Kikokushijo Academy to Introduce AI Learning Support for University Applications, Helping Students Write in Their Own Words

Combining AI informed by more than 20 years of English teaching expertise with guidance from instructors and mentors

Kikokushijo Academy (KA) is preparing to introduce an AI learning support system as part of University Prep, its university preparation program.

For students applying to English-taught degree programs in Japan and universities overseas, the system will combine AI incorporating KA's teaching materials and instructional methods with personalized guidance from instructors and mentors to strengthen preparation for English-language application essays and interviews.

Pilot testing is currently underway, with a phased rollout targeted for March 2027.

Key Highlights

- Incorporates KA's teaching materials, questioning methods, and writing assessment criteria into AI-supported learning.
- Uses AI to help students refine their thinking and writing, then deepen their ideas through guidance from instructors and mentors.
- Supports university research and preparation for English-language application essays and interviews.



AI as a Learning Tool, Not a Substitute for Student Writing

University application essays and interviews give students an opportunity to communicate their experiences, what they have learned, and what they hope to explore at university. KA helps students connect thinking, experience, and expression so they can communicate their ideas in their own words.

KA does not use AI to ghostwrite students' application essays. Instead, the system helps students explore the meaning of their experiences and organize what they want to communicate. Students deepen their own thinking and express their ideas in their own words.

Extending KA's Teaching Approach Beyond the Classroom

Personalized guidance from instructors and mentors is central to KA's university preparation program. Through discussions, they identify students' interests and strengths and help them deepen their thinking by introducing new perspectives.

Before meeting with instructors and mentors, students can use AI to refine their ideas and writing and identify topics they want to discuss. This helps make their time with instructors and mentors more meaningful.

Together, AI-supported practice and personal guidance will support university application preparation in three key areas.

1. Reflecting on Experiences and Organizing Ideas Before Writing

The system adjusts its questions and guidance based on the interests, experiences, and goals students share.

How did an experience change your thinking? What would you like to explore further at university?

Through these exchanges, students can connect their experiences to their reasons for applying and organize their ideas into essays that reflect their own perspectives.

2. Using Feedback to Revise Their Own Writing

Based on KA's writing assessment criteria, the system will provide suggestions for improvement. Students will consider what to revise and how to communicate their ideas more effectively, refining their writing through repeated revisions.

3. Preparing for University-Specific Admissions Requirements

Drawing on KA's knowledge of universities and experience in university admissions guidance, the system will help students prepare in line with their chosen universities' educational approaches and application requirements.

Through work on English-language essays and statements of purpose, as well as interview practice for holistic admissions, students will develop ways to communicate their experiences and what they hope to study at university.

Supporting Independent Learning in the Age of AI

“AI has tremendous potential to support education, but the real value comes from how students use it to develop their own abilities. At KA, we have spent more than 20 years helping students learn to think critically and express themselves in English. Through University Prep, we want to use AI to strengthen that process, giving students more opportunities to practice, reflect, and improve while keeping independent thinking and human guidance at the center of their education.”

Charles Knudsen
Representative Director, President and CEO
Global KA Holdings Inc.

Continuing to Build English Skills from Junior High School to University

Beginning in 2027, KA will bring its programs for Grades 7–12 under the University Prep name, with classes organized by grade level and English proficiency.

Students will continue developing their English skills after entering junior high school, exploring a range of topics and broadening their interests through discussion. Building on this foundation, the program will guide students progressively from exploring university options to preparing application essays and interviews.

KA also offers opportunities and guidance for activities such as community service, encouraging students to gain experiences that reflect their individual interests.

KA Junior High / High School Programs

Free Guide to Exploring University Options

KA has also released *Bluebook Select University Prep, 2027 Admissions Edition*, a free guide featuring admissions information for 20 universities in Japan offering English-taught programs, along with perspectives from current university students.

The guide helps students and families compare universities and explore their options for higher education.

Download Bluebook Select University Prep

About Global KA Holdings

Company: Global KA Holdings Inc.

Location: Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan

Representative: Charles Knudsen, Representative Director, President and CEO

Business Activities: English education, operation of international schools, and educational information and media services.

Main Group Brands: Kikokushijo Academy (KA), KA International School (KAIS), Global Step Academy (GSA), SOLTILO GSA International School, Global Athlete (GA), United School of Tokyo (UST), The International School Times (IST), Kokusaba Tutoring, and others.

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