The University of Osaka Graduate School for Academic Year 2027

The University of Osaka, Kanazawa University, Hamamatsu Medical University, Chiba University, University of Fukui Graduate School of Child Development (Doctoral Program) Doctoral Course, Master's and Doctoral Integrated Course Student Recruitment Guidelines

Educational Goals and Policies

【Educational Objectives】

With the mission of "creating, inheriting, and practicing knowledge" and the motto of "living in the community and reaching out to the world," The University of Osaka strives to promote world-class advanced education and research grounded in academic freedom and civic responsibility, and to cultivate talented individuals who will support the next generation of society and contribute to the realization of humanity's ideals.

To achieve these objectives, the Graduate School, together with university-wide educational organizations, provides education that fosters:

- cutting-edge, highly specialized, and in-depth knowledge;
- advanced academic and professional training;
- a high degree of international awareness and competence; and
- advanced design skills.

Through these efforts, we aim to develop leaders for a knowledge-based society.

In alignment with the educational objectives of The University of Osaka, the Joint Graduate School of Child Development (The University of Osaka, Kanazawa University, Hamamatsu Medical University, Chiba University, and the University of Fukui) offers education through a shared platform integrating the humanities and sciences. The program covers medicine, psychology, health sciences/nursing, education, and interdisciplinary fields built upon these areas. By enabling students from diverse academic backgrounds to study and conduct research together, the Graduate School seeks to nurture researchers, educators, and highly skilled professionals who can address children's psychological and developmental difficulties through cutting-edge expertise and rigorous scholarship grounded in truly interdisciplinary and flexible thinking, and who can respond to emerging needs in Japan and around the world.

[Diploma Policy]

In order to cultivate the human resources described in the educational objectives, The University of Osaka confers degrees on students who have completed the prescribed period of enrollment, acquired advanced knowledge and skills—together with broad-based liberal arts, international competence, and design skills—in their specialized field, earned the required credits, received appropriate research supervision, and successfully passed the dissertation

review and final examination.

In accordance with the diploma policy of The University of Osaka, the Joint Graduate School of Child Development (The University of Osaka, Kanazawa University, Hamamatsu Medical University, Chiba University, and the University of Fukui) awards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Child Development to students who have acquired the following competencies:

1. Advanced expertise and scholarly depth regarding children's psychological and brain development and related disorders/disabilities, enabling them to identify core issues and apply their knowledge and skills to problem solving.
2. Scientific and critical perspectives grounded in broad knowledge, enabling multifaceted and holistic analysis and objective evaluation of approaches to children's mental health issues, drawing on expertise from diverse academic backgrounds and not limited by conventional practices.
3. Advanced design skills to identify essential, complex, and diverse challenges in society and academia, collaborate with professionals across fields, and proactively conceive and develop solutions.
4. Truly interdisciplinary leadership, characterized by collaboration and flexibility, capable of responding to the needs of contemporary society.
5. International competence and advanced liberal arts, including deep understanding of different languages and cultures, the ability to engage beyond cultural differences, and the capacity to interact widely based on broad and advanced knowledge, holistic perspectives, and multifaceted evaluation.

[Curriculum Policy]

To ensure that students acquire the advanced knowledge and skills stipulated in the Diploma Policy, The University of Osaka systematically organizes courses in the major fields as well as advanced courses in liberal arts and international education. The Graduate School provides advanced instruction and high-quality research supervision through an appropriate combination of lectures, seminars, and practical training. Student learning outcomes are assessed rigorously through examinations and other evaluation methods.

In accordance with the curriculum policy of The University of Osaka, the Joint Graduate School of Child Development (The University of Osaka, Kanazawa University, Hamamatsu Medical University, Chiba University, and the University of Fukui) educates students from diverse academic backgrounds through an integrated humanities-and-sciences platform. The program develops internationally applicable perspectives and foundational knowledge to address issues related to *children's mental disorders and disabilities*, which are global challenges that transcend cultural contexts. The Graduate School also provides guidance to enable students to acquire academic knowledge and basic research skills in a wide range of fields relevant to their specialization.

Courses are organized into the following three categories:

1. Introductory Courses (Recommended year: Doctoral Course D1)
   To ensure fundamental academic competence for students from different backgrounds, introductory lecture-based courses are offered primarily in D1. These courses provide the foundation required for seminar courses and advanced specialized courses undertaken in D2-D3.

2. Seminar Courses (Recommended year: Doctoral Course D2; Integrated Master's-Doctoral Program: D1)
   Students attend classes at the university where each course is offered. They also participate in advanced clinical and research practicum settings and in academic conferences to develop practical competencies.
3. Advanced Specialized Courses / Research Supervision (Recommended year: Doctoral Course D2-D3; Integrated Master's-Doctoral Program: D1-D3)
   Under the supervision of their academic advisor, students regularly participate in seminars to deepen their expertise, conduct clinical and basic research on their selected topic, and compile their doctoral dissertation. Students receive high-level guidance from supervisors with cutting-edge and advanced expertise.

Credit recognition: Credits are awarded based on class attendance and satisfactory performance in required coursework, including reports, examinations, and other assessments. In addition, participation and presentations at the joint research presentation meetings conducted by the five participating universities are required for credit recognition.

[Admission Policy]

To cultivate the human resources described in its educational objectives, The University of Osaka welcomes applicants with a solid academic foundation, sufficient expertise in their field of specialization, and an attitude of independent learning developed through undergraduate, master's, and/or professional programs. We seek individuals who are highly motivated to identify and explore issues on their own. To select such applicants appropriately, each graduate school/major evaluates candidates from multiple perspectives.

In accordance with the admission policy of The University of Osaka, the Joint Graduate School of Child Development (The University of Osaka, Kanazawa University, Hamamatsu Medical University, Chiba University, and the University of Fukui) seeks applicants who demonstrate a strong desire to learn and excellent academic ability, together with a strong sense of mission and a sincere commitment to addressing children's mental health issues. Specifically, we seek individuals who:

1. Have a clear purpose regarding children's mental health issues and aspire to contribute to the future of Japan by developing scientifically grounded approaches that meet internationally accepted standards.
2. Are not constrained by conventional assumptions, maintain an open attitude toward experts from diverse backgrounds, and strive to develop new scientific perspectives.
3. Possess a lifelong commitment to learning and the ability to identify and solve problems independently with initiative and motivation.
4. Can think cooperatively and flexibly, demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, and show deep empathy and insight toward socially vulnerable populations, with the potential to become leaders in support networks for children facing difficulties.

Basic Policy for Admissions Selection

As a basic policy for admissions selection, the Joint Graduate School conducts a unified entrance examination as follows:

1. Use of external English-language test scores
   Scores from external English-language tests will be used, as applicable, to assess the

English proficiency necessary for academic writing.

2. Oral examination

The oral examination evaluates the applicant's approach to addressing children's mental health issues, as well as motivation, commitment, and future potential. Communication skills, logical reasoning, and related competencies are also assessed.

1. Major, Courses, and Number of Students Admitted

Major: Child Development

Courses:

●Doctoral Program (Doctoral Course) (for applicants entering from an external doctoral-level program)

●Integrated Master's-Doctoral Program (Second Stage) (for students advancing from the Master's Program of the Joint Graduate School of Child Development)

Number of Students Admitted: 15

Course (Host University)	Planned Intake*
Developmental Neuroscience of the Mind (The University of Osaka)	3
Mutual Cognitive Science of the Mind (Kanazawa University)	3
Mental Developmental Health Sciences (Hamamatsu Medical University)	3
Cognitive and Behavioral Science of the Mind (Chiba University)	3
Mental Formation and Development Sciences (University of Fukui)	3

*The planned intake for each course (host university) is provided as a guideline and may be adjusted.

