

Graduate School of Humanities

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of the University of Osaka, the Graduate School of Humanities carries on the university's tradition of humanities research that focuses on human activities related to both spiritual and material culture, such as languages, events, thoughts, and customs, created by diverse individuals and social groups. At the same time, the education at the Graduate School of Humanities is designed to enable students to develop the ability to think flexibly from interdisciplinary perspectives beyond their specialties, and to make effective use of cutting-edge technologies to quickly meet the needs of today's globalized, information-oriented driven society, thereby training students capable of: designing humanities research tailored to the present-day situation; making unceasing efforts to tackle current issues; and sharing widely with the world the knowledge gained from the experience. To be more specific, the Graduate School of Humanities guides students to meet the following educational objectives.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire cutting-edge knowledge in the respective specialties of the Division of Humanities, Division of Language and Culture, Division of Foreign Studies, Division of Japanese Studies, and Division of Arts Studies by studying under the curriculum tailored specifically to these areas of study; foster advanced theoretical and practical expertise by building on that knowledge; and develop the skills and abilities required to write academic papers and conduct high-level research. At the same time, deepen academic knowledge and foster flexible thinking in order to solve global issues by leveraging knowledge in the broader field of humanities beyond one's specialty.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general; the advanced information literacy skills required in today's society; and the ability to think from many different perspectives in a comprehensive manner and conduct multi-angle evaluations.

A sophisticated international mindset

Develop the ability to use Japanese professionally and theoretically; high-level proficiency in foreign languages that enables rewarding communication with people with diverse backgrounds beyond differences in language and culture; and a sharp sensitivity towards and deep understanding of different peoples and cultures and the diversity of artistic creation.

Advanced design prowess

Develop the ability to expand the horizon of the humanities to better meet the present-day needs; identify the diverse range of complex problems that face modern society; and devise approaches to solutions to such problems. This will be done through learning opportunities created by flexibly combining a wide range of educational resources held by each division of the Graduate School of Humanities.

Leveraging the specialties of its five divisions, the Graduate School of Humanities aims to share new knowledge in the humanities with various sectors of society and train students to become independent researchers and highly skilled professionals through its master's and doctoral education.

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of the University of Osaka, the Graduate School of Humanities confers a master's degree (Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Language and Culture, Master of Arts in Japanese Studies, or Master of Philosophy) on individuals upon completion of the master's degree program, and a doctoral degree (Doctor of Literature, Doctor of Philosophy in Language and Culture, Doctor of Philosophy in Japanese Studies, or Doctor of Philosophy) on individuals upon completion of the doctoral degree program, who have acquired traditional and cutting-edge knowledge in the humanities, as well as advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in language and culture, broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, design prowess, and an international mindset as detailed below, and who have earned the stipulated number of credits and passed the review of the master's thesis or doctoral dissertation and the final examination.

Master's degree program

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in one's specialty.

Acquire the ability to conduct cutting-edge, high-level research.

Acquire the ability to appropriately discuss academic topics that enables one to write consistently-organized academic papers with clear logical reasoning.

Acquire the ability to think flexibly for problem-solving by leveraging knowledge in various fields related to the humanities beyond one's specialty.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general, and a profound understanding of the humanities that enables one to work as an independent researcher and highly skilled professional.

Acquire advanced information literacy skills.

Acquire the ability to think from many different perspectives in a comprehensive manner that enables one to play an active role in the diversified society.

A sophisticated international mindset

Have a deep interest in today's globalized and information-driven society and a correct understanding of and respect for each individual language and culture.

Acquire high-level language proficiency that enables one to communicate smoothly with people with varied backgrounds beyond differences in language and culture.

Advanced design prowess

Acquire the ability to identify a diverse range of fundamental and complex problems concerning one's specialty in the field of the humanities and devise approaches to solutions to such problems by collecting relevant data and literature appropriately.

Individual learning goals

Acquire the ability to write a master's thesis with originality and an interdisciplinary nature, by utilizing an approach appropriate for today's globalized and information-driven society while building on traditional humanities research.

Acquire high-level proficiency in a specific language and professional skills reflecting the characteristics of

one's specialty.

Doctoral-degree program

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in one's specialty that enables one to act as an independent researcher and highly skilled professional.

Acquire the advanced ability to conduct cutting-edge and original research according to the research method in one's specialty and achieve meaningful research results.

Acquire the advanced ability to discuss academic topics that enables one to write consistently-organized academic papers with clear logical reasoning.

Acquire the ability to think flexibly for problem-solving by leveraging knowledge in various fields related to the humanities beyond one's specialty.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general and a profound understanding of the humanities that enable one to act as an independent researcher and highly skilled professional.

Acquire advanced information literacy skills that enable one to act as an independent researcher and highly skilled professional.

Acquire the ability to think from many different perspectives in a comprehensive manner that enables one to play an active role in the increasingly diversified society.

A sophisticated international mindset

Have a deep interest in today's globalized and information-driven society and a correct understanding of and respect for each individual language and culture.

Acquire high-level language proficiency that enables one to communicate smoothly and meaningfully with people with varied backgrounds beyond differences in language and culture, and the ability to present one's research results widely at home and abroad.

Advanced design prowess

Acquire the ability to conduct original and cutting-edge research on an individual theme in one's specialty in the field of the humanities, by building on a variety of preceding research results.

Individual learning goals

Acquire the ability to write a doctoral dissertation with originality and an interdisciplinary nature, by utilizing an approach appropriate for today's globalized and information-driven society while building on traditional humanities research.

Acquire high-level presentation skills and the ability to contribute to humanities research by leveraging the high-level proficiency in a specific language and professional skills reflecting the characteristics of one's specialty.

