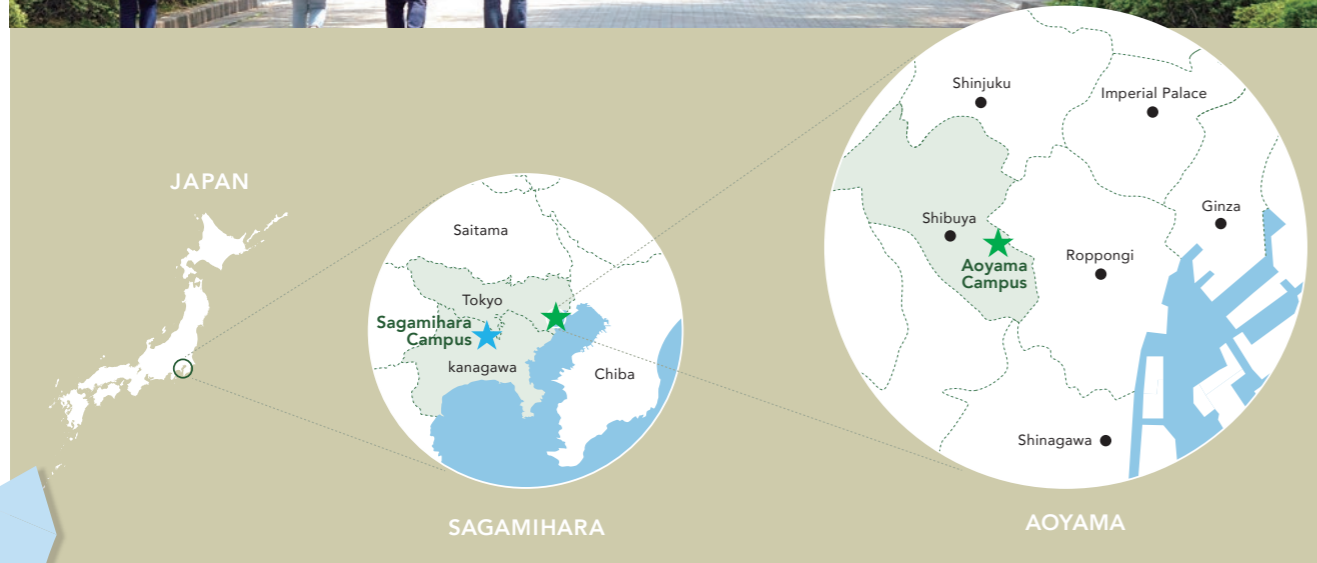


Location

Aoyama Campus



Sagami-hara Campus



Aoyama Gakuin since 1874





The Salt of the Earth, The Light of the World

—Matthew 5:13-16—

Our school motto captures the spirit of our mission. Salt symbolizes purity, service, and usefulness. Light guides people towards the path they should take. Today, the world needs “servant-leaders”: the people who find their calling in serving others and society, and in doing so become a guiding light for others. Our school forthrightly endeavors to create a robust and energetic society, igniting the spark of hope.

Founding Mission

Aoyama Gakuin’s education will be based eternally on Christian faith.



School Emblem

Our school emblem is the “Shield of Faith” (Ephesians 6:16), which symbolizes the protection of God. It was created in the earliest days of modern Japan when Christianity had not yet taken root in the country. All our schools have their own school emblem based on this motif.

Educational Policy

Aoyama Gakuin has as its aim education based upon the Christian faith and as its purpose the building up of persons who live in sincerity before God, who seek for truth with humility, and who actively take responsibility for all people and for society in a spirit of love and service.

Christian Education

You are an irreplaceable and precious individual

At Aoyama Gakuin, Christian faith is the foundational principle of our educational mission. Through chapel services, classes, service-learning, and extracurricular activities, students are invited to recognize that every human being possesses an inherent dignity as an individual loved by God. Our Christian education encourages intellectual growth, respect for individuality, understanding of others, and active engagement with a diverse world. Welcoming students of all religious backgrounds, we provide opportunities to reflect on oneself, care for one’s neighbors, and examine society with love, hope, and responsibility. Guided by these principles, Aoyama Gakuin seeks to cultivate servant leaders who embrace diversity and hospitality and who work for the good of all people and society.

