

Guide to
Graduate School
Learning

2025
Academic Year

Design Your Own
Learning with



The University of Osaka's Graduate Education System

To graduate students starting their studies



大阪大学

Contemporary societies are facing complex and increasingly diverse issues, such as those identified in the SDGs. These issues cannot be solved through unidirectional processes: it is essential to develop advanced capabilities that enable issues to be tackled from various angles.

Dramatic changes are also taking place in the form of advancements in AI and other technologies alongside the global spread of infectious diseases. We are said to live in an era of uncertainty when predictions are difficult to make.

In these conditions, graduate degree holders are expected to tackle problems with flexibility and a broad worldview, collaborate with diverse stakeholders, and leverage core expertise as they more broadly and deeply deploy their graduate school education.

The University of Osaka has been pursuing reforms to its graduate education system to enable students in its graduate schools to devise their own diverse learning patterns tailored to the types of expertise they seek to acquire. The new system is characterized by the ability for students to select their own study load and to design their own learning in accordance with their interests.

How you design your learning at graduate school is up to you. Make use of the wide array of options at The University of Osaka to enhance your own learning experience.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Design Your Own Learning with The University of Osaka's Graduate Education System



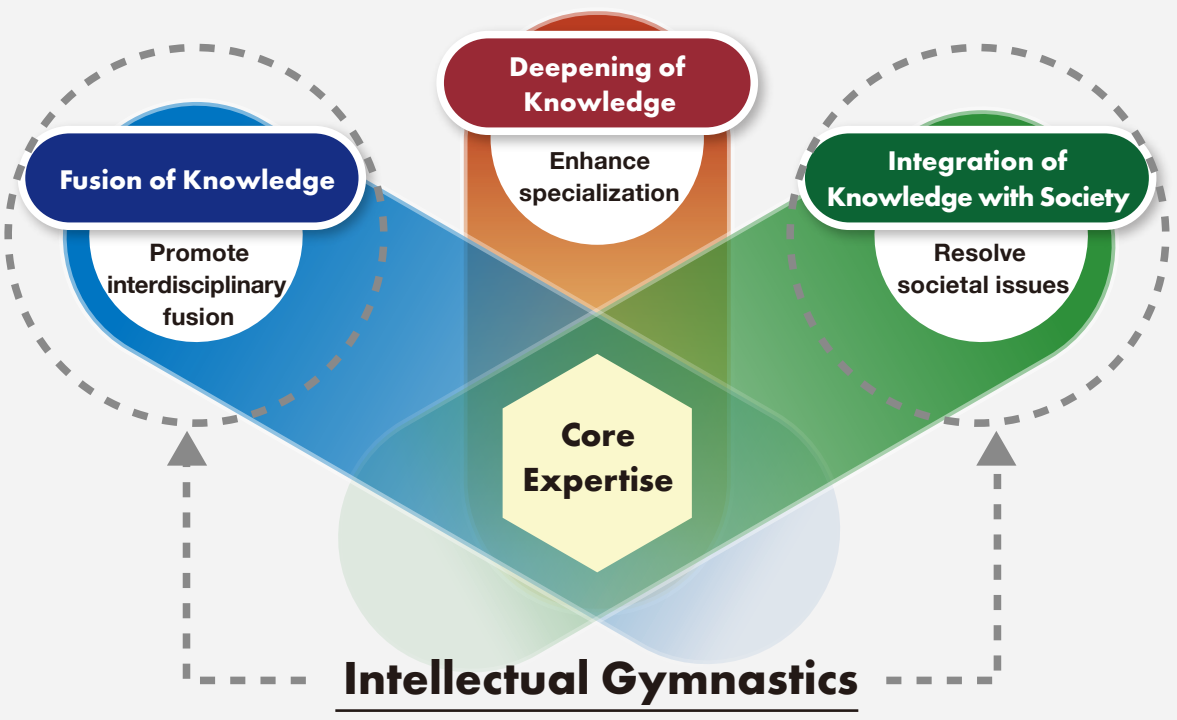
Since the 2021 academic year, The University of Osaka has been promoting the Double-Wing Academic Architecture (DWAA), an advanced graduate education system. It is geared toward interdisciplinary and social collaboration, with the aim of nurturing doctoral professionals capable of generating social innovations across a wide range of fields not limited to academia.

DWAA is composed of three areas: “Deepening of Knowledge,” “Fusion of Knowledge,” and “Integration of Knowledge with Society.”

In addition to developing expert knowledge, which has been the focus of conventional graduate school education, one feature of this new system is expanding education in two new directions predicated on the acquisition of core expertise.

