

**Osaka University**  
**The Interdisciplinary Program for Biomedical Sciences**  
***Qualifying Examination***  
**2018**

**DESCRIPTION**

The Qualifying Examination (QE) and the PhD Dissertation are major milestones in the IPBS program curriculum. The Qualifying Examination involves writing and defending the research proposals for an original and independent laboratory investigation. The preparation and defense of the proposals will provide you with the opportunity and obligation to apply concepts learned in your first half of graduate school to research-oriented problem solving.

**COMMITTEE**

The committee will consist of at least four members, with your affiliated laboratory principal investigator/supervisor as chair. The PI of the host lab of Lab Rotation course will also be a member when student takes this course. One or two members will be selected from the IPBS Committee for Doctoral Course. These members will evaluate the oral defense. These members joined by the fourth member outside the University will review your written exams.

**PROCEDURE**

The Comprehensive Examination consists of writing a proposal (Written Exam) and presenting your research project (Oral Defense).

- **Written Exam**  
Students must submit **a research proposal they may conduct during the post-QE graduate study**, using provided format(s).

Japanese students; please use the following two formats and outline your research proposal. *The Specific Aims* format in English (attached QE format page 1), and *The Research Proposal* format (attached QE format page 2-3) in Japanese. Format page 4-5 should be filled in English.

International students; please use *The Research Proposal* format and outline your research proposal (attached QE format page 1-3) in English. Format page 4-5 should be filled in English.

Once each draft is written, the student works on refining the proposals with feedback from his/her research supervisor(s), to ensure the committee receives the best quality proposals. The affiliated laboratory principal investigator must approve the version of the written exam submitted to the IPBS office. Once completed, the student should submit the data file of the proposal to the IPBS office.

- Oral Defense  
Within 2 weeks following the submission of the completed dissertation proposals, the student orally defends in a closed door session, giving an approximately 10 min presentation followed by questions from the committee (10 min). Prepare **an oral presentation of the research project you have conducted in Dissertation Research I and II, and, if you were enrolled, the project conducted in the Lab Rotation course.** Research future direction may be included.

#### **SCHEDULE**

Written examination must be submitted by: January 9<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 2019

Oral defense will be conducted on: January 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 2019

#### **GRADING**

Based on the written and oral segments of the exams, the committee assigns a grade of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. Feedback will also be provided to each student along with comments from the committee.

- Written Exam  
The exam will be graded for scientific quality (interdisciplinarity, originality and feasibility), and the quality of writing (logical flow of the paragraphs and correct use of English).
- Oral Defense  
The oral defense will be graded based on the presentation quality including contents of Aims and Background, presentation sequence, slides, speaking and how you answer and discuss the questions from the committee.

**If a student receives unsatisfactory as a grade, it will mean that the student can no longer enroll in the IPBS program, nor receive the monthly stipend.** The student can appeal the decision, however, within three days of receiving the grade.