Doctoral Program in Microbiology and Immunology at Osaka University in Japan

Application Guidelines for Admission in October 2024/April 2025 For Applicants with recommendation from Mahidol University

Outline

These guidelines are intended for students who plan to apply to the Doctoral Program in Microbiology and Immunology at Osaka University in Japan on the recommendation of Mahidol University. Please carefully read the Admission Policy together with these guidelines to understand the outline and objectives of the program, as well as the personal qualifications and qualities required before applying.

Those admitted to this program will be affiliated with the Graduate School of Medicine at Osaka University. They will complete coursework offered by the graduate school and conduct dissertation research under the supervision of any one of the principal investigators listed in the Appendix. These principal investigators are affiliated with the Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC), the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases (RIMD), the Center for Infectious Disease Education and Research (CiDER), or the Center for Advanced Modalities and DDS (CAMaD) at Osaka University, and they also hold positions at the Graduate School of Medicine at Osaka University. Upon completion of the prescribed number of credits and fulfillment of the requirements, a doctoral degree will be awarded.

See references below:

Doctoral Program in Microbiology and Immunology:
https://www.ifrec.osaka-u.ac.jp/dpmi_mahidol
Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC), Osaka University:
https://www.ifrec.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/
Research Institute for Microbial Diseases (RIMD), Osaka University:
http://www.biken.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/
Center for Infectious Disease Education and Research (CiDER), Osaka University:
https://www.cider.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/index.html
Center for Advanced Modalities and DDS (CAMaD), Osaka University:
https://www.camad.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/
Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University:
https://www.med.osaka-u.ac.jp/eng/

1. Applicant Eligibility

University admission dates differ depending on whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of 1-A or 1-B.

***1-A: Admission in October 2024**
****1-B: Admission in April 2025**

Admission dates are determined by the regulations of the Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine. Therefore, applicants should be aware of the difference in admission dates for application qualifications 1-A and 1-B below.

Applicants for this program must be non-Japanese nationals residing outside of Japan at the time of application and possess the qualifications in (1-A or 1-B) and (2), and the qualities listed in (3) below.

***(1-A)** Applicants who meet any of the following qualifications **between April 1st and September 30th of 2024** can apply for admission in **October 2024**:
*__Excluding__ applicants who meet the qualifications by March 31st of 2024

a) Individuals who expect to complete eighteen (18) years of schooling in a country other than Japan between April 1st and September 30th of 2024.
b) Individuals who expect to receive the equivalent of a bachelor's degree through the completion of coursework which requires five (5) or more years of study at an overseas university or school (limited to schools evaluated by organizations that are certified by overseas governments, or relevant agencies, on the comprehensive progress of their education and research, or schools which are designated separately by the Minister of MEXT) between April 1st and September 30th of 2024.
c) Individuals who expect to graduate from a university course in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or pharmacy (limited to course of six (6) years) in Japan between April 1st and September 30th of 2024.
d) Individuals who expect to receive their master's degree or an equivalent professional degree in Japan between April 1st and September 30th of 2024.

****(1-B)** Applicants who meet any of the following qualifications **by March 31st of 2025** can apply for **April 2025 enrolment**:
**__Including__ applicants who meet the qualifications by March 31st of 2024

a) Individuals who have completed or expect to complete eighteen (18) years of schooling in a country other than Japan by March 31st of 2025.
b) Individuals who have received or expect to receive the equivalent of a bachelor's degree through the completion of coursework which requires five (5) or more years of study at an overseas university or school (limited to schools evaluated by organizations that are certified by overseas governments, or relevant agencies, on the comprehensive progress of their education and research, or schools which are designated separately by the Minister of MEXT) by March 31st of 2025.
c) Individuals who have graduated or expect to graduate from a university course in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or pharmacy (limited to course of six (6) years) in Japan by March 31st of 2025.
d) Individuals who have received or expect to receive their master's degree or an equivalent professional degree in Japan by March 31st of 2025.

(2) Applicants must have sufficient English language proficiency with **TOEFL-iBT 80 or higher (taken after August 2022)** .
(Japanese language proficiency is not required.)