2. Application Qualifications

Applicants must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

(1) Master's Degree / Professional Degree (Japan)

Persons who have obtained a master's degree or a professional degree, or who are expected to obtain such a degree by March 2028.

(2) Master's-equivalent / Professional-equivalent Degree (Outside Japan)

Persons who have obtained a master's-equivalent degree or a professional-equivalent degree in a foreign country, or who are expected to obtain such a degree by March 2028.

(3) Distance Education by a Foreign Institution in Japan

Persons who have completed a distance education program offered in Japan by a foreign educational institution and obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree, or who are expected to obtain such a degree by March 2028.

(4) Foreign Graduate School Program in Japan (MEXT-designated)

Persons who have completed, in Japan, a foreign graduate school program designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as conferring a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree, or who are expected tocomplete it and obtain such a degree by March 2028.

(5) United Nations University

Persons who have completed a course at the United Nations University and obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree, or who are expected to obtain such a degree by March 2027.

(6) Qualification by Examination (Article 16-2 Equivalent)

Persons who have completed the curriculum of (i) a foreign school, (ii) an institution designated under item (4), or (iii) the United Nations University, and who have passed examinations equivalent to those stipulated in Article 16-2 of the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools, and are recognized as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than that of a person with a master's degree.

(7) Applicants Designated by MEXT (MEXT Notification No. 118)

① Persons who have graduated from a university, have engaged in research at a university or research institute for at least two (2) years, and are recognized by the Graduate School as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than that of a person with a master's degree, based on their research achievements.

② Persons who have completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country (or a distance education program conducted in Japan by a foreign educational institution), have engaged in research at a university or research institute for at least two (2) years thereafter, and are recognized by the Graduate School as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than that of a person with a master's degree, based on their research achievements.

(8) Applicants Recognized Through an Individual Application Eligibility Examination

Persons who meet any of the backgrounds listed below, have been recognized by the Graduate School-through an individual application eligibility examination-as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than that of a person with a master's degree or professional degree, and who will be 24 years of age or older by 31 March 2028

① Persons who have graduated from one of the following (limited to programs requiring six (6) years of study), or who are expected to graduate by March 2028:

- Faculty/School of Medicine (Medicine)
- Faculty/School of Dentistry (Dentistry)
- Faculty/School of Pharmacy (Pharmacy; 6-year program)
- Programs equivalent to Veterinary Medicine

② Persons who have graduated from a university and have approximately five (5) years of professional experience as a school counselor, school teacher (elementary/junior high/high school/special needs school), nurse, clinical psychologist, etc.

③Persons who have graduated from a foreign university in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy (6-year program), or an equivalent Veterinary Medicine program, and obtained a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree (or are expected to obtain it by March 2028).

④Persons who have completed a course at a foreign university, or a distance education program offered in Japan by a foreign educational institution, obtained a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree, and have approximately five (5) years of professional experience as a school counselor, school teacher (elementary/junior high/high school/special needs

school), nurse, clinical psychologist, etc.

Note: Applicants who wish to apply under Application Qualifications (7) . or (8). must refer to "3. Application Eligibility Examination."

Additional note regarding (8) : In (8) , "graduated from a university" includes those who obtained a bachelor's-equivalent degree through a foreign university program or through distance education conducted in Japan by a foreign educational institution, including cases where such a degree was obtained after completing a vocational program in Japan.

Those who have done so include those who have the final educational background and the period of work experience listed in the table below.

Final Education	Period of practical experience (Note)
(a) Graduates of junior colleges with a two-year study period	More than 2 years
(b) Graduates of junior colleges with a period of study of 3 years	More than 1 year
(c) Graduates of technical colleges	More than 2 years
(d) Vocational schools with a minimum period of study of 2 years Graduates of professional courses	The period of study at the university (**4 years**) is more than the period of study at the vocational school with a specialized course.
(e) Japanese schools of foreign universities, foreign schools, Vocational schools (excluding specialized courses), various studies Graduation from a school or other educational institution in Japan or abroad Completion	The total period of education, calculated from the minimum length of schooling required to graduate from a Japanese university (**16 years**) to the minimum length of schooling required to graduate from or complete the applicant's final educational institution, must **exceed 16 years**. If the applicant has graduated from or completed more than one institution that confers the same eligibility for admission, only the institution with the **longest** period of study will be counted.
(f) The above (a) to (e) Dropping out of school	The applicant must have completed, in Japan, a period of study which-after subtracting the minimum required **16 years** of formal education-exceeds the required length of study. However, if the applicant had not earned the standard number of credits (class hours) at the time of withdrawal, the period of study shall be calculated on a pro rata basis as the number of years corresponding to the credits (class hours) actually earned.

Note: The period of work experience refers to the sum of the following periods.

(A) Period of time spent as a research student at a university or junior college

(B) The period of enrollment in a major at a junior college or technical college

(C) The period of employment in an educational or research position in an education or research department at a university, junior college, government office, research institute, company, etc.

(D) Other periods in accordance with (A), (B), and (C) above.

- Application Form for Eligibility Screening (Designated Form)
- Examinee's Registration Card and Photo ID Card (Designated Form)
- Research Proposal / Statement of Purpose (Designated Form)

Note: If the name on your official documents (e.g., graduation certificate) differs from your current name due to marriage or other reasons, you must enclose official proof of the name change. This document will be returned with your registration card.

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(2) Interview for Eligibility Screening

An interview will be conducted as part of the screening process.

- **Date and Time:**
  - **First Round:** Thursday, July 16, 2026, from 13:30
  - **Second Round:** Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 13:30
    (Please note that the exact time may be subject to change. Details will be provided to applicants.)

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(3) Notification of Screening Results

Applicants will be individually notified of the screening results. Successful candidates

3. Application Eligibility Screening

Applicants who plan to apply under eligibility criteria (9), (10), (11), or (12) must first undergo and pass this preliminary screening. The screening consists of a document review and an interview. Only candidates who successfully pass this screening will be eligible to proceed with the formal application for the entrance examination.

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① Application Period for Eligibility Screening

Documents must be received within the following periods:

・**First Round:** Monday, June 15, 2026 - Friday, June 26, 2026

・**Second Round:** Monday, October 19, 2026 - Friday, October 30, 2026

② Submission Method and Address

By Mail: Send documents via **simplified registered mail (Japan Post).**

Deadline: Must be postmarked no later than the final day of the application period. Documents postmarked by the deadline will be accepted even if they arrive after the period.

In-Person Submissions:

Office Hours: 8:30-12:00 and 13:00-17:15 (weekdays only, excluding national holidays).

Mailing Address / Submission Office:

United Graduate School Office

General Affairs Division, The University of Osaka Graduate School of Medicine

2-2 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan
Tel: +81-6-6879-3026 / 3445

(2) Required Documents for Screening

Please download the designated forms (marked with an asterisk *) from the Graduate School website: http://www.ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp/

1. **Application Form for Eligibility Screening***
2. **Examinee's Registration Card and Photo ID Card***
3. **Research Proposal / Statement of Purpose***
4. **List of Research Accomplishments*** (Not required if you have no prior research experience)
5. **Copies of Research Papers, etc.** (Not required if you have no prior research experience)
6. **Official Certificate of Graduation and Academic Transcript** (Originals required)
7. **Certificate of Employment** (Original required, to verify periods of work experience)
8. **Self-Addressed Return Envelope** (Standard Japanese size "Naga-3") with 320 JPY worth of stamps affixed, for sending the registration card.

