

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Graduate schools (Daigaku-in) are the highest level of research and educational institutions in Japan's school system. Graduates from universities are eligible to enter graduate schools. Graduate schools are usually divisions of universities; however, there are some independent graduate schools in Japan.

There are two kinds of graduate schools: academic graduate schools and professional graduate schools.

(1) (Academic) Graduate Schools

Academic graduate schools (called "daigaku-in") are traditional graduate schools whose purpose is "to educate and research theories and applications of arts and sciences, to archive their research, and to contribute to the development of culture" (Art 99 of the School Education Act).

Usually, Graduate schools have a two-tier education/research system; master programs and doctoral programs. However, some graduate schools offer only master programs.

Master programs are usually two-year programs. However, many graduate schools offer one-year programs to students who have career experience relating to their research area. Graduates receive master degrees, including Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Engineering (M.Eng.), and others. Students with good performance are eligible to graduate within one year.

Doctoral programs are usually three-year programs. Graduates receive doctor degrees, including Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Engineering, and others.

(2) Professional Graduate Schools

Professional graduate schools are newly introduced graduate schools whose purpose is "to foster deep knowledge and excellent abilities for highly specialized professionals" (Section 2 of the Art 99, School Education Act). Professional graduate schools have a single-tier education system. Standard educational programs at professional graduate schools are two-years, except at law schools, which have three-year programs.



Chuo University has three professional graduate schools; the Chuo Graduate School of International Accounting (CGSA), the Chuo Law School (CLS), and the Chuo Graduate School of Strategic Management (CGSSM).

