



Dear International Students,

The spread of the new coronavirus has become a worldwide challenge. On April 10, the Aichi governor, Hideaki Ōmura, declared a state of emergency for Aichi Prefecture. Although the spread of the infectious disease in the prefecture has lost its initial momentum, we must remain vigilant since there have been signs of a resurgence in recent days. With this in mind, it is important that we take the declaration of state of emergency seriously.

We decided to postpone the commencement of classes in the new semester for undergraduate students at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies by two weeks, until April 27 (Monday). This immediate measure was taken giving consideration to the most critical situation Japan has had to confront since the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. Given the current situation, we have decided to extend this measure also to the classes offered by the International Institute for Japanese Language Education (IJLE). Furthermore, we have also made the decision that all classes starting on or after April 27 (Monday) are, in principle, to be conducted via the Internet (i.e. online classes). This will be a new and challenging experience for all of us and I am certain we will face some difficulties. However, if both the students and the instructors alike commit themselves and cooperate with one another in earnest, I am sure we will be able to achieve our goals.

I can understand how anxious you must feel, being so far away from home and living mainly in international accommodation facilities. 1.5 million people have contracted the virus worldwide; 150,000 in New York State alone, where 7,000 people have died. These are trying times, not only for your home countries, but for you personally as well, and the declaration of the “State of Emergency” forbids you from going outside unless absolutely necessary.

I would therefore like to ask you to behave responsibly as a proud NUFS student. More than anything, I would like to ask you for your self-restraint. Even though you live in dorms, do not forget to practice social distancing. It is our responsibility to keep you safe, and should even one person in your dorm contract the virus, we may have no other choice but to put the dorm under lockdown. Of course, on our part we will do our very best to keep you healthy and safe. However, ultimately it is each and every one of you that needs to act in an informed manner to stay safe from this terrifying virus. I am asking you to keep this in mind in order to overcome this ordeal.

April 10, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kameyama Ikuo'.

Ikuo Kameyama
President, Nagoya University of Foreign Studies