



UQ-KU Project

九州大学
研究教育交流拠点

UQ-KU
Project
Newsletter
December 2020
Covid-19 Edition

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND – KYUSHU UNIVERSITY OCEANIA PROJECT

The Covid-19 Edition of the UQ-KU Project Newsletter

COVID-19, the Great Disrupter

This year has challenged tertiary educators like no other year. The advent of the SARS-COV-2 virus has wreaked havoc globally. Our collective lived experience is that the most effective tool that governments around the world have to limit the spread of the virus has been to limit social gatherings and lockdowns. This presented a unique

challenge for educators, and we have all had to pivot to our teaching to online modes. In the past year we have all become experts in using Zoom, Teams, making short teaching films and providing the best possible online learning experiences for our students. We have also demonstrated that we care greatly about our students and want the best for them. Well done to everyone!

International travel also became something wistfully confined to the pre-Covid memories, and two much loved and very successful reciprocal tours by UQ and KU students could not proceed. The first tour cancelled was the visit by University of Queensland students to Kyushu University for the UQ-JPIE.

Also cancelled was the annual visit by Kyushu University students to Brisbane and the University of Queensland for the very successful Q²PEC. Fortunately, the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE) was able to pivot to online English courses, for 14 KU students. In addition to the English classes, a series of engineering focussed presentation was delivered by University of



A screenshot from one of the 2020 Q²PEC online engineering lectures

Queensland researchers, many of whom are experts in their respective fields of research.

Q²PEC GOING ONLINE – Q²PEC ONLINE 2020

For the past six years, every August/September, the Faculty of Engineering at Kyushu University has sent 30 of its students to the University of Queensland on a five-week programme called Q²PEC (Q²oshu-Queensland Programme for English Communication) to study English at ICTE classes, learn about various engineering disciplines through lectures coordinated by Professor Nogita, join site visits and workshops, make friends with UQ students on campus, experience life with a local homestay family and enjoy Brisbane and its surrounding area.

But not so this year. This year, Covid-19 changed everything – and we at Kyushu University were not sure ourselves what to do. What would be the best option for our students – cancel everything or make use of the online programme provided by UQ and ICTE to at least give our students the opportunity to improve their English by joining classes taught by ICTE English instructors and learn about engineering subjects lectured by UQ faculty members online. After long discussions within our university, we decided to go for option two, offering Q²PEC online.

I think it is no exaggeration to say that no online programme can truly replace a study abroad experience, but thanks to the staff and instructors at ICTE our students had the opportunity to improve their English skills online for 5 weeks – 5 days a week in the mornings. In the afternoons, they got the chance to interact with UQ students online in various activities. The fifth and last week provided our students with engineering sessions in several disciplines coordinated by Professor Nogita and provided by Engineering faculty members of UQ. I joined all sessions and was impressed how motivated and engaged our students were during the online lectures.

After the programme, the students confirmed that they were very satisfied with the online version of Q²PEC and that they enjoyed it and learned a lot.

Even though an online programme cannot replace a study abroad programme, it is a great addition when combined. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Professor Nogita and all members at the NS CMEM who made these Engineering sessions possible, Professor David Mee, Professor Lianzhou Wang, Professor Jin Zou, Dr. Stuart McDonald, Dr. Chris James, Dr. Jung Ho Yun and Dr. Xin Fu Tan for providing inspiring lectures to our students, and all ICTE instructors and staff for providing our students with the best online programme ever!

Thank you!

Dr Natalie Konomi
Q²PEC Coordinator, Kyushu University

The Kyushu University students did have a valuable experience with the online version of Q²PEC as expressed by a selection of reflection pieces collated within this Newsletter.

University of Queensland guest lecture series

Despite the disruption of COVID-19, the guest lecture series by University of Queensland staff members has continued, albeit in a hybrid mode including online delivery.

