

FY2020 President's Award Winners and Citations

Awardee	Category	Citation
Kosuke Namekata Third-year doctoral, Physics and Astronomy, Graduate School of Science	Scholarship	Mr Namekata successfully detected a stellar superflare using Kyoto University's Seimei telescope built in 2019. His study appeared in <i>Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan (PASJ)</i> , an international peer-reviewed journal, and received worldwide media coverage. The achievement is hailed as a major milestone in the quest for a comprehensive understanding of such phenomena.
Michiko Matsunaga Third-year doctoral, Interdisciplinary Studies in Education, Graduate School of Education	Scholarship	<p>Ms Matsunaga pioneered a new approach to human science combining molecular biology, neuroscience, medicine, and cognitive science. She used it to produce a series of unique findings that can potentially explain individual developmental differences. As part of these efforts, she authored and published three papers, which led to numerous invitations to present at international conferences as well as requests for media interviews in Japan and abroad.</p> <p>Ms Matsunaga also actively worked with industrial partners to have her basic research findings translated into practice. These efforts included the development of science-backed products and services for mothers and their small children. Some of these inventions have been patented and/or been recognized with awards from organizations such as the Kids Design Association (the president's award) and Papasmile Co Ltd (BabyTech Award).</p>
Fumiya Moribe Sixth-year, Medical Science, Faculty of Medicine	Scholarship	<p>Mr Moribe went to study as a fourth-year undergraduate medical student at the National Institute of Health Sciences (NIH), the largest medical institute in the United States, where he conducted basic research on a novel biomarker for predicting the efficacy of anticancer drug treatments.</p> <p>Later, back in Kyoto, he embarked on a project, built on his research at NIH, with a focus on lymphoma. This undertaking, a collaboration with researchers from other Japanese universities and from NIH, resulted in a paper that for the first time reported on a new therapeutic target</p>

		and biomarker for the condition. The study was published in <i>PLOS One</i> , earning praise from the research community.
Virtual Secure Platform development team Representative: Kotaro Matsuoka Fourth year, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering	Scholarship	Mr Matsuoka's team was selected for support from the Information-technology Promotion Agency (IPA) under the 2019 Exploratory IT Human Resources Project (MITOU Program) and successfully developed a secure computing platform that utilizes homomorphic encryption. The invention, called the Virtual Secure Platform (VSP), earned each member the title of Super Creator. The students then went on to co-author a related study, which was accepted for presentation at the 30th USENIX Security Symposium, scheduled for August 2021.
Men's coxless pair, Kyoto University Rowing Club Representative: Koki Yamada Fourth year, Informatics and Mathematical Science, Faculty of Engineering	Extracurricular activity	Mr Yamada and his crew came in second at the 98th All Japan Rowing Championships and first at the 47th All Japan Intercollegiate Rowing Championships in 2020. These achievements earned the students the year's Kyoto City sports award grand prize.
Kirara Homma Fourth year, Food and Environmental Economics, Faculty of Agriculture	Extracurricular activity	Ms Homma won the student-class pursuit race at the 2020 Ski Orienteering Hokkaido Championships to qualify for the 2021 FISU World University Championships (cancelled). She also successfully competed in the 2020 Ski Orienteering World Cup Final, where she achieved the best result among the Japanese participants to secure a place on the national team for the 2021 Winter Universiade.

Number of the awards conferred:

Scholarship 4

Extracurricular activity 2

Total 6