

Special Integrated Science Course (SISC)
Application Guidelines for
the Master's Program / the Ph.D. Program
(Enrollment in October 2025)

Graduate School of Science
The University of Osaka

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1. 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 and 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, 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 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
<p>Applicants must meet at least one of the following conditions.</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 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. <p>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, 60 on the TOEFL iBT test, or Overall 5.0 (with 5.0 or more in every component) on the IELTS test is required.</p>	<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 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) SISC 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 in advance among the applicant, the selected supervisor at UOsaka, 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.

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 Period

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

June 9 (Mon) to June 13 (Fri), 2025

5. Examination Information

For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
<p>1. Examination Date Paper tests and interview will be conducted from July 7 (Mon) to July 11 (Fri), 2025</p> <p>2. Announcement of Examination Results Examination results will be announced by the end of July 2025</p>	<p>1. Examination Date Oral presentations and interviews will be conducted as follows.</p> <p>◆ For applicants who will graduate in September 2025 from a Master's program at one of the graduate schools of UOsaka: August 2025</p> <p>◆ For other applicants: from July 7 (Mon) to July 11 (Fri), 2025</p> <p>2. Announcement of Examination Results Examination results will be announced as follows.</p> <p>◆ For applicants who will graduate in September 2025 from a Master's program at one of the graduate Schools of UOsaka: by the end of August 2025</p> <p>◆ For other applicants: by the end of July 2025</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>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.</p> <p>Step 2: Applicants will be requested to take paper-based tests in chemistry and/or biology and an interview by faculty members of the Special Integrated Science Course. The working language is English. As a general rule, the examination will be conducted in the specified venues of countries, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, and Taiwan as well as in UOsaka, Japan. Applicants can also take the examination in the non-specified countries with the agreement of their prospective supervisor (See the following URL: https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/#SISC).</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Step 2: Applicants will be interviewed by faculty members of the Special Integrated Science Course. Applicants may not need to come to Japan for the interview depending on the other arrangements we can make. The working language in the interview is English.</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 Office of Graduate Admissions – Special Integrated Science Course by the deadline stated below.

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
1.	Application Form	Download the application form at https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/ 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 records.	Send official transcripts or copies of all undergraduate and graduate study records.
		In case there's no description about Grading Policy/Assessment Criteria on the transcript, submit the official document from applicant's university or send a link of the university's website containing information on the grading policy to the Office of Graduate Admissions. 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. The official seal of applicant's home university or institute is needed.	
3.	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 30 September 2025. The certification must specify the applicant's degree name, graduation year, and month.	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 30 September 2025. 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. The official seal of applicant's home university or institute is needed. If none of these documents is available, please contact to the Office of Graduate Admissions as soon as possible.	
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 UOsaka in Japan in particular, as opposed to other graduate schools.	

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
5.	Letter of Conditional Acceptance	<p>All applicants must submit a letter from the selected supervisor at UOsaka, stating that he/she will accept the applicant in his/her group if the applicant passes the entrance examination.</p> <p>Applicants to the DDP must additionally submit a letter from the selected supervisor at the partner institution of UOsaka, 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/</p>	
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, unless the applicant is a native English speaker or has earned a university degree in a country in which English is the native language. Note that TOEFL ITP (including TOEFL ITP® Plus for China), TOEIC IP, TOEIC Bridge and IELTS Indicator are not accepted.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 the scholarship from the Japanese government.</p>	
7.	Master's Thesis		
			<p>The Master's thesis may be submitted as an attachment (20 MB or less of file size) 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.</p>

		For the Master's Program	For the Ph.D. Program
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 applicant's academic achievement in chemistry or biology (e.g., supervisor/professor of the applicant's university), using the evaluation letter form (in Word or PDF) available for download from our website: https://www.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate-admissions/</p> <p>The applicant is responsible for asking the persons that will fill in the evaluation to send the evaluation letter directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions-SISC office by e-mail before the application deadline. For applicants to the DDP, one of the letters must be written by the selected supervisor at the partner institution.</p> <p>Evaluation letters are not necessary for recipients of the scholarship from the Japanese government.</p>	
	NOTE	<p><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 September 2025.</i></p>	<p><i>* Submission of documents 2, 3, 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></p>

8. 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, the University of Osaka

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

Submission Confirmation

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, contact ri-daigakuin@office.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 April 2025), (JPY: Japanese Yen)
 2. Tuition fees: 535,800 JPY for one year (267,900 JPY for half a year) (as of April 2025)
- Tuition fees might be subject to change.

Enrollment and tuition fees at UOsaka are not charged for recipients of the scholarship 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 Ph.D. applicants who will graduate in September 2025 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 October 1, 2025.

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 enrollment 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 health care management, school fee management and exemptions, applications for scholarships, and career support).

Other personal data obtained from the application material sent to us (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. We will make a contract with them 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. Note

1. (Dept. of Chemistry Only) This program has started a four-year integrated program for students who have enrolled in the Master's program since October, 2023, with the assumption that they will proceed to the Ph.D. program.
2. Recording and filming the exam, as well as posting exam content on social media, are prohibited. If it is discovered that these prohibited actions were carried out, even after the announcement of results, your admission may be canceled.