

※**Note:** The following information is current as of now and may be subject to change based on future circumstances. (April, 2025)

※**Note:** The schools attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University will hereafter be referred to as “Kumadai Fuzoku Schools” for remainder of this document.

- 1 [What are the key features of the International Course at the schools attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University?](#)
- 2 [What is the Kumadai Fuzoku Schools Immersion Education Model?](#)
- 3 [What kind of immersion education and environment is envisioned for the International Course at the Kumadai Fuzoku Schools?](#)
- 4 [What type of students does the International Course aim to develop?](#)
- 5 [What kind of students does the elementary school aim to develop?](#)
- 6 [What does the curriculum of the International Course look like?](#)
- 7 [Where will the International Course classrooms be located?](#)
- 8 [Will there be opportunities for interaction between students in the International Course and those in general classes, given that the buildings are separate?](#)
- 9 [How will school events such as Sport's Day and music concerts be conducted in the International Course?](#)
- 10 [Is it possible to transfer from the general class to the International Course or vice versa?](#)
- 11 [Will there be changes in the student capacity of general classes after the establishment of the International Course?](#)
- 12 [When will the International Course at the junior high school level be introduced, and is there a plan for high school?](#)
- 13 [What criteria will be required for admission to the International Course at the junior high school?](#)
- 14 [What are the conditions for entering the International Course? Can students currently enrolled in the Elementary and Junior High Schools Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University join the International Course?](#)
- 15 [What level of English proficiency is required to enter the International Course? What preparations should students make?](#)
- 16 [How will repatriated \(returnee\) students be handled?](#)
- 17 [What will be the path after graduation?](#)
- 18 [Is there a tuition fee?](#)
- 19 [What is expected of students and parents in the general classes? How can they provide support?](#)

1 What are the key features of the International Course at the schools attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University?

The International Course at *Kumadai Fuzoku Schools*, is designed for both Japanese and international students. Classes are conducted by a team of two teachers: a Japanese teacher and a native English-speaking teacher.

As a certified Article 1 school (*see Note 1*), the course follows *gakushushidoyoryo* (National Curriculum Standards), Japan's national curriculum as outlined in the government's educational guidelines. Many subjects are primarily taught in English using the Schools Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University Immersion Education Model (*hereafter referred to as "Kumadai Fuzoku Schools Immersion Education Model"*) (*see Note 2*). This approach naturally integrates English into daily activities, fostering both language acquisition and academic development.

Notes:

1. Article 1 school: A school recognized under Article 1 of Japan's School Education Act (*Gakkokyoikuho*). Unlike international schools, students do not need to maintain enrollment in their local elementary or junior high schools. They are officially enrolled in the Elementary or Junior High School Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University, and will receive their graduation diploma from the respective school principal.
2. For more details, please refer to the following section.

2 What is the *Kumadai Fuzoku Schools Immersion Education Model*?

The *Kumadai Fuzoku Schools Immersion Education Model* is an educational approach based on the philosophy of the Elementary and Junior High Schools Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University. It aims to foster the essential skills and competencies that students should develop in school while promoting proficiency in both English and Japanese languages.

This model is centered around **immersion education** (*see Note 1*) and incorporates **CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning)** (*see Note 2*) as a teaching method. Through this approach, students engage in learning various subjects in English alongside classmates from diverse cultural backgrounds.

For more details, please refer to [*this page*](#).

Notes:

1. **Immersion Education:** Generally, immersion education is a type of bilingual education in which students “immerse” themselves in the target language environment to acquire it naturally. Rather than learning the foreign language as a separate subject, students develop language proficiency by using it as a medium for learning other subjects.
2. **CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning):** CLIL is an instructional approach that integrates subject content (e.g., math, science, social studies, music, physical education, home economics, etc.) with language learning. In Japan, it is commonly referred to as “クルル (*kururu*)” or “内容言語統合型学習 (*naiyo-gengo-togogata-gakushu*)”.