(3) Applicants must have the following qualities:
- Strong interest in life sciences
- Curiosity to explore the unknown world
- Dedication to work on tasks until completion
- Communication skills that transcend the boundaries of academia
- Flexibility to incorporate knowledge from other fields without being limited to one's own field of expertise
- International mindset for a global tomorrow
- Determination to overcome difficulties
- Spirit of pioneering new research fields and changing the world
- Leadership to lead a team to achieve capabilities that transcend the individual

2. Application

Applicants should submit their application documents to the local selection committee at Mahidol University by sending an e-mail to the following address with attaching the required application documents.

The International Relations Division of Mahidol University (MUIR), Thailand
Ms. Peungjai Tinsulanonda
E-mail address: peungjai.tin@mahidol.edu
The subject title of the e-mail should be “Application to Doctoral Program at Osaka University”.

Application deadline is **12 January 2024**.
Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
Applicants are not required to pay for the application and the review for the selection.

3. Selection

The following two rounds of selection will be conducted. Applicants will be notified of the results of each selection.

(1) First round selection
The local selection committee at Mahidol University will conduct their initial selection by screening the submitted application documents. The selection will be conducted around **February 2024**.
Only successful applicants will be recommended by the local selection committee for the second round selection.
(2) Second round selection
The Osaka University Selection Committee will conduct the second round selection through interviews from **March to April 2024** at Mahidol University and/or online.
(3) Final confirmation
Only successful applicants can submit their documents to the Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University for final confirmation.

*****Successful applicants who meet the **qualification (1-A)** will be admitted to Osaka University from **October 2024** after final confirmation.

Successful applicants who meet the **qualification (1-B) will be admitted to Osaka University from **April 2025** after final confirmation.

4. Selection of Academic Advisor (laboratory)

Students in this program will be assigned to a laboratory headed by any one of IFReC, RIMD, CiDER, or CAMaD principal investigators affiliated with the Graduate School of Medicine at Osaka University, where they will conduct research in advanced biomedical fields, mainly microbiology and immunology, under the guidance of the principal investigator. The laboratory to which the student belongs to will determine their future research field and research theme. Therefore, applicants are asked to consult with the IFReC, RIMD, CiDER, or CAMaD principal investigator by whom they wish to be supervised before applying.

Please follow the procedure below.

(1) Check the list of principal investigators and their laboratories at the Appendix or at the website of the program.

(2) Send an e-mail to the principal investigator of the laboratory of your choice, informing them of your academic background, research plan, and desired dissertation topic (required information may differ from laboratory to laboratory). At that time, be sure to inform them that you wish to apply to the "Doctoral Program in Microbiology and Immunology at Osaka University" based on a recommendation of Mahidol University.

5. Application Documents

The following documents must be prepared and submitted in English.

(1) Application form
(2) Letter of recommendation
(3) Official academic transcripts
(4) Copy of official TOEFL-iBT score

(1) Application form

Please fill out the application form, which is available for download from this program's website.

Notes on the selection of academic advisor (laboratory)

- If you have already obtained the consent of a potential academic advisor at IFReC, RIMD, CiDER, or CAMaD at the time of application, please enter the name of the potential academic advisor and their research field as your first choice on the section "5. Selection of Academic Advisor (Laboratory)" of the application form (you may leave the second and third choices blank).
- If you are in the process of selecting a laboratory and have not yet obtained the consent of your preferred academic advisor, please indicate the name and research field of your first, second, and third choice of academic advisor the section "5. Selection of Academic Advisor (Laboratory**)"**, and your specific project of interest in the section "Statement of Purpose" of the application form.

(2) Recommendation letter

The recommendation letter should be written in English and should include the following information:

- Name, current position, and current organization of the reference
- Applicant's name
- Relationship between the applicant and the reference
- Signature of the reference and date
- The letter should preferably include the applicant's qualifications, academic record, and skills relevant to the program, the applicant's eligibility for doctoral study and comments on the applicant's qualifications as a researcher.

