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 (Master's Program) 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 (Policy for Awarding Degrees)】

In accordance with Osaka University's fundamental diploma policy, the United Graduate School of Child Development will award a **"Master of Science in Child Development"** to students who fulfill the graduation requirements and have acquired the following core competencies:

1. **Comprehensive Expertise:** In-depth knowledge of child mental and brain development, including related disorders, and the ability to apply this expertise to solve real-world problems.
2. **Scientific and Objective Perspective:** The ability to analyze issues in child mental

health from objective, evidence-based perspectives derived from diverse scientific fields.

3. **Conceptual and Design Skills:** The creative ability to design and conceptualize effective solutions for pressing social and academic challenges.
4. **Collaboration and Adaptability:** A flexible and collaborative mindset to work effectively with others and respond to the evolving needs of contemporary society.
5. **Broad Intellectual Foundation:** A wide-ranging intellectual curiosity, an international perspective, and deep cultural awareness.

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【Curriculum Policy (Policy for Curriculum Design and Implementation)】

To enable students to acquire the competencies outlined in our Diploma Policy, the United Graduate School of Child Development provides a systematic and interdisciplinary curriculum.

Our program is built on a unique platform that integrates the arts and sciences, providing students from diverse backgrounds with a shared perspective on the global challenges of children's mental well-being. We offer expert guidance to help students acquire advanced academic knowledge and foundational research skills in their respective fields of specialization.

The curriculum is composed of:

- **Lectures:** To build a strong foundation of fundamental academic knowledge.
- **Practical Training and Seminars:** To acquire hands-on research methods and field-specific techniques.
- **Research Guidance:** To develop skills in academic writing and thesis preparation.

Courses offered by other participating universities are accessible online, fostering a flexible and collaborative learning environment. All learning outcomes are rigorously assessed through comprehensive examinations and evaluations.

【Admission Policy (Policy on Accepting New Students)】

In line with its educational goals, Osaka University seeks to admit individuals who possess a solid academic foundation, specialized knowledge, and a capacity for self-directed learning cultivated through their prior studies. We value candidates who are highly motivated to independently identify and investigate complex issues.

Based on this principle, the United Graduate School of Child Development welcomes applicants who demonstrate strong academic potential and a sincere commitment to solving the complex challenges related to child mental health. We are looking for individuals who possess the following qualities:

1. Purpose and Aspiration: Individuals with a clear sense of purpose regarding challenges in child mental health and a strong aspiration to contribute to society by discovering evidence-based solutions.
2. Open-mindedness and Scientific Curiosity: Candidates who challenge conventional wisdom, remain open to interdisciplinary perspectives, and are committed to maintaining a scientific and objective viewpoint.
3. Proactive Learning and Problem-Solving: Applicants who demonstrate a strong passion for learning and possess the skills for proactive and independent problem-solving.
4. Collaboration and Empathy: Individuals capable of collaborative and flexible thinking, equipped with the social skills to interact with empathy and insight, particularly when

working with vulnerable members of society.

Basic Policy for the Entrance Examination

To ensure a fair and comprehensive selection process, the entrance examination will be conducted as follows:

(1) Assessment of English Proficiency

Applicants' English language ability, which is essential for reading academic literature, will be assessed based on scores from designated external English proficiency tests (e.g., TOEFL, TOEIC).

(2) Oral Examination (Interview)

The interview is designed to evaluate each candidate's potential and suitability for the program. The assessment will focus on:

- Motivation, passion, and future potential for addressing challenges in child mental health.
- Fundamental knowledge of topics related to the field.
- Communication skills and logical thinking abilities.

1. Major and Enrollment Capacity

● **Major: Child Development**

● **Total Enrollment Capacity: 15 students**

The United Graduate School is composed of five specialized courses offered at participating universities. The enrollment capacity for each course is as follows:

Course Name (Hosting University)	Capacity
Course in Developmental Neuroscience of the Mind (The University of Osaka)	3
Course in Social Cognitive Science of the Mind (Kanazawa University)	3
Course in Mental Development and Health Sciences (Hamamatsu University School of Medicine)	3
Course in Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences of the Mind (Chiba University)	3
Course in Developmental Environment Support (University of Fukui)	3

Note: The number of students admitted to each course serves as a guideline.

2. Application Eligibility

Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria.

(Note: Applicants who intend to apply under criteria (9), (10), (11), or (12) must undergo a preliminary Application Eligibility Screening. Please refer to Section 3 for details.)

1. Individuals who have graduated from a Japanese university or professional university,

or who expect to graduate by March 31, 2027 (Reiwa 9).

