

# Graduate School of Letters

## Educational Objectives

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In line with the educational objectives of Osaka University and maintaining the spirit of its precursor, the Kaitokudo academy, which was open to society with an emphasis on academic freedom and creativity, the Graduate School of Letters conducts research in the humanities focusing on human activities related to both spiritual and material culture, such as languages, events, thoughts, and customs, created by a variety of individuals and social groups. As the world stands at a critical turning point for civilization, it is imperative to explore human activities from theoretical, historical and practical perspectives. Accordingly, studies of the humanities have taken on greater importance in today's society. With this understanding, the Graduate School of Letters has set forth the following educational objectives.

### **1. Master's Course (Initial Two-year Course of five-year Integrated Course for Doctoral Degree Program)**

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#### **Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise**

Acquiring cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in the field of the humanities, in a systematic manner.

#### **Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking**

Acquiring advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general and advanced information literacy skills required in the information age.

#### **Sophisticated international mindset**

Developing a sharp sensitivity towards and deep understanding of different peoples and cultures.

Developing the ability to use Japanese language professionally and theoretically, and high-level proficiency in the international common language, English, and other foreign languages relevant to one's specialty.

#### **Advanced design prowess**

Developing the ability to improve oneself, explore the world, establish an original research theme, and identify and solve problems that face modern society.

#### **Individual educational objectives**

Developing the ability to play an active role as a researcher or professional in various sectors of society by leveraging the knowledge and skills stated above.

### **2. Master's Degree Program**

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#### **Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise**

Developing an interdisciplinary way of thinking and acquiring cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise, in a systematic manner.

#### **Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking**

Acquiring advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general and advanced information literacy skills required in the information age.

**Sophisticated international mindset**

Developing a sharp sensitivity towards and deep understanding of different peoples and cultures.

Developing the ability to use Japanese language professionally and theoretically, and high-level proficiency in the international common language, English, and other foreign languages relevant to one's specialization.

**Advanced design prowess**

Developing the ability to improve oneself, explore the world, establish an original research theme, and identify as well as solve problems that face modern society.

**Individual educational objectives**

Developing the ability to play an active role as a professional in various sectors of society by leveraging the knowledge and skills stated above.

**3. Doctoral Degree Program**

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**Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise**

Acquiring cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in the field of the humanities.

**Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking**

Acquiring advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general and advanced information literacy skills required in the information age.

**Sophisticated international mindset**

Developing the ability to use Japanese language professionally and theoretically, and high-level proficiency in the international common language, English, and other foreign languages relevant to one's specialization.

Developing a sharp sensitivity towards and deep understanding of different peoples and cultures.

**Advanced design prowess**

Developing the ability to improve oneself, explore the world, expand the horizon of knowledge of humanity, and identify and solve problems that face modern society.

**Individual educational objectives**

Developing the ability to play an active role as an independent researcher or professional in Japan and the world by leveraging the knowledge and skills stated above.

## **Completion Approval/Degree Awarding Policies (Diploma Policies)**

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Under the Diploma Policies of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Letters confers a Master's Degree in Arts on individuals upon completion of the master's course or master's degree program, and a Doctoral Degree in Literature or in Philosophy on individuals upon completion of the doctoral degree program, subject to achieving the following objectives.

### **1. Master's Course (Initial Two-year Course of five-year Integrated Course for Doctoral Degree Program)**

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#### **Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise**

Acquiring advanced specialized knowledge and engage in cutting-edge research.

Developing the ability to collect and analyze data, literature and other materials appropriately according to the research method in one's specialization and to correctly comprehend literature.

Developing the ability to appropriately discuss academic topics and ingeniously express ideas in writing, to the extent necessary to enable one to write consistently organized academic papers with clear logical reasoning.

#### **Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking**

Acquiring advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general.

Acquiring comprehensive and advanced knowledge in the humanities, covering a wide range of events.

#### **Sophisticated international mindset**

Acquiring advanced knowledge in different cultures and developing a sharp sensitivity towards and deepen understanding of such cultures.

Developing high-level of language proficiency necessary to play an active role internationally.

#### **Advanced design prowess**

Developing the ability to establish an original research theme in one's specialty and to solve problems that face modern society.

#### **Individual learning goals**

Developing the ability to write a master's thesis with originality based on cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise, advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, a sophisticated international mindset, and advanced design prowess.

### **2. Master's Degree Program**

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#### **Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise**

Acquiring advanced specialized knowledge and engage in cutting-edge interdisciplinary research.

Developing the ability to collect and analyze data, literature and other materials appropriately according to interdisciplinary research methods and to correctly comprehend literature.

Developing the ability to appropriately discuss academic topics and ingeniously express ideas in writing, to the extent necessary to enable one to write consistently organized academic papers with clear logical reasoning.

### **Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking**

Acquiring advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general.

Acquiring comprehensive and advanced knowledge in the humanities, covering a wide range of events.

### **Sophisticated international mindset**

Acquiring advanced knowledge in different cultures and developing a sharp sensitivity towards and deepen understanding of such cultures.