Important Notes:

- **Name Discrepancies:** If the name on your official documents differs from your current name (e.g., due to marriage), you must enclose official proof of the name change. This document will be returned with your registration card.
- **Registration Card Dispatch:** Registration cards are scheduled to be mailed on July 3, 2026 (for the first round) and November 6, 2026 (for the second round). If you have not received your card by July 9 (first round) or November 12 (second round), please contact the United Graduate School Office.

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(3) Screening Interview

Attendance at the interview is mandatory. Failure to attend will result in disqualification from the screening process.

① Date and Time

- **First Round:** Thursday, July 16, 2027, from 13:30
- **Second Round:** Thursday, November 19, 2027, from 13:30

(The exact time may be subject to change. Details will be provided to applicants.)

② Locations

The interview will be held at the university campus where your prospective supervisor is located.

- **The University of Osaka:** Faculty of Medicine Common Building (Access: https://www.med.osaka-u.ac.jp/access/access)
- **Kanazawa University:** Takaramachi Campus, School of Medicine Building B, 1F Small Conference Room (Access: https://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/university/campus-guidance/map)
- **Hamamatsu University School of Medicine:** University Hospital (Outpatient Building), 5F Research Center for Child Mental Development (Access: https://www.hama-med.ac.jp/about-us/campusmap.html)
- **Chiba University:** Inohana Campus, Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Building II, 7F, Room 710 (Access: https://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/campus/)
- **University of Fukui:** Matsuoka Campus, School of Nursing Building, 3F Graduate School Lecture Room (Access: https://www.u-fukui.ac.jp/cont_about/data/access/)

(4) Notification of Screening Results

- First Round: Monday, August 10, 2027, at 13:30
- Second Round: Monday, December 7, 2027, at 13:30

The examination numbers of successful candidates will be posted on the United Graduate School's official website. A formal notification letter will also be mailed to each applicant.

- Website: http://www.ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp/
- *Please note that we cannot respond to any inquiries regarding the results by phone.*

4. Application Documents

(1) General Instructions for Application Documents

- Designated forms (marked with an asterisk *) must be downloaded from the Graduate School's official website: http://www.ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp/
- All designated forms must be printed single-sided on plain, white A4-sized paper.
- All submitted certificates and documents must be originals. Photocopies are not acceptable unless specified otherwise.
- Submitted documents will not be returned, with the exception of original score reports for external English proficiency tests.
- Applicants who were unsuccessful in the first round and wish to re-apply for the second round must submit a complete new set of application documents. Documents submitted for the first round cannot be carried over or reused.

Required Application Documents Checklist

Please prepare the following documents.

(A) Documents Required for All Applicants

No.	Document	Notes / Description
1	Application Form*	Use the designated form provided by the Graduate School.
2	Examinee's Registration Card & Photo ID Card*	Use the designated form. Attach two identical photos of the applicant (upper body, facing forward, no hat), taken within the three months prior to application.
3	Research Proposal / Statement of Purpose*	Use the designated form.
4	・Graduation (expected) certificate ・Certificate of completion (expected) (※2、3)	The certificate must be issued by the president (or equivalent authorized official) of the university from which the applicant graduated. Applicants who have completed (or are expected to complete) a graduate program must submit certificates for **both** their undergraduate and graduate studies. *International applicants may be required to submit additional documents to verify their degree(s).*
5	Academic Transcript(s)	The document must be prepared by the president (or other

No.	Document	Notes / Description
	(※2、3)	equivalent authorized official) of the applicant's home university and submitted in a sealed envelope. Applicants who have completed (or are expected to complete) a graduate program must submit documents for **both** their undergraduate and graduate studies.
6	**Official English Proficiency Test Score Report***	The selection will be conducted based on a comprehensive evaluation of the candidate's application documents and an oral examination. **(1) Assessment of English Proficiency** Your proficiency in English, which is essential for reading academic literature, will be assessed based on scores from one of the designated external English tests. **A. Accepted English Tests:** • TOEFL iBT® (including Home Edition) • TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test • TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Tests • IELTS **B. Score Validity:** • Only scores from tests taken **within two years prior to the application date** are considered valid. • *Example: For the first round of the 2027 admissions (application deadline: August 8, 2027), only scores dated on or after **August 1, 2024**, will be accepted.* **C. Submission Instructions:** • **For TOEIC and IELTS:** Attach both the **original score report and one photocopy** to the designated submission form, stapled in the upper-left corner. The original report will be returned to you after verification. • **For TOEFL iBT®: ** 1. Submit a printed copy of the "Test Taker Score Report" PDF downloaded from your ETS account. 2. In addition, you **must arrange for ETS to send your official scores directly** to the United Graduate School of Child Development using the **DI Code: [G239]**. 3. The official score data must arrive at our office by the application deadline.

No.	Document	Notes / Description
		D. Important Notes on English Scores:1 • **At-Home Tests:** At-home versions of tests are **not accepted**, with the sole **exception of the TOEFL iBT Home Edition.** • **Late Submission of Scores:** While scores should ideally be submitted with your application, we understand that test result schedules may cause delays. If you cannot submit your score report by the application deadline, you may be granted permission to submit it at the reception desk on the day of your oral examination. **You must contact the Graduate School Administrative Office in advance to request this arrangement.** Please confirm the expected arrival date of your scores and inform the office.
7	**Equivalent to application qualifications (6) Confirmation of passing the examination (certification) document**	Applicants applying under Application Qualification (6) A document prepared and signed by the president (or other equivalent authorized official) of the applicant's home university, containing the information below. **Sample wording:** "As [University Name], we hereby confirm and report that Mr./Ms. [Name], a student of our university, has passed '[Name of Examination]' and is recognized as possessing academic ability equivalent to or higher than that of a person who holds a master's degree. We also enclose the following supporting documents related to the examination." **Examples of supporting documents:** Criteria for passing the examination Documents showing the relationship between passing the examination and the requirements for the award of a master's degree at the university Documents showing the relationship between (i) the treatment/standing of persons who have passed the examination and (ii) the treatment/standing, within the university's doctoral degree-awarding program, of persons holding a master's degree from another university who have transferred into the university
8	**Letter of Approval for Application***	Required only for applicants who will remain employed by a government office, research institution, company, hospital, etc., after enrollment.

No.	Document	Notes / Description
9	**Copy of Residence Card (both sides)**	Required only for foreign nationals residing in Japan (excluding Special Permanent Residents). This is to confirm your status of residence and period of stay.
10	**Certificate of MEXT Scholarship**	Required only for current MEXT (Japanese Government) scholarship students.
11	**Proof of Examination Fee Payment (See section (3) below)**	Print the "Certificate of Payment" from the online payment system and submit it. Not required for MEXT scholars.
12	**Examination Fee Payment**	**Fee:** 30,000 JPY **Payment Method:** Please pay through the "Examination Fee Payment System". A separate system handling fee will be charged. **Payment System URL:** https://e-apply.jp/n/osaka-u-payment After payment, print the "Certificate of Payment" from the system and include it with your application documents. Please refer to the Graduate School website for detailed instructions and the payment period. *(See Note 4 and 5 below)*
13	**Address Label Sheet***	This will be used to send important documents, such as admission procedure materials. Please provide a reliable mailing address where you can receive registered mail. Notify the Graduate School Office immediately if your address changes after submission.
14	**Self-Addressed Return Envelope**	Prepare a standard Japanese envelope (Naga-3). Affix the designated "Return Envelope Label*" to the front and attach 320 JPY worth of stamps. This will be used to mail your Examinee's Registration Card.
15	**Application Document Checklist***	Please carefully check all items you are submitting, sign the form, and include it with your application.
16	**Application Envelope**	Prepare a standard Japanese envelope (Kakugata-2). Affix the designated "Application Envelope Label*" to the front, and place all your application documents inside.

