

International Physics Course (IPC) Application Guidelines for the Master's Program (Enrollment in April or October 2017)

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 earned or expects to earn a Bachelor's degree from a program that requires three or more years of study at a university in a country other than Japan; completion of a Bachelor's degree 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 at least 16 years of formal education; graduation must happen before enrollment in Osaka University
4. 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

In addition to the standard (single-degree) IPC program, the Graduate School of Science of Osaka University has established double-degree programs (DDPs) with the partner institutions listed on this page:

http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/guide/announcement/main/Double_Degree_Program

A DDP is a program in which the student resides, studies and carries out research at both Osaka University and a partner institution, under the supervision of two professors, one of Osaka University and one of the partner institution. Applicants enrolled or expected to enroll into the above partner institutions may apply for our DDP. However, applications for the DDP must be agreed in advance between the applicant, the selected supervisor at Osaka University and the selected supervisor at the partner institution. Note that applicants for the DDP must select the appropriate entry in the application form and provide the additional requested material.

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

Program Capacity

A few M.Sc. Students

Date of Program Start

Graduate programs start on April 1 or October 1, 2017. Note that on average there are more scholarships available for enrollment in October.

Application Period

The application documents listed below must arrive at the Office of Graduate Admissions – International Physics Course (IPC) between November 28 (Mon) and December 2 (Fri), 2016.

Selection Procedure

NOTE: Applicants must contact the professor(s) of their choice as soon as possible and at the latest four weeks before the application deadline in order to have enough time for discussion with them. Applicants must obtain a "Letter of Conditional Acceptance" from the selected professor, stating that the professor will accept the applicant as a student if the applicant passes the entrance examination. Early contact is especially important for applicants to the DDP.

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 January 2015 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. If the original language of the transcripts is neither English nor Japanese, a translation into English or Japanese must be provided as well.

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. If the original language of the certificate is neither English nor Japanese, a translation into English or Japanese must be provided as well.

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 all over 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. There is no minimum passing grade.

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.
- The applicant has been granted a special waiver by the director of the IPC.

6. Letter of Conditional Acceptance

All 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. Applicants to the DDP must additionally submit a letter from the selected supervisor at the partner institution, stating that he/she will support the applicant as a DDP student, if the applicant passes the entrance examination. Templates for the letters are available on our website: <http://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/>

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. For applicants to the DDP, one of the letters must be written by the selected supervisor at the partner institution. 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 who are recommended by the Japanese embassy in their home country or by Osaka University.

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

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 as follows.

- For those who take the exam in Japan: **February 2017**
- For those who take the exam abroad: **mid January 2017**

2. Announcement of Examination Results

- For those who take the exam in Japan: **at the beginning of March, 2017**
- For those who take the exam abroad: **by the end of January, 2017**

Enrollment and Tuition Fees

1. Enrollment fee: 282,000 JPY (as of September, 2016)
2. Tuition fees: 267,900 JPY for one semester (as of September, 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 who are recommended by the Japanese embassy in their home country or by Osaka University.

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.