Ph.D. Program in Human Biology

Nurturing of the global leaders steering to the future human society
The University of Tsukuba has a long history and tradition. Seizing the opportunity provided by the relocation to the Tsukuba area of its predecessor, the Tokyo University of Education, the University of Tsukuba was established in 1973 based on a new educational concept. The university’s history dates back to its founding as a Normal School (later named Tokyo Higher Normal School) in 1872. We aim to be an open university in every sense. With its proactive initiatives to create a flexible education and research structure as well as a university system for the needs of the next generation, the University of Tsukuba is now a frontrunner in university reform in Japan. We aspire to be an ideal university, continuously meeting new challenges and developing new areas.

The foremost mission of a university is to provide an environment that allows future leaders to realize their potential in full. The University of Tsukuba gives students the opportunity to develop their individuality and skills through an education that is backed by cutting-edge research. Our goal is to endow students with a rich sense of humanity and a creative intellect, equipping them with the ability of working independently and internationally. In particular, we aim to improve their communication skills, moral values, sense of responsibility, and logical thinking abilities. Each individual student faces the challenge of acquiring independent thinking and imagination, how to communicate and familiarize themselves with new concepts. We are determined to develop their creativity and ability of identifying and solving problems to the highest level.

With its quiet suburban setting removed from the bustle of Tokyo, our campus has an abundant natural environment that is attractive to students and faculty alike. It is an environment in which they can develop their strengths through reflection and discussion. It also hosts a highly diverse student body, both domestically and internationally. With the second largest number of international students among Japan’s national universities, and having been chosen as a Core University for Internationalization through the Global 30 Project, the University of Tsukuba has developed into a university of international flavor and diverse values. As a comprehensive university with a wide range of academic fields, we are actively expanding interdisciplinary and integrative approaches to education and research while furthering specialized expertise. Owing to the wide dissemination of research outcomes, we have achieved a reputation as a base for international research and education. Three Nobel Prize winners are connected to our University, Dr. Sin-Itiro Tomonaga (Nobel Prize in Physics, 1965), Dr. Leo Esaki (Nobel Prize in Physics, 1973) and Dr. Hideki Shirakawa (Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2000). This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jigoro Kano, who not only acted as principal of the Tokyo Higher Normal School for 23 years, but also enlightened the teaching of Judo as well as literary and martial arts throughout Japan. Many young athletes from our university have participated in the Olympics and brought home gold medals.

Universities are expected to act as a focal point of knowledge that holds the key to a balanced development of human society. Besides education and research, a further essential role of universities is to serve society through international and local contributions, and advance collaboration among industry, academia, and government. At the core of Tsukuba Science City with its concentration of scientific research institutes, we are at the forefront of such collaboration, and have been actively contributing to society as a whole while continuing to strengthen our education and research. Ours is a rapidly globalizing world where information travels the world in an instant. Some feel uneasy by the sheer pace of change, but times of change are also times of opportunity. We must foster the kind of imaginative power that can create added value for the future. Imagine the Future is our logo, symbolizing the forward-looking stance of the University of Tsukuba and its human resources.

Recently, the Ph.D. Program in Human Biology was accepted as one of the Leading Graduate School Doctoral Programs supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. The promotion of this program leads the traditional university education system to the degree program system in our university as well as universities in Japan. To this end, our university lends intensive support to this program.

University of Tsukuba as a Focal Point of Knowledge

President of the University of Tsukuba
Nobuhiro Yamada

School of Integrative and Global Majors

Head of School of Integrative and Global Majors, Vice President, University of Tsukuba
Prof.Dr.Kazuhiko Shimizu

As part of our higher education reforms, the University of Tsukuba has launched a series of degree program reforms with the aim
In Human biology

Chair of the PhD Program
in Human Biology
Prof. Dr. Kyosuke Nagata

What is ‘Human Biology’?  Human biology is a new area of study in biology.  In human biology, a human being is relativized to other living organisms as one species on this planet in the universe, and as one species born in the time-axis of biological evolution.  Human biology is the area of study to understand the maintenance mechanism of the homeostasis, and the inheritance mechanism of successive life in variable circumstance and thereby to contribute to formation of the unstinted human society and the sustainable world.

