

International Physics Course (IPC)
Application Guidelines for
the Master's Program / the Ph.D. Program
(for Enrollment in April or October 2027)

Application deadline:
Friday, 6 November, 2026

Graduate School of Science
The University of Osaka

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1. Admissions Policy

This program is designed to educate highly creative researchers who have intellectual curiosity about physics 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 applying the scientific method
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 who aspire to contribute to society as researchers or instructors

2. Eligibility for Application

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
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 the University of Osaka (UOsaka). 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 UOsaka. 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 UOsaka. 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, UOsaka, because of his/her outstanding academic results; graduation must happen before enrollment in UOsaka.	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 been awarded a Master's degree or a degree equivalent to a professional degree, or expects to be awarded such a degree before the date of enrollment in UOsaka. 2. The applicant has graduated from a Japanese or non-Japanese university and after graduation has at least 2 years of research experience at universities or research institutes, and has demonstrated research achievements equivalent to the Master's degree level of the Graduate School of Science, UOsaka.
In addition to the standard (single-degree) IPC program, the Graduate School of Science of UOsaka has established double-degree programs (DDPs) with the partner institutions listed on this page: https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/overseas-study/double_degree_program/#sec03 A DDP is a program in which the student resides, studies and carries out research at both UOsaka and a partner institution, under the supervision of two professors, one of UOsaka 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 upon in advance between the applicant, the prospective supervisor at UOsaka and the prospective 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 materials.	

For further information, please contact the IPC Office (ipc-office@ipc.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp).

3. Program Capacity

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
A few M.Sc. Students	A few Ph.D. Students

4. Application Deadline

The application documents listed on pages 5-7 must arrive at the IPC Office no later than

Friday, 6 November, 2026

An early submission well before the deadline is highly recommended.

5. Examination Information

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
1. Examination Date Entrance examination will be conducted in January 2027.	1. Examination Date Entrance examination will be conducted in January 2027.
2. Announcement of Examination Results Examination results will be announced by the end of January 2027.	2. Announcement of Examination Results Examination results will be announced by the end of January 2027.

6. Selection Procedure

Applicants must

1. Choose a professor whose research matches their interests.

- Applicants are expected to identify a prospective supervisor before applying.

2. Contact that professor as early as possible.

- Applicants should email prospective supervisors no later than four weeks before the application deadline.
- Contacting them earlier is recommended so that there is enough time to discuss research interests and availability for supervision.

3. Submit an application to the Admission Assistance Desk (AAD).

- After contacting the professor and receiving their guidance, applicants must submit the required materials to the AAD:
<https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/international/inbound/dragongate>
- The AAD process usually takes 3-4 weeks.
- Note that the IPC application procedure differs from the standard AAD procedure. IPC applicants must first contact a prospective supervisor and obtain their agreement to provide supervision before submitting an application to the AAD. Therefore, the instructions on the AAD website stating that applicants should apply to the AAD before contacting a prospective supervisor do not apply to IPC applicants.

4. Obtain a “Letter of Conditional Acceptance” (LCA).

- Receiving an LCA means that the professor is willing to accept the applicant, provided that the applicant passes the entrance examination.
- Applicants cannot complete their application without an LCA.

5. Applicants to the Double Degree Program (DDP) are especially encouraged to make contact early.

For the Master’s Program	For the Ph.D. Program
<i>Step 1: Written examination in physics</i> 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 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 Physics Test. The designated institution code for the Graduate School of Science of UOsaka is 4260. Only applicants who have taken the GRE	<i>Step 1: Written examination in physics</i> Applicants will be requested to take a written examination in physics. The exam will focus on the field of physics related to the applicant’s research proposal and will also include questions on relevant basic topics. The total time for the exam is three hours. Applicants can take the exam in their own country. Details of the procedure will be announced individually. This exam is waived for the IPC students who will graduate from the Master’s program at the Graduate School

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
subject test in Physics after January 2025 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 basic subjects such as classical mechanics, electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, and statistical physics. The total time for the examination is three hours. Applicants can take the exam in their own country and details of the procedure will be announced individually. Examples of previous exams can be found on the IPC webpage. http://www.rcnp.osaka-u.ac.jp/~ipc/admissions/ 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. Please note that some supervisors may ask to take a supplementary IPC written examination to applicants who submit GRE Physics Test scores. Step 2: Interview Applicants will be interviewed by faculty members of the IPC. The working language of the interview is English. The interviews are ordinarily held online (via Zoom).	of Science, UOsaka in March 2027 (for April enrollees) or September 2027 (for October enrollees). If the results of the above exam are judged to attain a suitable standard level, the applicant will be instructed on the next step to take. Step 2: Interview The applicant will be interviewed by faculty members of the IPC. The working language of the interview is English. The interviews are ordinarily held online (via Zoom).

7. Application Requirements

The applicant must submit items 1–7 below by the application deadline. Each evaluator must send item 8 directly to the IPC Office (ipc-office@ipc.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp) by the same deadline.