The University of Osaka has long offered a range of educational programs oriented toward the “Fusion of Knowledge” and the “Integration of Knowledge with Society.” To provide students with more flexible choices, these programs have now been reorganized as “Intellectual Gymnastics Programs” (hereafter “Intellectual Gymnastics”).

Directed at interdisciplinary and social collaboration Double-Wing Academic Architecture (DWAA)



- Deepening of Knowledge** Education to deepen specializations and **nurture experts** (conventional graduate-level education)
- Fusion of Knowledge** Education in **integrated areas composed of multiple disciplines or fields of research**
- Integration of Knowledge with Society** Education through **practical activities that aim to resolve societal issues**

Intellectual Gymnastics Program Listings

Category	Program Title	Eligible Departments	Selection Process	Completion Certificate Issued	Entry on Degree Certificate
C4 ※1 C4S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WISE Programs Program for Leading Graduate Schools 	All ※3 or Specified departments only	Yes	WISE × Leading △ ※5	○
	Total 14 or more credits	All ※4 departments	No (some exceptions)	○	×
C3 ※1 C3S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WISE Programs Program for Leading Graduate Schools Honors Program for Graduate Schools 	All ※3 or Specified departments only	Yes	WISE × Leading △ ※5 Honors ○	WISE ○ Leading ○ Honors ×
	Total of between 7 and 13 credits	All ※4 departments	No (some exceptions)	○	×
C2 Total 6 credits or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies ※2 Osaka University International Certificate Program Osaka University International Certificate Program-S Advanced Liberal Arts Module 	All ※4 departments	No (some exceptions)	○ ※6	×
C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Liberal Arts Education etc. 	All departments	—	—	—

Many

Credits

Few

Programs systematically compose of multiple courses

Register for individual courses

※1 S (Special) = Programs with special conditions attached (restrictions on students' affiliations, selection processes, etc.), or programs provided as part of JST or MEXT schemes

※2 Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the C2 category requires at least 5 credits in total.

※3 The Cross-Boundary Innovation Program is open to all graduate schools except The University of Osaka Law School.

※4 Some subjects have restrictions on eligible departments.

※5 Coursework completion certificates are provided for Program for Leading Graduate Schools, but you need to complete your graduate school course of study in order to complete the program fully.

※6 「List of programs of Modules completed」 can be issued for Advanced Liberal Arts Module.



Design your own program tailored to your interests and workload



I want to study new fields in depth, in addition to delving deeper into my own specialization



WISE Programs, Program for Leading Graduate Schools, Honors Program for Graduate Schools, Graduate Minor Program, etc.



I want to select courses that utilize my expertise from among a varied course menu, and organize my learning systematically



Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, etc.



I want to try a program with fewer required credits than the Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies.



Advanced Liberal Arts Module



I want to pick and choose courses in line with my interests



Advanced Liberal Arts Education, etc.



Program Details

Category C4S / C3S

01 WISE Programs (Doctoral Program for World-leading Innovative & Smart Education)

These are five-year integrated doctoral programs designed to foster doctoral professionals capable of tackling social issues and powering innovation in society, as well as playing leading roles in the creation and application of new knowledge and generating values for a new era. Those completing the program will have their completion recorded on their degree certificates when they complete the doctoral program in their affiliated graduate school.



Transdisciplinary Program for Biomedical Entrepreneurship and Innovation



An educational system based on industry-government-academia collaboration provides a platform that fosters doctoral professionals equipped with a comprehensive perspective on the biomedical sciences, critical research skills to achieve world-leading, cutting-edge advances in basic research, and the competence to translate one's own research findings rapidly and effectively into tangible solutions that our society needs.



Multidisciplinary PhD Program for Pioneering Quantum Beam Application



Through a collaborative curriculum with top research institutions and corporations within and outside Japan, this program's objective is to train people capable of social implementation of innovative quantum beam application technologies to create a safe and super-smart society with abundance, health, and longevity.

Curriculum

- 5-year integrated curriculum
- Systematic arrangement of multiple subjects (check specific programs for required number of credits)

How to Enroll

- Must apply and be selected to participate
- Some programs are limited to specific graduate schools and departments



i-TGP website (in Japanese)

These are five-year integrated* educational programs designed to cultivate leaders to take a wide variety of global roles in industry, academia, and government. Program completion is recorded on your degree certificate once you have satisfied the program conditions and successfully completed doctoral studies in your graduate school.

* Some programs offer study patterns other than the five-year integrated model.



Cross-Boundary Innovation Program



This program aims to cultivate leaders who will have the first-rate creative and practical skills to cross boundaries and to generate the innovation that can foster change. These new-generation graduates will achieve this “Cross-Boundary Innovation” by transforming their way of thinking and going beyond the shells of their specializations.