International Exchange Learning Globally, Living Harmoniously

Since its founding, international exchange has been an integral part of our mission. Today, each school offers its own international exchange initiatives, along with a wide range of study programs in collaboration with overseas institutions.

The Philippines Program, supported by Child Fund Japan, is one such example among these many initiatives. Through these programs, we cultivate individuals capable of living alongside and supporting people worldwide, transcending the barriers of nationality and race.

Peace Education; Praying for the World, Creating Peacemakers

Aoyama Gakuin is committed to addressing the profound challenge of realizing global peace and coexistence, guided by the biblical teaching: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Our mission is to cultivate a spirit of neighborly love-sharing joy with those who rejoice and to offer compassion to those who mourn together with a spirit of peace through prayer. We provide opportunities to think about peace by reflecting the history of war through various classes and school events, with the aim of fostering “peacemakers”.

Aoyama Gakuin Chronicle

- 1874 Dora E. Schoonmaker opens a pioneering girls' elementary school in the Azabu district, Tokyo (the origin of Aoyama Gakuin girls' school)
- 1878 Julius Soper opens the Kokyo Gakusha in the Tsukiji district (one origin of the Aoyama Gakuin boys' school)
- 1879 Robert S. Maclay opens the Methodist Mission Seminary (Mikai Shingakko) in Yokohama (the other origin of the Aoyama Gakuin boys' school)
- 1883 The boys' schools purchase the land of Aoyama district to move the school (the boys' school and girls' school more here)
- 1894 The boys' school is renamed to Aoyama Gakuin
- 1895 The girls' school is also renamed to Aoyama Jogakuin (Aoyama Jogakuin union with Aoyama Gakuin in 1927)
- 1937 Aoyama Gakuin Midorigaoka Elementary School (renamed to Aoyama Gakuin Midorigaoka Shotougakko in 1941) and Midorigaoka Kindergarten opens
- 1946 Aoyama Gakuin Midorigaoka Elementary School is renamed to Aoyama Gakuin Elementary School
- 1947 Aoyama Gakuin Junior High School opens
- 1949 Aoyama Gakuin University opens
- 1950 Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College and Aoyama Gakuin Senior High School open
- 1952 Aoyama Gakuin University establishes its graduate schools
- 1961 Aoyama Gakuin Kindergarten opens
- 1965 Aoyama Gakuin University establishes a new campus in Setagaya, Tokyo
- 1982 Aoyama Gakuin University establishes a new campus in Atsugi, Kanagawa
- 2001 Aoyama Gakuin Professional Graduate Schools (Senmon Daigakuin) establishes (Renamed to Senmonsyo Daigakuin in 2003)
- 2003 Aoyama Gakuin University closes two campuses in Setagaya and Atsugi and establishes a new campus in Sagamihara, Kanagawa
- 2022 Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College closes
- 2024 Aoyama Gakuin celebrates its 150th anniversary

History

Aoyama Gakuin is a leading private school in Japan, striving to cultivate “servant-leaders” to create a brighter future for all peoples and societies. We trace our origins to three schools (The oldest girls' school and two boys' schools) founded in the 1870s by American missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Having overcome many difficulties, we have steadfastly continued education based on the Christian faith throughout our history. Today, over 24,000 students from kindergarten through to graduate and professional graduate schools study at our institution.



Founders



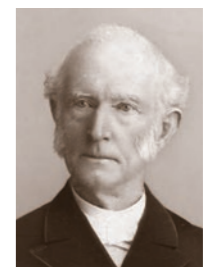
Dora E. SCHOONMAKER

Born in New York, Dora E. Schoonmaker came to Japan in 1874 at the young age of 23. About three weeks after her arrival, she established a modest girls' elementary school with the help of Tsuda Sen, a Japanese Christian, on November 16, 1874. This is the origin of Aoyama Gakuin and we celebrate that day as our foundation anniversary.



