



**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
OF JAPAN**

20**21** >>> 20**22**

OUJ at a Glance

The Open University of Japan (OUJ) was founded in 1983 by the Open University of Japan Foundation. It was established under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. It is an accredited “correspondence university” with the approval of MEXT.

www.ouj.ac.jp/eng/

2021 >>> 2022

President's Message

The Open University of Japan (OUJ) is a private university operated by the Open University of Japan Foundation, a special educational corporation institutionally established in accordance with national law. However, when it comes to the details behind the school's founding or the extent to which the school receives assistance for operating costs from the government, it much more resembles that of a national university.

The origin of OUJ goes back to 1967 Ministry of Education advisory made at the time, "About the Manner of Broadcasting Specialized Education Using Video and FM Radio." In the background of all this, there was firstly a range of different educational reforms being sought regarding problems with university education that had come to light during conflicts between schools and students; secondly, the possibilities of using the methods of radio wave-based TV and radio were being explored; and thirdly, around the world, prevailing trends were moving toward promoting lifelong education. In response to a report on this advisory, in 1969 the Ministry of Education announced "About the Establishment of 'The Open University of Japan,'" which went on to form the starting point for the school's founding.

It is because of this background that OUJ advocates university learning "whenever, wherever, and by whomever," affording our school a multifaceted objective that some of the other legendary universities do not even boast. That objective is our mission to:

i) Provide a wide range of people with opportunities for obtaining higher education as a lifelong learning institution;

ii) Guarantee flexible university entrance opportunities for new high school graduates, and

iii) Disseminate broadcast teaching materials in cooperation with existing universities, thereby improving university education on the whole.

Currently, we can add "the promotion of recurrent education for occupations and qualifications" to our above-mentioned mission.

OUJ today is Japan's largest distance open university offering bachelor's degrees, graduate school master's degrees, and doctoral degrees. In addition to transmitting classes over a broadcast satellite channel, we offer about 400 classes each semester, including online courses over the Internet. Additionally, we hold more than 3,000 face-to-face classes annually at 57 Study Centers and Satellite Spaces nationwide.* Our undergraduate and graduate programs only include the Faculty of Liberal Arts and the School of Graduate Studies respectively, but their curriculums are wide-ranging, spanning from health science, life science, human developmental science, social science, the humanities, to natural science, putting us on par with any other standard university. Today, about 90,000 OUJ undergraduate and graduate students all over the country are diving into subjects they want to study at their own pace and convenience.

*During the 2020 and 2021 school year, many courses have been closed or switched to online classes due to COVID-19 pandemic.



Prof. Masaya Iwanaga, Ph.D.
President, The Open University of Japan

History

- Apr. 1983** The University of the Air (U-Air) was established
- Apr. 1985** Undergraduate students were accepted and broadcast lectures were started
- Jan. 1998** Nationwide digital broadcasting via CS (communications satellite) was launched
- Oct. 1998** Students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs were accepted at Study Centers throughout Japan
- Apr. 2001** The School of Graduate Studies was established for the Master's Program
- Dec. 2006** A terrestrial digital broadcasting service was launched (for the Kanto region only)
- Oct. 2007** The University of the Air was renamed The Open University of Japan (OUJ)
- Oct. 2011** Nationwide digital broadcasting via BS (broadcast satellite) was launched
- Oct. 2014** The Ph.D. Program was launched at the School of Graduate Studies
- Apr. 2015** Online courses were launched
- Apr. 2017** The Center for Online Education (COE) was established
- Apr. 2018** The Research Institute for Learning and Education Strategies (RILES) was established
- Oct. 2018** Additional BS channels were made available to offer a variety of programs (shift from terrestrial digital broadcasting)
- May.2020** Webcast Open Lectures were started

Faculty of Liberal Arts

Department of Liberal Arts: Six areas of study

Living and Welfare

Create sustainable, high quality of life by cultivating a deep understanding of food, clothing, and shelter; family; health; and welfare.

Psychology and Education

Understand various issues related to human psychology and its development through their relationship with modern society. Learn key knowledge and approaches necessary to support psychological development and education, with the aim of actualizing a sustainable society.

Society and Industry

Acquire the knowledge and skills to live in a sustainable and prosperous society by understanding the basic mechanisms governing a society and industry in flux.

Humanities and Culture

Deepen understanding of thought, literature, and the arts, and explore the history of the characteristics and development of modern civilization, as well as local cultures and societies.

Informatics

Master concepts and knowledge relating to information and IT, which are essential for people living in highly information-oriented societies.

Nature and Environment

Cultivate the capacity to take action and decisions contributing to a sustainable future by scientifically learning about aspects of nature and acquiring deeper understanding of their intrinsic qualities, as well as recognizing the relationship between human activities and nature.

School of Graduate Studies

Division of Arts and Sciences:

Master's Program

The School of Graduate Studies Master's Program provides opportunities for students from various backgrounds to study at their own pace without leaving their offices or homes and aims to be a place where students can obtain a degree for general education or advanced professional studies. The school develops human resources who have decision-making skills based on a deep and broad educational background and who can commit to society with their knowledge and vision.