Interactive Materials Science Cadet Program



The IMSC Program aims to train program students as “Cadets for Materials Science” who will drive innovations in materials science research and development in a wide range of sectors spanning industry, government, and academia.



Humanware Innovation Program



This program aims to cultivate outstanding leaders via intensive interdisciplinary studies (Seido Jukugi: in-depth discussion) to foster leaders who can construct flexible, robust, and sustainable systems that support an ever-changing social environment by introducing an entirely new concept: humanware.

Curriculum

- 5-year integrated curriculum
- Systematic arrangement of multiple subjects; at least 14 credits (check each program for total credit requirements)

* Some programs offer study patterns other than the five-year integrated model

How to Enroll

- Some programs are limited to specific graduate schools and departments



i-TGP website
(in Japanese)



Honors Program for Graduate Schools

Category

C3S

The Honors Program for Graduate Schools consists of two programs in the areas of science, engineering, and informatics as well as the humanities and social sciences. The objective of both programs is to provide students an opportunity to pursue their chosen field of interest, broaden their perspectives, and enable them to contribute to new or different fields of study. Both programs are comprised of units, one of which can be selected by students.



Honors Program for Graduate Schools in Science, Engineering, and Informatics

This program is designed for students not only to develop strong research interest in their own scientific field, but also to develop multi-disciplinary insight and acquire the ability to delve into different fields and new possibilities. Students select from one of the ten units available in the program, and take special subjects offered or designated by the program in addition to the curricular subjects in their own graduate school and department.

- Electronics and Informatic Research Unit
- Life Science Research Unit
- Photonics Research Unit
- Fundamental & Astro Physics Research Unit
- Environmental Materials & Joining Design Research Unit
- Social Design Research Unit
- Mechanics Unit
- Materials Science Research Unit
- Humanware Research Unit
- Pioneering Quantum Beam Application Research Unit

Curriculum

- Four-year curriculum offered from 2nd year of the master course (can also be taken over the three years of the doctor's course.)
- Systematic arrangement of multiple subjects (minimum of 7 and maximum of 13 credits in total)

※ Some units are operated as separate programs

How to Enroll

- Must apply and be selected to participate
- Some units are limited to specific graduate schools and departments



Honors Program for
Graduate Schools in
Science, Engineering,
and Informatics website



Honors Program for Graduate Schools in Humanities and Social Sciences

This program is designed for students to learn about knowledge in different fields of the humanities and social sciences in addition to their specialization and/or about applying the humanities and social sciences in society while deepening their studies in their fields of specialization. Thus, the program will foster doctoral professionals who have gained advanced convergence and practical knowledge that cannot be obtained by studying only their field of specialization. Students can select one of six units available in the program.

- Arts Based Research
- Global Japanese Studies Unit
- Social Co-Creation Unit
- Unit for Science, Technology and Civilization Studies
- Language Sciences
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Design Unit

Curriculum

- 3-year PhD curriculum
- Systematic arrangement of multiple subjects (minimum of 7 and maximum of 13 credits in total)

How to Enroll

- Must apply and be selected to participate



Honors Program for
Graduate Schools in
Humanities and
Social Sciences website

Graduate Minor Program/Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies

Category

C4~C2

The Graduate Minor Program and Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies are educational programs in which subjects are systematically organized according to certain academic themes for students to effectively acquire multifaceted and comprehensive perspectives. In either program, students will be able to proactively take subjects that they are interested in, allowing them to explore the latest issues in the real world and academia while working with academic staff and students from different disciplines. Students will be awarded a certificate of completion for the program when a student satisfies the requirements specified for the program. The number of programs offered varies from year to year: in the 2025 academic year there are 22 Graduate Minor Programs and 51 Graduate Programs for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies. The most up-to-date information is available on the website of the Institute for Transdisciplinary Graduate Degree Programs (i-TGP).

Curriculum

Graduate Minor Program

- Systematic arrangement of multiple subjects (total of 14 or more credits)

Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies

- Systematic arrangement of multiple subjects (for C3, minimum of 7 and maximum of 13 credits in total; for C2, minimum of 5 and maximum of 6 credits in total)

How to Enroll

- Submit a request and register in the applicable subject(s)

※ Some programs have a selection procedure



i-TGP website
(in Japanese)



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Osaka University International Certificate Program Osaka University International Certificate Program-S

Category C3 / C2

OUICP

This is a hybrid education program composed of online subjects and Practical Study Abroad courses international fieldwork subjects utilizing The University of Osaka’s ASEAN campuses. In the 10-month program, students participate in a short study at an international institution that houses an ASEAN campus and receive a certificate of completion upon satisfying the requirements (earning between 6 and 8 credits). The number of programs offered varies from year to year: for the 2025 academic year, there are 4 planned programs.

