

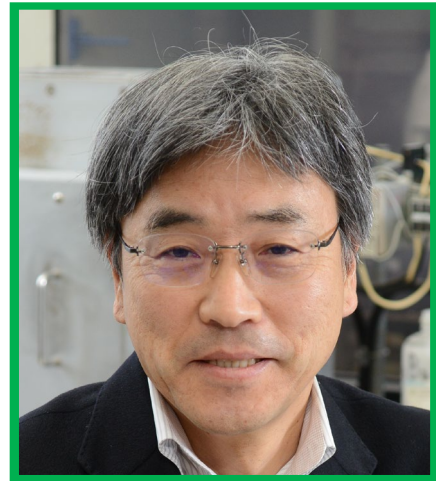


IB推進室 NEWSLETTER

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3# EDITION FEATURE

*A look into the student
lives of IB students
in the
Faculty of
Engineering*



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1. Why did your faculty decide to take IB students?

Ahead of other faculties at Okayama University, the Faculty of Engineering introduced the IB admissions from 2012, along with the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Matching Program Course. In 2010, Okayama University began to consider introducing a new admission examination system in order to move from knowledge-based admission examinations to multi-faceted, comprehensive assessment-type admission examinations. Okayama University decided to start IB admissions because the students who have completed the IB Diploma

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Q & A with Prof. Nanba

are the ideal human resources being sought by our university. The Faculty of Engineering was reorganized in 2011 and newly constructed a curriculum that enables students to acquire a wide range of perspectives, sufficient basic academic skills in specialized fields, and a high problem-inquiring ability. At the same time, the Faculty of Engineering was aiming for globalization, so we decided to introduce the IB admission in order to acquire human resources who can take an active role in international society.

2. What qualities does your faculty look for in IB Students?

This year (2021), the new “Faculty of Engineering” was formed by reorganizing and integrating the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Environmental Science and Technology, and it consists of 1 department, 4 programs, and 10 tracks: Mechanical & Systems Engineering Program, Architecture, Civil Engineering and Environmental Management Program, Information Technology, Electrical Engineering, and Mathematical & Data Sciences Program, and Applied Chemistry and Biotechnology Program. Currently, in Japan, mathematics and data science are regarded as basic literacy, and educational reforms are under way with the aim of acquiring them in all school education. The Mathematical and Data Sciences Track was newly established to cultivate experts in this field. In addition, a new specialization for the training of architects, previously unavailable at Okayama University, has been established. The reorganization will allow us to cover almost all research fields of cross-disciplinary general engineering, which cannot be realized by conventional segmented departments. The Faculty of Engineering places importance on not only learning knowledge and skills in their specific fields, but also how to utilize them in problem solving, which is consistent with the philosophy of IB education. So, we expect IB students to have not only high English proficiency and academic skills in the field of engineering, but also high abilities of self-expression, communication skills, and an inquiring mind.

3. What does your faculty think about IB Education?

I have participated in a forum of IB Education before (2016). At that time, I learned that the IB organization has been working on the development of challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment, and I never knew that the IB Diploma offers the core requirements consisting of TOK, EE, and CAS. Among the DP Core, TOK was the most impressive for me. TOK aims to help students to cultivate their critical thinking and inquiry skills in the process of knowing, rather than to learn a specific body of knowledge. I wished I could provide courses like TOK at Okayama University. Anyway, as mentioned above, the Faculty of Engineering at Okayama University was reorganized and renewed this year (2021). The mission of our faculty is to foster creative engineers who have wide-ranging perspectives, can discover and understand social issues, and can solve them independently. I think that our mission is very close to the aim of IB education. Therefore, I believe that there are many IB education methods that are applicable to our programmes.

4. How do you think IB students can influence other students in your faculty?

I hope that IB students will give classmates an opportunity to turn their attention to the world, and as a result, more students will participate in the international exchange programs and study abroad programs offered by the Faculty of Engineering. Furthermore, in group discussions, I hope that IB students will speak up and encourage other students to express their opinions in class, and as a result, students who can actively and aggressively participate in class, will increase.

5. What do you think about the increasing number of IB students at Okayama University?

As above mentioned, we can say that the IB has already realized the educational direction that Okayama University and the Faculty of Engineering are aiming for. In the IB admissions, the number to be admitted has been announced to be a few, but from the next year, up to 14 graduates can be enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering. This year (2021), however, only two IB graduates were enrolled, and only three IB students are currently attending our undergraduate program. I look forward to more IB student enrollments in order to have a positive influence on other students in the Faculty of Engineering.