2. Individuals who have been awarded a bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD), or who expect to be awarded one by March 31, 2027.
3. Individuals who have completed 16 years of formal school education in a foreign country, or who expect to do so by March 31, 2027.
4. Individuals who have completed 16 years of formal education by taking correspondence courses in Japan offered by a foreign school, and who expect to complete their studies by March 31, 2027.
5. Individuals who have completed a program at an educational institution in Japan that is recognized as part of a foreign country's university system and is specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and who expect to complete the program by March 31, 2027.
6. Individuals who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a foreign university or school (*1) by completing a program of three years or more (*2), or who expect to be awarded one by March 31, 2027.
    - **1: The institution must be accredited by its home government or a relevant official body, or be designated as equivalent by MEXT.*
    - **2: Includes completing the program through correspondence courses offered in Japan or at a designated educational facility.*
7. Individuals who have completed a professional course of study at a specialized training college (senshu-gakko) designated by MEXT, on or after the date specified by MEXT, or who expect to complete the course by March 31, 2027. (The course must be a minimum of four years and meet other standards set by MEXT).
8. Individuals designated by the Minister of MEXT (in accordance with MEXT Notification No. 5 of 1953).
9. Individuals who have been admitted to a graduate school based on Article 102, Paragraph 2 of the School Education Act and are recognized by this Graduate School as possessing the academic ability necessary for their studies. (Subject to preliminary eligibility screening)
10. Individuals who have been enrolled at a Japanese university or professional university for at least three years, have been recognized by the Graduate School as having earned the required credits with excellent grades. (Subject to preliminary eligibility screening)
11. Individuals who have completed 15 years of formal school education in a foreign country (or through correspondence courses in Japan by a foreign school) and have been recognized by the Graduate School as having earned the required credits with excellent grades. (Subject to preliminary eligibility screening)
12. Individuals who will be at least 22 years of age by March 31, 2027, and have been recognized by this Graduate School through an individual eligibility screening as possessing academic abilities equivalent to or greater than those of a university graduate. (Subject to preliminary eligibility screening)

3. Application Eligibility Screening

Applicants who plan to apply under eligibility criteria **(9), (10), (11), or (12)** in the

"Application Eligibility" section must first undergo and pass this preliminary screening. The screening will be conducted based on an assessment of submitted documents 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) Screening Schedule and Procedures

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 (*kan-i kakitome*).
  - **Deadline:** Must be postmarked no later than the final day of the application period.
- **In Person:**
  - **Office Hours:** 8:30-12:00 and 13:00-17:15 (weekdays only)
- **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

③ Required Documents

Please download the designated forms from the Graduate School's website.
(Website: http://www.ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp/)

- 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 prescribed forms from the Graduate School website:
http://www.ugscd.osaka-u.ac.jp/

1. **Application for Eligibility Examination** (prescribed form)
2. **Examination Admission Ticket** and **Photo Identification Ticket** (prescribed format)
3. **Research Plan / Statement of Purpose** (prescribed form)
4. **Research Achievements Report** (prescribed form) *(not required for applicants with no research experience)*
5. **Research papers/publications** *(not required for applicants with no research experience)*
6. **Certificate of Graduation** and **Academic Transcript** from the institution from which you graduated *(originals)*
7. **Certificate of Employment** verifying your period of work experience *(original)*
8. **Self-addressed return envelope** (standard envelope, Long No. 3) affixed with **JPY 320** in postage for mailing the examination ticket(s)

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/)

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(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	**Certificate of Graduation (or Expected Graduation)**	Must be an original document issued by the president or head of the university from which you graduated. *Note for international students:* Additional documents may be required to verify your degree. *(See Note 2 and 3 below)*
5	**Academic Transcript(s)**	Must be an original document issued by the president or head of the university from which you graduated and remain in a **sealed envelope.** *(See Note 2 and 3 below)*
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**

No.	Document	Notes / Description
		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. **D. Important Notes on English Scores:** • **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	**Letter of Approval for Application***	Required only for applicants who will remain employed by a government office, research institution, company, hospital, etc., after enrollment.
8	**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.
9	**Certificate of MEXT Scholarship**	Required only for current MEXT (Japanese Government) scholarship students.
10	**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.
11	**Examination Fee Payment**	**Fee:** 30,000 JPY

No.	Document	Notes / Description
		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)*
12	**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.
13	**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.
14	**Application Document Checklist***	Please carefully check all items you are submitting, sign the form, and include it with your application.
15	**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**

Current MEXT scholarship students are exempt from paying the examination fee and do not need to submit the "Certificate of Payment."

***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. 11-17), 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

The oral examination, lasting approximately 20 minutes, is designed to assess your suitability and potential for graduate-level study in our program. Based on your submitted application documents, the interviewers will ask questions to evaluate the following:

- Your commitment to addressing challenges in child mental health.
- Your motivation for applying to this program and your future aspirations.
- Your foundational knowledge relevant to the field.
- Your motivation, enthusiasm, and potential for future growth.
- Your communication skills and logical thinking abilities.

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. 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/

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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, Asst. Prof. Ritu Bhusal CHHATKULI, Tokiko YOSHIDA, Masaru KUNOU, Junko OTA, Naoko KATO, Yuko ISOBE, Aiko ETO, Staff Physician Tsuyoshi SASAKI

(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, Prof. Aiko HIROSAWA, Prof. Toshiyuki KISHI,
Assoc. Prof. Masafumi OHNISHI, 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.

In addition, empirical research related to experiences of violence and inappropriate parenting, development of child support programs, and research on cognitive functions in children with neurodevelopmental disorders will be pursued. 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)

(2) ASD animal model research (Using animal 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).

(3) Empirical research on the cycle of violence, developing treatment programs to reduce the " potential violence " of children who have experienced violence.

(4) The design and development of support programs for children in need of various types of support, and the implementation and measurement of the effectiveness of the programs.

(5) Empirical research on the genesis and maintenance mechanisms of educational maltreatment, as well as its support and prevention.

(6) Research on the cognitive functions of children with neurodevelopmental disorders, with an emphasis on autistic spectrum disorder and specific Learning Disorder.