***1 Examination Admission Ticket**

The examination admission ticket for the First Entrance Examination (Tuesday, 1 September 2027) and the Second Entrance Examination (Tuesday, 5 January 2028) will be sent by simplified registered mail.

***2 Name Change**

If the name on your graduation certificate, transcript, or other documents differs due to

a name change, please submit documentation proving the change. Please be prepared to present the original(s) on the examination day.

***3 Applicants Who Passed the Application Eligibility Examination**

Applicants who have passed the Application Eligibility Examination are not required to resubmit graduation certificates, transcripts, etc.

***4 Exemption from Submitting Proof of Examination Fee Payment / Paying the Examination Fee**

Applicants who are expected to complete a master's program (including professional degree programs), law school, or a graduate school of teacher education at The University of Osaka, Kanazawa University, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Chiba University, or the University of Fukui by March 2028, as well as applicants who plan to enroll as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students, are not required to submit proof of examination fee payment and are exempt from paying the examination fee.

***5 Special Measures for Examination Fee Waivers (Disaster-Affected Applicants)**

The University of Osaka offers special measures for examination fee exemption for applicants affected by major disasters. Please check the Osaka University website for details and eligibility. If you plan to apply for this exemption, please contact the Graduate School office for instructions.

https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/admissions/information

5. Application Method and Precautions

Applicants must submit their application documents either in person at the United Graduate School Office, located within the General Affairs Division of the Graduate School of Medicine at The University of Osaka, or by mail (via simplified registered mail).

Application period:

[1st entrance examination]

August 10 (Monday) ~ August 21 (Friday) (excluding Saturdays and Sundays)

[2nd entrance examination]

December 7 (Monday) ~ December 18 (Friday) (excluding Saturday and Sunday)

Mailing Address:
United Graduate School Office
General Affairs Division, Graduate School of Medicine
The University of Osaka
2-2 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan
Tel: +81-6-6879-3026 / 3445

※In-person reception hours: 8:30-12:00 and 13:00-17:15 (weekdays)

For applications submitted by mail (simplified registered mail), documents will be accepted if they are postmarked by the specified deadline, even if they arrive after the application period has closed.

- **First Round Deadline:** Postmarked no later than Friday, August 21, **2026.**
- **Second Round Deadline:** Postmarked no later than Friday, December 18, **2026.**

Before applying, applicants must review the Graduate School Overview (pp. 13-19),

contact the faculty supervisor of their intended research area, and complete a mandatory pre-interview during the period specified below. At the time of the pre-interview, please submit the designated form in advance (e.g., by e-mail).

However, applicants who are required to undergo the "Application Eligibility Screening" do not need to complete this pre-interview. (Note: Even if you have passed the Application Eligibility Screening and been recognized as having academic ability equivalent to a master's degree, you must still complete a pre-interview if you wish to apply to a research area or university different from the one for which your screening was conducted.)

●Pre-interview Period:

[First Round] Monday, June 8, 2026 - Friday, July 31, 2026
(excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays)

[Second Round] Monday, October 5, 2026 - Friday, November 27, 2026
(excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays)

6. Selection Method

Selection will be conducted based on a comprehensive evaluation of your application documents (including your research proposal) and an entrance examination. The entrance examination consists of the two components detailed below.

(1) Assessment of English Proficiency

Your proficiency in English, which is essential for reading academic literature, will be assessed based on scores from one of the designated external English tests.

A. Accepted Tests:

- TOEFL iBT® (including Home Edition)
- TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test
- TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Tests
- IELTS

※B. Score Validity:

Only scores from tests taken within two years prior to the application date will be considered valid.

C. Policy on At-Home Tests:

In principle, at-home versions of tests are not accepted. The sole exception is the TOEFL iBT Home Edition, which is eligible for submission.

(2) Oral Examination

Based on your research plan (statement of purpose), you will give a presentation on your proposed future research (your current research concept).

Using the presentation materials (see "Materials to be Prepared for the Oral Examination [Presentation]" below), the examiners will discuss your proposed approach to addressing children's mental health issues, your research plan (current concept), including the **background**, **research methods**, and **expected results**, as well as the **academic significance** and potential **social impact** of the study. Your **motivation**, **enthusiasm**, and **future potential**, along with your **communication** and **logical thinking** skills, will also be evaluated.

The examination consists of a **10-minute presentation** followed by a **10-minute Q&A** session with the examiners. The presentation time will be **strictly enforced**.

In addition, the examination will be conducted based on the **submitted documents** (research plan, etc.).

7. Date, Time, and Venue of the Oral Examination

●First Round Examination

Date and Time: Sunday, September 20, 2026, from 14:00(Applicants must gather by 13:00)
Venue (Tentative): The University of Osaka, School of Medicine Lecture Building

●Second Round Examination

Date and Time: Sunday, January 24, 2027, from 14:00(Applicants must gather by 13:00)
Venue (Tentative): The University of Osaka, School of Medicine Lecture Building

Note: You must present your Examinee's Registration Card for identification upon entering the venue.

8. Materials to Be Prepared for the Oral Examination (Presentation)

[Common to the 1st and 2nd Entrance Examinations]

Please prepare the materials listed below, print them out, bring them with you on the examination day, and distribute them to the examiners at the oral examination venue.

- Number of copies: 6
- Language: Japanese or English
- Résumé: A4 size, portrait, 1 sheet; approximately 30 lines written horizontally; font size approx. 11 pt
- Slides: A4 size, landscape; number of pages free; prepare the content using PowerPoint or similar software
- Assembly: Arrange the documents in the following order: Résumé → Slides. Align the left edge of the résumé with the top edge of the slides, and bind them together. Then staple them vertically at the upper-left corner.

Notes:

・Please bring these materials with you on the day of the examination. *(They are not submitted at the time of application.)*
・No computer will be used.
・These materials will not be returned.

[Points to Note When Preparing the Above Materials]

1. Please describe the background of your research to date, the issues/problems you have identified, and how you have attempted to address them. Also include the expected research outcomes and the potential impact of those outcomes on society.
2. Research Plan
   In order to derive the expected results, applicants are requested to explain, in as much specific detail as possible, the procedures for sample collection and analysis.

9. Announcement of Successful Applicants

The examinee numbers of successful applicants will be posted on the United Graduate School of Child Development website at the dates and times listed below. Additionally, a formal letter of acceptance will be mailed to all successful candidates on the same day.

Please note that we cannot respond to any inquiries regarding the results by telephone.

Announcement Schedule

Round	Date and Time of Announcement
First Examination	Monday, October 5, 2027, at 13:30 (JST)
Second Examination	Monday, February 8, 2028, at 13:30 (JST)

Website for Announcement:http://www.ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp/

10. Enrollment Procedures

Enrollment Period

The official enrollment period is scheduled for early March 2028.

Dispatch of Enrollment Documents

An admission packet containing all necessary enrollment documents will be mailed to successful applicants around mid-February 2028. These documents will be sent to the mailing address provided on your application form.

Post-Enrollment Information

After you have successfully completed the enrollment process, a separate set of documents containing details about the entrance ceremony and new student orientation will be mailed to you in late March 2028

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11. Admission and Tuition Fees

- **Admission Fee:** 282,000 JPY (projected)
- **Tuition Fees (per semester, for both first and second semesters):** 267,900 JPY (annual total: 535,800 JPY) (projected)

Please note:

·The only fee required during the enrollment procedure is the admission fee. Tuition for the first semester is scheduled for collection via direct debit in late May, and for the second semester, in late November.

·The amounts for the admission and tuition fees are subject to change.

·If tuition fees are revised during your period of enrollment, the new amount will apply from the time of the revision.

