

Message from the Dean

Hirosaki University is a leading comprehensive university in the northern Tohoku region. A core mission for the university is to generate innovations that enhance well-being for individuals and wider society, thereby increasing human happiness.

Contributing to this mission, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is a comprehensive liberal arts faculty dedicated to understanding modern society and its roots of culture. The faculty is comprised of two courses — the Cultural Innovation Course and the Social Management Course. It is committed to developing individuals capable of disseminating Japanese culture and contributing to the resolution of social issues.

Graduates are actively taking roles in a wide spectrum of fields, including public services, as well as areas of product and information creation that are essential to society. Many alumni also work in professions of various fields, such as teaching, law, public accounting, academic research, museum curation, literature, politics, consulting, corporate management, and broadcasting. They engage with social challenges in their daily lives and apply their expertise to achieve meaningful solutions.

Although many social issues may appear solvable through technologies and natural sciences, such approaches alone are sometimes insufficient. It is important for us to observe human behavior with clarity and composure and to deepen our understanding of what society constitutes. Studying and undertaking research in the field of humanities and social sciences refines analytical skills necessary for observing individuals and communities and providing intellectual guidance in determining appropriate directions for humanity and society.

Our faculty's educational philosophy is characterized into two distinctive features. The first is an emphasis on practical training and seminar-based learning, a tradition maintained for more than three decades. Through these activities, students acquire competencies that cannot be mastered easily—such as understanding and interpreting the intellectual heritage of our predecessors, converting the realities of local communities into data, and analyzing open data to grasp society on a broader scale. These experiences cultivate the ability to analyze social conditions scientifically based on real-world life. The second feature is our strong commitment to global experiential learning. By engaging with diverse societies and cultures, students develop the intellectual capacity necessary to coexist with others. Many students in our faculty study abroad and those experiences enable students to analyze social phenomena both domestically and internationally from multiple perspectives.

The origins of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences can be traced to the former faculty, the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Liberal Arts and ultimately back to Hirosaki Higher School, founded in 1920. The renowned writer Osamu Dazai (Shūji Tsushima) once studied here in Hirosaki. The city of Hirosaki has been developed as an academic city supported by local citizens. A truly meaningful academic environment requires not only information and cultural resources, but also peers who share scholarly aspirations, citizens who appreciate academic values, and the presence of tranquility and nature. These environmental characteristics are all found here. I hope that you will take full advantage of this exceptional environment, deepen your understanding of humanity, and go on to contribute a profound understanding of global society as leaders of the next generation.

