

Issue 14

What should students learn?

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Hello.

This is Kohno Shigeru from Nagasaki University.

The application competition rates of The National Center Test for University Admissions for each university were announced. While this test will be the last one, the rates for Nagasaki University were about the same as last year.

I'm relieved there was not a large decline in this rate.

The new School of Information and Data Sciences is doing well and I am looking forward to an even better standing in the coming years. To those involved, I appreciate all your efforts.

The major crew of "Nagasaki Daigaku Maru" ship that push Planetary Health forward are obviously the new students who have won through competitive entrance exams.

I believe and hope some of the current students will be the ones steering the course of the "Nagasaki Daigaku Maru" into the future. From the perspective of students, what kind of ship should the "Nagasaki Daigaku Maru" be?

Of course, a university is a place where students develop their abilities to live in society, learn useful skills at businesses, and acquire qualifications. These are the roles that current society is asking universities for.

However, from my view, when students come on board the "Nagasaki Daigaku Maru" they should ask themselves the following questions:

"What is life?"

"How should I live my life?"

"What kind of society should we have?"

When you ask big questions like these, you should find your own answers out of a lot of conflicts and setbacks.

Life is long and the times are changing quickly. The knowledge and skills you learned at a university will most likely no longer be useful in 10 years.

This was true for the medical specialty I studied. The common knowledge of 10 years before, or even 5 years, can easily become out-of-date.

Therefore, the teaching staff must teach their students not only the current knowledge and skills, but also how they can continue their learning journey by asking their own “questions.”

Think of the proverb, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” I hope we educate people who can ask themselves questions and struggle to find the answers independently.

To find answers is not that easy.  
But facing challenges is important.

The only qualification I ask of the crew of “Nagasaki Daigaku Maru” ship is to always ask questions and constantly challenge oneself.

I welcome lively discussion and opinions on education from faculty and staff.  
Please don't hesitate to send me email.