
Teaching globally, acting locally



Shinji Shimada, M.D, Ph, D.,
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Higher education in Japan is facing one of the most challenging periods in its history, due to a lack of funding, the impact of COVID-19 and fewer international students. This is particularly true for smaller institutions but at the University of Yamanashi, you won't hear complaints. What you will see are transformations. As befitting a proudly outward-looking faculty, the university has worked to utilize solutions such as online learning and global partnerships. "A shortage of grants does create challenges," said President Shinji Shimada.

"However, it does also encourage us to become more independent, finding our own partnerships and opportunities." Shimada has overseen a move towards hybrid learning, which has also been extended to students in one of the world's most war-torn regions. "A recent initiative that we were very proud to begin was providing lectures and seminars to students from Ukraine. These students were incredibly eager to learn and we were able to provide certifications for 20 to 30 students," Shimada said. Based in a rural area near Mount Fuji, the university is proud of its locality and ties with a nearby prefectural university—but it has a global focus based on values of kindness and understanding.

**"We will continue to
open our doors to
the world."**

Shinji Shimada

Recently, the University of Yamanashi forged agreements with 42 international universities. In addition to strong links with China, Malaysia and Korea, relationships have been strengthened with the United States and Europe in research areas such as energy, neuroscience and even wine—with fuel cells and robotics regarded as keys to future growth.