·Government-sponsored international students are exempt from paying the admission fee.

12. Long-term Enrollment System

This system is available to applicants who have full-time employment or who require flexible study arrangements due to circumstances such as childbirth, childcare, nursing care, medical treatment, illness, or disability.

Under this system, students may take courses in a planned manner and complete the program over a maximum period of four years.

Approval is granted following a review by the Graduate School based on an application submitted at the time of admission. Details on the application procedure will be provided separately to successful applicants.

13. Tuition Exemption System for Outstanding Privately Financed International Students

The University of Osaka has introduced a tuition exemption system for outstanding privately financed international students (“Special International Student” tuition exemption) in order to strengthen research capacity and increase the enrollment of

international students.

This entrance examination (limited to the First Entrance Examination) is eligible for the Special International Student tuition exemption. International students who pass the entrance examination and are recognized as outstanding may be considered for a tuition waiver under this system. Applicants must meet all of the following conditions and must check the relevant box in the "International Student Entry Field" on the application form.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Your status of residence after enrollment will be "Student."
2. You will not receive tuition support as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship student or a foreign government-sponsored student.
3. You will not receive financial support equivalent to tuition fees through private scholarships or other sources.

After the results are announced, the outcome of the tuition exemption screening will be notified by email.

For details, please refer to the Graduate School website:
https://www.ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp/admission/menjo.html

Criteria for "Outstanding" International Students

Applicants must satisfy either (1), (2), or (3) below. Please note that the Graduate School can grant only one exemption under this system; therefore, not all applicants who meet the criteria will necessarily be selected as Special International Students.

If you wish to be considered for this tuition exemption, you must take the First Entrance Examination.

1. English proficiency
   Hold an English qualification/certification equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher at the time of enrollment.
   Please check each test provider's website for CEFR equivalencies.
   (Reference: CEFR B2 ≈ TOEFL iBT 72, IELTS 5.5, TOEIC Listening & Reading 785 [Listening 400, Reading 385].)
2. English-medium educational background
   Have completed an educational program (meeting Japanese admission requirements for a master's program, doctoral program [first stage], or doctoral program [second stage]) in which English was the primary language of instruction.
3. Other applicants deemed to have sufficient English proficiency by the Graduate School, and who meet the academic performance requirements below:
   (a) A GPA of 2.50 or higher for the most recent academic year.
   If your current program has been attended for less than one year, calculate the GPA by including the previous program as needed.
   If a GPA cannot be calculated, submit a letter of recommendation (free format) issued at the level of the Dean of your Graduate School (or equivalent).
   (b) Rank within the top 20% of your cohort/grade, and submit documentation proving your ranking.

Important Notes

(1) False Statements

If any false information is found in your application documents, your admission may be revoked at any time, even after you have enrolled.

(2) Applicants with Disabilities

Applicants with disabilities who require special accommodations for the examination or for

their studies should contact the United Graduate School Office at the General Affairs Division in advance. (Inquiries by telephone are welcome.)

(3) Changes to Application Information

No changes can be made to the information provided on your application form after it has been formally accepted.

(4) Refund of the Examination Fee

The examination fee, once paid, will not be refunded except under the following circumstances:

① You paid the fee but were subsequently found to be ineligible to take the examination.
② Your application documents were not accepted because they arrived after the deadline.
③ Your application documents were not accepted due to incompleteness.
④ You paid the examination fee but did not submit an application.
⑤ You mistakenly paid the examination fee twice.

*To request a refund for cases ④ and ⑤, please contact the office below.

(Contact)
United Graduate School Office
General Affairs Division, Graduate School of Medicine
The University of Osaka
Phone: 06-6879-3026 or 06-6879-3445
E-mail: i-soumu-rengousyouni@office.osaka-u.ac.jp

(5) Accommodations

The university will not arrange accommodations for examinees.

(6) Campus Access

Access to the campus by car, motorcycle, or scooter (including motorized bicycles) is not permitted.

15. Handling of Personal Information

(1) The name, address, and other personal information you provide during the application process will be used for:

① the admissions process (application processing, examination administration),
② the announcement of successful applicants, and
③ enrollment procedures. For enrolled students, this information will also be used for academic affairs (student status management, academic guidance), student support (health services, applications for scholarships and tuition exemptions, employment support), and matters related to tuition collection.

(2) Personal information, including examination results, will be used for the statistical analysis of admissions data and for research on improving future selection methods.

(3) The university may outsource a portion of its admissions and enrollment procedures to an external contractor.

In such cases, all or part of the personal information you provide will be shared with the contractor under a formal agreement that ensures the appropriate and secure handling of your data.

16. Security Export Control

In accordance with Japan's "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act," The University of Osaka has established the " The University of Osaka Security Export Control Regulations" and implements rigorous screening concerning the transfer of technology and goods. Please be aware

that if you are subject to the provisions of these regulations, you may face restrictions on your intended research or academic activities, or may not be granted admission even if you pass the entrance examination.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- (Japanese) https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/research/secur_exp/outline
- (English) https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/research/secur_exp/outline

Outline of the United Graduate School of child Development

Course (Campus): Division of Developmental Neuroscience (The University of Osaka)

【To apply prior interview】 The United Graduate School of Child Development, The University of Osaka
TEL：+81-6-6879-3026,3445 FAX：+81-6-6879-3347
E-mail：office@ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp

Research field: Pediatric Developmental Neurology	【Correspondence】 Molecular Research Center for Children's Mental Development TEL・FAX：+81-6-6879-3863 E-mail：office@kokoro.med.osaka-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Kuriko SHIMONO, Lecturer. Yoshiko IWATANI, Specially Appointed Assistant Professor. Kohei KURITA

(Research)

The development of a child's mind is shaped by the complex interaction of innate, genetically programmed foundations and acquired factors, such as individual genetic predispositions, the formation of attachments with caregivers, socioeconomic environment, and illness. For example, it is known that survivors of extremely low birth weight premature births have a high incidence of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and learning disabilities, and that children who have experienced severe emotional deprivation exhibit symptoms similar to developmental disorders. Therefore, it is impossible to consider psychological issues in isolation from a child's physical condition and environment. Furthermore, even among children diagnosed with developmental disorders, each child has distinct characteristics—such as those with high levels of aggression, those who understand but are nonverbal, or those with markedly prominent hyperactivity. Rather than adopting a categorical approach, we examine each child's characteristics within dimensions corresponding to brain functions such as executive function, cognitive function, and sensory processing. We conduct research to elucidate the pathophysiological mechanisms, develop objective diagnostic methods, and advance treatment approaches.

In our field, while prioritizing clinical practice, we aim to: (1) understand the psychological development of individual children and their disabilities from a neuroscientific perspective using brain imaging and cognitive function tests; and (2) investigate how environmental factors influence child development. We also seek to identify objective markers, such as EEG and autonomic nervous system activity, that reflect changes in physiological responses due to individual characteristics and external stressors.

Research field: Psychological Support for Child Development	【Correspondence】 Molecular Research Center for Children's Mental Development TEL・FAX：+81-6-6879-3863 E-mail：office@kokoro.med.osaka-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Tomoko NISHIMURA, Assis. Prof. Tomoka YAMAMOTO, Assis. Prof. Arika YOSHIZAKI

(Research)

In recent years, growing attention to children's mental health issues and neurodevelopmental disorders has heightened the need for support for children with developmental challenges, as well as for their caregivers and families. In practice settings, there is an urgent need not only to understand children's socio-emotional development and parent–child interactions, but also to acquire practical skills for supporting children with neurodevelopmental conditions and those who are difficult to manage, along with their caregivers. Moreover, recent perspectives emphasize the importance of providing support tailored not only to children's characteristics but also to the circumstances of their caregivers. This shift calls for a reconsideration of approaches that extend beyond the child to include caregivers and the broader family context. In addition, support within educational settings such as preschools and schools—key environments surrounding the family—is increasingly recognized as essential. There is also a growing need to examine how to support practitioners themselves, who face complex challenges on a daily basis, including school refusal and other difficult-to-address issues.

