



AI Policies in Japanese Universities

Background, characteristics, and classroom implications

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Presentation Materials are available at: <https://toshtachino.com/jaltcal2025/>

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Presentation Overview

- Background & Context
- Method
- Results
 - Overall Characteristics
 - Sentiment Analysis
 - Values
 - Advice and Actions
- Relevance to Our Profession

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Recent Studies

- Robert & McCormack (2025): 42% of the universities had AI policy (N = 783 around the world)
- Alba et al. (2025), An et al. (2025): Emerging themes from universities around the world
- Alqahtani and Wafula (2025) surveyed 25 top ranked US universities
- Dai et al (2025) surveyed 60 top ranked Asian universities

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Core Themes at 50 American Universities

Alba et al. (2025)

- academic integrity and responsible use
- clear communication of AI policies
- data privacy and security concerns
- ethical considerations
- continuous adaptation and policy evolution
- documentation and transparency in AI usage
- instructor discretion

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Concerns at 25 American Universities

Alqahtani and Wafula (2025)

- Instructor discretion (and clear policy)
- Assessment redesign to promote critical thinking and avoid cheating
- Advice to students to use GenAI as a tutor
- Lack of training for faculty/expectation of self-driven training
- Diverse responses to promoting integrity
- Equity and accessibility
- Intellectual Property
- Privacy

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Characteristics at Top 60 Asian Universities

Dai et al (2025)

- Narratives of GenAI (informed but cautious, embracing AI, responding to change)
- Focus on commercially available GenAI, not development of AI tools, and more on Text than other media generators
- General principles more than categorical dos and don'ts
- Diverse approaches to assessment responsibility

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Context

- Constitutionally and ethically, universities and university instructors are supposed to have academic freedom.
- The uses of AI depend on each individual discipline.
- Administrative law in Japan requires each university to make its own curriculum policy.

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Method

- Gallagher (2024)'s list: 394 AI policies from Japanese universities
- Sudachi to tokenize for quantitative analyses
- Japanese Sentiment Polarity Dictionary for sentiment analysis
- AntConc for corpus analysis
- Taguette for qualitative analysis
- Interview with MEXT officials

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Overall Characteristics

- Great length variation (101 to 5223 morphemes)
 - from thoughtful to cursory
- Mostly students as the target audience (256 = students, 76 students and teachers, 22 = teachers, 40 = general)
- University president as the most frequent author
- Some policies: departmental/faculty-level

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Sentiment Analysis

-1	0				1
negative	neutral				positive

	Score	Positive	Negative	Matches	Tokens	Density
Average	0.391254	39.14467	16.04569	55.19036	790.033	0.069889
Sum		15423	6322	21745	311273	

- Overall positive: + 0.39
- Score range: from -0.33 (negative) to 1 (positive)
- Match density range: 0.011628 (less opinionated) to 0.146789 (more opinionated)

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Correlations

Sentiment x Length					
n = 394	r = 0.099538	t = 1.980595	df = 392	p = 0.048335	
• The small r makes a weak relationship, even though technically significant.					
Sentiment x University Type					
	National	Public	Private		
n	40	69	286		
Mean	0.338027	0.381729	0.400963	F = 1.72	
SD	0.237988	0.208017	0.201164	p = 0.180	
• The difference is not statistically significant.					

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Value Categories

- Ethics
- Humanity
- Information
- Thinking

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Values: Ethics

- Appropriateness (Particularly vague and undefined)
- Fairness
- Personal Morality (Undefined)

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Values: Humanity

- Accountability (Human/User accountability)
- Control (Human control/agency, AI as a tool)
- Instructor discretion
- Society (for building a better society or combating social problems)
- Human well-being

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Discretion

N-Gram Analysis

- 担当教員の指示に従うて下さる (One of two 8-grams with 50+ frequency and range)
- #1 in in 7-gram

MEXT Interview

- Each university has an authority and an obligation to create its own curriculum policy.
- MEXT does not claim to know any better than classroom teachers.

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Values: Information

- Accuracy (often paired with "Verification")
- Confidentiality (of institutional and other privileged info)
- Copyright
- Plagiarism (implying the value of academic integrity)
- Privacy (of personal information)
- Research data, protection of
 - "Confidentiality," "Plagiarism," and "Research" are often grouped together

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Values: Thinking

- Critical thinking (actively questioning AI outputs)
- Independent thinking (one's own thinking)
- Originality (unique)
 - These three categories are often conflated
- AI literacy
- Learning
- Verification (often paired with "Accuracy")

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Advice & Action: View from the Ministry

- Galapagos approach? Other countries not being used as a model
- Information sharing structures already in place
- Encouragement, not direction
- Broader concern for science and humanities

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Advice & Action: View from the Ministry

- University level: rejection of one-size fits all approaches
 - Institutional independence
 - Subject specificity
 - Academic independence
- Secondary education: more direct encouragement
 - Promote mathematics, science and AI
 - Source of growth in a declining population

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Advice & Action: University Policies

- General ban on C&P of LLM output
- Emphasis on output evaluation
 - Strong awareness of hallucination
 - Strong awareness of copyright issues
 - Some awareness of quality problems
- Threat to critical thinking and creativity
 - Appeals to integrity and educational values, little concrete advice

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Advice & Action: University policies

- Delegation to individual teachers
- Range of responses in how to exploit
 - Dialoguing
 - Brainstorming
 - Proofing
 - Programming*
- Assessment integrity
 - Oral examinations, ban on use in final exams

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Relevance for Our Profession

- Universities view AI as positive but acknowledge a threat to the development of critical thinking skills.
- *Responsibility and authority* for integrating AI in education is on frontline teachers
- Institutions are appealing to students' sense of ethics – how do we support that?
- Assessment integrity is a big concern.
- Technology is changing fast.
 - Institutions offer limited training support for teaching staff regarding AI
 - Teachers need to build active sharing networks within their specialization (SLA)
 - Expect evolving policies.

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Questions?

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