Human biology is categorized into biology, but not medicine.  However, medical knowledge and concept are important for human biology.  We have realized that the college students majoring in biology and medicine do not sufficiently study the mathematical science (i.e., mathematics, physics, chemistry, etc.) during their high school days, or in a university general education curriculum, which is truly helpful for subsequent learning.  A fundamental problem for human science is lack of experimental test systems for human beings.  Although an animal is naturally used as an alternative experiment medium, is the result applicable to humans as well?  When we consider development of a new medication as the example, this shall be the case.  Here in our Ph.D. Program in Human Biology, we will integrate the knowledge acquired in medical science with the result obtained from the life science research using animals and cells; use the concept and methods of the mathematical science; and simulate biological processes in computers using the latest computing science.  In cooperation with a wide range of interdisciplinary approaches, we will try to reproduce human beings in virtual space and use them to further develop technological application.

Science pursues to generalize the principle in the nature fact, while technology can prove the correctness of the principle by appropriate application.  Those who are responsible for the future world with science and technology shall expand and deepen science academically; create new technology based on the knowledge acquired in learning and give it back to the human community; and coordinate to tie science and technology with the society.  In our human biology degree program, we have prepared the curricula which make these various careers possible.  For example, we offer subjects relevant to International Research Rotation, Entrepreneurship Trial, Appropriate Technology Program, and so forth.

We designate our program as the “Shipmaster Program”, alternatively.  The shipmaster of present-day fisherman convoy as well as one in Great Navigation Age should have not only the professional skill, including the helmsmanship based on information obtained by GPS and a mariner’s compass, but also the skill for “cognoscente”, “breakthrough”, and “accomplishment” to for correct navigation performances for their ultimate targets and objects.

Now, let’s set sail!  See the world with friends having diverse backgrounds and cultures.
Humankind invented science and technology, and in doing so unwittingly exposed its health and wellbeing to a great deal of threats. Today, our global environment is deteriorating, as the delicate balance of its water and atmospheric systems becomes polluted; within this increasingly precarious environment are chemical substances, such as endocrine-disrupting chemicals, the byproduct of the technological inventions of humankind. Elsewhere, the spread of new and re-emerging infectious diseases is a result of the high speed at which people and items travel the world today. In order to control this kind of global threat, we cannot rely on medicine alone, the primary aim of which is to prevent and to heal disease. Rather, we must combine multiple related disciplines, starting with the field of biology. When carrying out research on the human being, there are ethical boundaries that dictate which experimental methods are considered acceptable, and thus collaboration and integration with computational science is required to apply biological findings to the human being.

1. Entrance examination reform: ensure intake of outstanding students by referring to internationally standardized GRE/GPA results and introducing an examination process involving overnight stays and informal interaction.

2. Globalization as the norm: promote the establishment of an environment that encourages both Japanese and international students to learn and study in English, and make use of the opportunities presented by the largest dormitory facilities in Japan to encourage mutual cultural interaction and understanding.

3. Graduate school education encompassing science and liberal arts: nurture students through a program of integrated knowledge and learning, encouraging them to acquire the ethical outlook, internationally-oriented open-mindedness, and globally-translatable negotiating skills that are the standard of the University of Tsukuba’s Graduate School, and harnessing the opportunities presented by the cooperation of world-leading scientific researchers and corporate managers to encourage further learning and debate, and to motivate students to play a full role in society.

4. Developing breakthrough power to facilitate international cooperation and good judgment applicable to industrial contexts: entrepreneurship, appropriate technology learning, overseas laboratory rotations, overseas corporate internships, corporate planning & development competitions, and project management are all incorporated into the program. Students are able to choose courses according to their own personal goals, and build up appropriate judgment applicable to broad social situations including industrial contexts and government bodies, as well as the ability to make breakthroughs that will lead to enhanced international cooperation. The performance of students in these two areas will be measured in the Qualifying Examination.

The Human Biology Ph.D. Program will implement the following measures with regard to innovation in administration, curriculum, and diploma systems within the program.