Professor Kazuhiro Nogita delivered his lecture series on Energy Materials in English to a cohort of engineering Master course students on campus at Kyushu University and Mr Jonathan Read has been delivering the Engineering Ethics lecture series to the 3rd year engineering and applied chemistry international students online.

UQ-KU Education Forum 2020 Teaching Effectively in the time of COVID-19

In December of 2019, Kyushu University hosted a workshop on the New Teaching Approaches for STEM Education through EMI. This was an excellent workshop and there was a wonderful exchange of ideas between University of Queensland and Kyushu University educators.

Due to the success of this workshop the workshop was held again recently, over the two afternoons of the 10th and 11th of December. This year's theme, unsurprisingly, was *Teaching Effectively in the time of COVID-19*.

Again, there was a fantastic exchange of ideas, around not only how to engage students with lectures over Zoom, but also how to use mixed modes of teaching and digital platforms to enhance their learning experience.

Teaching paradigms aside, Associate Professor James Cameron offered solutions to the lack of social interaction that students and educators have taken for granted as part of university life.

The full programme of the UQ-KU Education Forum 2020 has been added at the end of this Newsletter.

The UQ-KU Project in 2021

As this most challenging year draws to a close we should all take pride in how we have adapted to the quickly changing conditions. We have all had the welfare and education of our students at the forefront of our thinking and we have all strived to do the best we can for them.

There are still many uncertainties going forward, some fundamental programmes that are an integral part of the UQ_KU Project may not proceed in 2021.

However, we can take comfort that there exceptional challenges have been overcome and that there is now light at the end of the tunnel and with the New Year only a few weeks away, I am sure that all of us will agree that 2021 will be better, much better than 2020.

A Happy New Year to Everyone!

Q2PEC ONLINE 2020 - MOTIVATION TO STUDY MORE

I have an unforgettable experience with English. When I was a high school student, I was at a bus stop in the morning. Suddenly, I was spoken to by two visitors from another country. They wanted to know how to get to their destination. I completely understood what they said. At that time, I thought I was good at English. I got good grades on English tests and English was one of my favorite subjects. However, the fact that people who don't speak Japanese were talking to me made me freak out. Eventually, it took a very long time to say one simple sentence although I was studying English for years.

To tell you the truth, I have never been abroad. That's why I didn't know my real English skills until that experience. I wanted to improve my English-speaking skill. Unfortunately, COVID-19 prevented me from studying abroad. And I had no plans during summer vacation, so I decided to join Q2PEC online 2020.

At first, I was afraid to know that most of the students in my class were Japanese because my Japanese classmates at Kyushu university are very shy and don't speak English very much. However, students of the UQ English class were full of motivation and eager to improve their English skills. They talked positively and never spoke Japanese. I was inspired by them and tried to talk a lot. We had a lot of great conversations and discussions. Of course, the teachers were great, too. They entertained me and gave me a lot of advice. I enjoyed every single class and time flew so fast. I couldn't believe that two hours passed every day.

The class not only motivated me but also gave me a lot of awareness. For example, I had been studying English in Japanese, but I found it better to study English in English. In class, I had to know a subtle difference between some words that have similar meanings. It is better to use a monolingual dictionary than a Japanese-English dictionary in such situations. And I tended to mumble when I was not confident about what I was saying, but a teacher told me that made it harder to make myself understood.

Although I made quite good progress through this class, I still have many tasks. In Engineering Sessions, it was very hard for me to understand the whole lectures because of the lack of my vocabulary and knowledge. Also, it still takes time to speak in English because I often think in Japanese and translate to English in my head. Besides, my English reading skill has been getting worse because I read less English sentences than I did when I was a high school student. I want to improve my English, so I'm going to keep studying English harder and harder.

At last but not least, I'd like to thank my classmates and teachers and everyone else involved. They gave me a precious opportunity and helped me a lot. Thank you very much.