Developing high-level language proficiency necessary to play an active role internationally.

### **Advanced design prowess**

Developing the ability to establish an original research theme by combining existing knowledge in different fields and to solve problems that face modern society.

### **Individual learning goals**

Developing the ability to write a master's thesis with originality or achieve research results on a specific theme with originality, based on cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise, advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, a sophisticated international mindset, and advanced design prowess.

## **3. Doctoral Degree Program**

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### **Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise**

Acquiring advanced specialized knowledge and investigation skills, and developing the ability to logically discuss academic topics to the extent necessary to enable one to work as an independent researcher, and engage in cutting-edge original research.

### **Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking**

Acquiring advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking across academic disciplines in general, and deep, comprehensive knowledge in the humanities to the extent necessary to enable one to work as an independent researcher.

### **Sophisticated international mindset**

Developing high-level language proficiency necessary to play an active role as an independent researcher internationally, backed by advanced knowledge in and deep understanding of different cultures.

### **Advanced design prowess**

Developing rich sensitivity and the ability to explore areas of interest by building on a variety of preceding research results, thereby contributing to expanding the horizon of knowledge of humanities.

### **Individual learning goals**

Developing the ability to write a doctoral dissertation with enough originality to qualify as an independent professional, based on cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise,

advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, a sophisticated international mindset, and advanced design prowess.

## **Teaching and Learning Policies (Curriculum Policies)**

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In line with the Curriculum Policies of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Letters designs its curriculum pursuant to the policies stated below.

### **1. Master's Course (Initial Two-year Course of five-year Integrated Course for Doctoral Degree Program)**

#### **< Principles of Curriculum Design >**

The Graduate School of Letters 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 to develop cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in 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 specialization, and linguistic proficiency to enable them to act internationally. Students are also guided to prepare research plans and research reports every year during enrollment, so that they can develop the ability to conceive and implement research plans on their own and enhance design prowess, which will eventually enable them to write a highly specialized master's thesis.

**Liberal Arts education:** Advanced Liberal Arts education subjects are designed to help students acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking in disciplines other than their specialization and in interdisciplinary 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 encouraged to study abroad under a partnership agreement or other arrangements with foreign universities, or to participate in overseas internship programs or international exchange events to further improve their proficiency and knowledge stated above.

#### **< Contents and Methods of Education >**

Lecture-based subjects are designed to help students acquire systematic knowledge in relevant topics. Students are also given writing assignments to develop the ability to collect, to analyze and to 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 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 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. Students are 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 select advanced Liberal Arts education subjects that consist of lecture-based and seminar-based subjects.

**Global Literacy education:** Students select advanced Global Literacy education subjects that 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.

All master's theses submitted are comprehensively reviewed by more than one examiner 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.

## **2. Master's Degree Program**

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### < **Principles of Curriculum Design** >

The Graduate School of Letters 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 to develop cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in 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 research ability and practical skills necessary for the studies in the relevant courses, and linguistic proficiency to enable them to act internationally. Students are also guided to prepare research plans and research reports every year during enrollment, so that they can develop the ability to conceive and implement research plans on their own and enhance design prowess, which will eventually enable them to write a master's thesis of a practical and interdisciplinary nature.

**Liberal Arts education:** Advanced Liberal Arts education subjects are designed to help students acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking in disciplines other than their specialization and in interdisciplinary 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 encouraged to study abroad under a partnership agreement or other arrangements with foreign universities, or to participate in overseas internship programs or international exchange events to further improve their proficiency and knowledge stated above.

### < Contents and Methods of Education >

Lecture-based subjects are designed to help students acquire systematic knowledge in relevant topics. 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 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 Academic Major education subjects that consist of lecture-based and seminar-based subjects. In some courses, practical-training-based subjects involving off-campus training or fieldwork are offered. Students are 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 select advanced Liberal Arts education subjects that consist of lecture-based and seminar-based subjects.

**Global Literacy education:** Students select advanced Global Literacy education subjects that 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.

All master's thesis submitted are comprehensively reviewed 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.

## **3. Doctoral Degree Program**

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### < Principles of Curriculum Design >

Lecture-based and seminar-based subjects are designed to help students acquire outstanding academic expertise and advanced research ability in their specialty, and linguistic proficiency to enable them to act internationally. Students are also guided to prepare research plans and research reports every year during enrollment, so that they can develop the ability to conceive and implement research plans on their own and enhance design prowess.

Students are required to submit a preliminary doctoral dissertation during or after the second year of the doctoral degree program to prepare for writing a doctoral dissertation. In the final year of enrollment, students are guided to write a doctoral dissertation with enough originality to qualify as an independent professional.

Students are encouraged to study abroad under a partnership agreement or other arrangements with foreign universities, or to participate in overseas internship programs or international exchange events.

### < 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 are designed to help students develop the ability to: (1) comprehend and analyze literature written in Japanese and foreign languages in depth; (2) conduct investigation and research appropriately; and (3) 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.

All doctoral dissertation submitted are comprehensively reviewed by more than one examiner 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.