(3) Academic transcripts from high school and above
Please submit academic transcripts from all educational programs from high school and above. For transcripts written in languages other than English, please submit an English translation with the translator's seal or signature.

(4) Copy of official TOEFL-iBT score
As proof of English proficiency, please submit a copy of your TOEFL-iBT score by the time of the second round selection. Applicants must have a minimum English proficiency of **TOEFL-iBT 80 or higher (taken after August 2022)** .

6. Notification of Results
Acceptance or rejection will be notified in **April 2024**. Successful applicants to the program will later be informed of the admission procedures to the Graduate School of Medicine at Osaka University for final confirmation.

7. Precautions Upon Application
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Changes to application materials after submission will not be accepted.
- Submitted documents will not be returned. Please keep copies of all originals for your own records.
- If you provide false information in your application, you will be denied admission or, if you are already admitted, you will be expelled from the school.
- If there are any changes to the application process, the changes will be immediately announced on our website.

8. Handling of personal information
1. Names, addresses, and other personal information provided on the application form and other submitted documents will be used only for the purpose of processing the application. For admitted students, the personal information will be used for academic and student support purposes.
2. Personal information may be used for monitoring the selection process and for statistical purposes.
3. In the event that the above-mentioned operations are entrusted to a third party, a contract for the protection of personal information will be concluded with the entrusted party.

9. Financial support
Students in this program are eligible for tuition fees waiver, and will receive a scholarship to be provided by the Research Foundation for Microbial Diseases of Osaka University (BIKEN Foundation). Further details are available at the program website.

10. Contact information

For inquiries regarding the preliminary screening, please contact the local selection committee.

The International Relations Division of Mahidol University (MUIR), Thailand
Ms. Peungjai Tinsulanonda
E-mail address: peungjai.tin@mahidol.edu

For general inquiries, please contact the Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC) at Osaka University.
E-mail address: recruit@ifrec.osaka-u.ac.jp

Appendix

List of Principal Investigators of IFReC, RIMD, CiDER, and CAMaD

(Faculty List of the Program)

AKIRA Shizuo	**Host Defense:** Exploration of the relationship between immune responses and mechanisms that ensure mRNA stability
KUMANOGOH Atsushi	**Immunopathology:** Research on the molecular mechanisms underlying regulation of immune responses by immune semaphorins
ARASE Hisashi	**Immunochemistry:** Research on the mechanism of immune disorders as well as new therapies for immune diseases based on new findings on MHC
KISHIMOTO Tadamitsu / Sujin KANG	**Immune regulation:** Research on the mechanisms of autoimmune disease and related cytokine signaling pathways
TAKEDA Kiyoshi	**Mucosal Immunology:** Research on the mechanisms for the maintenance of intestinal homeostasis to reveal the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD)
SAKAGUCHI Shimon	**Experimental Immunology:** Research on the mechanisms of immunological self-tolerance by T cell-mediated dominant control of self-reactive lymphocytes
KUROSAKI Tomohiro	**Lymphocyte Differentiation:** Tracing of the fate determination mechanism of B lymphocytes in immunity
YAMAMOTO Masahiro	**Immunoparasitology:** Exploration of host defense systems and pathogenesis using the apicomplexan protozoan parasite Toxoplasma gondii as a model
NAGATA Shigekazu	**Biochemistry & Immunology:** Research on the molecular mechanism of apoptosis
YAMASHITA Toshihide	**Molecular Neuroscience:** Research on the mechanism to regulate rewiring of neural network after central nervous system injury
YAMASAKI Sho	**Molecular Immunology:** Research on the mechanism for regulation of immune responses through C-type lectin receptors in physiological and pathological settings
NAGASAWA Takashi	**Stem Cell Biology and Developmental Immunology:** Research on spatiotemporal regulation of lymphohematopoiesis by environmental factors within bone marrow
HARA Eiji	**Aging Biology:** Research on the mechanisms of cellular senescence in vivo, with a focus on its positive and negative roles throughout our life course
MATSUOKA-NAKAMURA Yumi	**Cutaneous Allergy and Host Defense:** Research on the relationship between the indigenous bacterial flora in chronic inflammatory skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis and the pathogenic bacteria that cause

