

## **A Decade of Discovery “I know about the world’s width” “I grow my humanity”**

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Ten years on, we look at the comprehensive support services that have contributed to the continuing success of students from Kanazawa Technical College (KTC) Japan, studying at Otago Polytechnic New Zealand

What began as a pilot programme in 2004 is now after a decade, a uniquely successful programme, in which Japanese students from KTC, study for their third year of a five year diploma at Otago Polytechnic. They learn engineering in an English - immersion environment. This is the first programme where the study of Japanese students abroad, is accredited to their Japanese qualification. An extremely high level of academic success has been achieved, with 157 of the 159 students who have participated to date, having successfully completed their year of study.

This paper will explore the various supports that have contributed to the programme’s success. These include the commitment of both institutions to this partnership, dedicated pastoral care staff including first language speakers, the role of the host families, the involvement of student and community groups, and the inclusion of co-curricular activities. Snippets of the 2013 student presentation, where they speak of their experiences in New Zealand and other relevant feedback, will be shared. Challenges including those resulting from cultural differences will be identified and solutions identified. These include the concept of the ideal host family, the role of the teacher, and differing communication styles.

**Key words** – student support services, integrated model of pastoral care