

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

Sophia University was founded in 1913 by the Jesuits, a Catholic order renowned for excellence in education. From the beginning, the university founders stressed an internationally oriented curriculum and rigorous training in foreign languages. Sophia soon established itself as a leading institution for scholarship in foreign languages and literature in Japan. After World War II personnel and contributions flowed in from abroad, new departments were created, including the International Division offering courses in English, and women were enrolled. Links between its research institutes and similar centers throughout the world strengthened Sophia's international reputation, as did its English-language publications, including the quarterly journal *Monumenta Nipponica*, a leading journal of Japanese studies.

Today Sophia University is a major teaching and research university with 12,000 students, and teaching staff of 1,000 encompassing dozens of nationalities. The undergraduate program is highly competitive with about 25,000 students vying for 2,000 positions every year. Graduate education at Sophia has been recognized for excellence by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (MEXT) through Center of Excellence and Attractive Graduate Education awards. Advanced research and study is based in the numerous graduate programs and research institutes, and supported by a central library and a number of specialized libraries. Located in Tokyo's Chiyoda district near the National Diet and Imperial Palace, Sophia is easily accessible by train and subway.