

University of Tsukuba
Early Completion Program of the Three-Year Doctoral Program for Working People

The Early Completion Program is a "program where students earn a doctoral degree after completing a course of study in one year at the earliest" aimed at working people who have certain research achievement and abilities and supports the "hardworking people" as a university.

Features of the education and research supervision

We offer students virtual Dual Campus by connecting campuses in Tsukuba and Tokyo using e-learning and video conference systems in both individual and group supervision.

Achievement Evaluation System

To assess students' qualification for Ph.D. candidacy, we conduct the evaluation in three phases or more: basically at the time of admission, mid-term review (within four months after admission), and preliminary review (within eight months after admission). Assessments are made based on the evaluation by students themselves and supervisors. Achievements in the following seven components are checked through the system:

- ① Basic knowledge of specialized field
- ② Basic knowledge of associated fields
- ③ Knowledge of real-world problems
- ④ Wide perspective
- ⑤ Problem setting and solving abilities
- ⑥ Communication skills and international recognition
- ⑦ Academic achievement and research capability

■ Eligible Applicants

Working people who have certain research achievement and abilities and those who passed the examination for the regular three-year doctoral program

■ Application Process

After passing the entrance examination (Special Selection for Working People), submit documents set by the graduate school or program until the admission procedures (at the beginning of March) to be subject to the selection of the program. For details of the procedures, read the guideline sent with the letter of acceptance.

In usual cases, documents required by each graduate school or program are as follows:

- Applicant's statement (CV, specialized area at the school last attended, and relationship between current job and desired research area, etc.)
- List of Achievements (to be used to see whether the applicant meets the requirements)
- Self-evaluation of achievement
- Plan of doctoral thesis

An interview may be given if necessary.

In the case the registration for the early completion program is judged to be not suitable in this selection, the registration will be handled as a regular admission. Provided however, that even in the case of regular admission, if it is recognized that superior research achievement was achieved while in the university, it is possible to complete the course of study within less than 3 years (from one year and several months to two years and several months).

■ Admission Period

In April each year

■ Examination to Pass Before Application

【Tsukuba Campus】 Special Selection for Working People of the entrance examination in August or February

Graduate School	Program
Pure and Applied Sciences	Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Nano-Science and Nano-Technology, Applied Physics, Materials Science, Materials Science and Engineering
Systems and Information Engineering	Policy and Planning Sciences, Risk Engineering, Computer Science, Intelligent Interaction Technologies, Engineering Mechanics and Energy
Life and Environmental Sciences	Earth Evolution Sciences, Biological Sciences, Biosphere Resource Science and Technology, Life Sciences and Bioengineering, Bioindustrial Sciences, Sustainable Environmental Studies, Integrative Environment and Biomass Sciences (admission in the third year of a five-year program)

【Tokyo Campus】 Entrance examination in September and second call for applications

Graduate School	Program
Business Sciences	Systems Management and Business Law

Application guidelines are to be released about three months in advance of the entrance examination.

■ FAQ

Q1	What is the difference between a three-year doctoral program (博士後期課程) and a doctoral program (博士課程)? Can I earn a doctoral degree in a master's program?	Q3	I am worried that a doctoral degree earned in one year will be evaluated as poor in quality.
A1	A graduate school includes master's programs and doctoral programs. A student who completed a master's program can be enrolled in a doctoral program. Since the Early Completion Program of the Three-Year Doctoral Program in the University of Tsukuba is a doctoral program, it only accepts students who completed a master's program. You cannot earn a doctoral degree in a master's program.	A3	The Program periodically evaluates each student's achievement by our specialized system to check if he/she has a qualification for Ph.D. candidacy. The whole process of the degree awarding is monitored by a third party, our External Evaluation Committee, to guarantee the quality of degrees and its credibility in the real world. We believe that degrees by the Program can be qualified to meet or exceed the standards of degrees by regular doctoral programs.
Q2	I am interested in the Early Completion Program of a graduate school or program in the Tsukuba Campus. How often should I visit the Tsukuba Campus?	Q4	Can I apply for the program - even if I don't have a master's degree? - even if I completed a program equivalent to a master's in a year?
A2	It depends on the teaching method of the academic advisor. If you and your academic advisor have frequent communication by email or other means, it will be enough for you to go to the Tsukuba campus about once a week. Lectures given in the Tsukuba Campus allow remote attendance in the Tokyo Campus using video conference systems. You can also receive individual supervision through web services. If you need devices for it, we can lend them to you.	A4	If you do not have a master's degree, please take the eligibility screening before applying. If you are confirmed to have abilities equivalent to a master's or specialized degree holder by the screening, you can apply for the entrance examination as a master's holder. When you pass the examination, you will be eligible to apply for the Program. Please note that we cannot accept you as a student in case you completed your master's program in a year.

■ Expenses Required upon Admission (as of FY 2016)

Examination Fee: 30,000 yen

Entrance Fee: 282,000 yen

Tuition: 535,800 yen (per year)