

Educational Ideals

Foster individuals who can approach global issues with “strength and dignity”.

[Vision]

The mission of Kwansai Gakuin is to cultivate world citizens who embody “Mastery for Service” through education based on Christian principles, and to send them out into the world. A “world citizen”¹ is someone who possesses the skills to communicate and empathize with others, then take responsibility for creating a better world.

Kwansai Gakuin has two people who exemplify the “world citizen” ideal. The first is the founding Chancellor, W.R. Lambuth, who traveled the globe and preached Christianity as a missionary through medicine. The other is the first Dean of Kwansai Gakuin University (and Kwansai Gakuin’s 4th Chancellor), C.J.L. Bates, who was the model for “service to the world through business,” which expressed the school motto based on the Protestant spirit. Sending out into the world many graduates who will play an active role in both the public sector, including international contributions, and the business sector, and creating true global leaders who possess “strength and dignity” and who will tackle global issues and lead the world to solutions – this is the Kwansai Gakuin ideal.²

In 2039, the 150th anniversary of Kwansai Gakuin, factors like the decline in Japan’s birth rate and advances in AI mean that society is expected to look vastly different from how it is today. Even in that future era, it is our hope that our graduates will hold the school motto close to their hearts; we hope that with a firm sense of values and rich humanity, they will use the knowledge and skills they have acquired at Kwansai Gakuin to lead “fulfilling and meaningful lives” by participating actively in a diverse range of fields and serving their neighbors, society and the world. The nine schools of Kwansai Gakuin³ will make the most of their collective strengths as a comprehensive educational institution with a highly international character, and combine forces to work towards the realization of that ideal.

¹ ‘A monument in the Lambuth family’s hometown in the state of Mississippi commemorates the family’s distinguished service. The following inscription honors Walter Lambuth: “World Citizen and Christian Apostle to many lands.” “The Founder, Walter Russell Thornton Lambuth (1854-1921) His Footsteps around the World” *The Spirit of Kwansai*, Pp. 3,4

² Then Principal Bates, in ‘Our College Motto “Mastery for Service”,’ wrote, ‘We aim to be strong, to be masters... This then is our college motto, to become strong, effective men, not weak incompetents; men who will be recognized as masters.’ He impressed on students the importance of self-culture, to become strong, capable individuals so they could serve their neighbors, society and the world. *The Spirit of Kwansai*, Pp. 7,8

Also, the motto of the Kwansai Gakuin University sports club association, “noble stubbornness” comes from a poem written by 17th-century English poet, J. Dryden. It has a variety of Japanese translations, but essentially upholds the ideal of possessing both strength and dignity (nobility). *Kwansai Gakuin Jiten Zouhokaitai-ban [Kwansai Gakuin Encyclopedia, Expanded and Revised Edition]*, P. 381

The lyrics of the school song, “A Song for Kwansai” (composed by Edward Bryden in 1949) also emphasize “strength.

In faith and thought, in song and game,
Your love, your hope, your strength, your fame,
Still strong and true.

³ The nine schools of Kwansai Gakuin are the Kwansai Gakuin University (undergraduate and graduate schools); Seiwa Junior College; Kwansai Gakuin Senior High School; Kwansai Gakuin Junior High School; Senri International School of Kwansai Gakuin, Senior High School; Senri International School of Kwansai Gakuin, Middle School; Osaka International School of Kwansai Gakuin; Kwansai Gakuin Elementary School; and Kwansai Gakuin Kindergarten.