Research Institutes

Institute of Comparative Law in Japan
The Institute of Comparative Law in Japan was founded in 1948 and was the first such institute in Japan. This Institute actively engages in research, undertaking joint research projects that bring together Institute staff and external researchers. In particular, it is involved in productive academic exchange with other universities and research facilities in and outside Japan. Research results are released in publications such as the Hikakuho Zasshi (Comparative Law Review), Kenkyu Socho (Research Monographs), Hon'yaku Socho (Translated Monograph), and Shiryo Socho (Documentation Monograph), as well as in various fora. In addition to pursuing the exchange of papers and information, the Institute’s wide-ranging efforts to publicize findings also include international symposia and lectures by visiting foreign researchers.

Institute of Accounting Research
Founded in 1950, the Institute of Accounting Research is dedicated to comprehensive research in such fields as the practice and theory of corporate accounting, tax matters, finance, and corporate legislation and regulation. Lectures on public accounting and bookkeeping are offered for students intending to become certified public accountants. In addition, "Accounting Research" is published on the Institute’s website, a pioneering journal of accounting research with a long tradition in Japan that offers an "open university" environment for the wider public, in line with the Institute’s proud tradition of accounting education.

Institute of Social Sciences
The Institute of Social Sciences opened in November 1978 to undertake interdisciplinary research projects primarily in the social sciences. Research teams consist of researchers, visiting researchers, and assistant researchers from many fields in the study of social phenomena, including politics, sociology, environmental studies, law and economics. The Institute brings together researchers from a wide variety of fields in the joint exploration of a single research theme from their respective academic perspectives. A feature of the Institute’s library is its collection of newspapers and newsletters from political parties, labor organizations, and agricultural organizations. The collection includes statistical reports from local governments, basic statistical reports from other nations, and foreign language magazines.

Institute of Business Research
The Institute of Business Research was founded in 1979 to conduct theoretical and empirical research on companies and businesses. Researchers specializing in such fields as business administration, accounting, commerce, finance and economics form research teams with visiting researchers and assistant researchers. Their research findings are made public through such publications as Kenkyu Socho (Research Monographs) and the periodical Kyōkoku Kenkyū (Corporate Research Reports). Furthermore, the many public lectures, symposia, and research meetings where these findings are presented are attended by many leading specialists, and the Institute’s research collection includes the histories of numerous Japanese companies.

Institute of Health and Sports Science
The Institute of Health and Sports Science was founded in 1978 to conduct collaborative research and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of Health and Sports Science. It is active in 12 fields of research: student mental health; effects of physical education, student fitness, outdoor sports, human performance, classical martial arts, sports medicine, high-altitude training, exercise and health policy, sports for people with physical and mental disabilities, cognitive and psychological sports studies, and system physiology.

Institute of Cultural Sciences
Research undertaken by the Institute of Cultural Sciences is collaborative and involves the study of cultural sciences in their broadest sense. Findings are made public in a wide variety of publications and attract considerable interest from academic associations. With a large team of full-time University faculty members and visiting researchers from other universities, this Institute has researchers addressing a wide variety of topics. Apart from being one of the centers of research activity at Chuo University, this institute also has a major presence as a center for collaborative research activities among other universities.

Institute of Policy and Cultural Studies
The Institute of Policy and Cultural Studies was founded in 1996 to develop comprehensive and multifaceted research methodologies for studies in policy and culture, with a view of contributing to the international community by generating harmony among the peoples of the world. This Institute holds meetings on the fundamental theme of "Japan’s Place in the 21st Century" and engages in collaborative research. It also organizes research meetings, lectures and symposia on matters of policy and culture as they impact all aspects of human activity. Research results are published in the Nenpo (Annual Bulletin of the Institute of Policy and Cultural Studies) and Kenkyu Socho (Research Monographs).

Institute of Science and Engineering
Since its founding in 1992, the Institute of Science and Engineering has been conducting strategically cooperative research activities, such as collaborative research. It has also been actively involved in funded research projects, as well as collaborative and sponsored research with private companies. The Advanced Science and Technology Center was established to carry out large-scale research projects with external funding and to facilitate joint use of on-campus experimental equipment, contributing to the reinforcement and advancement of research at the Institute.

Other Chuo Initiatives

Research and Development Initiative
The Research and Development Initiative (RDI) was founded in 1999 to promote interdisciplinary collaborative research using external funds. RDI also acts as a forum for exchange among industry, government and academia. Separate units conduct research on a project-by-project basis.

AI and Data Science Center
Currently, with AI innovation following the emergence of big data, major changes are underway throughout industry and in daily life. At such a turning point it is a key mission for the University to foster individuals who can appropriately respond to such social changes while maintaining the long-term vision needed to contribute to human happiness and the sustainable development of society. In response to these demands of the time, in April 2020, the AI and Data Science Center was established.

ELSI Center
At present, even human wisdom cannot keep up with the rapid evolution of AI technology. As a result, the threat of dystopia becoming a reality has been raised, in opposition to an ideal society, or utopia. Under these circumstances, Chuo established the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) Center in April 2021 to gather the wisdom needed to consider pressing issues, and to promote digital transformation (DX) for the development of an inclusive society through social innovation.