Our aim is to investigate adaptive difficulties in children and parent–child relationships by developing and evaluating interventions for parenting-related challenges, including those associated with neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., Social Skills Training [SST]), as well as by examining methods for assessing parent–child interactions. Through these efforts, the field seeks to identify effective forms of support and the factors that determine their effectiveness. Furthermore, through collaboration with education, welfare, and administrative sectors, we aim not only to enhance support for children but also to explore effective approaches to supporting practitioners, from both practical and theoretical perspectives.

Research field: Molecular Brain Science	【Correspondence】 Moleculor Brain Science TEL：+81-6-6879-3313（Prof. Katayama） +81-6-6879-3221（Assoc. Prof. Oka） FAX：+81-6-6879-3313（Prof. Katayama） +81-6-6879-3229（Assoc. Prof. Oka） E-mail：katayama@ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp （Prof. Katayama） okay@anat2.med.osaka-u.ac.jp （Assoc. Prof. Oka）

Instructor: Prof. Taiichi KATAYAMA, Assoc. Prof.（Lecturer） Yuichiro Oka,
Assoc. Prof.（Lecturer） Takeshi YOSHIMURA, Assis. Prof. Ko Miyoshi, Assis. Prof. Yuuki FUJIWARA

(Research)

(Prof. Katayama) In current genetic research, vulnerability factors related to the risk of mental disease have been frequently reported, as is the case with other organic diseases.

Our current research focuses on vulnerability genes for major childhood and adolescent mental diseases, including developmental disorders, childhood schizophrenia, and childhood mood disorders. The role of these vulnerability factors and their influence on the development of the brain and mind will be investigated using anatomical, biochemical, and molecular biological methods to elucidate the mechanisms underlying brain development, developmental disorders, and childhood and adolescent psychological diseases at the molecular level. Through such research, we can develop a scientific understanding of the development of the brain and mind, enabling the identification of preventive measures as well as providing countermeasures for various emotional problems including developmental disorders in children.

(Assoc. Prof. Oka) How does the brain work? Researchers have been struggling with this simple but profound question for a century. Because of its extreme complexity (there are approximately 86 billion neurons in the human brain!), it is crucial to sculpt essential neural circuits as well as revealing their key operating principles. Since brain architecture, including neural circuits, is highly organized, one way to address this question is to investigate the “tabula rasa” state of early brain function, and to explore brain development processes in depth.

We are currently studying how the brain, particularly the neocortex, develops at both the cellular and molecular levels.

Research field: Dept of Environmental and Behavioral pediatrics	【Correspondence】 Molecular Research Center for Children's Mental Development TEL・FAX：+81-6-6879-3863 E-mail：office@kokoro.med.osaka-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Ikuko MOHRI, Assis. Prof. Ikuko HIRATA

(Research)

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of children with neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). These children often comorbid sleep problems. We have reported that improving sleep problems can promote behavioral and developmental progress. Sleep is a physiological mechanism necessary for maintaining normal physical and brain function. Recent studies have reported that synaptic pruning and strengthening occur during sleep. In humans, the number of synapses increases from just before birth, peaks during infancy, and then decreases through pruning, reaching adult levels around the age of five. Since it has been suggested that insufficient synaptic pruning is a fundamental characteristic of autism, we believe that synaptic pruning during sleep in early childhood is critically important for development, and we are conducting sleep promotion activities for infants. We are analyzing the vast amount of data obtained through these efforts to determine what kind of sleep is necessary to further promote development. Additionally, while we see many patients with neurodevelopmental disorders in our developmental and sleep clinics, we have observed an increase in the number of children who refuse to attend school in recent years. Many of these children exhibit hypersomnia. We aim to elucidate the changes in physiological indicators during hypersomnia and to clarify the mechanisms underlying this condition. Furthermore, we have reported that prostaglandin D2 (PGD2) acts not only as a sleep inducer but also as a potent inflammatory mediator that exacerbates neuroinflammation. It has been reported that neuroinflammation occurs in the brains of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. We are investigating how PGD2-mediated neuroinflammation affects neurodevelopment.

Research field: Functional Genomics & Bioinformatics	【Correspondence】 Functional Genomics & Bioinformatics TEL：+81-6-6879-3604 E-mail： kimura.ryo@ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Ryo KIMURA

(Research)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other neurodevelopmental disorders are associated with a growing need for timely diagnosis and appropriate support. However, objective biomarkers remain insufficiently established, and diagnosis and treatment still rely primarily on clinical interviews. Recent advances in sequencing technologies have accelerated the identification of disease-associated genes, and efforts to use such genetic information to support diagnosis and advance pathophysiological understanding are progressing worldwide.

In this context, our research group conducts interdisciplinary studies spanning basic science, clinical research, and translation into practice through three main approaches: (1) multi-omics analyses using clinical specimens, (2) functional studies at the molecular and cellular levels using zebrafish, and (3) survey-based research involving university students and families of patients. In particular, we conduct integrated research on Williams syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by high sociability in contrast to ASD, in collaboration with researchers and patient families both in Japan and abroad. By elucidating the factors that underlie its phenotype, we aim to clarify disease mechanisms and contribute to improved treatment and support.

Research field: Developmental Neuroresilience Science	【Correspondence】 Molecular Research Center for Children's Mental Development TEL：+81-6-6879-3863 E-mail：yamada.takashi.ugscd@osaka-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Assoc.Prof. Takashi YAMADA

(Research)

In our research group, we investigate how the developing brain in childhood and adolescence adapts to stress and adversity through learning and experience, thereby building psychological resilience. Our goal is to understand the dynamic changes that characterize the developing brain and to apply this knowledge to future approaches for mental health and developmental support.

Our research is based on a large-scale online cohort of children and adolescents aged 0 to 18 years. Using questionnaire-based assessments and genetic analyses, we explore protective factors that support children’s mental health. We further combine advanced methodologies, including structural and functional MRI and sleep EEG, to clarify how these factors operate in the brain.

In addition to typical development, we also focus on neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), with the aim of elucidating both shared mechanisms underlying diverse developmental trajectories and the features specific to each condition. Furthermore, using experimental paradigms such as perceptual learning, we examine the distinctive characteristics of neuroplasticity in childhood through an integrated approach that combines psychophysics, MRI, and sleep EEG. We welcome students who are interested in child development, neuroscience, mental health, and the understanding and support of neurodevelopmental conditions.

Course (Campus): Division of Socio-Cognitive Neuroscience (Kanazawa University)

【To apply prior interview】 Graduate Student Affairs Section (Medicine), Student Affairs Division, Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Administration Department, Kanazawa University
TEL：+81-76-265-2811 FAX：+81-76-234-4208
E-mail： iyakuhogakusei-kafuku@adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

Research field: Social Cognitive Bioscience	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Assoc. Prof. Kyota FUJITA TEL：+81-76-265-2458 FAX：+81-76-234-4213 E-mail：fujita-ky@med.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Kyota FUJITA, Assis. Prof. Chiharu TSUJI

(Research)

Developmental disorders affecting learning, social functioning and behavior are major health issues in contemporary societies. We regard these disorders as brain dysfunctions, investigating their underlying mechanisms and providing education about healthy brain development and examining policy- and therapy-based approaches to overcoming dysfunction. As a strategy for producing effective research results, we are conducting comprehensive research screening to identify nerve development-related genes in drosophila using RNA interference (RNAi) technology which is one of the most significant biological discoveries of the past several years. The discovered genes, which are highly homologous to human genes, are next studied in mammalian model animals, such as mice, to determine their molecular function in mammals. Findings from these animal model studies are finally applied to human studies using blood or postmortem brain samples. We are conducting research to identify genes associated with developmental disorders and specify biological molecules to improve learning, social functioning and behavior.

