

An Introduction to Nagano Prefectural Ueda Senior High School and its Super Global High School (SGH) Program

1. School Goals and Students Priorities

Ueda SHS aims to develop independent youth who pursue truth and justice as members of a peaceful society. To do this, students are encouraged to:

- Actively participate in a “*bunburyōdō*” academic curriculum and club activities
- Identify their own independent motivations for learning
- Behave in a disciplined and courteous manner both in and out of school
- Seek support from their parents and communities

2. General School Information

Student Body

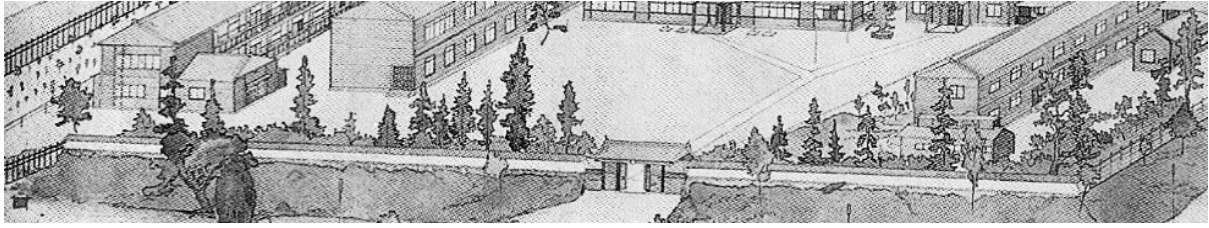
Ueda SHS students matriculate to one of two courses, a normal day-course or an alternative learning night-course. The Normal Course curriculum typically takes three years to complete, while Night Course curriculum may take up to four years to complete.

Student Population	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	Total
Normal Course	321	321	317	--	959
Night Course	27	19	24	9	79

School History

Built on the site of Ueda Castle’s feudal lord’s family residence, our school is renowned for its rich history of excellent educational opportunities in the Eastern Region of Nagano.

- 1874 Grounds used as a Regional School
- 1900 Officially founded as Ueda Secondary School
- 1948 Reopened as Ueda Matsuo Senior High School in Japan’s New Education System
- 1953 Became co-educational
- 2000 Celebrated 100th anniversary
- 2007 Designated as an Academic Development Frontier High School by MEXT
- 2014 Designated as a Super Global High School Associate School by MEXT
- 2015 Designated as a Super Global High School (SGH) by MEXT



3. Super Global High School (SGH) Program

National Program

Ueda SHS's SGH Program is part of a national initiative run by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT).

Super Global High School Program Outline

The Super Global High School Program aims to foster globalized leaders who will be able to play active roles on the international stage through education at high schools that contribute to this mission. Students will achieve goals such as awareness and deep knowledge of social issues, communication ability and problem-solving skills.

High schools certified as Super Global High Schools design a profile for the type of globalized leader they envision. They conduct multidisciplinary, comprehensive and exploratory studies on social and business issues at the global level, in collaboration with domestic and overseas universities that promote globalization as well as corporations and international organizations.

This program requires high school students to conduct fieldwork both domestically and internationally on a research topic as part of their learning, in order to broaden their views and pursue their goals.

The certified schools are expected to design a profile of their ideal leader, set specific research topics and education content in consideration of their regional characteristics and features of the schools.

(Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports Science and Technology - <http://www.sghc.jp/en/>)

Ueda Senior High School's SGH Program

The Ueda SHS SGH Program plan focuses on practical ways to achieve our school's purpose and student goals. In 2014, MEXT chose our school as a designated SGH Associate School. Thanks to this designation, we were able to partner with organizations such as local companies and international NGOs to complete student-centered projects. Students enjoyed learning through these partnership projects and joined presentation seminars with an increased motivation for community contributions. With the support of a full SGH School designation in 2015, Ueda SHS has been able to offer more project opportunities and international exchange activities for our students.



Example Curriculum Features

In their second year of study at Ueda SHS, all students participate in research study projects. In these projects, information science teachers and English teachers conduct classes together to improve the students' ICT and presentation skills. This year, second year students made one-minute movies for UNICEF and gave presentations about current challenges facing Okinawa Prefecture, which they learned about on their school trip.

In "Communication English I" and "Communication English II" courses, first year students are researching and making reports about Japan to present in exchanges with Taiwanese high school students. In addition to these exchanges, students are expected to participate in group projects, essay writing, and mini-debates in their everyday classes. Through these projects and opportunities, their motivations and communication skills for expressing their own ideas in English and Japanese are rapidly increasing.