	inflammation
TAKAKURA Nobuyuki	**Signal Transduction**: Research on cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying vascular formation
FUJIMOTO Manabu	**Cutaneous Immunology:** Research on skin homeostasis for new clinical treatments
MORO Kazuyo	**Innate Immune Systems:** Research on the mechanisms for differentiation, signaling and activation of ILC2 and also partner cell types
James Badger WING	**Human Single Cell Immunology:** Exploration of the diversity of Tregs and consequences of Treg impairment in a variety of settings such as autoimmunity and cancer
OKUZAKI Daisuke	**Human Immunology (Single Cell Genomics):** Construction of single immune cell database
OKABE Yasutaka	**Immune Homeostasis:** Research on the mechanisms of tissue homeostasis and immune homeostasis
HOSEN Naoki	**Cellular Immunotherapy:** Development of CAR-T cell therapy targeting antigens in various types of cancers
KAMADA Nobuhiko	**Microbiology and Immunology:** Research on the mechanisms by which commensal microbiota cause/exacerbate disease
ISHII Masaru	**Immunology and Cell Biology:** Elucidation of the complex system for bone homeostasis in vivo and other biological phenomena by bio-imaging
SUZUKI Kazuhiro	**Immune Response Dynamics:** Research on the interactions between the nervous and immune systems through immune cell trafficking controlled by neural inputs
Daron STANDLEY	**Systems Immunology:** Analysis of immune repertoire sequence data and post-transcriptional regulation of immune responses
ISE Wataru	**Regulation of Host Defense:** Research on the mechanisms of immune memory in human and underlying long-term survival of plasma cells
MATSUURA Yoshiharu	**Virus Control:** Research on virus-host interactions involved in viral infection and pathogenicity
ITAKA Keiji	**Clinical Biotechnology:** Development of innovative medical technologies based on the science of biomaterials, DDS, and molecular biology
KOBAYASHI Takeshi	**Virology:** Research on the molecular mechanisms underlying Reoviridae virus replication and pathogenesis, and developing novel vaccine vectors
IIDA Tetsuya	**Bacterial Infections:** Research on the mechanism underlying bacterial infection and pathogenesis
HORIGUCHI Yasuhiko	**Molecular Bacteriology:** Research on the mechanism causing specific symptoms observed in bacterial infections such as Bordetella infections
IKAWA Masahito	**Experimental Genome Research:** Research on the

	mechanisms underlying mammalian reproductive systems through genetic manipulation of animal models
ISHITANI Tohru	**Homeostatic Regulation:** Research on cell-cell communication and behavior supporting tissue homeostasis and molecular systems controlling embryonic development, organogenesis, regeneration, aging, and disease
IWANAGA Shiroh	**Molecular Protozoology:** Research on stage-specific gene expression regulated by parasites
IWASAKI Masaharu	**Emerging Viral Diseases:** Research on molecular and cellular biology of mammarenaviruses to facilitate the development of novel antivirals and vaccines
NAKAMURA Shota	**Pathogen Detection and Identificatio**n: Development of new methodologies for the detection of all types of pathogens using NGS based technologies
SHIODA Tatsuo	**Viral Infection:** Research on mosquito-borne viral diseases such as dengue and chikungunya virus infections
WATANABE Tokiko	**Molecular Virology:** Research on the mechanisms of host adaptation, replication, and pathogenicity of viruses
YOSHIOKA Yasuo	**Vaccine Research:** Development of vaccine adjuvants and antigen delivery carriers, and elucidation of the mechanism by which vaccines act on the immune system

References:

(1) Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC), Osaka University
https://www.ifrec.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/laboratory/
(2) Research Institute of Microbial Diseases (RIMD), Osaka University
http://www.biken.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/laboratories/
(3) Center for Infectious Diseases Education and Research (CiDER), Osaka University
https://www.cider.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/researchers/index.html
(4) Center for Advanced Modalities and DDS (CAMaD), Osaka University
https://www.camad.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/members/