The key characteristics of CLIL pedagogy include:

- A strong focus on **understanding subject content**
- Emphasis on **students' cognitive development and learning skills**
- Development of **communication skills**
- Increased awareness of **culture and intercultural perspectives**

(Based on information from the Japan CLIL Pedagogy Association website: <https://www.j-clil.com/clil>)

3 *What kind of immersion education and environment is envisioned for the International Course at the Kumadai Fuzoku Schools?*

Starting in the AY2026 (**Reiwa 8**), the International Course will consist of classes that include both Japanese and international students, following the Japan's National Curriculum Standards while conducting various subject lessons in English.

For students whose native language is **not English**, this will function as **an English immersion environment**. Conversely, for students whose native language is **not Japanese**, while they will receive instruction in various subjects in English, subjects such as **Japanese Language (国語, *kokugo*) and Moral Education (道徳, *doutoku*)** will be taught in a **Japanese immersion environment**. Additionally, Japanese language support will be provided as needed.

In this International Course, both Japanese and international students will engage in cross-cultural learning experiences, fostering **strong language skills in both English and Japanese**, as well as a **global mindset**, enabling them to succeed in various fields both in Japan and internationally.

4 *What type of students does the International Course aim to develop?*

The International Course aims to develop students who can create new values and solve problems while collaborating and cooperating with anyone from around the world as the builders of a sustainable society, who have acquired communication skills in English and proactively create a rich life.

5 *What kind of students does the elementary school aim to develop?*

At the **Elementary School Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University**, (hereafter referred to as "*Kumadai Fuzoku Elementary School*") our educational goals are based on three core principles:

- **Education for independence and self-reliance.**
- **Education that respects individuality.**
- **Education of respecting self and others.**

We aim to nurture students with the following characteristics:

- **考える子 (*Kangaeru-ko*), Thoughtful/ Inquisitive Children**

- Students who acquire solid academic skills, proactively engage with challenges, think scientifically, develop their own perspectives, and create a new era.
- Students who have a rich sense of sensitivity and who cherish nature, their hometown, and Japan.
- **強い子 (Tsuyoi-ko), Strong/ Resilient Children**
 - Students who are physically and mentally healthy, with perseverance and determination.
 - Students who act with self-awareness and responsibility, seeing tasks through to completion.
- **明るい子 (Akarui-ko), Bright/ Cheerful/ Positive Children**
 - Students who build strong friendship and collaborate with other.
 - Students with a rich heart and mind who respect school rules, practice good manners in daily life, appreciate the value of hard work, and cultivate gratitude and respect for others.

In addition to these characteristics, the **International Course** aims to develop students who actively engage with others using multiple languages (English and Japanese), deepen their learning through meaningful interactions, and confidently communicate with people from all over the world.

For more details on the **educational policies** of the International Course, please refer to [*this page*](#).

6 What does the curriculum of the International Course look like?

The International Course will follow Japan's **National Curriculum Standards**, maintaining the same fundamental educational activities that have been implemented at the *Kumadai Fuzoku Schools*. (This program differs from internationally recognized programs such as the **International Baccalaureate**.)

While preserving the **local educational values rooted in Kumamoto and Japan**, as well as the unique traditions and specialized programs of the **Elementary and Junior High Schools Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University**, the International Course will provide an environment where students can **immerse themselves in both English and Japanese**, fostering bilingual proficiency through both academic subjects and daily school life.

For more details about the school's unique educational programs and events, please visit the **respective school websites** via the banner at the top right of the top page of our website.

7 Where will the International Course classrooms be located?

Currently, construction has begun on a new **International Building** (tentative name) on the north side of the Elementary School, between the Lunch Center and the swimming pool. Both the elementary and junior high school international classrooms will be located in this building.

- The **1st and 2nd floors** will house the **elementary school** classrooms.
- The **3rd floor** will be designated for the **junior high school** classrooms.



※The provided design image is preliminary and subject to changes, such as finishing materials.

8 Will there be opportunities for interaction between students in the International Course and those in general classes, given that the buildings are separate?

For subjects such as Physical Education (PE) and Music, we envision to have joint classes between the international and general classes. We also intend to create opportunities for interaction as much as possible, including outside of class time.

