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Major Challenges Graduate Education @ Osaka University

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Profile of Osaka University



Our Motto: Live Locally, Grow Globally

Osaka University takes pride in being the first-class university in both domestic and international settings and is committed to make contributions to society.



Osaka University

- Founded in 1931
- Corporatized in 2004 along with other national universities
- New Osaka University was founded by integration of Osaka University and Osaka University of Foreign Studies in 2007.
- The Largest National University in terms of the number of UG students



Basic Data

Number of Staff

- Academic staff 3,111
- Total (Full-time) 5,988
- + Part-time academic staff 3,335

Number of Students

- Undergraduates 15,541
- Graduates 8,017
- Total (Full-time) 23,558

include International students 1,924

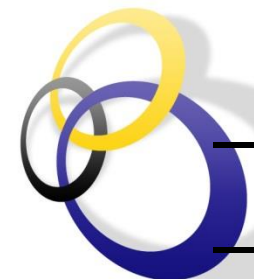
4 Campuses and 4 Overseas Centers

Budget 138.532 billion Yen (1.7 billion USD)



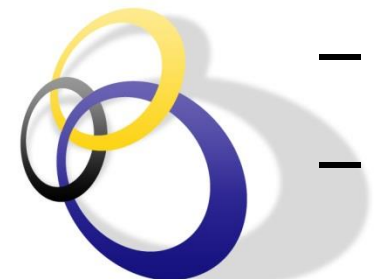
Organization

- 11 Schools with 10 Corresponding Graduate Schools and 6 Independent Graduate Schools
- 5 Research Institutes
- 2 University Hospitals
- University Library consisting of 4 branches
- 19 Joint-Use Facilities
- 3 National Joint-Use Facilities
- World Premier International Research Center Initiative
- Institute for Academic Initiatives
- Center for Education in Liberal Arts and Sciences



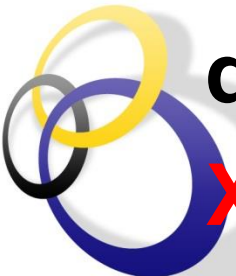
Advantage & Disadvantage

- High-level knowledge of freshman
- ✗ Study only for passing entrance exam
- ✗ Less social skill
- ✗ Less interest in Liberal Arts
- Research Culture of Laboratories
Emphasizing Practice not only Theory
 - Small group class for freshman
 - Seminars starting at 2nd or 3rd year
 - Belonging to Laboratory (STEM)



Advantage & Disadvantage

- Rich in Funds in Japan
- International in Japan
- Japanese culture
- Various programs and courses
- ✗ Poor in Funds in the world
- ✗ Non-international in the world
- ✗ Language barrier and Cultural difference
- ✗ Inconsistent programs and courses



Major Challenges

Advanced Education in the Liberal Arts (Intellectual Gymnastics)