Ueda SHS SGH Program Detailed Plan (Proposal Accepted by MEXT)

Theme	Fostering Global Leaders from Nagano Prefecture to Promote Health and Longevity around the World
Outline Concepts	<p>Nagano Prefecture is famous for its citizens' longevity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All students will conduct research related to the themes of "Life and Health" 2. Students will acquire autonomous, cooperative "21st Century Skills" by having opportunities to present their research done on domestic and international fieldwork projects. 3. The school will enhance its curriculum to specifically foster "21st Century Skills"
Overall Plan	<p><u>Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To act as a SGH model for other public, academic schools. • To develop a curriculum which makes research programs possible for large-scale senior high schools. • To have students develop three main abilities to help them be future global leaders through the school's curriculum, research programs, and study trips abroad. All students should develop the abilities to: creatively solve problems, work internationally, and present information effectively to others. <p><u>Institutional Context</u></p> <p>Ueda SHS is a very old school with over 115 years of history. The school motto is 「試百難」 which means, "Challenge 100 Hurdles." As a</p>

	<p>senior high school with high expectations from the community, parents, and alumni, we have worked on developing student's high academic achievement. Traditionally our students set "high hurdles" for themselves to challenge, but recently some students seem to be depending on teachers more, which may be a growing concern.</p>
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<p>Overall Plan (Cont.)</p>	<p><u>Institutional Context (Cont.)</u></p> <p>In 2014, Ueda SHS was designated as an SGH Associate School as well as a model school for "21st Century Style" education. Thanks to this designation, we began to provide students with opportunities for research programs conducted in groups.</p> <p>23 students were given the chance to visit and study in the Philippines with the support of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Nagano Board of Education. While there, students presented about Japan and discussed "Life and Health" with local business and resident groups. After they returned to Ueda, they gave presentations about their experiences in the Phillipines at school and at community events.</p> <p>There are community organizations which have supported our research programs. With the support of those organizations, we we able to conduct additional research and presentation events. The students who joined these events have started to pay more attention to global issues and are now distinctively taking part in the other outreach activities with a positive attitude.</p> <p>As a large-scale school with roughly 1000 students, it has been difficult to involve the entire student body in our programs. We are still trying to develop an ideal curriculum to introduce research to all subject fields and allow students to work on research consistently, gradually, and systematically.</p>						
<p>Main Research Project</p>	<p><u>Research Project</u></p> <p><i>Theme</i> Study of Global Issues in "Life and Health" — From the Nagano Model to Global Health</p> <p><i>Categories of Study</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="614 1619 1350 2038"> <thead> <tr> <th>Main Topic</th> <th>Subtopics</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A) Natural Environment and Local Culture</td> <td> ① Environment Issues and Disaster Prevention ② Human Rights and Gender Issues ③ History and Art </td> </tr> <tr> <td>B) Food and Business</td> <td> ① Agriculture and Resource Management ② Food and Nutrition ③ Business and City Management </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Main Topic	Subtopics	A) Natural Environment and Local Culture	① Environment Issues and Disaster Prevention ② Human Rights and Gender Issues ③ History and Art	B) Food and Business	① Agriculture and Resource Management ② Food and Nutrition ③ Business and City Management
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Main Research Project (Cont.)	<p><i>Procedure</i></p> <p>Stage 1: All 1st Year Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Relationships (IR) Examining current societies through the lens of world history - Global Studies I (GSI) Research-based course utilizing integrated world history, current events, international relationships, and Communication English studies - Period of Integrated Study Fieldwork conducted around Nagano Prefecture with a “Life and Health” theme - Study Tour to the Philippines (for selected students) <p>Stage 2 : All 2nd Year Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Studies II (GSII) Reorganized Information Studies classes, with more research-based projects - Period of Integrated Study Fieldwork conducted abroad in Taiwan with a “Life and Health around the World” theme - Study Tour to Taiwan (all 2nd years, 5 days) <p>Stage 3: 40 Selected 3rd Year Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Studies III (GSIII) Examining policies for international organizations and administrative bodies Hosting the “Shinshu Life and Health Forum” and a “Hokuriku Shinkansen Summit” <p><i>Evaluation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects will be examined and evaluated by the SGH Evaluation Committee - Meetings will be held periodically to allow student presentations and evaluate the students’ achievements - Students’ work will be published in print and digital format
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