Julius SOPER

Born in Maryland, Julius Soper came to Japan in 1873. In the following year, he started Sunday worship service and Sunday school with the help of Japanese Christians. In 1878, he founded the Kokyo Gakusha Boys' School in the Tsukiji district.



Robert S. MACLAY

Born in Pennsylvania, Robert S. Maclay came to Japan in 1873 and founded the Methodist Mission Seminary (Mikai Shingakko) in Yokohama in 1879. After the merging of Soper's school and Maclay's seminary, he served as the first chancellor of Aoyama Gakuin for 4 years.

Schools

Aoyama Gakuin provides a seamless Christian education from kindergarten through university

Aoyama Gakuin Kindergarten



Aoyama Gakuin Kindergarten provides Christian early childhood education that nurtures each child to grow in the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ, while fostering a spirit of cooperation as individuals created by God.

The kindergarten offers a three-year program centered on play-based learning. The goals for each grade are “trust” (junior class), “joy” (middle class), and “gratitude” (senior class).

Through joyful play with friends, children develop trust in their teachers and in God. Through a variety of activities, including interactions with plants and animals, they gradually discover the joy of life and cultivate a sense of appreciation.

Year of establishment 1961

Number of students: approx. 120

Tel: +81-3-3409-6935



Japanese Website

<https://www.kinder.aoyama.ed.jp/>

Aoyama Gakuin Elementary School



Aoyama Gakuin Elementary School provides education in the required subjects while respecting each student’s individuality and aptitude, without relying on numerical grading.

The school places great importance on daily life as an essential part of learning. For example, students develop healthy eating habits and table manners through shared meals in the dining hall.

Students also participate in a variety of overnight programs, such as a Christian camp, farm experience, long-distance swimming, and a cruise around Japan. These experiences are designed to foster responsibility and leadership, deepen friendships, and cultivate gratitude for Japan’s natural environment.

Year of establishment 1937

Number of students: approx. 760

Tel: +81-3-3409-6897



Japanese Website

<https://www.age.aoyama.ed.jp/>

Aoyama Gakuin Junior High School



Aoyama Gakuin Junior High School aims to develop students’ fundamental academic skills. To enhance understanding and broaden students’ interests, the school has adopted a subject-centered classroom system, in which specialized classrooms are designated for each subject.

Media spaces featuring subject-related books, displays, and students’ work are located adjacent to each classroom, along with preparation rooms for teachers. This learning environment encourages students to deepen their knowledge and curiosity in each subject area.

Another distinctive feature of the school is the elective courses offered to third-year students. A wide range of courses is available, including AI, Introduction to Cryptography, Film Production, Korean, Chinese, Haiku, and Calligraphy.

Year of establishment 1947

Number of students: approx. 760

Tel: +81-3-3407-7463



<https://www.jh.aoyama.ed.jp/english/index.html>

Aoyama Gakuin Senior High School



Aoyama Gakuin Senior High School offers a flexible and well-balanced curriculum that enables students to further develop the academic abilities they acquired in junior high school and to carve out their own paths in life.

Elective courses are offered from the second year, and by the third year about half of the curriculum consists of electives. This flexibility allows students to pursue their individual interests and prepare for their future goals.

While some graduates choose to enter other universities, approximately 85 percent continue on to Aoyama Gakuin University.

Year of establishment 1950

Number of students: approx. 1,200

Tel: +81-3-3409-3880



<https://www.agh.aoyama.ed.jp/en/>

Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU)

Graduate School,
Professional Graduate School



Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU) consists of 11 colleges and 9 graduate schools, offering 14 bachelor’s degrees, 18 master’s degrees, 19 doctoral degrees, and 3 professional degrees.

