendency to think that tourism studies focus on practical trade skills. Actually, the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management emphasizes the basic skills needed to carry out business administration and development. This mastery of basic skills is a prerequisite to students advancing to applied skills.

Close Rapport with Faculty Members to Deepen Interpersonal Understanding

Individual consumers are the focus of the tourism industry and tourism development. Therefore insight into human nature and a sense of beauty are indispensable in the industry. Daily contact with the Department's highly-experienced faculty members provides students with help not only on their studies and academic advancement, but also with their efforts to develop a deeper understanding of human nature.

Education Linked with a Growing Network of Graduates

Over the course of its long history, the Department has produced a large number of graduates who have entered careers in the tourism industry. Through various classes and programs, such as internships, the Department is able to offer students an education that makes effective use of this extensive network.

Business Administration Learned from Top Executives

The College of Tourism invites top executives from leading companies in Japan's travel and hotel industries to teach classes as special lecturers, or to guide students in a small seminar setting. Furthermore, top executives from many other fields of the business world are often invited as guests to give lectures. In these lectures, students are able to hear directly from Japan's top executives about the latest industry developments and the actual state of various businesses.

Independent Study in which Students Create the Lessons

Independent Study is a unique style of class created by the unrestrained imaginations of the students. Every year, students are asked to submit ideas, and select submissions are developed into official classes. These classes address a broad spectrum of activities ranging from volunteering to working at international conferences and creating plans to start up a business.

Department of Culture and Tourism Studies

Fostering an Internationally-Minded Outlook

The Department of Culture and Tourism Studies regularly provides a wide range of international programs, such as lessons conducted in foreign languages and classes taught by non-Japanese faculty members, as well as public lectures given by experts from other countries. This enables students to form an internationally-minded outlook.

Hands-on Classes that Utilize Discoveries Made in the Field

The curriculum involves education that makes use of students' discoveries made through their hands-on experiences in the field.

Programs to Enhance Abilities to Communicate Information

Studies in the Department are not passive. The Department offers a broad range of stimulating programs, such as Theories of Travel Journalism, to enhance the communication skills of students, enabling them to convey the pleasures of travel or write on various cultures.

Participation in Fieldwork Abroad to Expand Horizons

Classes such as Intercultural Fieldwork and various seminars help students examine the societies of other countries or engage in volunteer activities. Students find that particularly the experience of overseas fieldwork expands their horizons and enables them to pursue studies in the Department more concretely and more realistically.

Seminars to Improve Communication Skills

Being able to speak in a foreign language does not necessarily mean that one has acquired an international outlook. However, foreign language skills are the foundation of cross-cultural communication. The Department offers a large number of language classes, but unique among them is the Language and Culture Seminar, which is conducted with a focus on such languages as Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.