

**Doctoral degree program  
Program for Leading Graduate Schools**

**Interdisciplinary Program for Biomedical Sciences (IPBS)**

# **Application Guidelines**

**October 2013 Admission**

**Expected Date of Completion: September 30, 2017**

**Application by Recommendation from Designated  
Partner Institutions Overseas**



## **Introduction**

The guidelines that follow are for students planning to apply for the Interdisciplinary Program for Biomedical Sciences (IPBS), Osaka University, on the recommendation of one of IPBS's designated partner institutions overseas. Please read the "IPBS Admission Policy" carefully in addition to these guidelines and make sure that you understand the IPBS overview, course objectives, and required attributes.

All international students nominated and successfully admitted to IPBS through recommendations will be affiliated with the Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University. Students will earn credits given at the Graduate School of Medicine as well as courses specially offered for IPBS students. When students meet all course and other requirements, they will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Science.

Please refer to:

- Admission Policy for Admission based on Recommendation  
(Academic Year 2013)
- Graduate School of Medicine  
<<http://www.med.osaka-u.ac.jp/index-e.html>>
- Interdisciplinary Program for Biomedical Sciences (IPBS)  
<<http://www.stn.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/index.html>>

## **1. Eligibility for application**

To be eligible to apply under these guidelines, you must be a non-Japanese national residing outside Japan, who is recommended for admission to the IPBS by National Taiwan University, Mahidol University, Pohang University of Science and Technology, or Translational Health Science and Technology Institute in recognition of your distinguished academic record and potential to benefit significantly from participating in IPBS.

In addition, you must meet one of the following conditions.

1. You have completed (or expect to complete by September 30, 2013) 18 years of education with a final degree from a 6-year degree course in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Pharmaceutical Science.

\*\*If the final degree is from a 6-year degree course in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Pharmaceutical Science, the total number of years of education may be less than 18.

2. You have completed (or expect to complete by September 30, 2013) a master's degree or equivalent.

\*IPBS is created under the auspices of the Japanese government as part of its "Program for Leading Graduate Schools". You cannot enroll in more than one Leading Graduate Schools program.

## **2. Screening process**

There will be two stages to the screening process and you will be notified of the result at each stage.

### Stage 1

The local selection committee at your home university or institution will conduct the first screening process based on the application materials you have submitted.

**Note that application documents must reach the local selection committee by Fall 2012. For the exact application deadline, please contact the local selection committee.**

### Stage 2

You will be interviewed by IPBS faculty members from Osaka University in the country where your home university is located. Interviews will be carried out from February 2013 to April 2013.

## **3. Choosing a supervisor (laboratory)**

- IPBS students will conduct supervised research in innovative fields of biomedical sciences by formally affiliating with a particular laboratory in Graduate School of Medicine. As your laboratory affiliation is likely to determine your future research field and theme of study, please make sure that you consult with a prospective supervisor, preferably prior to the submission of your application.
- You may wish to follow the following steps.
  - (a) Review the list of supervisor/laboratory options at [http://www.stn.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/program/images/requirement/selectable\\_laboratory.xls](http://www.stn.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/program/images/requirement/selectable_laboratory.xls)
  - (b) Contact the principal investigator of the laboratory of your choice (by email) with information such as your academic background, a research plan, and potential dissertation topics of interest (information required is likely to vary depending on the laboratory). Please make sure to inform him or her that you wish to apply for the IPBS by the recommendation of your home institution.

## **4. Application materials**

### **Documents to be submitted:**

- a) Application Form and Personal Statement**
- b) Letter(s) of recommendation**
- c) All academic transcripts from study above high school level**
- d) A copy of your official TOEFL or IELTS score**

\*Please supply all documents in English.

**a) Application Form and Personal Statement**

Download and complete the Application Form from IPBS website. The file is in a Microsoft Excel format.

<[http://www.stn.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/program/requirement\\_rec.html](http://www.stn.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/program/requirement_rec.html)>

After filling in the application form, print it out, add your photograph and signature.

**\*Page 3: Supervisor (Laboratory) choices**

If you have already obtained consent from a potential supervisor at Osaka University at the time of application, please write down the name of your potential supervisor and his or her research field as your **first** choice on the application form (leave the second and third choices blank.).

If you are unsure about the laboratory options and have not yet received consent from a prospective supervisor, you should indicate specific projects of your interest in your personal statement on page 4. Please provide the names of prospective supervisors of your **first**, **second**, and **third** choice and their research fields.

**b) Letter(s) of recommendation**

Under “References” on page 3 of the Application Form, please provide the names and contact details of two persons who are familiar with your academic credentials. In addition, please provide at least one letter of recommendation written in English by someone other than the two persons mentioned under “References” on page 3.

The letter of recommendation must include the following information:

- ✓ Name, current position and current institution of the referee;
- ✓ Name of applicant;
- ✓ Relation to the applicant;
- ✓ Judgement on the applicant’s qualifications, academic records and skills that are relevant to the IPBS program and which indicate the preparedness and likelihood of the applicant to successfully complete challenging demands of a doctoral program such as IPBS. The referee may also wish to comment on the applicant’s other attributes such as inter-personal, inter-cultural and communication skills, reasoning

and problem-solving skills, leadership ability, flexibility and creativity.

The letter of recommendation must be forwarded to the local selection committee in a sealed envelope with the referee's signature on the back of the envelope over the seal.

