

2026 Application Procedures

Asia International Educational Program for Graduate Students in the Field of Occupational Health

For General Inquires and Documents Submission

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A p p l i c a t i o n P e r i o d

All documents must be sent by post (registered mail or special delivery) to the address above by ~~Tuesday, September 30, 2025.~~

*** The application deadline has been extended to Friday, October 31, 2025.**

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I . Course Information

1. Research Groups

1. Department of Neurology	Prof. Hiroaki Adachi
Research project: Mechanism of neurodegenerative disorders and related molecules with the aim of developing therapies Neurodegenerative diseases (NDDs), including polyglutamine diseases and motor neuron diseases are a group of intractable diseases that significantly affect human health. To date, the pathogenesis of NDDs is still poorly understood and effective disease-modifying therapies for NDDs have not been totally established. NDDs share the common morphological characteristic of the deposition of abnormal proteins in the nervous system, including neurons. In this study, we investigate molecular mechanisms that regulate the decrease of pathogenic species and aim to elucidate how those therapeutic process contributes to ameliorate the pathology of NDDs. We also elucidate the role of protein quality control system and its related molecules in the removal of abnormal toxic proteins.	
2. Department of Dermatology	Prof. Yu Sawada
1. Analysis of the association between skin inflammation and systemic diseases. 2. Epigenetic mechanism underlying inflammatory skin diseases and skin cancers.	
3. The First Department of Internal Medicine	Prof. Shingo Nakayamada
1. Molecular and biological research to clarify pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). 2. Clinical research to establish new therapeutic strategies of autoimmune diseases such as RA and SLE, shedding light upon biological products and JAK inhibitors. 3. Clinical research to establish new therapeutic strategies of endocrine and metabolic diseases including Basedow disease, DM and osteoporosis. 4. Phenotypic analysis of lymphocytes to clarify disease mechanism and to approach to precision medicine in rheumatic/autoimmune diseases in FLOW registry and LOOPS registry.	

Decoding Inflammatory Mechanisms in Cardiovascular Disease: From Cellular Regulation to Therapeutic Innovation

Cardiovascular diseases—including myocardial infarction, cerebral infarction, and peripheral arterial disease—are one of the leading causes of death worldwide. Atherosclerosis is their underlying mechanism, and macrophage-mediated inflammation promotes the pathogenesis. However, the regulatory mechanisms governing macrophage function in this context remain incompletely understood. Our research combines basic and translational approaches to uncover the molecular pathways underlying macrophage-driven cardiovascular disease, with the ultimate goal of developing next-generation therapeutic strategies. We employ both classical methods, such as histopathological analysis and cell-based assays, and cutting-edge technologies, including comprehensive transcriptomics, genetically engineered animal models, and three-dimensional (3D) single-cell resolution imaging, to uncover disease pathogenesis and identify promising therapeutic targets. We aim to translate these findings into innovative and clinically applicable anti-inflammatory therapies. We actively collaborate with pharmaceutical and regulatory scientific experts, aiming to improve clinical outcomes and quality of life for patients.

Major research themes include:Notch signaling and cardiovascular diseases

Investigating how Delta-like ligand 1 (Dll1)-mediated Notch signaling in macrophages contributes to atherosclerotic plaque development and vulnerability, cardiac remodeling after myocardial infarction.

Mitochondrial dynamics and vascular inflammation

Clarifying how mitochondrial morphological changes modulate cellular function and inflammation in cardiovascular pathologies.

Mitochondria-associated cell death in cardiovascular injury

Elucidating the role of mitochondrial permeability transition pore opening and its regulator cyclophilin D in cell death and atherosclerotic vascular diseases.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD)-associated cardiovascular diseases

Exploring how uremic toxins and innate immune mechanisms contribute to cardiovascular complications in chronic kidney disease.

Nanomedicine and nucleic acid therapeutics

Developing targeted drug and siRNA delivery systems to modulate vascular inflammation and prevent disease progression.

Single-cell resolution molecular imaging

Employing 3D tissue clearing and light sheet microscopy to image immune cell distribution in the vasculature and the heart.

Why Join Our Laboratory?

We provide a dynamic and interdisciplinary research environment where members can acquire a wide range of skills in molecular biology, bioinformatics, nanomedicine, and advanced imaging technologies.

Training and Opportunities

Technical training in cutting-edge methodologies, including tissue clearing, high-resolution 3D imaging, RNA sequencing, and in vivo disease models (myocardial infarction, atherosclerosis, vascular injury, bone marrow transplantation, chronic kidney disease etc.). Our lab maintains

an internationally open and collaborative atmosphere. We have hosted several international students and researchers, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural discussion and collaboration.

Recent Publications and Achievements

Koga J, Umezu R, et al. *Atherosclerosis*. 2024;396:118524.

Otomo K, Koga J, et al. *Nat Commun*. 2024;15(1):4941.

Katsuki S, Koga J, et al. *J Atheroscler Thromb*. 2022;29(1):111-125.

Okahara A, Koga J, et al. *Sci Rep*. 2020 Sep 2;10(1):14435.

Umezu R, Koga J, et al. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*. 2020;40(7):e214-e226.

Awards

Young Investigators Award, Satellite Symposium of Asia-Pacific CardioMetabolic Syndrome Congress 2025

Cardiovascular Surgery Award, The 89th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Circulation Society

- 4 research groups are available for the 2026 program.
- Students pursue studies with Japanese students through the four-year doctoral course.

