



To Members of the Press

3rd July, 2025

Fukuoka Women's University will start accepting transgender students from April 2029 onwards.

In order to respect and embrace the diverse ways of being female, Fukuoka Women's University (FWU) has decided to include transgender women* in the application qualifications for its undergraduate and graduate schools from the 2029 academic year. In conjunction with this decision, the President's Message will be published as follows.

(*A person who identifies as a woman, even though their gender on the family register might be male based on physical sex.)

1. Definition of transgender students eligible for acceptance:
Students whose family register at birth is male and yet whose gender identity is female.
2. Start of acceptance:
Acceptance begins with students who apply to FWU in the 2028 academic year and enter in the 2029 academic year.
3. President's message:
See annex.
4. History of decision-making process in the university to date:
 - (1) From May to December 2022, the "Acceptance Study Team" collected relevant information and discussed issues in preparation for the decision to accept transgender students.
 - (2) Following the findings and recommendations of the "Acceptance Study Team", an "Acceptance Review Committee" was established in May 2023. Through training sessions with external experts and opinion-exchange meetings with students, the committee deliberated on the necessary measures to be taken when accepting transgender students. A total of 12 meetings were held between May 2023 and February 2025.
 - (3) The "Acceptance Review Committee" submitted its opinion to the President that "acceptance is acceptable". After an internal review of the acceptance policy, it was officially decided in March 2025 to "accept transgender students from the 2029 intake".
 - (4) Opinion-exchange meetings and information sessions with student unions, parents' associations and alumni associations.
5. Future plans:
We plan to publish acceptance guidelines and application eligibility assessment procedures in autumn 2026. In addition, FWU will develop an adequate environment on the campus for all female students, including transgender students, so that they can live and study together without difficulty by, for example, adding innovations to the current first-year boarding system and establishing a student counseling system.

Enquiries on this matter:

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On Accepting Transgender Students:
Opening the Door to Equal Learning Opportunities for All Aspiring Women

MUKAI Tsuyoshi
President, Fukuoka Women's University

Fukuoka Women's University was founded in 1923 as Japan's first public women's college at a time when the doors to higher education were largely closed to women. Since then, the university's fundamental philosophy has been to nurture female leaders who will guide the next generation, while addressing gender-based inequalities in the provision of educational opportunities and adapting to the evolving needs of society.

One hundred years have passed since this university was founded in response to women's voices for change. In the meantime, concepts of femininity and gender have drastically changed, and society is now rightfully becoming more accepting of gender diversity. Based on the university's founding history and basic philosophy, we believe it is our mission as a public women's university to take steps toward embracing the diverse ways of being female and providing our unique learning environment for all motivated women.

Additionally, we must contribute to creating an inclusive society by offering timely education and support to all students and staff, helping them to deepen their understanding of and respect for diversity in terms of not only gender but also people and culture. This support will also encourage respect for the sexuality of others and oneself, as well as every person's right to freedom of self-expression. We must contribute to the creation of such a tolerant society.

Therefore, in order to further advance the steps towards diversity and inclusion, Fukuoka Women's University has decided to include transgender women* in the "female" category of the application qualifications for its undergraduate and graduate schools, starting with students wishing to enter the university in April 2029. In preparation for the start of acceptance, we will create an adequate environment where all female students, including transgender students, can live and study together without difficulty. We believe that this process and learning in this new environment will contribute to realizing a diverse and inclusive society, as well as help in the development of human resources with high sensitivity and a global mindset.

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