AGU is a highly recognized private comprehensive university in Japan. Celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding in 2024, the university provides state-of-the-art education and engages in pioneering research.

More than 250,000 AGU alumni are active in a wide variety of fields, including finance, aviation, information technology, consulting, manufacturing, culture, the arts, education, media, and professional sports.

Year of establishment 1949

Number of students: approx. 20,000

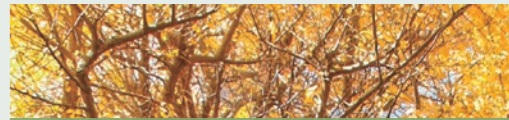
Number of graduate students:

approx. 1,000

Number of professional graduate school students: approx. 450



<https://www.aoyama.ac.jp/en/>



Aoyama Gakuin Alumni Association

To promote fellowship among alumni and contribute to the development of our alma mater, we have established the Alumni Association, which encompasses graduates from kindergarten through university and graduate schools. The Alumni Association is organized around 32 divisions and alumni groups, 56 domestic branches, 22 overseas branches, and 69 Ivy Group organizations.



Japanese Website

<https://www.alumni-aoyamagakuin.jp/>



Kindergarten

Elementary School

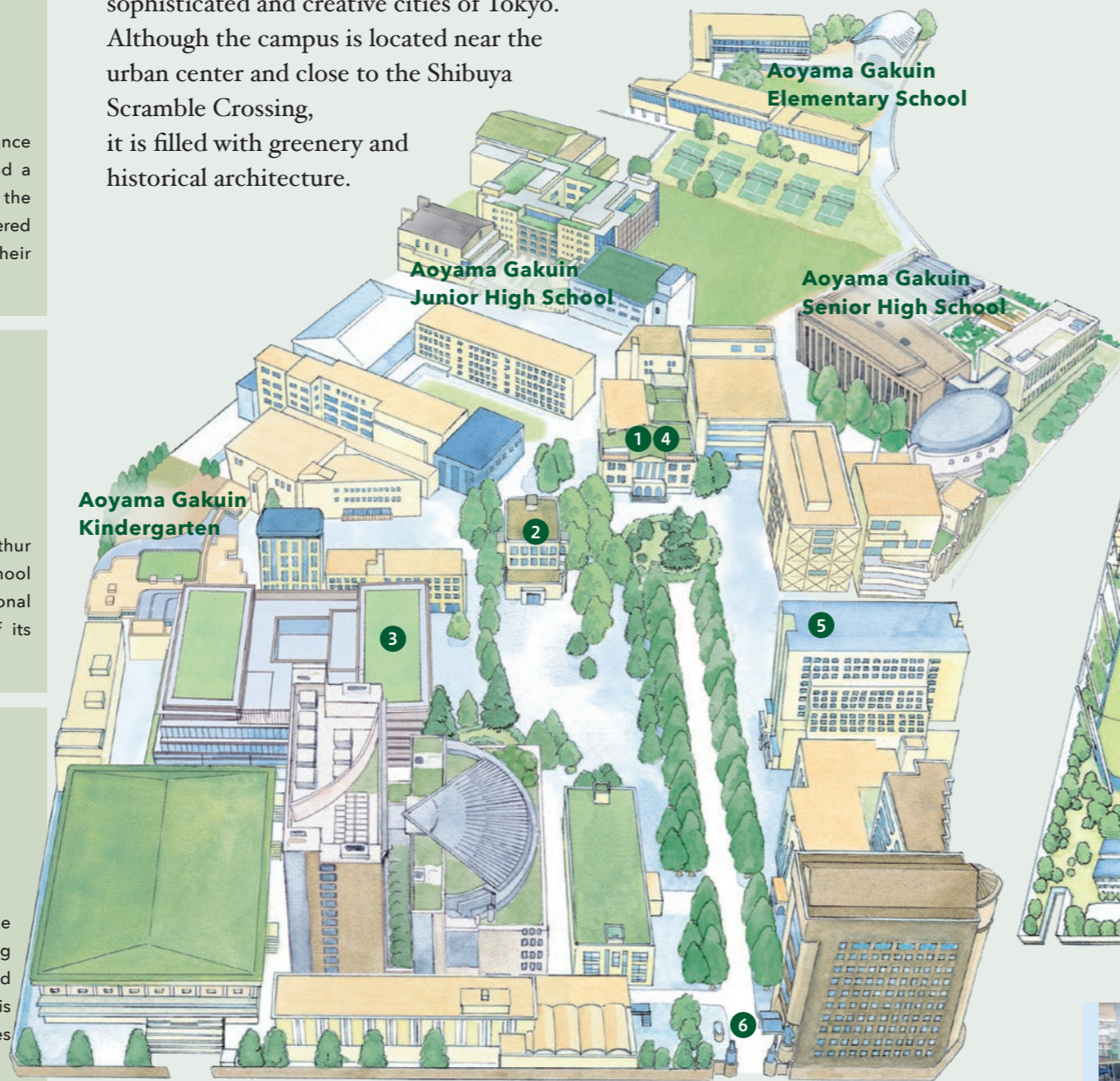
Junior High School

Senior High School

University

Aoyama Campus

The Shibuya-Aoyama area is one of the most sophisticated and creative cities of Tokyo. Although the campus is located near the urban center and close to the Shibuya Scramble Crossing, it is filled with greenery and historical architecture.



Majima Memorial Hall

Majima Memorial Hall has Neo-Renaissance style architecture with Corinthian columns and a pediment at the front. Otohiko Majima, head of the alumni association at that time, and his wife offered to donate funds for the construction and their dream was fulfilled in 1929.



Berry Hall

Berry Hall was built in 1931. It is named after Arthur D. Berry, former dean of the Theological School of AGU. In 2008, it was registered as a national important cultural property in recognition of its Neo-Gothic style and beautiful chapel.



The Maclay Memorial Hall

The Maclay Memorial Hall is a cutting-edge academic facility opened in 2024. Integrating the Main Library, Institute of Information and Media, and Academic Writing Center, this building accommodates diverse learning styles and needs.



Aoyama Gakuin Museum

The Aoyama Gakuin Museum opened in May 2025 as part of the Aoyama Gakuin 150th anniversary commemorative project. The Museum houses a diverse collection of historical materials, including documents related to the history of Aoyama Gakuin, the development of Christianity in Japan from the early modern period to the modern era, rare Christian publications from the Meiji period.



Goucher Memorial Hall

Goucher Memorial Hall was built in 2001 to commemorate John F. Goucher, a missionary who supported Aoyama Gakuin. The university chapel is built in the 1st and 2nd floor.

