

September 8, 2023

Keio University

## Free Online Courses on FutureLearn Keio University's Open Courses Achieve 100,000 Registrants

Keio University has surpassed a total of 100,000 registrants for the courses it offers on the massive open online course (MOOC) platform FutureLearn.

FutureLearn, founded in 2012, is a UK-based MOOC platform that emphasizes social learning and collaboration among learners. As of 2023, it has over 18 million learners registered worldwide. Keio University has been the sole Japanese institution participating in FutureLearn since 2015, and as of August 2023, it offers 11 courses in both English and Japanese (with a few exceptions).

### 1. Significance of Keio University's Participation in FutureLearn

Keio University's mission includes promoting the societal dissemination of education and learning programs that utilize diverse media and learning formats. Since 2015, the university has been participating in the MOOC platform FutureLearn. Registration and participation in FutureLearn courses are entirely free, and learners have the option to obtain certificates for a fee or continue their studies after the course duration ends.

The Keio University FutureLearn Project has been developing and conducting courses with the mission of: (1) Disseminating university knowledge and contributing to society, (2) Development of advanced educational methods and improvement of educational capabilities at Keio University, and (3) Promotion of university globalization.

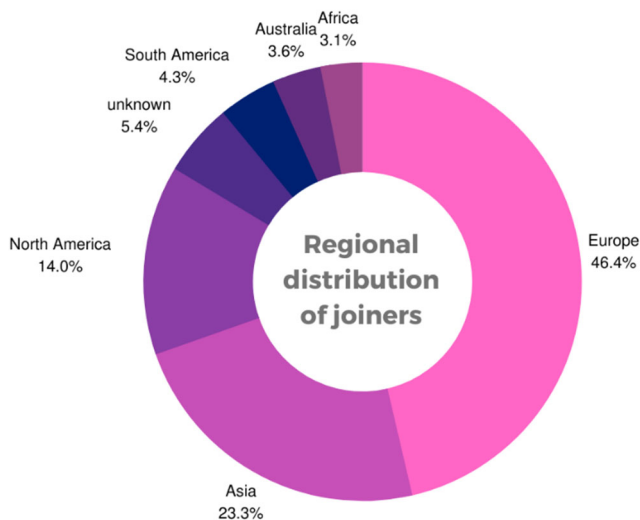
### Keio FutureLearn のミッション Mission of Keio FutureLearn

- 1** 大学の知の発信と社会貢献  
Disseminating University Knowledge  
and Contributing to Society
- 2** 大学の先進的な教育手法の開発、教育力の向上  
Development of advanced educational methods and  
improvement of educational capabilities at Keio Univ.
- 3** 大学のグローバル化の推進  
Promotion of University Globalization

## 2. Achievements in FutureLearn Initiatives

As of 2023, Keio University offers 11 courses in English and Japanese (with a few exceptions), all of which are open for free enrollment at any time. These courses showcase Keio University's archives, which include valuable books, artworks, and more, held by its various undergraduate faculties and research institutes. Through these courses, Keio University has been able to disseminate Japanese culture to the world, attracting learners from diverse regions, primarily Europe, Asia, and North America (see the graph on the right). We consider it an achievement that Keio University has managed to garner the interest of as

many as 100,000 course registrants with coursework unique to the university, covering a specialized and distinctive area of Japanese culture.



The course "Travelling Books: History in Europe and Japan," which was launched in 2022, was made possible through a collaboration with the British Library, which possesses a wealth of valuable materials. For Keio University—the sole institution in Asia to possess a Gutenberg 42-line Bible and which has received high acclaim for its research and preservation of incunabula (early printed books) and Japanese and Chinese books—this has been a highly significant achievement in terms of research dissemination.

Furthermore, the knowledge gained from course development is actively incorporated into research for enhancing learning design, as well as utilized in teaching. For instance, the course "Methodologies for Service Design," launched in 2020, was designed to test the implementation of "blended learning," where students in the Graduate School of Media Design (KMD) concurrently enrolled in FutureLearn courses for online learning while participating in on-campus classes. From 2023, the course "Understanding Quantum Computers" has been selected to confer credits at Nanyang Technological University (a public university in Singapore, ranked 26th in the 2024 QS World University Rankings), indicating progress in cross-university utilization. The course "Understanding the Internet" has also been implemented as a required subject in the Internet Engineering Education Consortium's program (APIE Program) aimed at university students across Asia.

### **3. Future Developments**

Beyond 2023, Keio University plans to develop and list new courses. The most recent and upcoming courses include:

#### **New courses in 2023**

##### **Understanding the Internet**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-the-internet>

**Explore essential elements of the internet, from IP addresses to digital data.**

Language: English

Instructor: Jun Murai (Keio University Cyber Civilization Research Center)

Navigator: Korry Luke (Ph.D. candidate, Graduate School of Media and Governance)

\*Developed in collaboration with the Internet Engineering Education Consortium, APIE Program.

#### **Courses scheduled for 2023**

##### **Akichi in Collections Management: Perspectives from a Japanese University Museum**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/akichi-in-collections-management>

**Discover new approaches to collection management!**

Currently accepting enrollees and scheduled to begin on September 18

Language: English

Instructors: Yoko Watanabe, Yu Honma, Shiho Hasegawa, Goki Miyakita (Keio University Museum Commons)

##### **Modernization of Japan: The Struggle of Fukuzawa Yukichi**

[https://www.fl-keio.info/intro/?page\\_id=1474](https://www.fl-keio.info/intro/?page_id=1474)

Currently accepting enrollees and scheduled to begin in October

**Reflect on what "civilization" should mean to us through the struggles of Yukichi Fukuzawa.**

Languages: Japanese, English (Japanese version to be released first)

Instructors: Keita Yamauchi, Takeyuki Tokura (Keio University Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies)

#### **■ References**

FutureLearn official website: <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Page introducing Keio University within the website:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/partners/keio-university>

Keio University FutureLearn Japanese website: <https://www.fl-keio.info/intro/>

Keio University FutureLearn X : [https://twitter.com/Keio\\_FL](https://twitter.com/Keio_FL)

\*Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contacts listed below in advance of any press coverage.

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