1. Entrance examination reform: First round based on GRE, GPA scores; Second round on a selection camp

2. Japanese & International students living together & promoting mutual cultural understanding

   Overseas Partner Universities
   15 countries
   25 universities
   Edinburg University
   Harvard University, etc.

3. Breakthrough power to facilitate international cooperation
   Entrepreneurship
   Appropriate technology education
   Internships in overseas companies
   Rotation in overseas research laboratories

4. Good judgment, breakthrough power, specialist skills, ability to take conclusive action

   Qualifying Exam (diploma policy) based on industry standards

   Good judgment, breakthrough power, specialist skills, ability to take conclusive action

   Human resources able to promote the evaluation of the adverse effects of chemical substances arising from human activity, including medicine, pharmacology, agriculture and engineering, on human health and well-being.
Nurturing of the global leaders steering to the future human society

**Educational Goals of the Program**
The Human Biology Ph.D. Program adopts a multi-perspective methodological approach, integrating the disciplines of biological science, medicine, computational science, and materials science, to understand the mechanisms of human survival, adaptation, and inheritance. Students will be given training allowing them to develop the outstanding research skills and specialist knowledge required at this level of study. The aim is to nurture the global leaders of the future, able to create a rich human society.

**Matchless Educational Approach**
The core concept at the heart of the various unique educational and research approaches that make up this course is a program of individualized, global overseas training, exemplified by appropriate technology learning programs. Through this kind of overseas training program, the Ph.D. Program is able to conduct coursework at partner universities overseas and in collaboration with industry, designed to 1) foster leading researchers with a challenging spirit both for academia and industry, 2) develop leadership skills along with entrepreneurship for desirable organizational management, and 3),develop specialist and social skills based on strategic planning.

**The Human Biology Ph.D. Program Graduate**
The Human Biology Ph.D. Program graduate will be able to use the skills obtained through the program’s unique educational approach to work toward the development of solutions to those global-scale problems that pose a threat to the health and well-being of humans. He or she will display the ability to display excellent judgment, make breakthroughs, and take conclusive action, geared toward attaining international consensus.

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**Operating Committee**
Planning Committee, Educational Affairs Committee, FD/SD Committee, international Partnerships Committee, Corporate Relations Committee, Public Relations Committee

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**Internationalization of faculty**
Supervision by faculty of multiple nationalities and multiple disciplines
Faculty evaluative system

**Conclusive action-taking based on specialist knowledge and skill**: Develop the ability to take conclusive action appropriate to one’s position, based on multi-perspective and comprehensive problem-solving skills, traversing medicine, biological science, computational science, and materials science, and based on specialist knowledge in human biology built up through study of specialist courses incorporating project-based learning methods. Participation in joint research projects in laboratories engaged in research in other disciplines, as well as laboratories in overseas institutes, is also used to develop specialist knowledge, research skills, and management ability, as is high-level debate in advanced level entrepreneurship and appropriate technology learning courses, and regular research and practical training.

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**Independent Administrative Institution Research Laboratories**
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
National Institute for Materials Science

**Private corporations**
Astellas
Eisai
Intel

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**Outcome**

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**Tsukuba Innovation Arena for Life**
University of Tsukuba/ Human Biology Ph.D. Program
The students in the Human Biology Program will be trained in multidisciplinary courses that cover medical, biological, computational and physical sciences, to further understand how human being can adapt, inherit and sustain their life. Students participate in this program shall gain research and scientific knowledge that is expected to become world-class leaders, who could direct our society for the benefit of the human being.

**Outline**

The biology of the human being transcends conventional disciplinary boundaries, and looks at the human being as a single unit of life on the earth and in the universe, it seeks to examine and understand the mechanisms and homeostasis of the human on the temporal axes of the global environment and biological evolution.

**Research**

Seeking to gain an understanding of the human in the context of both natural and social environments, and contribute to sustainable wellbeing and happiness on Earth.