Teaching and Learning Policy (Curriculum Policy)

In line with the Curriculum Policy of the University of Osaka, the Graduate School of Humanities designs its curriculum as shown below.

Master's degree program

Principles of Curriculum Design

The Graduate School of Humanities designs its two-year curriculum focusing on three areas of education—Academic Major education, Liberal Arts education and Global Literacy education—with the aim of helping students develop cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in the humanities, advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, a sophisticated international mindset and advanced design prowess.

- **Academic Major education:** Academic Major education subjects are designed to help students develop the expertise and research ability necessary for the studies in their specialties, and linguistic proficiency to enable them to act internationally, while Common Subjects for the Graduate School of Humanities guide students to acquire fundamental knowledge and research methodology applicable to all the disciplines of the humanities, as well as a wide range of advanced knowledge in related fields, including foreign languages. Students must study “Foundations of Humanities (Humanities and Dialogue),” a required subject offered as one of the Common Subjects for the Graduate School of Humanities, to acquire cutting-edge knowledge regarding various current cultural and social problems and foster thinking skills that enable them to find solutions to such problems.

- **Liberal Arts education:** Advanced Liberal Arts education subjects, including the required subject “Foundations of Humanities (Contemporary Liberal Arts),” are designed to help students acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking in disciplines across the field of humanities as well as disciplines in other fields.

- **Global Literacy education:** Advanced Global Literacy education subjects are designed to help students develop high-level proficiency in foreign languages and a sensitivity towards and knowledge of different cultures and peoples.

Students are also guided to study a wide range of subjects beyond their specialties to develop the ability to conduct interdisciplinary and cross-sector research. While students are given research guidance by a main supervisor of their respective divisions, they may also seek advice from a faculty member of a division other than theirs who is designated as a mentor, when necessary.

In addition, students are encouraged to participate in study abroad, overseas training and international exchange programs offered by the University of Osaka under its partnership agreements with foreign universities.

With the curriculum and programs mentioned above, students are guided to write a highly specialized master's thesis in the final year of enrollment.

Contents and Methods of Education

Lecture-based subjects are designed to help students acquire systematic knowledge in topics related to their research themes. Students are also given writing assignments to develop the ability to collect, analyze and study relevant

data on their own and compile and describe the results of their studies appropriately and logically.

Seminar-based subjects require students to give an oral presentation individually to develop the ability to comprehend and analyze literature written in Japanese and foreign languages in depth, conduct investigation and research appropriately, and present the results of such investigation and research in a logical and convincing manner.

- **Academic Major education:** Students select subjects to study from among the Academic Major education subjects that consist of lecture-based and seminar-based subjects. In some areas of specialties, practical-training-based subjects involving off-campus training or fieldwork are offered. Especially, students must study “Foundations of Humanities (Humanities and Dialogue)” (one credit), a required subject offered as one of the Common Subjects for the Graduate School of Humanities. Students are also guided to develop the ability to explore and present their individual themes of study on their own in the process of writing a master’s thesis.

- **Liberal Arts education:** Students must study “Foundations of Humanities (Contemporary Liberal Arts)” (one credit), a required subject offered as one of the Common Subjects for the Graduate School of Humanities, while selecting subjects to study from among the advanced Liberal Arts education subjects that consist of lecture-based and seminar-based subjects.

- **Global Literacy education:** Students select subjects to study from among the advanced Global Literacy education subjects, which are mainly lecture-based.

Academic Performance Evaluation Method

The academic performance of students in lecture-based, seminar-based and practical-training-based subjects is evaluated by assessing the level of achievement of learning goals specified in the syllabus based on examinations, assignments and reports.

Each master’s thesis is comprehensively reviewed by two or more examiners taking into consideration the adequacy of the subject of the thesis, the clarity of discussion, the appropriateness of the method used to examine the data and literature, and the originality of the idea.

Doctoral-degree program

Principles of Curriculum Design

Lecture-based and seminar-based subjects related to individual students’ research themes are offered to help students acquire: outstanding academic expertise; advanced research ability; broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking; and linguistic proficiency to enable them to act internationally; and further enhance the ability to conceive and implement research plans on their own; and creative design prowess.

Students are also guided to study a wide range of subjects beyond their specialties to develop the ability to conduct interdisciplinary and cross-sector research. While students are given research guidance by a main supervisor of their respective divisions, they may also seek advice from a faculty member of a division other than theirs who is designated as a mentor, when necessary.

In addition, students are encouraged to participate in study abroad, overseas training and international exchange programs offered by the University of Osaka under its partnership agreements with foreign universities.

With the curriculum and programs mentioned above, students are guided to write a doctoral dissertation that is sufficiently original to qualify as an independent professional in the final year of enrollment.

Contents and Methods of Education

Lecture-based subjects are designed to help students acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise. Seminar-based and practical-training-based subjects, on the other hand, are designed to help students develop: (1) the ability to comprehend and analyze literature written in Japanese and foreign languages in depth; (2) the design prowess and ability to conduct investigation and research appropriately; and (3) the ability to present the results of such investigation and research in a logical and convincing manner. Students are also guided to develop the ability to explore research on each individual theme and present research results with high academic value on their own in the process of writing a doctoral dissertation.

Academic Performance Evaluation Method

The academic performance of students in lecture-based, seminar-based and practical-training-based subjects is evaluated by assessing the level of achievement of learning goals specified in the syllabus based on examinations, assignments and reports.

Each doctoral dissertation is comprehensively reviewed by two or more examiners specialized in the relevant field taking into consideration the adequacy of the subject of the dissertation, the clarity of discussion, the appropriateness of the method used to examine the data and literature, and the originality of the idea.