9 How will school events such as Sport's Day and music concerts be conducted in the International Course?

Since the curriculum will be essentially the same as that of the general classes, events like grade-level classes, school activities, etc., are expected to be held together.

10 Is it possible to transfer from the general class to the International Course or vice versa?

The International Course focuses on language learning (English and Japanese) as a living language rather than a subject, and this is considered a long-term process. Therefore, transfers between the international and general classes are generally not encouraged.

11 Will there be changes in the student capacity of general classes after the establishment of the International Course?

Changes in capacity are being considered in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, based on the overall balance of the school and practical considerations.

12 When will the International Course at the junior high school level be introduced, and is there a plan for high school?

The junior high school's International Course will begin in AY2027 (*Reiwa 9*), with Grade 1 followed by the second and third grades in subsequent years. Full implementation is planned for AY 2029 (*Reiwa 11*) from Grade 1 in the elementary school to Grade 3 in the junior high school. Currently, there are no plans for a high school as Kumamoto University does not have a high school division.

13 What criteria will be required for admission to the International Course at the junior high school?

Specific criteria for selecting students for the International Course are still under review, but in addition to academic skills, English language ability will likely be a requirement.

14 What are the conditions for entering the International Course? Can students currently enrolled in the Elementary and Junior High Schools Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University join the International Course?

Specific conditions are still under consideration. For the opening in AY2026 (*Reiwa 8*), only Japanese students who are currently enrolled in the *Kumadai Fuzoku Elementary School* and are in Grade 2 or higher in AY2026 (*Reiwa 8*) will be eligible due to enrollment limits.

For foreign students, entrance examinations for all grades will be conducted in late 2025 (*Reiwa 7*) for the International Course opening in spring AY2026 (*Reiwa 8*).

Additionally, yearly transfer examinations will be held based on vacancies.

15 What level of English proficiency is required to enter the International Course? What preparations should students make?

Specific criteria and standards for entry are still being discussed. Since many subjects will be taught in English, it is advisable for students whose native language is not English to develop a certain level of English proficiency before entering the International Course, regardless of the selection criteria. We recommend that students begin learning English expressions and practice using English in real-life situations as soon as possible. Additionally, students need to have mastered subject content appropriate for their grade level.

After the International Course opens, the school plans to offer supplementary English lessons, and we are also considering how to approach home learning. Parental support for home learning will be essential, and we ask for your understanding and cooperation.

16 How will repatriated (returnee) students be handled?

The details regarding the transfer and enrollment of repatriated (returnee) students, including the specific overseas stay experience required, are still under consideration.

17 What will be the path after graduation?

After graduating from the *Kumadai Fuzoku Elementary School*, students can choose to continue to the International Course at the Junior High School Attached to the Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University (hereafter referred to as “*Kumadai Fuzoku Junior High School*”), or they may attend the general class at the *Kumadai Fuzoku Junior High School*, public junior high schools in their area, or other private schools.

After graduating from the *Kumadai Fuzoku Junior High School*, students can continue to prefectural or private high schools, or even attend schools outside the prefecture, just like the general class students.

Regardless of whether students are in the International Course or general class, it is important for the school to ensure that they develop the competencies outlined in the Japan's National Curriculum Standards. While the International Course follows the National Curriculum Standard, the language skills and global mindset gained in the course may provide students with the opportunity to study abroad or apply to overseas universities after graduation.

18 Is there a tuition fee?

Since this is a national school, there is no tuition fee for the standard curriculum currently planned, just like the general classes.

However, please understand that costs other than tuition—such as school lunch fees, PTA activity fees, class fees, and other expenses—as well as costs for uniforms, gym clothes, school bags, etc., will be similar to those at other public schools and the general classes of this school.

If you would like to know specific cost estimates, please contact us directly.

19 What is expected of students and parents in the general classes? How can they provide support?
--

We ask for your understanding and cooperation in supporting foreign students and parents who may not be familiar with Japanese culture, school systems, etc.