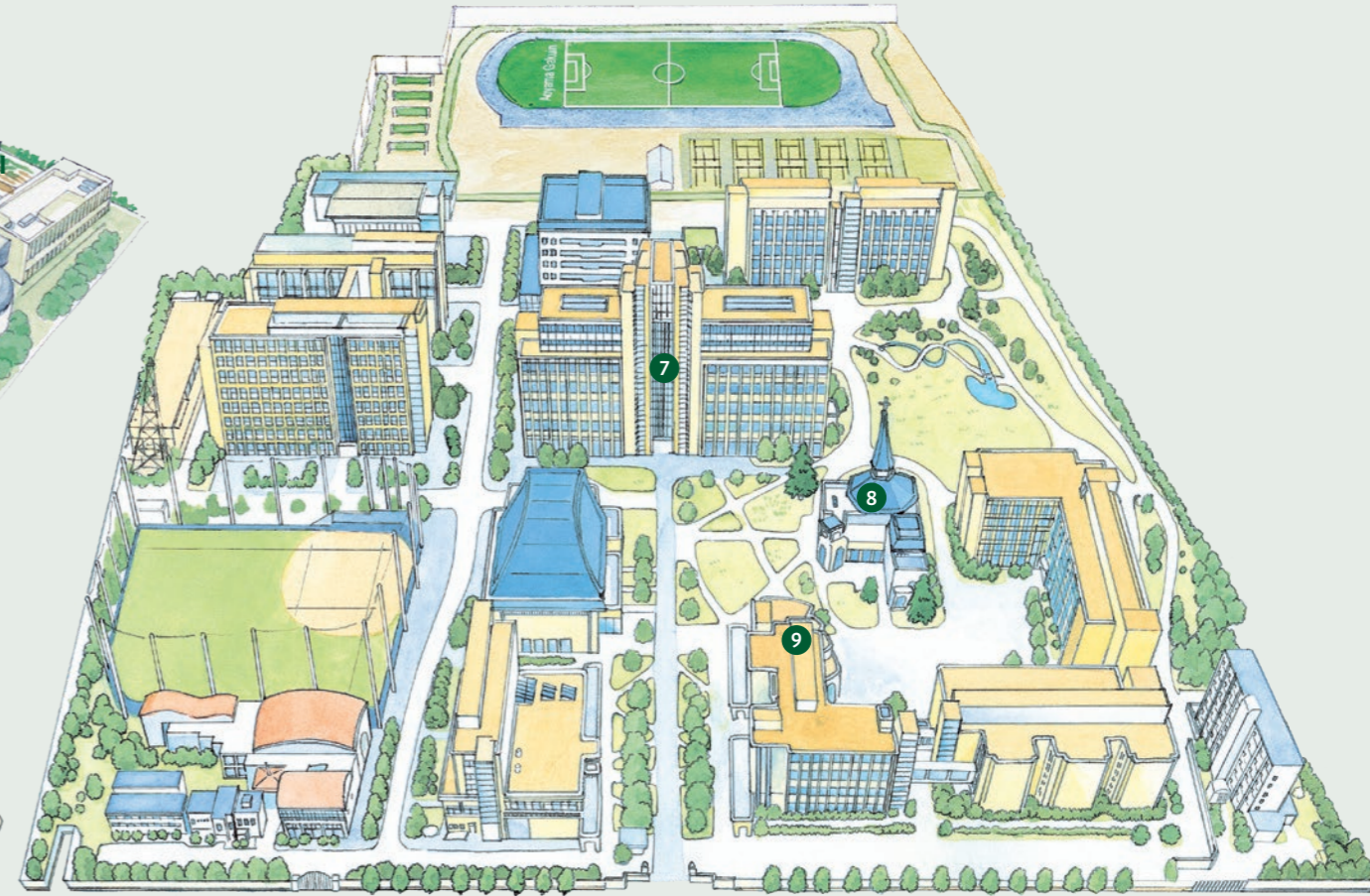


The Main Street lined with Ginkgo Trees

This tree-lined avenue extends straight from the main gate to the center of Aoyama Campus. The ginkgo trees changing their appearances by seasons and the historical architecture located along the main street provide a unique and irreplaceable imagery for all our alumni.

Sagamihara Campus

Located in Sagami City in Kanagawa Prefecture, Sagami Campus is a short train ride away from the center of Tokyo. The spacious campus is proud of its beautiful landscape, and its state-of-the-art buildings are in harmony with nature.



Mandai Memorial Library

Located on the first through third floors of Building B, the library offers spacious reading areas on each floor in a calm and relaxing atmosphere. A variety of services are available, including audiovisual materials and group study spaces.



Wesley Chapel

Named after the Wesley brothers, who founded the Methodist movement, Wesley Chapel hosts daily worship services during the academic year. Its organ, with 2,817 pipes, fills the chapel with beautiful music.



Building F, 1st Floor Lounge

The largest lounge on campus is an open space where students can relax and socialize. Bright, spacious glass windows offer views of the chapel and the Media Center, making it a popular place for students to gather.

The Salt of the Earth,

The Light of the World