

# International Physics Course (IPC)

## Application Guidelines for the Master's Program

### (Enrollment in October 2016)

#### **Admissions Policy**

This program is designed to educate highly creative researchers who have a sensibility and an intellectual curiosity about the physics of the natural sciences and who enjoy the pursuit of truth and can demonstrate leadership in a wide range of social contexts through their problem-solving abilities and logical thinking. Focusing on the cutting-edge of basic science, the program has a flexible research-oriented approach that produces original, innovative findings with the goal of making a sustained contribution to humanity and quality of life from a global perspective through the study and research of physics. To this end, the program aims not only to cultivate outstanding researchers in different fields of physics, but also to educate individuals who have a broad background in the natural sciences to demonstrate leadership in a wide range of academic and social contexts. Another aim of the program is to cultivate individuals who have a strong sense of responsibility and ethics as scientists and engineers and who can make significant contributions to the international community.

This program is seeking applicants who have the following qualities.

1. Persons with an intellectual curiosity about the natural sciences, especially physics
2. Persons who enjoy searching for the truth
3. Persons with acute intuition about nature and the ability to define problems precisely
4. Persons with the ability to explore issues based on flexible and logical thinking
5. Persons with logical thinking skills
6. Persons who aspire to contribute to society as researchers or instructors

#### **Eligibility for Application**

Applicants must meet at least one of the following conditions and must be able to speak and understand English well enough to attend lectures and work in the laboratory in English.

1. The applicant has graduated or expects to graduate from a Japanese university or college before the date of enrollment in Osaka University
2. The applicant has graduated or expects to graduate from a university in a country other than Japan and whose standard education system consists of at least 16 years of formal education; graduation must happen before enrollment in Osaka University
3. The applicant has graduated or expects to graduate from a university in a country other than Japan and whose standard education system consists of less than 16 years of formal education, but at least 15 years of formal education, and has received permission to apply by the Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, because of his/her outstanding academic results; graduation must happen before enrollment in Osaka University

For further information, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions by e-mail.

### **Program Capacity**

A few M.Sc. Students

### **Date of Program Start**

Graduate programs start on October 1, 2016.

### **Application Period**

The application documents listed below must arrive at the Office of Graduate Admissions – International Physics Course (IPC) between June 28 (Tue) and July 1 (Fri), 2016.

### **Selection Procedure**

**NOTE: Applicants must contact the professor(s) of their choice as soon as possible and at the latest by June 3, in order to have enough time for discussion with them. Applicants must obtain a "Letter of Conditional Acceptance" from the chosen professor, stating that the professor will accept the applicant as a student if the applicant passes the entrance examination.**

#### ***Step 1: Written examination in physics***

We offer two options: to submit scores of a GRE subject test in Physics or to take a written examination prepared by the IPC.

Note that only the paper-based test of the GRE subject test in Physics is accepted. If the applicant does not have scores yet, it is necessary to check well in advance about the dates of the GRE test, since it is usually held only once per year at each test center. The designated institution code for the Graduate School of Science of Osaka University is 6764. Only applicants who have taken the GRE subject test in Physics after July 2014 can use that score for their application to the IPC.

In case the applicant opts for the written examination provided by the IPC, note that it consists of four subjects: 1. Classical mechanics, 2. Electromagnetism, 3. Quantum mechanics, and 4. Statistical physics. The total time for the examination is about three hours. Applicants can take the exam in their own country and details of the procedure will be announced individually once the IPC receives the letter of conditional acceptance from the selected supervisor of the applicant. Examples of previous exams can be found on the IPC webpage.

If the results of either exam are judged to attain a suitable standard level, the applicant will be instructed on the next step to take.

#### ***Step 2: Interview***

Applicants will be interviewed by faculty members of the IPC. The working language in the interview is English. The interview may be held via Internet telephony software if it is difficult for the applicant to come to Osaka University in the examination period.

