



School Emblem & Symbol



School Emblem “Maple Leaf” - A choice made by all -

It was in 1919 that Kokushikan made its historic move from Azabu Kogai-cho to a site near the Shoin Shrine in Setagaya. In the preceding year, the founders of Kokushikan had visited the Shoin Shrine to show their deep respect for Yoshida Shoin, who pursued such a strict and uncompromising way of life as a thinker and educator during the tumultuous closing years of the Edo Period. The founders earnestly hoped to follow in the footsteps of Yoshida Shoin and to pattern the newly established Kokushikan after Shoka Sonjuku, the private school that Shoin had established. Two notable trees stand in the precincts of the Shoin Shrine: one a cherry tree representing Yamato-damashii (Japanese spirit), and the other an old maple tree symbolizing the passion that animated Yoshida Shoin. On the morning of the Kokushikan High School (the antecedent of today’s Kokushikan University) opening ceremony, Tokujiro Shibata, the first headmaster,

saw the bright maple leaves reflecting the sunlight and thought of Shoin’s purity of heart. At that moment, he decided that the emblem of the new school would feature the maple leaf. In the spring of 1920, Chancellor Shibata referred this matter to the students’ association, known as the Kokushi Gakuseikai, and explained his vision. The students and all members of the school unanimously supported the proposal and formally adopted as their emblem the seven-sided maple leaf symbolizing the “seven lives that “kokushi” are prepared to give for their country.”



Kokushikan Symbol

The Kokushikan Symbol has two rectangles representing “history” and “future hope” overlapping an arc, symbolizing the “earth.” This in turn represents Kokushikan’s initial “K.” Kokushikan aims to establish an energetic academic environment with people using their own culture, knowledge and skills dynamically and in a way open to the community and

global society. The School color “Kokushikan Red” is inspired by the deep red of the maple leaf and expresses our passion and delight. It was established as part of a 1997 program to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the university.