



Message from the President

Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST) was established in 1991 to open up Japan's postgraduate educational system, which was then somewhat inflexible, to the winds of change, with the objective of turning Japan into a science and technology-oriented nation. Accordingly, NAIST is composed solely of graduate schools, with none of the undergraduate courses found in most universities. NAIST's education and research are concentrated in three of the four priority areas listed in the Japanese government's science and technology policy (information technology, biological sciences, and nanotechnology), and we focus particularly on the integration and interfacing of these three areas.

NAIST's teaching faculty includes specialists who have demonstrated outstanding abilities in diverse environments, ranging from Japanese and overseas universities to research centers attached to private businesses, and thanks to our solid research organization and framework, these experts have produced numerous world-leading research achievements. NAIST accepts Japanese students, overseas students, and mature students interested in pursuing research in the above-mentioned areas regardless of their undergraduate educational backgrounds, and transforms them into fully fledged researchers and highly specialized personnel who can make a significant contribution to our planet and humanity in the 21st century. The guiding principle of our efforts is the great importance we attach to well-structured and organized quality education through advanced research.

NAIST is a relatively small university, with some 200 teaching faculty members, 150 administrative staff, and 1000 postgraduate students. Since its founding, NAIST has taken full advantage of this small size, constantly striving to improve its education and research so as to establish a new model of postgraduate education and research, always in line with the objectives of its establishment. The quality of research and education presently undertaken at NAIST is highly evaluated, as attested by governmental and private-sector statistical data. This is evidenced by the fact that NAIST's systematic education/research systems have been selected for programs such as the Global COE Program and the Support Program for Improving Graduate School Education, with the acquisition of large sums of competitive governmental research funds.

This Guidebook has been prepared to present NAIST's founding objectives and concept, organizational characteristics, administrative systems, research, education, community collaboration, international exchanges, and other activities. I hope it will provide the opportunity for you to find out about NAIST, and stimulate your interest in our university.

*Akira ISOGAI
President*

Concept

As a national university composed solely of graduate schools, NAIST promotes advanced research and educates accomplished individuals to help in the development of society based on the advancement of science and technology.

Objectives

- To promote high-level research in advanced science and technology
- To develop international leaders in research
- To train specialists capable of contributing to national society and the economy
- To promote relationships between science and the community and the creation of a scientifically literate population

Medium-term Goals and Plans (April 2004 – March 2010)

— Overall objectives of the university —

- To perform in-depth research in the core study areas of information, biological and materials sciences, while actively engaging in interdisciplinary studies to explore and seek solutions for issues in the most advanced areas.
- To actively address issues with strong social needs to deliver international-level research results that will help to shape the next generation.
- To foster students and staff who are highly motivated to work for the advancement of science and technology and are able to play leading roles in the international community through a systematic curriculum and research activities.
- To provide education to enable the acquisition of a good sense of ethics, broader views, logical thinking, positive leadership, fair judgment and articulateness with high linguistic capabilities.
- To return the benefits of the Institute's research to society by accumulating research results as an intellectual asset for humankind and promoting industry-government-academia collaboration.