We are preparing genetically manipulated mice enabling us to modify the genes associated with developmental disorders affecting learning, social functioning and behavior, and observe behaviors related to affection in mice. The relationships between genes and abnormal affection-related behaviors are being investigated. We are developing a new in vivo brain functional imaging probe for the visualization of neurochemical and neuropathological changes in patients with autism. Using in vivo radioactive molecular imaging technology, we are developing not only an early method for diagnosis of autism, but are also elucidating the molecular mechanisms operating in the nervous systems of patients with autism.

Finally, we are using these technologies, including gene manipulation and molecular imaging technology, for the development of therapeutic drug treatments for autism.

Research field: Human Communication Science & Intervention	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Prof. Hiroaki KOBAYASHI TEL：+81-76-264-5513 FAX：+81-76-264-5510 E-mail：kobah@ed.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Hiroaki KOBAYASHI, Prof. Yukiko ARAKI, Prof. Yuko YOSHIMURA, Assis. Prof. Sanae TANAKA

(Research)

Parent-child communication, teacher-student communication, and communication among peers involves the capacity to understand others' minds, world knowledge, language systems, cognition, and affect, among other abilities. These forms of communication provide important opportunities for children to learn how to communicate, as well as to understand socio-cultural conventions and the meaning of social events, and to build skills to develop robust mutual understanding and cooperation with others. Children with developmental disorders often have difficulty in one or more of the communication-related abilities described above, increasing the likelihood of failure in social learning in the family, school, and community. Such difficulties can disturb social adaptation and personality development. We aim to clarify how communication failures occur in these children and develop interventions to ameliorate these impairments.

Research field: Higher Brain Functions & Autism Research	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Assoc. Prof. Takashi IKEDA TEL：+81-76-265-2856　FAX：+81-76-234-4213 E-mail：tikeda@med.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Takashi IKEDA, Assis. Prof. Chiaki HASEGAWA

(Research)

We are able to live our daily lives through the successful coordination of each brain function, including perception, language, body movement, attention, memory, and emotion. The developmental trajectories of these brain functions need to be clarified, as our understanding is limited to fragments and analogies from findings with adults due to technical difficulties. In this research area, we aim to elucidate the characteristics of the brain during typical developmental processes and the mechanisms of developmental disorders by combining research methods such as magnetoencephalography (MEG), electroencephalography (EEG), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), eye movement and heart rate monitoring with behavioral observation and questionnaires. We will also develop new data acquisition and analysis methods that go beyond existing measurement techniques.

Research field: Developmental Coordination Disorder	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Assoc. Prof. Shin-ichi HORIKE TEL：+81-76-265-2458　FAX：+81-76-234-4213 E-mail：childdev@med.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Shin-ichi HORIKE

(Research)

Developmental coordination disorder (DCD) is characterized by impaired motor skills including prominent clumsiness, awkward crawling and unbalanced locomotion. Importantly, DCD is frequently comorbid with other developmental disorders including autism, spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and learning disability. This program aims at a comprehensive understanding of motor and postural control through studying anatomical, physiological and genetic aspects of neuroscience. Furthermore, we attempt to elucidate the pathophysiology of DCD by multidisciplinary approach using biochemical, cell biological, genetic and behavioral techniques.

Research field: Socio-Neuro Science	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Prof. Mitsuru KIKUCHI TEL：+81-76-265-2856　FAX+81-76-234-4213 E-mail：childdev@med.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Mitsuru KIKUCHI, Prof. Hidenobu OHTA

(Research)

We aim to foster individuals capable of undertaking interdisciplinary and cutting-edge research that integratively elucidates interpersonal interaction and developmental processes, including children's sleep–wake rhythms, through the combined perspectives of neuroscience—using neuroimaging, behavioral measurements, and animal models—and the humanities and social sciences, including psychology and sociology. In this field, we investigate the relationships between the biological and social factors underlying neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorder; the ways in which neurodevelopmental disorders interact with society through individual differences in brain function; and, in addition to the effects of pharmacological agents on the brain and issues related to cognitive enhancement, the impact of light environments and sleep habits on children's brain and cognitive development, the mechanisms of sleep and cognitive development in at-risk children, including preterm infants, and the formation of early brain function through animal experiments. We further pursue both the continuity and the distinctions between the mature brain and the developing brain, and advance research in close collaboration with the fields of social cognitive biology, communication support studies, and higher brain function studies.

Course (Campus): Division of Neuropsychological Development and Health Sciences （Hamamatsu University School of Medicine）

【To apply prior interview】 Student Affairs Division Graduate School Section, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine
TEL：+81-53-435-2204 FAX：+81-53-435-2233
E-mail：daigakuin@hama-med.ac.jp

Research field: Neuroimaging	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Assoc. Prof. (Lecturer). Masatoshi YAMASHITA TEL：+81-53-435-2331 FAX：+81-53-435-2291 E-mail：ymasa09@hama-med.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Yasuomi OUCHI, Prof. Hidenori YAMASUE, Assoc. Prof. (Lecturer). Masatoshi YAMASHITA, Assoc. Prof. Masaki KOJIMA, Assis. Prof. Taeko HARADA, Assis. Prof. Masamichi YOKOKURA, Assis. Prof. Hirotoshi HIRAISHI, Visiting Assoc. Prof. Keisuke WAKUSAWA, Visiting Assoc. Prof. Toshiki IWABUCHI

(Research)

In vivo neuroimaging techniques, e.g., functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and positron emission tomography (PET), allow us to objectively and non-invasively investigate morphology and function of the brain. These techniques are now pervasively used for clinical diagnosis and assessment of therapeutic effects. In Neuroimaging, students will learn basic knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, and how to collect, analyze, and interpret neuroimaging data. Then, they will also learn the utility of various neuroimaging techniques for studying neurodevelopmental disorders and children's mental development.

Research field: Social Services for Developmental Disabilities	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Prof .Atsushi SENJU TEL：+81-53-435-2331 FAX：+81-53-435-2291 E-mail： senju@hama-med.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Atsushi SENJU, Prof. Shu TAKAGAI, Prof. Takafumi SHIMADA Assis. Prof. Sayaka KAWAKAMI, Assis. Prof. Momoka SUDA, Assis. Prof. Yuko IBARA, Assis. Prof. Mayuko IRIGUCHI, Assis. Prof. Ryuko MIZUTANI, Visiting Professor Nagahide TAKAHASHI

(Research)

People involved in providing social services to individuals who need a range of support for developmental problems should know in advance the structure of how the social services are organized. In particular, knowledge regarding human development, developmental problems, and developmental disabilities is critical. Furthermore, the basis of proper support, management of individual services, and social services in social contexts should also be thoroughly understood. Faculty members and students will be involved in the knowledge-base of a range of issues related to social services, and are asked to deliver relevant services to individuals in need.

Research field: Epidemiology and Biostatistics	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Prof. Kenji J. TSUCHIYA TEL：+81-53-435-2331 FAX：+81-53-435-2291 E-mail： tsuchiya@hama-med.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Kenji J. TSUCHIYA, Assis. Prof. Abir NAGATA, Assis. Prof. Akemi OKUMURA, Assis. Prof. Yuuka OMORI

(Research)

In research on human development and behavior, it is important to have a variety of measures for accurately understanding phenomena. Without suitable measures, objective measurement, appropriate sampling, and logical interpretation of the data would not be possible. This understanding can be achieved by learning about epidemiology and biostatistics. Specific topics covered in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics course include research design, data interpretation, and statistical analysis methods.

