

Kyushu Institute of Technology

Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech) is a Japanese national university founded in 1909 – in the city of Kitakyushu. Kitakyushu is known as the birthplace of modern industry in Japan. Over the past 20 years, Kyutech has offered courses in space engineering at undergraduate and graduate levels. In 2004, Kyutech established the Laboratory of Lean Satellite Enterprises and In-Orbit Experiments (LaSEINE) as a special research center dedicated to studies on spacecraft charging, spacecraft material degradation, and hypervelocity impact. In 2010, a new research division, the Centre for Nanosatellite Testing (CeNT) was added to LaSEINE. CeNT provides all the environmental tests necessary for a nano-satellite with size up to 50cm x 50cm x 50cm and weight up to 50kg. On 17 February 2016, HORYU-IV, a nano-satellite built by SEIC students, was launched into space. Subsequent projects have continued. Kyutech is the World No. 1 academic operator of small satellites for 7 years in a row according to the “Smallsats by the Numbers 2024” reported by BryceTech.

Additional information



HORYU-IV nano-satellite



HORYU-IV team members



Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST)

United Nations/Japan Long-term

Fellowship Programme

on Nano-Satellite Technologies hosted by

Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan



History of PNST

The PNST Fellowship Programme was initiated in 2013 by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Government of Japan in conjunction with the Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech).

PNST offers six fellowships per year (three Masters, three Doctoral) to aspiring post-graduate level students who are interested in studying nano-satellite design and learning basic space technology development. All PNST fellowship students enroll in the English-based Space Engineering International Course (SEIC) at Kyutech, which was launched in April 2013. SEIC students hail from all over the world.

Where SEIC students come from (as of April 2024)

Number of Students (51 in total)	Nationality (26 countries)
11	Japan
6	Thailand
4 (8 in total)	China, France
2 (8 in total)	Honduras, Indonesia, Nepal, Vietnam
1 (18 in total)	Algeria, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Laos, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Palestine, Paraguay, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Uganda

Application Requirements

- You must be age 35 or less as of April 2nd of the year that you enrolled at Kyutech
- Good command of the English language (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)
- Citizen of a non-space faring nation
- Bachelor and/or Master Degree (or equivalent) in engineering-related subjects (degrees in different technological fields can be considered)
- Passionate about space

PNST Program and Future Opportunities

The PNST program provides extensive research opportunities in nano-satellite systems through the use of space research facilities at Kyutech. PNST students will join a space development project at Kyutech. Through the project, each participant is expected to identify a research topic and carry out the research work under the supervision of Kyutech faculty. The participant is also required to satisfy the graduate course work requirements of SEIC. Upon successful completion of a thesis and its defense, the participant is granted either a Master/Doctoral degree. **Upon graduation PNST fellows are expected to return to their home countries to help develop their space sector.**

Fellowship Terms and Student life

- You would start in Oct.: Master's Program is 2 years and Doctoral Program is 3 years
- Enrollment fee, tuition fees, and economy class airfare from home country are covered
- PNST fellows receive about 144,000 yen per month for living expenses
- You are required to enroll in Space Engineering International Course (SEIC)
- Opportunities to learn Japanese language -- and also Japanese culture
- Instruction in English, except Japanese language classes

Space Projects at Kyutech

Kyutech has numerous world-class space facilities and space projects, including:

1. Electrostatic discharge testing in space plasma environment
2. Space-use material degradation testing under UV and atomic oxygen flux
3. Nano-satellite environment testing (vibration, shock, thermal vacuum, thermal cycling, outgassing, EMC & antenna compatibility, etc.)
4. Hypervelocity impact testing using two-stage light gas guns
5. BIRDS CubeSat series
6. KITSUNE 6U CubeSat
7. VERTECS 6U CubeSat
8. LEOPARD 3U CubeSat

BIRDS-1 CubeSats



Thermal vacuum chamber at CeNT



KITSUNE tech demonstration satellite



How to Apply

Your fully completed application and all other required documents should be submitted electronically. The application deadline is typically in January for October admission. Selection is made on the basis of each applicant's academic credentials, relevant work experience, and future potential. To apply to PNST, visit the PNST website of the United Nations.

United Nations_URL