OUICP-S


This is an educational program that aims to nurture highly skilled global talent that will lead a co-creative knowledge-based society and achieve high-quality growth in the ASEAN region. These programs are offered for one to six months, depending on the program, with at least seven days of overseas practical training at The University of Osaka’s ASEAN campuses. A completion certificate is conferred on students who have met the completion requirements (to earn two to six credits). (For the 2025 academic year, there are 4 planned programs.)

Curriculum

- OUICP: Systematic arrangement of multiple courses (minimum of 6 and maximum of 8 credits in total)
- OUICP-S: Systematic arrangement of multiple courses (minimum of 2 and maximum of 6 credits in total)

How to Enroll

- Must apply and undergo a selection based on submitted



Profile page on
The University of Osaka
website

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Advanced Liberal Arts Module

Category C2

The “Advanced Liberal Arts Module” will be newly launched for the 2025 academic year. This module facilitates acquiring multifaceted and comprehensive perspectives on specific academic themes by linking related subjects, reducing the number of credits required compared to the existing Graduate School Minor Program and Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies. The module acts as an entry point to the advanced minor programs, which offer a systematic approach to learning and can be taken after completing the relatively easily attainable module subjects. For the 2025 academic year, there are 10 planned modules.

Curriculum

- Composition of multiple subjects(required)

How to Enroll

- Submit a request and register in the applicable subject(s)



i-TGP Website
(in Japanese)

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Advanced Liberal Arts Education

Category C1

Advanced Liberal Arts Education are subjects designed for students in higher year levels and located within the “Liberal Arts” category, one of the three pillars of The University of Osaka’s education system. The University of Osaka aims to cultivate “multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints” which can be acquired from learning outside professional education and “high-level capability” to solve real-life problems through use of the advanced expert knowledge and skills acquired in specialized education. For this purpose, students are able to take subjects other than those offered within their own graduate school, undergraduate school, or department. Students from the fall semester of the second year of undergraduate studies through to graduate school level can be awarded credit upon completion of such subjects nominated by their own school, as advanced liberal arts and sciences subjects.

Curriculum

- Offered as single courses

How to Enroll

- Register course by course



Profile page on
The University of Osaka
website

Enrolling in the Programs

If you are interested in taking one of these programs, check the methods and application periods before **submitting a program application and registering for a course**. Methods and application periods vary from program to program, so be sure to check the i-TGP website or program-specific pages for the latest information.

Example 1

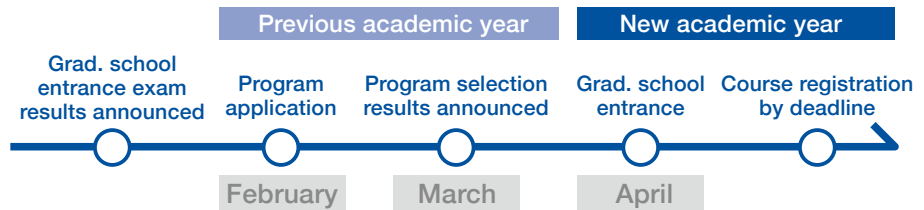
I want to take a WISE Program.



→ Check if applications for the program are accepted from your graduate school/department.

→ Check the application dates and apply.

Example timeline for WISE Programs that begin in April



※For programs beginning in October, check the website or informational material.

Example 2

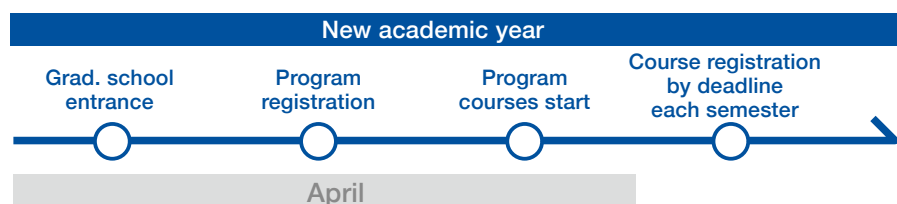
I want to know what kinds of Graduate Minor Programs and Graduate Programs for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies are available. Where do I find program content and how to take them?



→ Visit the i-TGP website to explore programs you're interested in and attend joint online guidance sessions.

→ Submit your program application through KOAN during the application period in April. Then register for program courses.

Example timeline for Graduate Minor Program and Graduate Program for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies





The University of Osaka

Institute for Transdisciplinary
Graduate Degree Programs

Want to know more?

For the latest information on any of these programs, check the official program website or the i-TGP website. The website of i-TGP brings together information on all these programs.



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<https://itgp.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/>

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検索