Course (Campus): Division of Cognitive Behavioral Science（Chiba University）

【To apply prior interview】 Inohana Campus,Graduate School Office,Chiba University
TEL：+81-43-226-2009 FAX+81-43-226-2005
E-mail：sah5234@office.chiba-u.jp

Research field: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Autism Spectrum Disorder	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Assoc. Prof. (Lecturer) Fumiyo OSHIMA TEL：+81-43-226-2975 FAX:+81-43-226-8588 E-mail：f_oshima@chiba-u.jp

Instructor: Prof. Fumiyo OSHIMA, Assis Prof.Guan Siging

(Research)

This course will primarily focus on learning cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) and care methods for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In addition, it will cover CBT approaches for other developmental disorders, as well as secondary conditions such as anxiety disorders, panic disorder, and eating disorders.

Beyond CBT, the course will also examine the types of discrimination individuals with autism may face, the psychosocial stress they experience, and consider ethical and humane approaches to supporting them.

Research field: Mental Health Support & Intervention	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Prof. Eiji SHIMIZU TEL：+81-43-226-2975 FAX：+81-43-226-8588 E-mail：eiji@faculty.chiba-u.jp

Instructor: Prof. Eiji SHIMIZU, Prof. Toshiyuki OHTANI, Prof.Hiromichi HAMADA, Prof. Hisashi HANAZAWA, Assoc. Prof.（Lecturer）Noriko NUMATA, Assis Prof Yoichi SEKI

(Research)

Advanced Course for Mental Health Support

To develop effective psychosocial support for children and adolescents, we have conducted clinical trials based on cognitive behavior therapy from the viewpoint of early interventions for mental health problems including anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, eating disorder and developmental disorders.

Students will collect and review previous research with critical appraisal, as well as designing, organizing and conducting research projects.

Research field: Cognitive Behavioral Brain Science	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development Prof. Yoshiyuki HIRANO TEL：+81-43-226-2975 FAX：+81-43-226-8588 E-mail：hirano@chiba-u.jp

Instructor: Prof. Yoshiyuki HIRANO, Visiting Prof. Takayuki OBATA, Daisuke MATSUZAWA, Naoko SUGIYAMA, Assoc. Prof. Yoshikazu NODA, Tsuyoshi SASAKI, Asst. Prof. Ritu Bhusal CHHATKULI, Tokiko YOSHIDA, Masaru KUNOU, Junko OTA, Naoko KATO, Yuko ISOBE, Aiko ETO

(Research)

We conduct research using non-invasive brain imaging such as MRI, biosamples, neuropsychological tests, and questionnaires to understand pathophysiology and treatment mechanisms in psychiatric disorders such as anxiety disorders (social anxiety disorder, general anxiety disorder, panic disorder, etc.), depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, eating disorders (anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa), autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, etc.

Course (Campus): Division of Developmental Higher Brain Functions (University of Fukui)

【To apply prior interview】 Academic Affairs Office for Matsuoka Campus, University of Fukui
TEL：+81-776-61-8246 FAX：+81-776-61-8163
E-mail：m-nyushi@ml.u-fukui.ac.jp

Research field: Developmental Emotional Intelligence	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development (Prof. Yoshifumi MIZUNO) TEL：+81-776-61-3111(ex.2431) FAX：0776-61-8707 E-mail：mizunoy@u-fukui.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Yoshifumi MIZUNO, Assis. Prof. Sayo HAMATANI, Assis. Prof. Qiulu SHOU

(Research)

Our research area primarily uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to visualize the structure and function of the human brain, with the goal of elucidating the neurobiological basis of neurodevelopmental disorders such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as developing clinically relevant biomarkers. Building on these findings, we also conduct research aimed at developing novel therapeutic and support approaches and evaluating their effectiveness, thereby integrating basic research with clinical application.

Research in this area is characterized by a multimodal approach that centers on structural and functional MRI while integrating diverse types of data, including genetic information, neurotransmitter-related indices, cognitive assessments, eye-tracking measures, and various psychological questionnaires. Through this approach, we seek to advance individualized understanding of neurodevelopmental disorders and to construct more refined models of their underlying mechanisms. In addition, our research environment includes access to large-scale databases and open datasets, enabling highly reproducible and reliable research.

To carry out this research, expertise beyond a single discipline is required, spanning child development, psychiatry, radiology, psychology, neuroscience, informatics, and education. Accordingly, this research area actively promotes interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers both within and outside the University of Fukui, as well as with domestic and international research institutions. Research topics are broad and include not only the investigation of neurobiological mechanisms using brain imaging, but also the prediction of treatment response, the elucidation of developmental trajectories, and the evaluation of therapeutic and support interventions.

Graduate students in this research area can develop practical research skills in neuroimaging analysis, statistics and data science, as well as psychological and clinical assessment, while pursuing research topics aligned with their own academic interests. Depending on their background and interests, students may engage in research ranging from basic science to clinical application and social implementation, and may also gain international research experience through collaborative projects with domestic and overseas institutions.

Research field: Psychosocial Support for Nurturing	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development (Prof. Yoshifumi MIZUNO) TEL：+81-776-61-3111(ex.2431) FAX：0776-61-8707 E-mail：mizunoy@u-fukui.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Yoshifumi MIZUNO, Assos. Prof. Takashi FUJISAWA , Assis. Prof. Sawa KURATA

(Research)

In recent years, the topic of neurodevelopmental disorders and child maltreatment as an issue facing Japanese society has gained considerable attention with regard to the field of medicine and educations and also in scenarios that relate to childcare. Recent studies reveal that maltreatment during childhood can cause abnormal brain development and have a negative impact later in life. We will introduce the mechanisms of maltreatment-related brain damage or adaptation with consideration of how and when child maltreatment or ICT can have impact on the brain development.

Achievement will be evaluated according to the following criteria. 1) Proposal of appropriate research projects on the basis of understanding the background on the latest molecular biogenetic research. 2) Understanding how to investigate human brain development and psychomotor development. 3) Logical/proper experimental design that identifies degradation in cortical development induced by emotional stress and trauma. 4) Novel findings obtained by analytical approaches that can contribute to a better understanding of the selected research theme.

Research field: Development of Functional Brain Activities	【Correspondence】 Research Center for Child Mental Development (Prof. Hideo MATSUZAKI) TEL：+81-776-61-8803 FAX：+81-776-61-8804 E-mail：matsuzah@u-fukui.ac.jp

Instructor: Prof. Hideo MATSUZAKI, Assoc. Prof. Toru FUJIOKA, Assis. Prof. Min-Jue XIE, Assis. Prof. Hiroshi KUNIISHI

(Research)

We have been actively involved on research aimed at understanding the development of social brain functions at the molecular, cellular and behavioral levels. This course will present fundamental principles of social neuroscience focusing on developmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD) via understanding of molecular and behavioral mechanism in brain development.

In this course, students can learn the followings, (1) Exploratory research on therapeutic targets applicable to ASD medicine (Based on blood samples and brain imaging findings obtained from ASD patients, students will search for molecules expressed specifically in subjects with ASD and study medical applications), and (2) ASD animal model research (Using animals model that represent the clinical symptoms of ASD, students will engage in pathophysiology research to elucidate the mechanism underlying specific energy metabolism or synaptic transmission in ASD), and (3) Research on the cognitive functions of children with neurodevelopmental disorders, with an emphasis on autistic spectrum disorder and specific Learning Disorder.