**c) Academic transcript**

If your transcripts are not in English, provide official independent translations bearing the stamp or signature of the translator as well as the original documents.

**d) A copy of your official TOEFL or IELTS score**

If English is not your first language and if your previous or current degree has not been taught entirely in English, you are required to provide evidence of your English language ability by submitting a copy of your score on either the TOEFL or the IELTS exam.

Applicants are expected to have minimum English language proficiency of TOEFL 550 PBT (79-80 iBT) or IELTS 6.0 to apply to the Graduate School of Medicine, but to be considered for IPBS admission a higher score is strongly recommended, such as 600 on the TOEFL PBT (100 iBT) or IELTS 6.5.

## **5. Notification of final result**

You will be informed of the final outcome of your application in April 2013. If you have been admitted to the IPBS you will then be instructed about official enrollment procedures at the Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University.

## **6. Important notes for application**

- Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Changes to the application after submission will not be allowed.
- No submitted documents will be returned. Please retain photocopies of all original documents for your own records.
- Applicants who provided false information on their application will not enroll or will be expelled if they have already been enrolled.

- All forms of communication including the screening results will take place through the local selection committee of your institution.
- Any changes to the application process will be announced promptly on our website <<http://www.stn.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/index.html>>.

## 7. Handling of personal information

1. Names, addresses and other personal information provided in the application form and documents for submission will only be used for administrative purposes. For enrolled students, this information will be used for academic and student support-related matters.
2. Personal information may be used for monitoring the selection process and for statistical purposes.
3. In any case that the above-mentioned tasks are outsourced to a third party, we will enter into a contract with the third party for the custody of that personal information.

## 8. Contact information

- **Inquiries concerning the first stage screening:**  
**The local selection committee**

- **Inquiries concerning the second stage screening:**  
The Interdisciplinary Program for Biomedical Sciences  
Administrative Office,  
Institute for Academic Initiatives,  
2F Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University,  
2-2 Yamada-oka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871 Japan

FAX: +81-6-6879-2631

e-mail: [seitai@stn.osaka-u.ac.jp](mailto:seitai@stn.osaka-u.ac.jp)

Application Form for October 2013 admission  
Interdisciplinary Program for Biomedical Sciences  
Osaka University, Japan

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
ID Number

**Family name**

Block capitals

**First name**

Block capitals

**Middle name**

Block capitals

**Known as**

Please write the first name you prefer to use

Paste your passport  
size photograph  
taken within the past  
6 months.

**Passport number**

**Date of birth**

DD/MM/YYYY

Day

Month

Year

**Sex**

Male

Female

**Marital status**

Single

Married

**Email**

Please provide an up-to-date email address

**Permanent home address**

in which you have been normally  
resident. Residence for purposes of  
education is not considered.

Town/City

Postcode

County/State

Mobile/Cell Number

Country

Fixed Line Number

**Current/Correspondence address**

Please leave this section blank  
if the address is the same as  
the address provided above.

Town/City

Postcode

County/State

Mobile/Cell Number

Country

Fixed Line Number

**Nationality**

**Country of birth**

**Dual nationality**

If you hold a passport from a second country, please tell us which country.



Educational background						
	Name of school/ university and country	Dates attended (eg. Sep 2008 - Aug 2012)	Required years of study	Title of degree	Main course of study	Website (eg. www. osaka-u.ac.jp)
Elementary school						
Lower and upper secondary school						
Undergraduate level						
Graduate level						
Total number of years						
Qualifications pending (commenced/enrolled but not yet awarded)						
	Name of school/ university and country	Dates attended and expected to end (eg. Sep 2008-Aug 2012)	Title of degree	Main course of study	Website (eg. www.osaka-u.ac.jp)	
Is English your first language?						
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (skip to the last question on this page)			<input type="checkbox"/> NO (go to the next question)			
Is /Was English the language of instruction for your degree?						
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (skip to the last question on this page)			<input type="checkbox"/> NO (go to the next question)			
I took/will be taking the English language test on:			Day	Month	Year	
Your test must have been taken after 1 January 2011						
Type of test taken						
<input type="checkbox"/> TOEFL PBT		<input type="checkbox"/> TOEFL iBT		<input type="checkbox"/> IELTS		
Test score	Listening	Writing	Reading	Speaking		
Total score/overall band						
TOEFL Test ID or IELTS TRF number (if already taken)						
Please supply a copy of your official TOEFL/IELTS score						
Language skills						
Please state what languages other than English you know and your level of fluency in each of them.						

**Employment history**

Please give your employment history or other professional experience to date, including any internships.

Dates from and to	Work description and position held	Name and address of employer

**References** List **two** persons, not related to you, who are familiar with your character and academic qualifications. Do not repeat names of those in letter(s) of recommendation.

Name  
Affiliation  
Contact information

Name  
Affiliation  
Contact information

**Supervisors** \*Please refer to **Application Guidelines** for directions.

1st Name Research field  
choice

2nd Name Research field  
choice

3rd Name Research field  
choice

I declare that the statements on this form are correct. I agree that the IPBS may process the information contained in this application form and retain it solely for statistical and administrative purposes.

**Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Academic interests and purpose of study**

Please describe your academic interests, purposes, and objectives including your academic background, strengths, ambitions, and research interests in undertaking the IPBS. If you have any academic achievements such as awards, honors, and publications, please provide detailed information including dates and titles. Your statement should be typed below, cover 2 pages of A4 paper.

**END**