

Agreement on the Handling of Classes in the Event of an Emergency

1. Purpose

This Agreement establishes the necessary provisions governing the handling of in-person classes and real-time remote classes (synchronous, interactive classes) (hereinafter collectively referred to as “classes”) when disaster-related weather information or evacuation information (hereinafter collectively referred to as “disaster-related information”) is issued, with the aim of ensuring student safety.

2. Measures Such as Class Cancellations in Response to Disaster-Related Information

(1) When any of the following disaster-related information is issued for Kumamoto City, measures such as class cancellations shall be implemented.

If such information is issued after a class has begun, the class shall, in principle, continue. However, a class may be cancelled immediately if necessary to ensure student safety.

● Weather Warnings and Other Alerts

Level 5 Special Warning for Flooding, Level 5 Special Warning for Heavy Rain, Level 5 Special Warning for Landslides, Level 4 Warning for Flooding Danger, Level 4 Warning for Heavy Rain Danger, Level 4 Warning for Landslide Danger, Special Warning for Violent Winds, Warning for Violent Winds, Special Warning for Heavy Snow, Special Warning for Snowstorms

Note: The Level 5 Special Warning for Flooding and the Level 4 Warning for Flooding Danger shall apply only when the Shirakawa River is included in the area covered by the warning.

● Evacuation Information

An Evacuation Order or Emergency Safety Measures are issued for Chuo Ward, Kumamoto City.

The following measures shall be taken according to the timing of the issuance or lifting of the information:

If the information is in effect at 6:00 a.m.: All morning classes shall be cancelled.

If the information is issued between 6:00 a.m. and the end of the first class period: All morning classes scheduled after the information is issued shall be cancelled.

If the information is lifted by the end of the first class period: Classes shall resume from the third class period.

If the information remains in effect at the end of the first class period: All classes for the day shall be cancelled.

If the information is issued after the end of the first class period: All classes for the remainder of the day shall be cancelled.

(2) If the Vice-President in charge of Education and Student Affairs determines that the issuance of disaster-related information for Kumamoto City is highly likely, the Vice-President may take preventive measures, including class cancellations, in advance.

(3) If disaster-related information is issued after classes have begun, the head of a faculty, college, graduate school, or graduate education division (hereinafter referred to as the “Head of the Faculty or Other Academic Unit”) may, notwithstanding Paragraph (1) above, authorize classes from the next class period onward if deemed appropriate to keep students on campus to ensure their safety when returning home.

In such cases, the Head of the Faculty or Other Academic Unit shall promptly report the special measures taken to the Vice-President in charge of Education and Student Affairs.

3. Treatment of Students Who Arrive Late or Are Absent

In the following cases, a student shall not be treated as late or absent (including leaving class early; the same shall apply hereinafter), provided that the student submits a request to that effect.

The instructor in charge of the class may, at their discretion, arrange an on-demand remote class (asynchronous, non-interactive class; hereinafter referred to as an “on-demand class”) for the student concerned.

(1) When Safety Must Be Given Priority

Even when no disaster-related information has been issued for Chuo Ward, Kumamoto City, a student may be unavoidably late for or absent from a class if disaster-related information has been issued for the student's place of residence, commuting route, or other relevant area, or if circumstances indicate that the student's safety cannot be ensured while travelling to or from the university.

(2) When Affected by Suspension of Public Transportation or Similar Disruptions

When classes are held during adverse weather conditions, a student may be unavoidably late for or absent from a class due to the suspension of public transportation or similar disruptions, regardless of whether disaster-related information has been issued.

4. Response to Other Emergencies and Disasters

In the event of an unforeseen emergency or disaster other than those specified in Section 2 above (excluding major emergencies or disasters addressed by the Disaster Response Headquarters established pursuant to the Crisis Management Regulations of Kumamoto University, a National University Corporation, enacted on March 26, 2007), the Vice-President in charge of Education and Student Affairs shall determine whether classes should be cancelled after consulting with the relevant Heads of Faculties or Other Academic Units.

5. Notification of Measures Such as Class Cancellations

Measures such as class cancellations shall be communicated to students, faculty members, and staff through the Kumamoto University website and other means.

The measures specified in Section 2, Paragraph (3) above shall be communicated by the respective faculties and other academic units.

However, if no such notification has been issued, students, faculty members, and staff shall check the latest information provided by the Japan Meteorological Agency, the Kumamoto City Disaster Information Portal, and other relevant sources. Based on Section 2, Paragraph (1) above, they shall independently determine whether classes are to be cancelled and, taking Section 3 above into account as well, give priority to ensuring their own safety.

6. Alternative Arrangements for Cancelled Classes

Make-up classes shall be provided for classes that have been cancelled.

At the discretion of the instructor in charge, make-up arrangements may include classes held on designated make-up class days, on-demand classes, or other alternatives such as the submission of assignments.

7. Teaching Practicums and Other Practical Training

Students participating in teaching practicums, hospital placements, and other practical training shall follow the instructions of the respective host institutions.

8. Joint Courses in Joint Degree Programs

The handling of joint courses in joint degree programs shall be discussed by the relevant faculties and other academic units of the constituent universities, and shall be prescribed separately by the head of each such faculty or academic unit.

9. Other Matters

In the event of an unforeseen emergency not covered by this Agreement, the Vice-President in charge of Education and Student Affairs may take any necessary measures.

In addition to the provisions of this Agreement, the Heads of Faculties or Other Academic Units may separately establish any necessary provisions concerning the handling of classes in the event of emergencies or disasters.