Marie Tachibana

KU Electrical Engineering Student

Kyushu University

THE ENTRANCE TO UQ

Hello, everyone. My name is Kenshin Onishi. I am a freshman at Kyushu University, Japan, and I joined the General English course offered online by ICTE-UQ in September 2020.

The reason why I attended this course was to improve my English competency during the vacation. I need fluent English skills because my aim is to study aerospace engineering in an American graduate school and to get a job at NASA or in venture capital.

The course was fruitful for several reasons. The people there were really nice. I had never met such unique and cheerful teachers before that, and my classmates were also kind and enthusiastic. I had 15 Japanese students and 1 Chinese student in my class. Though this class seemed to be lacking in global diversity, I soon found what I was looking for when participating in the UQ workshop, one of the optional classes. Many of the participants were Chinese, and their high command of English amazed me. I was happy to talk with them not only in English but also in each other's mother tongue (I'm also learning Chinese). What we learned there were tips for self-study about English, and the Reading Tips were the most helpful for me. I used to read books in English with a dictionary, but I learned how to guess the meanings of the words from the context. It enabled me to read the books faster and more effectively.



I also joined another optional programme. It was the Engineering Sessions by researchers of UQ. This was organized and coordinated by Professor Nogita, who had graduated from Kyushu University and teaches at UQ.

We had classes about a variety of cutting-edge topics like hypersonic, H₂ storage, nano materials, etc. One of the benefits of the sessions was that it gave me a wider range of interest. The lecture about hypersonic by Dr. Chris James was most interesting for me because it was close to what I want to learn in the future, but I also found nano materials attractive because they have a strong potential

influence on society. Another benefit was that they told me how great facilities and teachers at UQ were.

When I visit UQ, I really want to perform an experiment with equipment like the expansion tube, which is used for aerodynamic phenomena and atmospheric re-entry testing. Then, I am looking forward to taking face-to-face classes on that beautiful campus. I can't wait to visit UQ, and I will never stop studying until we meet there.

Thank you very much!

Kenshin Onishi

Department of Mechanical and

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Kyushu University

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<http://www.mechmining.uq.edu.au/uq-ku-project>

UQ-KU EDUCATION FORUM 2020

UQ-KU Education Forum 2020

– Teaching effectively in the time of COVID-19 –

Program

DAY 1: December 10th (Thu) 1400-1600 AEST/1300-1500 JST (Zoom)

MC: A/Prof. Natalie Konomi

- Welcome A/Prof. Natalie Konomi, KU (5 min)
- Greetings Prof. Yoshimi Sonoda, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, KU (5 min)
- Moving towards a learning systems paradigm with and beyond COVID-19
Prof. Satoko Fukahori, KU (15 + 5 min Q&A)
- Responses to COVID-19: evaluation of student performance and issues
Prof. Lydia Kavanagh, UQ (15 + 5 min Q&A)
- Teaching large classes in flexible mode
Dr. Sara Herke, UQ (30 + 10 min Q&A)
- Building a laboratory skills video library for molecular biosciences
A/Prof. Jack Wang, UQ (20 + 5 min Q&A)
- Close/summary A/Prof. James Cannon, KU (5 min)

DAY 2: December 11th (Fri) 1400-1600 AEST/1300-1500 JST (Zoom)

MC: A/Prof. Andrew Robertson

- Welcome A/Prof. Andrew Robertson, KU (5 min)
- UQ-KU Project Prof. Kazuhiro Nogita, UQ (10 min)
- Assessment of Program Level Learning Outcomes
Prof. Satoko Fukahori & Prof. Satoshi Watanabe, KU (30 + 5 min Q&A)
- Teaching laboratories online in physics
Dr. Joel Corney, UQ (20 + 5 min Q&A)
- Teaching Technical Subjects Online
A/Prof. James Cannon, KU (20 + 5 min Q&A)
- Opportunities for collaboration
Moderator, A/Prof. James Cannon, KU (15 min)
- Close/summary Prof. Lydia Kavanagh, UQ (5 min)