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The Japanese pharmaceutical industry is facing major challenges such as rising development costs and growing political pressure to lower prescription drug prices. Japanese pharmas are adopting more global strategies, and the

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industry is also in the process of international regulatory harmonization. Thus, there seems to be an increasing demand for talented people who can play an active part in the globalization. As a person who was educated in Japan and then joined a US pharma, the author describes his thoughts on what Japanese educational institutions can do to meet these new demands.