IB STUDENT LIFE

Student Name: **Shunsuke Fujita**



Self-introduction

1. Hello everyone! I'm Shunsuke Fujita and I am majoring in material science in the faculty of engineering. I am currently in third year. I really like football, and I have been playing football since I was 9 years old. I am still playing football now in a club called AILES.
2. I was surprised that we must learn Organic chemistry in English. This was quite surprising for me because I personally think that Organic chemistry is one of the hardest subjects within science. To be honest, I thought there is not much difference in learning different languages. However, after I took this subject, I realized that it is important to understand the contents in two different languages because it helps me a lot while researching certain subjects. This shows how much Okayama University thinks about the future of students, that they want students to be more globalized by learning science in different languages.
3. The recognition of IB student in the Faculty of Engineering is still low. However, the style of study is very similar to the IB education system, that they encourage students to research by themselves. They can provide variety of subjects, so that students can find what they really want to study. I think the combination of IB course and Okayama university will really improve the quality of students' by being more interactive and improve on critical thinking skills, so I hope the faculty of engineering can intake IB students as a globally optimized university.





IB STUDENT LIFE

Student Name: **Konomi Asahi**

Self-introduction:

Hello everyone! My name is Konomi Asahi, and I am currently a Year 1 student from the Faculty of Engineering, Applied Chemistry and Biotechnology Program. I used to live in Japan until 3rd grade, then moved to Singapore, where I went to an International School for 9 years.

Activities in Okayama university:

As I started my academic life at Okayama university, I was worried about whether I could maintain my English in a Japanese environment. However, since I was taking Global Human Resource Development Program (グローバル人材育成特別コース) as my minor, I have a chance to speak English at least once a week through discussions in class. Moreover, some students who are taking this program are IB students or grew up overseas, or are interested in studying abroad, so there are many people with similar values, thus I can meet people with whom I can work hard and encourage each other.

Hult Prize Okayama:

Hult Prize is the world's largest business competition for students from around the world to achieve the SDGs. With a US\$1,000,000 global startup prize as its anchor activity, the Hult Prize has brought impact-focused programs, events and training to over a million students globally, creating a pathway for youth everywhere to take action to build a better world. The theme for this year is "Getting the World Back to Work", to create a local action by thinking global and making local action and create the employment of 2000 people by 2024. Since the competitions will be held in English, I can improve my English skills while broadening my perspectives on social issues around the world through this experience.



Club activities; 合気道(Aikido):

Aikido is an art of self-defense that uses the power of the opponent to protect oneself. Unlike other martial arts, Aikido is not a contest of superiority or inferiority, but is a martial art that emphasizes the spirit of harmony. Since Aikido utilizes the power of the opponent, it can be practiced by anyone regardless of size, strength, age, or gender.

I am currently a member of the Aikido club, and I practice four times a week. Due to the impact of COVID, I could start practicing in earnest from October, but I have been able to acquire enough techniques by now. Exercising in the club does not only help me physically, but also mentally by relieving stress caused by COVID. If you are interested in joining the club, please contact us at the following.

Twitter: @okayamadai_aiki

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/oka_aikido/





IB STUDENT LIFE

Student name: **Taiki Hosako**

Self-introduction

Hey guys! I'm Taiki, I am a first-year student majoring in the engineering (mechanical system) course. I belong to the Tennis club, because I used to play tennis in Australia, where I lived. I love to play games and watch anime/movies, so if you have anything to share, bring it to me!

Why I study at Okayama University

When I first arrived at Australia, I focused on learning English in junior high school and realized how English, and especially Japanese cannot be used in different countries. Then, I was surprised how mathematics and scientific theories are universal and can be used in anywhere. That is when I got interested in these subjects.

Currently, I study here to become an engineer and hopefully to go to overseas in order to learn and share technology. But I haven't specifically chosen what to develop. Therefore, I wish to find the answer at Okayama University.

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Difficulties entering Okayama University

First, it was tough for me to get used to the huge community. Most of the 1st year students in Okayama University have taken an entrance exam, which is completely different from the IB's entrance exam. Also, high school life in Japan is not similar to IB student's high school life. Therefore, I struggled in coming up with common topics to talk. From this experience, I thought IB students should talk more about their past and get close to each other.

Secondly, it was complicated for me to study mathematics and physics in English. For math I fully relied on data booklet, so I need to remember dozens of formula. For physics, I need to change to vocabularies in English to understand some of the physics jargon.

My wish for University life

Currently, I am multitasking between a part-time job, club activities and studying which is often exhausting, but I wish to continue. I would appreciate it if I can interact with other IB students more and other students who want to hear about my experience. Thank you for reading this far and see you!

