

Title

Nurturing International Mindedness by increasing IB Admissions: A 6-year Experience at a National University

Abstract

Okayama University is a National University in Japan which recognizes the IB Diploma and accepts IB students without imposing admission tests, since 2012. This talk will focus on the positive experiences of hosting IB students, highlighting IB student voices, experiences of IB academic advisors and University Admission officers, in initiating international mindedness among other students and faculty. The majority of IB students presently enrolled at Okayama University include many Japanese Nationals, who have brought with them a mindset to think beyond Japanese cultural norms and be more open to cultural diversity. These students have shown that it is not the person's nationality or mother tongue that makes him or her more international minded but their education. IB education appears to have influenced their take on any issue with a more worldly approach. IB students tend to create a learning environment and encourage other students to form a community of learners. They also value the experience of others. This new trend of learners has influenced the University's decision to increase IB admissions, so that IB students can build a career in Japan and also internationalize the Japanese society by encouraging local students to think globally from their own home ground.

Session Goal

The ultimate goal of this session is to share the positive experiences of hosting internationally minded IB students and encouraging the development of a more proactive and smooth transition of IB Diploma students into Japanese Higher Education. This session will highlight IB student voices, experiences of IB academic advisors and University Admission officers, at a Japanese National University.

Presenter Biography

Dr. Sabina Mahmood did her PhD. from Okayama University Medical School. Presently, she is an Associate Prof. at the Admission Center (IB admissions) and teaches at Okayama University Medical School. She is also the IB advisor for all IB students studying at Okayama University. Her journey at Okayama University began as a foreign student and continued as a professional educator. As a faculty member involved in Global Admissions, and through interactions with IB students, parents and IB school advisors, she has gathered knowledge and experience to establish an IB friendly, international minded University environment in Japan.