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
1.	Letter of Conditional Acceptance	All applicants must submit a letter from the prospective supervisor at UOsaka, 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: https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/	

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
2.	Application Form	This form is available from the link below in either Microsoft Excel or PDF document format. It must be downloaded from: https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/	
3.	Official Transcripts*	Official transcripts or copies of all undergraduate study records.	Official transcripts or copies of all undergraduate and graduate study records.
		The name on the transcripts and the name on the application form must match the name on the applicant's passport. 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, with the official seal of the applicant's home university or institute.	
4.	Certificate of Graduation or Certification of Expected Completion*	An official certificate of a Bachelor's degree or a certification of expected completion for applicants who have not graduated yet and will graduate by 31 March 2027 (for April enrollees) or 30 September 2027 (for October enrollees). The certification must specify the applicant's <u>degree name</u>, <u>graduation year</u>, and <u>month</u>.	An official certificate of a Master's degree or a certification of expected completion for applicants who have not graduated yet and will graduate by 31 March 2027 (for April enrollees) or 30 September 2027 (for October enrollees). The certification must specify the applicant's <u>degree name</u>, <u>graduation year</u>, and <u>month</u>.
		The name on the certificate and the name on the application form must match the name on the applicant's passport. 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, with the official seal of the applicant's home university or institute. If none of these documents is available, please contact the IPC Office as soon as possible.	
5.	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 UOsaka in Japan in particular, as opposed to other graduate schools all over the world.	

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
6.	Evidence of English Proficiency	Applicants must submit scores from TOEFL iBT (including TOEFL iBT® Home Edition), TOEIC or IELTS as evidence of English proficiency. Note that TOEFL ITP (including TOEFL ITP® Plus for China), TOEIC IP, TOEIC Bridge and IELTS Indicator are not accepted. Applicants should submit their official scores or a copy of them when applying (the original of the official scores will be required if admitted to the program). There is no minimum passing grade. <u>Exceptions</u> 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 degree program in which English was the official medium of instruction. 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 the scholarship for students granted by the Japanese government. • The applicant has been granted a special waiver by the director of the IPC.	

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
7.	Master's Thesis*		The Master's thesis may be submitted as an attachment to an email. If the Master's thesis was not written in English, a two-page research summary in English should be submitted along with the Master's thesis. Applicants who have not yet graduated and, therefore, whose thesis is not yet complete should submit a two-page summary of their research to date as a PDF file.
8.	At Least Two Evaluation Letters*	At least two evaluation letters must be submitted. The letters should be written by individuals who are qualified to evaluate the applicant's academic background in physics (e.g., the applicant's supervisor or a professor at their university). For applicants to the DDP, one of the evaluation letters must be written by the selected supervisor at the partner institution. An evaluation letter form is available for download at: https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/ Evaluators may either use the official form or submit their evaluation in a separate document. In either case, the evaluation letter must include the following information: Name of evaluator, name of the institution or organization, address, position or title, email address, signature and date. The applicant is responsible for requesting that each evaluator send their evaluation letter directly to the IPC Office by email before the application deadline. Evaluation letters are not necessary for recipients of the scholarship granted by Japanese government.	
	NOTE	<i>Submission of documents 6 and 8 is not required for students who are in the International Undergraduate Program in Science, UOsaka and will graduate in March 2027 (for April enrollees) or in September 2027 (for October enrollees).</i>	<i>* Submission of documents 3, 4, 7, and 8 is not required for students who graduated or will graduate from the Master's program at the Graduate School of Science, UOsaka.</i>

8. Address to which Application Documents should be sent

The above application documents should be sent by email to: ipc-office@ipc.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp

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

Within a few days after the submission of the application, the IPC Office will send a confirmation email to the applicant's email address. Applicants who do not receive any reply from us within a few days after the submission of their application should contact us again at ipc-office@ipc.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp

9. Application Fee

Payment of application fees is not required.

10. Enrollment and Tuition Fees

1. Enrollment fee: 282,000 JPY (as of September 2026), (JPY: Japanese Yen)
 2. Tuition fees: 535,800 JPY for one year (267,900 JPY for half a year) (as of September 2026)
- Tuition fees are subject to change.

Enrollment and tuition fees at UOsaka are not charged for recipients of scholarships from the Japanese government or for DDP students.

Students accepted in the graduate programs of UOsaka may apply for exemption or deferred payment of the enrollment and tuition fees.*

* The enrollment fee is not charged for newly enrolled Ph.D. students who will graduate in March 2027 (for April enrollees) or in September 2027 (for October enrollees) from a Master's program at one of the graduate schools of UOsaka.

11. Tuition Waiver System for International Honors Students

A few excellent international students will be granted full exemption from the tuition fees. The decision on the exemption will be based on the candidate's performance in the entrance exam.

Exemption Period

The exemption period will be the standard period of study for the completion of the program/course in which the student has enrolled.

Students receiving financial aid for tuition fees, such as from the Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT Scholarship) or from a foreign government, and students receiving from scholarship foundations, etc. financial aid equivalent to the amount necessary to cover tuition fees, are not eligible for the Tuition Waiver System for International Honors Students.

12. Date of Program Start

Graduate programs start on 1 April or 1 October 2027.

13. 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 UOsaka, 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, and career support).

Other personal data obtained from the submitted application materials (such as grades) will be used for research on admission methods.

In the process of the enrollment procedures, we will outsource part of the operations to a company outside the university. The university will enter into an appropriate agreement with the contractor to ensure that personal information will be handled appropriately, and then we will provide them with all or part of the personal information submitted at the time of application.

14. Notes

- Recording or filming the entrance examination, as well as posting any part of the examination content on social media or other online platforms, is prohibited. If any of these prohibited actions are found to have been carried out, your admission may be canceled, even after the announcement of results.
- In accordance with Japan's "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act" (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), the University of Osaka has established the "Security Export Control Regulations" and rigorously implements security export controls for the export of goods and the transfer of technology, including the acceptance of foreign nationals as students, researchers, or visitors. Applicants who fall under any of the conditions specified in the Act may not be permitted to enroll at the University of Osaka, even if they have passed the entrance examination. In addition, students who are permitted to enroll may be subject to restrictions on their education, research, or other academic activities after enrollment. For more information, please refer to the website.

https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/research/secur_exp/outline