

今回の特集では、UMAP 国際事務局事務次長・東洋大学国際学部の芦沢 真五教授に、

「Diversification of Student Mobility and the Role of UMAP (多様化する教育交流と UMAP の役割)」と題し、英語及び日本語でご寄稿いただきました。

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(English)

Diversification of Student Mobility and the Role of UMAP

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Introduction

As universities diversify their international strategies, education abroad programs are evolving in many ways. For instance, short programs such as internships and field studies are in great demand and universities are adapting themselves to this change.

Toyo University in Tokyo is currently serving as International Secretariat for UMAP (University of Mobility in Asia and the Pacific). UMAP (pronounced “you-map”) has been promoting the mobility of university students and staff in the region over the past 27 years. In the last two years, UMAP has welcomed a number of new member countries including Canada, US and Australia. Now, UMAP has expanded its network to comprise 22 countries/territories, the largest in its history. In this article, I will introduce the unique activities of UMAP and benefits of UMAP membership.

I. Diversification of Education Abroad Programs

As universities around the world strive for academic excellence and renown, international cooperation is becoming more diversified. Study abroad opportunities for students are also evolving, reflecting changes in higher education. Student exchange used to be designed for a limited number of elite students. However, in recent years the number of shorter programs has increased drastically, while growth in semester or longer study abroad programs has remained steady. Recent statistics show that more US and UK students study abroad in shorter programs (IIE, 2019; Universities UK International, 2019). This tendency exists not only in English-speaking countries, but also in Asian countries including Japan, where there has been a dramatic increase in the number of students participating in “super short-term” programs that last from one week to one month (Ota and Shimmi, 2018). According to the Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO, 2018), the number of Japanese students who participated in such super short-term programs more than tripled between 2009 and 2016, increasing from 16,873 to 60,145. This phenomenon implies that fee-based programs have become the mainstream, compared to traditional tuition waiver exchange models of exchange.

In addition, study abroad is becoming more diversified, with new types of programs being introduced, such as internships, fieldwork and international volunteer programs.

II. Effects of University Networks : Merits of joining UMAP

Developing and maintaining international cooperation is a complex and burdensome duty for individual universities. Therefore, in addition to maintaining bilateral agreements, joining university networks or consortia can be a good way to develop new partners and share resources.

In 1991, UMAP was started with a strong initiative from the Australian government. Since then, UMAP has grown as a voluntary association of government and non-government representatives of the higher education (university) sector in the Asia-Pacific region, with more than 340 member universities in 22 countries/territories. UMAP promotes the mobility of university students and staff and provides the following benefits:

- Universities can participate in a broad range of exchange programs without signing individual bilateral agreements with other universities.
- There is no fee for individual universities, and no application fees for students.
- The UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS) simplifies the transfer of credits from students' host universities to their home universities.
- The UMAP Student Connection Online (USCO) makes it easy for students to find and apply to the right program, and streamlines the placement process for participating universities, making it easier to balance inbound and outbound students.
- Both the Taiwanese and Japanese governments offer generous support to UMAP students.
- UMAP encourages joint research activities by offering original research funding, UMAP Research Net.

III. New UMAP Flagship Programs

The main program of UMAP is the one to two semester tuition waiver exchange, UMAP Program A. UMAP also offers UMAP Program C, which includes a wide range of language and cultural programs, internships and fieldwork. In addition, UMAP recently unveiled the following flagship programs:



- **UMAP Discovery Camp:** Every summer, the UMAP National Secretariat in one country hosts the UMAP Discovery Camp, with virtually all local costs covered by the host country. Up to 36 selected students from UMAP member schools study the local culture, social structures, contemporary issues and language for approximately 2 weeks. Philippines hosted the first program in 2016, followed by Japan (2017), Thailand (2018) and Taiwan (2019). Malaysia will host in 2020.

- **UMAP-COIL Honors Program:** In 2019, UMAP introduced the UMAP-COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) Honors Program hosted by Kansai University in Osaka. Through the COIL model, students from different countries access a joint online study before and after a face-to-face learning opportunity. This honors program was designed for selected students from UMAP member countries and made possible through funding from the Japanese government. Participants were invited on a two-week cruise that departed from Osaka and made half-day stops at various ports in Japan, South Korea, and Russia for field work and university visits. The multidisciplinary academic focus of this honors program incorporated peace studies and conflict resolution. The participants experienced extraordinary workshops and field studies with guest speakers and experts from the Asia Pacific region.



Closing

UMAP is a unique organization which receives support from various governments and universities. While most university networks in Asia accept membership by invitation only, UMAP maintains an open membership policy. As was previously mentioned, major English-speaking countries, Canada, US and Australia have become official UMAP members. With 22 member countries/territories as of January 2020, UMAP is poised to expand its network more broadly than ever before. We hope more universities will join UMAP as we increase educational opportunities in the region. For more information, please visit our website.



<http://umap.org/>

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