

Know Together, Change Together

With a Good Conscience

The words of Joseph Hardy Neesima, the founder of Doshisha, still give us timeless inspirations and guide us as a compass in deciding what path the university should take, as well as give our school unparalleled uniqueness and pride. It is Doshisha's inherent mission to "re-discover" and "re-interpret" Doshisha Origins (our founding philosophies including "Christian principles," "self-governing independence," and "conscience"), to illuminate society with a unique and proud brilliance, and to create new values for future generations.

Neesima spoke about "conscience" on important occasions as it was, for him, deeply connected with freedom and truth and was a force that pushes people up to a new stage beyond the existing system. The role expected of Doshisha University is quite big in the era when the world is increasingly divided and confused. Although Japanese universities face severe challenges in the era of rapidly declining birthrate, Doshisha University needs to pursue reforms instead of being content with the status quo in order to pass on its traditions cultivated and valued over 150 years to future generations. It is only by "knowing together (original meaning of the word conscience) and changing together" that we can spread to society the idea of "conscience," which is at the core of Neesima's philosophy.

Neesima had a strong belief that people and society can be changed and revitalized through a new form of education. As inheritors of Neesima's belief, faculty and staff of Doshisha University will go back to this origin and think and work together for the institution's future according to the following vision.

01. Developing Comprehensive Knowledge Based on Conscience and Deepening Education of "Balancing Knowledge and Morality"

Doshisha University nurtures comprehensive knowledge for carving out the future society in the world facing numerous problems and challenges. To develop its own unique form of comprehensive knowledge that creates new values by combining foundational, broad-based liberal arts education with specialized expertise, Doshisha needs to leverage its strengths, including Christian principles as the foundation for moral education and conscience. In the times when the upgrading of ethical standards cannot keep up with the speed of scientific and technological advancements, now is the time to shed a new light on our core education of "balancing knowledge and morality."

In order to confront social issues and support people in suffering amidst the deepening divides and conflicts of the world, Doshisha University remains a place for cultivating students who have both the "self-governing and independent" spirit to think and act on their own, and the "extraordinary" spirit of not being bound by conventions nor complacent with the current state. We produce individuals who have the ability to think deeply and to put ideas into practice, who can mediate conflicting values with the conscience of "knowing together" as well as encourage the conscience of people in the world. We also provide a place for learning to all generations, opening doors to all those who are willing to learn.

02. A New Form of Social Contribution Created in Collaboration with Kyoto

Kyoto is a city of rich history and culture and also a place of "innovative atmosphere" that has birthed many businesses undertaking cutting-edge projects. Doshisha University will be a frontier of education, research and social contribution that embodies both tradition and innovation, the same characteristics as Kyoto. We will present a model of a new society to both Japan and the world through our earnest commitment to tackling complex issues facing the local and global societies and our effort to revitalize the local community through collaboration with the industry and the government. For this purpose, we will further deepen our bond with and utilize the network of our alumni who have gone out from Kyoto to take an active role in all corners of Japan and the world. At the same time, we will create opportunities for students to be introduced to local culture and people and to experience the joy of contributing to society, through both curricular and extracurricular activities.

03. Practicing “Internationalism” Based on Neighborly Love

Now that the international order led by Western countries is undermined, Doshisha University is committed to nurturing true cosmopolitans with the ability to “know together” beyond national and cultural differences. For Neesima, who emphasized the importance of setting oneself free from insular patriotism and loving each person in the world, Christian neighborly love and “Internationalism” were one unified thing. Applying this tradition in the present international society of endless disputes and conflicts, we aim to cultivate individuals who can pay attention to people in difficult situations and work together for peace with a solid understanding of history. At the same time, we will offer internationally recognized, high-quality education and create a multicultural campus that acts as a microcosm of the world, welcoming people from diverse backgrounds across many countries and regions, while establishing key hubs.

04. Forming a Research Infrastructure that Creates Multidimensional Innovations

Doshisha University’s concurrent promotion of basic research that expands the horizon of human knowledge and applied research that aims to solve problems facing the contemporary society organically links various research resources and brings out new innovations. Furthermore, utilizing the university’s internal intellectual resources, we create “multidimensional innovations” with the combination of scientific and technological innovations based on natural science and social and ethical innovations based on arts and social science, assuming a central role of facilitating change in society.

With the expansion of integrated arts and sciences education programs in collaboration with the industry, the government, and other initiatives, we invite students into the high-level cycle of research and education, producing leaders of the new era equipped with conscience. We also facilitate the sharing and reuse of our research outcomes through the promotion of open science, and aim to improve the level of our research by activating exchange with world-class researchers. In addition, we will create new values needed in the next-generation society through innovative research projects unique to Doshisha University.

05. Creating and Coordinating Campuses that Serve as a Gateway for a New Era

“Deep forests and large lakes,” which Neesima emphasized as his ideal image of university, was a place of diversity and wonder that encouraged and nurtured different individualities, and a gateway to an unknown world. Doshisha University aims to realize the ideal university that Neesima envisioned as “deep forests and large lakes” in the present day. For this purpose, we will work on creating a learning space where people, natural environment and digital technologies coexist in harmony. Specifically, we will build an environment that values each student, encourages them to demonstrate their potential in full, and equips them with the knowledge and practical skills to deal with global issues such as climate change and respecting diversity and carve out the future. Furthermore, we will realize intellectual exchanges that transcend time and space through the organic coordination between our geographically separated two physical locations, Imadegawa and Kyotanabe Campuses, as well as by integrating them with flexible and diverse learning environment utilizing virtual spaces. The multi-layered learning space that emerges from such an integration will be the gateway for future generations.