## **Application Requirements**

The following documents 1-6 must be sent by the applicant and the evaluation letters (document 7) should be sent by those making the evaluation directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions – International Physics Course (IPC) by the deadline stated above.

### **1. Application Form**

This form is available from the link above in either Microsoft Word or PDF document format. It must be downloaded from:

<http://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/>

### **2. Official Transcripts**

Official transcripts or copies of all undergraduate study record. Applicants will need to provide the original official transcripts if they are admitted and decide to attend, but copies are acceptable at the time of application.

### **3. Certificate of Graduation (or Certification of Expected Completion)**

An official certificate of completion of Bachelor's degree or a copy (or certification of expected completion for applicants who have not graduated yet). Applicants will need to provide an original official certificate of graduation if they are admitted and decide to attend, but copies are acceptable at the time of application.

### **4. Statement of Purpose**

The statement of purpose is considered with particular care in the selection process. It should contain the following two sections (limited to two pages):

- Motivation and plans for the chosen program and for postgraduate research.
- Description of the personal reasons why the applicant wishes to join the IPC at Osaka University in Japan in particular, as opposed to other graduate schools in other parts of the World.

### **5. Evidence of Proficiency in English**

Applicants must submit scores from TOEFL-PBT, TOEFL-iBT (TOEFL-ITP is not accepted), TOEIC (TOEIC bridge is not accepted), or IELTS as evidence of English proficiency. Applicants may submit a copy of their scores when applying, but the original copy of the official scores is required if admitted to the program.

#### Exceptions

Submission of test scores is not necessary in any of the following cases.

- The applicant is a native English speaker.

- The applicant has earned a university degree in a country in which English is the only official language.
- The applicant has earned a university degree in a university in which English is the official language. In this case, the applicant must provide a certificate, issued by the university or by a supervisor, that states that university education was conducted in English.
- The applicant is a recipient of a scholarship for exchange students granted by the Japanese government.

## **6. Letter of Conditional Acceptance**

Applicants must submit a letter from the selected supervisor at Osaka University, stating that he/she will accept the applicant in his/her group if the applicant passes the entrance examination.

## **7. At Least Two Evaluation Letters**

At least two evaluation letters must be submitted. The evaluation letters should be written by persons qualified to evaluate the physics education of the applicant. The evaluation letter form available for download on <http://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/> must be used. The applicant is responsible for asking the person that will fill in the evaluation to send the evaluation letter directly to the IPC by e-mail before the application deadline.

Evaluation letters are not necessary for recipients of scholarships for exchange students granted by the Japanese government.

## **Address to which Application Documents should be sent**

The above application documents should be sent by e-mail

to: [ipc-office@ipc.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp](mailto:ipc-office@ipc.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp)

The words "Application documents for the IPC" and the applicant's full name in Latin alphabet should be written in the subject of the email.

If submission by e-mail is difficult, the documents can be sent by post

to: Office of Graduate Admissions – International Physics Course (IPC), Osaka University  
Graduate School of Science, 1-1 Machikaneyama-cho, Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043,  
JAPAN

## **Application Fee**

Payment of application fees is not required.

## **Examination Information**

### **1. Examination Date**

Oral presentations and interviews will be conducted in **July 2016**.

## **2. Announcement of Examination Results**

Results will be announced **by the beginning of August, 2016**.

### **Enrollment and Tuition Fees**

1. Enrollment fee: 282,000 JPY (as of April, 2016)
2. Tuition fees: 267,900 JPY for one semester (as of April, 2016), (JPY: Japanese Yen)

Tuition fees might be subject to change.

Enrollment and tuition fees are waived for recipients of scholarships for exchange students from the Japanese government.

### **Treatment of Personal Data**

The applicant's name, addresses, and other personal data will be used in the entrance examination process and in the admission procedures.

For those admitted to Osaka University, personal information will also be used for academic-related matters (such as academic and registration records), for student support matters (such as healthcare management, school fee management and exemptions, applications for scholarships, career support).

Other personal data obtained from the application material sent to us (such as grades) will be used for research on admission methods.