

International Physics Course (IPC)
Application Guidelines for
the Master's Program / the Ph.D. Program
(Enrollment in April or October 2024)

Graduate School of Science
Osaka University

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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 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 who aspire to contribute to society as researchers or instructors

2. Eligibility for Application

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Osaka University. 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, 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:

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 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 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, 17 November 2023 at 15:00 JST

An early submission well before the deadline is highly recommended.

5. Examination Information

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
<p>1. Examination Date Entrance examination will be conducted in January 2024. In exceptional cases, it can be conducted in February.</p> <p>2. Announcement of Examination Results Examination results will be announced by the end of January, 2024.</p>	<p>1. Examination Date Entrance examination will be conducted in January 2024. In exceptional cases, it can be conducted in February.</p> <p>2. Announcement of Examination Results Examination results will be announced by the end of January, 2024.</p>

6. 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.

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
<p><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 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 4260. Only applicants who have taken the GRE subject test in Physics after January <u>2022</u> 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 about 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.</p> <p><i>Step 2: Interview</i> Applicants will be interviewed by faculty members of the IPC. The working language in the interview is English. The interview will be held online if the applicant is not at Osaka University in the examination period.</p>	<p><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 about three hours. Applicants can take the exam in their own country. Details of the procedure will be announced individually. This exam is waived for students who will graduate from the Master's program at the Graduate School of Science, Osaka University in March 2024 (for April enrollees) or September 2024 (for October enrollees). If the results of the above review and exam are judged to attain a suitable standard level, the applicant will be instructed on the next step to take.</p> <p><i>Step 2: Interview</i> The applicant will be interviewed by faculty members of the IPC. The working language in the interview is English. The interview will be held online if the applicant is not at Osaka University in the examination period.</p>

7. Application Requirements

The following documents 1-7 must be sent by the applicant and the evaluation letters (document 8) should be sent by those making the evaluation directly to the IPC Office (ipc-office@ipc.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp) by Friday 17 November 2023 at 15:00 JST.

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
1.	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: https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/	
2.	Application Form	This form is available from the link below in either Microsoft Word 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.
		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 copy (or certification of expected completion for applicants who have not graduated yet and will graduate by March 31 (for April enrollees) or September 30 (for October enrollees), 2024). The certification must specify the applicant's degree name, graduation year, and month.	An official certificate of a Master's degree or a copy (or certification of expected completion for applicants who have not graduated yet and will graduate by March 31 (for April enrollees) or September 30 (for October enrollees), 2024). The certification must specify the applicant's degree name, graduation year, and month.
		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.	

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
5.	Statement of Purpose	<p>The statement of purpose is considered with particular care in the selection process. It should contain the following two sections (limited to two pages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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. 	
6.	Evidence of English Proficiency	<p>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 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.</p> <p><u>Exceptions</u></p> <p>Submission of test scores is not necessary in any of the following cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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 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 e-mail. 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*	<p>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 https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/ must be used.</p> <p>The applicant is responsible for asking the persons that will fill in the evaluation letters to send the evaluation letter directly to the IPC Office by e-mail before the application deadline.</p> <p>Evaluation letters are not necessary for recipients of the scholarship granted by Japanese government.</p>	
	NOTE		<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, Osaka University.</i>

8. 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.

Within a few days after the submission of the application, we send a confirmation e-mail to the applicant's e-mail 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

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

to: International Physics Course (IPC) Office, Osaka University

Graduate School of Science, 1-1 Machikaneyama-cho, Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, JAPAN

9. Application Fee

Payment of application fees is not required.

10. Enrollment and Tuition Fees

1. Enrollment fee: 282,000 JPY (as of September 2023), (JPY: Japanese Yen)
 2. Tuition fees: 535,800 JPY for one year (267,900 JPY for half a year) (as of September 2023)
- Tuition fees might be subject to change.

Enrollment and tuition fees at Osaka University are waived for recipients of scholarships from the Japanese government or for DDP students.

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

*The enrollment fee is waived for students who will graduate in March (for April enrollees) or September (for October enrollees) 2024 from a Master's program at one of the graduate schools of Osaka University.

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 April 1 or October 1, 2024.

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 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.