**Post-Central Dogma**

- **Central Dogma**
  - mRNA
  - tRNA
  - Protein

**Epigenetic Molecules**

- **Biomolecules**
  - Translational science (Pharmacology)

**in silico data integration**

- **(to Virtual Human System)**

**in silico data processing**

Distribution of molecules, functional analysis
This Program provides not only specialized subjects on life science, medical science, pure and applied sciences, and computational science but also Transferable Skills, subjects offered by companies, International Research Work, International Mushashugyo, etc. to understand the mechanisms of human survival, adaptation, and inheritance. Students will be given training allowing them to develop the outstanding research skills with specialist knowledge. The aim is to nurture the global leaders of the future who can contribute to creation of the next-generation human society.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st year</th>
<th>2nd year</th>
<th>3rd-5th years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Experiments in Human Biology</td>
<td>Special Lectures in Human Biology</td>
<td>Advanced International Research Rotation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Lectures in Human Biology I</td>
<td>Special Seminars in Human Biology II</td>
<td>Advanced Internship in Overseas Companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Seminars in Human Biology I</td>
<td>Special Research in Human Biology</td>
<td>Advanced Appropriate Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Research in Human Biology</td>
<td>Special Practice in Human Biology</td>
<td>Advanced Entrepreneurship</td>
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International Subjects
- Initiation Seminar
- World Science Leaders' Seminar
- Business Leaders' Seminar
- Experimental Sciences
- Serendipity in Human Biology

Transferable Skills
- International Business Negotiation
- Intellectual Property Right
- TOEFL, IBT

Mathematics & Computer Science
- Application of Information Technology in Science
- Basic Computational Biology
- High-Performance Computing Technology
- Computational Algorithms
- Mathematics for Biology

Molecular Subjects
- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Molecular Cell Biology
- Pharmacology, Basic Toxicology
- Human Chemical Biology
- Frontier Science in Drug Discovery

Medical Subjects
- Human Anatomy & Embryology
- Human Pathology & Oncology
- Human Infection & Immunology
- Human Endocrinology & Metabolism
- Environmental Medicine

Common Subjects
- Critical Case Management: Human Health and Well-being
- Research Methodology

Advanced Specialized Subjects
- Gene Engineering
- Reproduction biology
- Epigenome Physiology
- Signal Transduction and Drug Design
- Stem Cell Therapy
- Analysis Maches in Human Design
- Exposure Science and Toxicology

Common Subjects
- Research Presentation and Discussion
- Internal Research Rotation
- Internship in Overseas Companies
- Appropriate Technology
- Entrepreneurship
- Home Internship

Thesis Work
- 4th year
- Summer Camp
- Mid-term Evaluation
- Final Exam

End of Second Year
- Qualifying Exam
- 60 Credits
- GPA > 3.0

End of 4th Year
- Qualifying Exam
- 72 Credits
- GPA > 3.0
- TOEFL iBT > 90
- TOEIC > 860

Here in the University of Tsukuba, we are very seriously thinking of the student service including their financial support as well as career employment support.

**Student Support**

- **Financial support** (JPY 2,160,000~2,880,000 / year, including school expenses)
- **Support for overseas activities** (JPY 1,000,000 average)
  - Overseas lab rotation, Overseas internship and research, Appropriate technology education
- **Preferential availability of dormitories** (personal expense: JPY 30,000/month)
- **Risk, mental health and career support**

**Current Conditions and Problems**

- Universities, Incorporated Administrative Research Institutes, Industries
  - must clarify career paths for degree holders
  - must ensure fair competition because personnel change is infrequent
  - must meet the needs of the global community
  - must overcome shortages of talented people who are necessary for success in international competition

- Graduate Students
  - tend to stay in their own country, hesitate to go overseas to study
  - are unaware of the diversity of types of jobs

- University Faculty
  - are less conscious about students’ career paths

**Countermeasure**

- Suggestions for the Career Path Plan obtained from degree program participating institutions both at home and abroad
  - clarify recruitment and training processes in each institution and industry
  - educate about and promote starting a company
  - Furthermore, creation of the field of new growth industry

- Graduate Students’ study
  - learn on the world stage
  - internships in company collaboration laboratories

- Structure of quality guarantee of teachers
  - International Peer Review aiming at educational power and qualitative improvement
A captain should have not only the “Professional Skill”, including the helmsmanship based on information obtained by GPS and a mariner’s compass, but also the skill for “Cognoscente”, “Breakthrough”, and “Accomplishment” to correct navigation performances for their ultimate targets and objects.