

[Names of Internal Divisions in Universities]

In universities, there are various internal divisions, including “Gakubu,” “Gakka,” “Kenkyuka,” and “Kenkyujo.”

“Gakubu,” literally “academic division”, is a basic undergraduate educational unit in universities. It is usually translated into English as “faculty.” In Japan, to use the word “school” for “gakubu” is not popular. In this context, all teaching and administrative staff and students are members of a faculty. Chuo University has six faculties, including the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Commerce, the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the Faculty of Letters (or Literature), and the Faculty of Policy Studies. However, sometimes the word “faculty” has another meaning in Japan, i.e., the tenured teaching staff of a “gakubu.” In this context, students are not members of a faculty.

“Gakka,” literally “academic subject”, is a subdivision of a “gakubu” and is usually translated into English as “department.” However, some universities are using the word “department” for “gakubu”, because they are using the word “faculty” only to mean those who are tenured teaching staff. In these cases, “gakka” is translated into English as “sub-department”, “course”, “division” or others.

“Kenkyuka” is a basic graduate instructional and research unit. The usual English translation is “school.” A subdivision of a “kenkyuka” is a “senko.” This is usually translated into English as “course” or “major.”

“Kenkyujo” is a research unit without instructional functions. It is usually translated into English as “institute.” However, some “kenkyujo” have instructional functions as well. Mainly in national universities, some graduate schools have the name “kenkyujo.” They are offering strong research-based education. In contrast, some “kenkyujo,” mainly in private universities, are offering non-credit (additional), advanced and practical education. For instance, “Keiri Kenkyujo” in Chuo University is very famous for offering non-credit courses on accounting. In addition, sometimes, the word “institute” has another meanings in Japanese universities. Some universities use this word to mean an entire institution. For instance, “Tokyo Institute of Technology” is the official English name of “Tokyo Kogyo Daigaku,” literally “Tokyo Industrial University.”