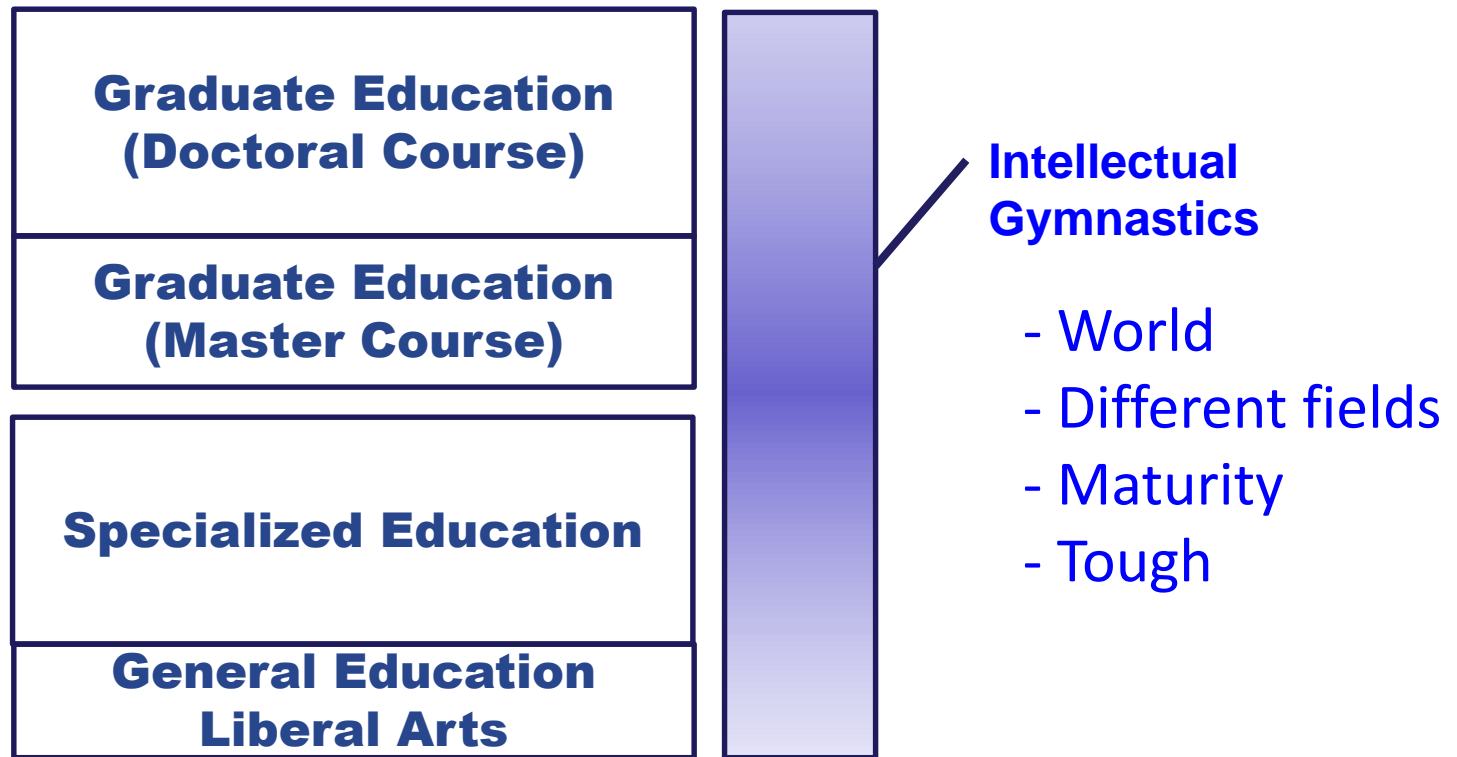
- Targeting 3rd- and 4th-year undergraduate students and **graduate students**
- Requesting attained a certain level of specialized professional knowledge

Key words:

- World: Designed to assist persons move out into a world stage.
- Different fields: Integrating different fields.
- Maturity: Creating mature individuals for civil society.
- Tough: Brightening society through assisting students become intellectually tough.



• Advanced Education in the Liberal Arts (Intellectual Gymnastics)



How to merge?



Major Challenges

Program for Leading Graduate Schools

- Intended to become a driving force behind drastic reform of graduate school education
- Aims to promote the efforts of graduate schools to create and develop world-class degree programs, programs transcending field borders, with the aim of producing graduates capable of serving as international leaders in academia, business, and government.
- Max 7-years Fund from JSPS



Major Challenges

Program for Leading Graduate Schools

- All-round programs (programs that would produce leaders with a wide range of expertise)
- Multidisciplinary programs (programs that would produce leaders with expertise in overlapping fields)
- Only-one programs (programs that would produce leaders with a clearly defined specialty)

<http://www.cbi.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/>

<http://www.stn.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/index.html>

Graduate Student Survey

To understand student learning activities in a consistent manner

Practical-Theoretical? Rich-Poor?

Domestic-International? Interdisciplinary?

Competencies?

To understand student learning outcomes of undergraduate education

We can do a follow-up survey.



Thank you.

