

Special Integrated Science Course (SISC)
Application Guidelines for the Master's Program
(Enrollment in April or October 2017)

Graduate School of Science
Osaka University

Admissions Policy

This program is designed to turn out highly creative researchers who have a sensibility and an intellectual curiosity about 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 to learning that produces original, innovative findings with the goal of making a sustained contribution to humanity and quality of life from a global perspective. To this end, the program aims to not only cultivate outstanding researchers in different fields of specialization, but also to educate individuals who have a broad background in the natural sciences and who can demonstrate leadership in a wide range of social contexts. Another aim of the program is to cultivate individuals who demonstrate knowledge and skills in advanced areas of chemistry and biology and 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 chemical and life phenomena
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

Admissions for Master's Program

Eligibility for Application

Applicants must meet at least one of the following conditions.

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, applicants should have sufficient proficiency in the English language including reading, writing, listening and speaking. A score of 700 or higher on the TOEIC test, 480 on the TOEFL-PBT test, 50 on the TOEFL-iBT test, or 4.5 on the IELTS test is required.

In addition to the standard (single-degree) SISC 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 more information on these points, 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 April 1 or October 1, 2017.

Application Period

The application documents listed below must arrive at the Office of Graduate Admissions – Special Integrated Science Course 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:

The Graduate Selection Committee reviews the application documents. If an application is selected for further consideration, we shall notify the applicant by e-mail and give instructions on the next step to take.

Step 2:

Applicants will be requested to take paper-based tests in chemistry and/or biology. If the results are judged to attain a suitable standard level or higher, the applicant will be instructed on the next step to take.

Step 3:

Applicants will be interviewed by faculty members of the Special Integrated Science Course. Applicants do not need to come to Japan for the interview. The working language in the interview is English.

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 – Special Integrated Science Course by the deadline stated above.

1. Application Form

Download the application form at [the website of Graduate School of Science](#) as an editable Microsoft Excel document, complete it on-screen, and send it to the Office of Graduate Admissions at the address below. If applicants are unable to use the Excel file, a PDF file is also available for completion by hand.

2. Official Transcripts

Send 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)

Send an official certificate of graduation or a copy [or certification of expected completion for applicants who will graduate by March 31 (for April enrollees) or September 30 (for October enrollees), 2017]. 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 including the research theme and relation to the applicant's experience and research conducted thus far.
- Description of the personal reasons why the applicant wish to join this program at Osaka University in Japan in particular, as opposed to other graduate schools.

5. Evidence of English Proficiency*

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, unless the applicant is a native English speaker or has earned a university degree in a country in which English is the native language. 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. If the university education of applicant was in English, the applicant may provide a certificate written by the university or by a supervisor, and test scores may not be necessary. Test scores may not be necessary also 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.

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 chemistry or biology education of the applicant, using the evaluation letter form (in Word or PDF) available for download at [the website of Graduate School of Science](#). For applicants to the DDP, one of the letters must be written by the selected supervisor at the partner institution. The applicant is responsible for asking the persons that will fill in the evaluation to send the evaluation letter directly to the SISC office by e-mail before the application deadline.

Evaluation letters are not necessary 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.

** It is not necessary for students who are on the Chemistry-Biology Combined Major Program and will graduate from either the School of Science, Engineering, or Engineering Science at Osaka University in March 2017 (for April enrollees) or September 2017 (for October enrollees) to submit documents 5 and 7.*

Address to which Application Documents should be sent

The above application documents should be sent by e-mail

to: gssadmis@sci.osaka-u.ac.jp

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

to: Office of Graduation Admissions – Special Integrated Science Course

Graduate School of Science, Osaka University

1-1 Machikaneyama, Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

Application Fee

Payment of application fees is not required.

Examination Information

1. Examination Date

Paper tests and interview will be conducted from **January 10 (Tue) to January 13 (Fri), 2017**

2. Announcement of Examination Results

Examination results will be announced **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.

Scholarship Information

We can offer a special Japanese government scholarship to an excellent successful applicant. This scholarship is offered only to applicants newly coming to Japan. Enrollment and tuition fees are waived for recipients of the scholarship and each recipient will be provided monthly with almost 140,000 yen. It is noted that graduate programs for the scholarship recipients start on OCTOBER 1, 2017.*

** For the successful applicant who will graduate by March 31, 2017: If the successful applicant is selected as a recipient of the scholarship, the recipient will enroll in graduate programs on OCTOBER 1, 2017. If the successful applicant is NOT selected as a recipient of the scholarship, the applicant can enroll in graduate programs on April 1 or October 1, 2017.*

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 health care 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.