Tohoku University, along with the University of Tokyo and Kyoto University, received confirmation of its new status from the Japanese Government in June 2017. The conferment of the Designated National University title is a recognition of the university’s abilities to lead and shape global education and research. The new status provides the university with a better platform to further contribute to communities at home and abroad.
The Advanced Graduate School will incorporate all current graduate programs from the different divisions to create more interdisciplinary collaborations. It will include the International Joint Graduate Programs, which aim to attract higher caliber global talent.

There will be increased financial support for graduate and undergraduate students. Study Abroad Programs will be enhanced and a new quarter academic system will provide more exchange flexibility.

The Organization for Advanced Studies will incorporate research centers in our four strongest fields: materials science, spintronics, next-generation medical care and disaster science. More research centers in other fields will follow. International Research Clusters in nine principal areas will facilitate the collaborative research and education with leading foreign universities.

The introduction of a Provost with executive powers over academic matters will alleviate the President’s workload, leading to a more efficient administrative structure. The new status will deregulate the current system for student capacity and provide more autonomy over the management of assets and facilities.

Large-scale industry-academia joint research centers will be established at Seiryo Campus and the new Aobayama extension. There will be expanded internships and discourses from cross-appointed lecturers from industry. There are plans for a student village with new dormitories and cross-cultural events to provide an international experience at home.