2. Course Duration

April 1, 2026 ~ March 31, 2030 (Four Year Course)

3. Diploma

Students, upon successful completion of the course and passing a formal assessment of qualification, will receive a doctoral degree, i.e., Ph.D. at the end of the course.

- Put in four years of attendance
- Fulfillment of 36 credits
- Submission of a dissertation based on specified instructions
- Approval of the doctoral dissertation
- Success in the final examination

II. Eligibility and General Requirements

1. Nationality

Must be citizens of Asian countries other than Japan.

2. Age Limit

Must be 24 years of age or over as of April 1, 2026.

(In principle, must be under 35 years of age.)

3. Education

Must have completed an education course of no less than 18 years.

(Give full details of education history. Specified form is provided.)

4. Academic Background

Must hold either a Medical Degree or a Master's degree (in western medical or public health) from an accredited university.

5. Language Abilities

- English: It is the language of instruction and research guidance in the program.

All students **must** have a sufficient level of English ability.

Those who have a result of an internationally-recognized English Language Skill Test must submit it.

Those who do not have it when the application is made, please contact us via email.

- Japanese: Desirable to have an entry-level competency.

Successful applicants **must** have a fundamental skill of Japanese language competency when entering UOEH.

Intermediate-level competency will be required after entering UOEH as some lectures are held in Japanese.

6. Others

- Students must start the course in April, 2026.
- Those who are still in school when the application is made;
 - Must graduate by March 2026.
 - Must submit a certificate of expected graduation with other application forms.
- Students are not allowed to belong to other educational institutes during taking the course at UOEH.

III. Contents of Scholarship

1. Types of scholarship

<Scholarship-A>

- Registration Fee : Exempted
- Tuition Fees : Exempted
- Residence : Furnished twin dormitory room (equipped with a bathroom) will be provided rent free. Add-on fees such as electricity, water, laundry and phone charges shall be self-borne.
- Stipend : 80,000 yen per month (paid for research assistant work)
- Length of Scholarship : 4 years during taking the course

<Scholarship-B>

- Registration Fee : 141,000 yen
- Tuition Fees : 267,900 yen per year
- Residence : Furnished twin dormitory room (equipped with a bathroom) will be available for about 30,000 yen per month. (Discount may be available upon application.) Add-on fees such as electricity, water, laundry and phone charges shall be self-borne.
- Stipend : 80,000 yen per month (paid for research assistant work)
- Length of Scholarship : 4 years during taking the course

A student will be able to apply for another scholarship to cover whole or half of the tuition fees after enrolment for the graduate course. Furthermore, there are scholarships provided by private foundations for foreign graduate students.

2. Notes

- Number of grantee for each scholarship may change every year.
- Length of Scholarship is non-extendable.
- When a student withdraws from school temporarily under circumstance reasons, part of scholarship will be revoked during the period of leave of absence.
- Scholarship will be revoked under any of the following circumstances.
 - When submitted documents are found to be false.
 - When a student being subjected to the disciplinary action by the university.
 - When a student dropouts.

3. Evaluation: UOEH evaluates student's progress in the second year.

- When a student is judged as follows UOEH will make certain actions.
 - There is no prospect of maintaining satisfactory academic progress.
 - Attitudes and behavior of students about research and study are not appropriate.
- Actions UOEH makes.
 - No more acceptances of students from the universities which recommend those students.
 - Revocation of scholarship.
 - Expulsion from UOEH.

IV. Application Procedures

1. Application Documents

- 1) Application Form (**Form A**)
- 2) A color copy of passport
- 3) Recommendation letter
 - Must be written on a university letterhead paper in English by the **president** or **dean**.
- 4) Curriculum Vitae (**Form B**)
- 5) Publication Lists (**Form C**)
- 6) Research interests and perspective (400 words)
- 7) Certificate of Graduation (University and Graduate School only)
- 8) Certificate of Completion and Grade Transcript (University and Graduate School only)
- 9) Certificate of Degree (University and Graduate School only)
- 10) Certificate of Employment or Research History
- 11) Two color photographs
 - 4cm (height) × 3cm (width)
 - Must be taken showing the upper half of the body and full front face without a hat/cap within 3 months of application
 - Must be clear enough without background
 - One must be attached in the space provided on the Application Form
- 12) Copy of family register
- 13) Applicant Information Sheet (**Form D**)
- 14) Result of internationally-recognized English Language Skill Test and/or Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) (if applicable)

2. Mailing Address for Documents Submission

Educational Affairs Section University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan 1-1, Iseigaoka, Yahatanishi-ku, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, 807-8555, Japan

3. Application Period

All documents must be sent by post (registered mail or special delivery) to the address above by Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

*** The application deadline has been extended to Friday October 31, 2025.**

4. Notes

- All documents must be completed in English.
- Certificates which are written in applicant's mother tongue must be officially translated into English and submit together.
- In the case a certificate is original one and applicant has only one copy, a photocopy is acceptable.
- We accept one application per university
- Those who are still in school must graduate by March, 2026 and submit Certificate of Expected Graduation

V. Screening Procedures

- The screening will be done on the basis of the documents with the application form.
- The result will be announced around the end of November, 2025.

VI. Visa

- It is applicant's responsibility to collect information to apply for a visa to study in Japan.
- Contact UOEH in the case applicants need to obtain a student visa for entering Japan and wish us to make an application for the 'Certificate of Eligibility' at the Immigration Bureau as a proxy.

VII. Inquiries

Address	Educational Affairs Section University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan 1-1, Iseigaoka, Yahatanishi-ku, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, 807-8555, Japan
Tel No.	+81-93-691-7207
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URL	https://www.uoeh-u.ac.jp/english/graduate.html