

Doctoral Program in Design

Name of the degree to be conferred	Doctor of Philosophy in Design
Educational purpose	This program aims to acquire the practical ability to create products and environments that improve people's minds, to create social systems that create connections between people and make them bright and fulfilling, and to foster researchers who have the qualities of international top leaders and who play a central role in diverse research and educational institutions, including industry and government, who can utilize their creativity to nurture, maintain, and regenerate rich and constructive communities and societies.
Vision of human resources development	Individuals who are willing to practice cross-disciplinary, practical, and international study, propose solutions to problems that transcend regional and cultural barriers, have the tenacity to produce results, and possess discernment (ability to identify issues), breakthrough ability (planning ability, logical persuasiveness), and the ability to complete tasks to carry out specialized research.

Diploma Policy

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Design is commenced to those who have fulfilled the requirements for the completion of the Doctoral programs, as set out in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba and related university regulations, and who are deemed to have the following competencies.

Competencies	Evaluation perspectives
1. Knowledge creation competence: Ability to create new knowledge that can contribute to future society	① Are there any research findings that can be considered new knowledge? ② Can we expect you to create knowledge that will contribute to future society?
2. Management competence: Ability to plan and implement measures to identify and solve challenges from a higher perspective	① Can you make and implement long-term plans for critical challenges? ② Can you identify challenges, even in other areas of expertise, and solve them from a higher perspective?
3. Communication competence: Ability to express the true nature of academic findings positively and clearly	① Can you explain the true nature of research content and specialized knowledge clearly and logically to researchers from different areas and to people other than researchers? ② Do you proactively share your findings with researchers and experts from your field of expertise and accurately answer questions?
4. Leadership competence: Ability to have objectives get accomplished under your leadership	① Can you set attractive and compelling goals? ② Are you capable of building systems to realize goals and accomplish objectives as the leader?
5. Internationality competence: Possession of a high level of awareness and motivation to be internationally active and contribute to international society	① Do you have strong awareness and motivation to contribute to international society and international activities? ② Have you obtained adequate linguistic skills for international information collection and action?
6. Conceptual and thinking skills: Ability to identify advanced issues (discernment) and develop professional research plans	Has the student acquired the ability to plan and carry out research and production using a high level of problem identification skills, as well as familiarity with the details of specialized problems?
7. Analytical skills: Advanced problem analysis skills to solve problems from a broad perspective with a high level of vision	① Has the student acquired a high level of professional problem analysis skills to conduct advanced and excellent research in their field? ② Has the student acquired the ability to analyze comprehensive design issues from a wide range of disciplines and a high level of specialized knowledge?

8. Solution skills: Ability to create new solutions and propose the results to society and academia, supported by high-level professional skills.	Has the student acquired advanced problem-solving skills (ability to complete tasks) and strong breakthrough ability (planning ability) through research for their doctoral dissertations, internships, and other research practices?
---	---

Dissertation evaluation criteria

After satisfying the course requirements stipulated in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba, the student must write a doctoral dissertation in which they set and analyze a complex research problem in design studies or a related field on their own, and summarize the qualities and abilities that enable them to draw an objective conclusion through logical thinking based on the facts obtained.

The dissertation review committee shall consist of the main examiner and at least three associate examiners, who shall examine the dissertation through an oral examination.

1. The student must have the ability to construct theories based on specialized and interdisciplinary knowledge of design studies and disseminate them to society.
2. The student must possess the highest level of specialized knowledge and skills in design, and have the ability to promote research on design in a logical and scientific manner.
3. The student must have the ability to lead human resource development and academic activities at educational and research institutions in Japan and abroad based on a deep knowledge of design studies.

Curriculum Policy

The Doctoral Program in Design fosters the ability to identify high-level professional issues (discernment), the ability to plan research from a broad perspective by combining professional and comprehensive methodologies, the ability to conduct research, the ability to complete research, the ability to logically persuade others, and the ability to communicate and make proposals internationally, in order to carry out research on a variety of designs related to industry and society, including products, planning, entertainment, composition, architecture, and spatial planning. Specifically, in addition to the various fields of design, including composition, sensitivity science, and visual psychology, faculty members from related fields such as systems information technology, environmental engineering, physiology, ergonomics, and disability science will provide cross-disciplinary and practical training courses.

Curriculum organization policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will acquire comprehensive research planning, implementation, and completion skills through special research in design studies. • Students are encouraged to acquire interdisciplinary knowledge and a broad range of design knowledge through the Graduate General Education Courses and Interdisciplinary Foundation Courses. • Students will acquire practical problem identification, planning, and persuasion skills through special research in design studies and internships. • Students will acquire international negotiation and network building skills for successful design, design, and planning through special research in design studies and overseas training.
Learning methods • Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first year, students submit a "Research Plan Form" and are assigned a primary and secondary advisor according to the content of their research. • In the first and second years, students take special research courses set for each semester, and their progress is checked through presentations at the end of each semester. • Students take internships and overseas training courses systematically to deepen their ability to apply research and international expansion. • Students receive midterm guidance for their doctoral dissertations during their second year, and submit their doctoral dissertations in October of their third year.

Evaluation of learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the spring semester of the first year, all research advisors will hold a research plan presentation to confirm research policy and provide guidance. • At the end of the spring semester of the second year, the second-stage achievement review, including a public presentation, will be conducted to check academic progress and provide guidance. • At the end of the spring semester of the third year, the third-stage achievement examination (also serving as a preliminary examination), including the presentation of the doctoral dissertation (not open to the public), will be conducted to confirm the status of study and provide guidance for the final achievement examination. • After passing the third stage achievement review, a public presentation will be held for the submitted dissertation, and the dissertation review committee consisting of at least three primary and secondary examiners will review the doctoral dissertation.
---------------------------------	--

Admission Policy

Desired students	We seek individuals with research achievements in design or fields related to design, and those who have talents and motivated to theoretically solve design problems that transcend regional and cultural barriers, and individuals who are willing to constantly challenge themselves to create new research problems and develop the tenacity to produce results.
Selection policy	In the selection process, academic CVs, academic standards and abilities are evaluated based on the submitted documents, and professional aptitude will be assessed through oral examinations in specialized fields so that applicants from various research and educational fields as well as those with excellent expressive skills in design can apply.