Ph.D. Program

The School of Graduate Studies Ph.D. Program aims to:

- Nurture high-quality professional researchers who can overcome challenges in local communities or workplaces by deepening their expertise, and have the insight to integrate those challenges by focusing on their social and academic meaning.
- Cultivate highly educated intellectuals who can support a knowledge-based society in diverse ways by maximizing their educational level through independent and creative research.

Master's Program 7 Programs

- Human Life and Health Sciences
- Sciences of Human Development and Education
- Clinical Psychology
- Social Governance
- Arts and Humanities
- Informatics
- Natural and Environmental Sciences

Ph.D. Program 6 Programs

- Human Life and Health Sciences
- Human Sciences
- Social Governance
- Arts and Humanities
- Natural Sciences
- Informatics



Student Categories

1. Regular Students:

Enroll to graduate with an academic degree

2. Non-Degree Students:

Enroll in subjects of interest for a semester/year
(For career advancement, social contribution, lifelong learning, or academic research)

3. Credit Transfer Students:

Enroll to acquire credits at OIJ and transfer to affiliated universities, colleges, or schools

Headquarters

Broadcasting Program Production

OIJ Headquarters is fully equipped to produce and transmit broadcast lectures. Faculty members, directors, and camera operators work together to produce high-quality broadcast lectures that are transmitted by technical specialists.

Library

The library's service is based on the concept of distance education and the library stores the reference books for OIJ courses. In addition to reference books, the library carries textbooks, DVDs, and CDs for the OIJ broadcasting programs. The inventory of books comprises about 360,000 volumes. There are also about 78,000 e-books available to OIJ students that can be accessed from their smartphones or PCs.

Center for Online Education

The Center for Online Education (COE) was established in April 2017, with the objective of promoting education at OIJ based on ICT. To forge a new era for OIJ, the center is focusing on research and development, and has established three research groups for evaluation, content development, and the online learning environment, as well as R&D projects to explore new content.

Research Institute for Learning and Education Strategies

RILES was established in April 2018 to utilize the large volume of educational data accumulated in OIJ. Specifically, RILES focuses on the following two missions:

- (1) Conducting research to pursue better methods of learning and teaching, making practical use of the outcomes
- (2) Information gathering and analyzing to improve our management, making practical use of the outcomes

By conducting the above, OIJ will attempt to improve and expand our education system and management, which may also contribute to enhancement and improvement of higher education in Japan.



Support Office for Students with Disabilities

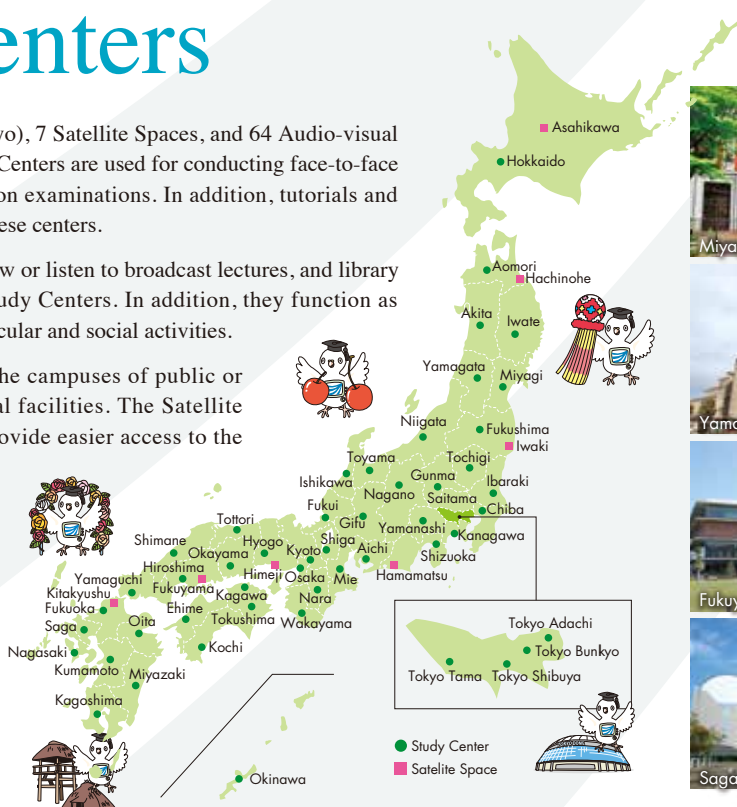
The support office was established in 2016 in order to ensure equal access to education for all OIJ students with disabilities, and to support OIJ faculty and staff who strive to improve students' learning environments.

Study Centers

OIJ has 50 Study Centers (4 in Tokyo), 7 Satellite Spaces, and 64 Audio-visual Rooms throughout Japan. The Study Centers are used for conducting face-to-face class sessions and credit accreditation examinations. In addition, tutorials and academic counseling are offered at these centers.

There are facilities for students to view or listen to broadcast lectures, and library services are also provided at the Study Centers. In addition, they function as venues for students to hold extracurricular and social activities.

The Study Centers are located on the campuses of public or private universities, or in municipal facilities. The Satellite Spaces and Audio-visual Rooms provide easier access to the above-mentioned facilities to those students who live far away from the Study Centers in their prefectures.



Teaching and Learning

Credit Courses

Broadcast Lecture Courses - Two Credits per Course

■ Broadcast Lectures (TV, Radio, and Internet)

OIJ offers broadcast lectures as a series of 15 sessions per semester (45 minutes per lecture) through television, radio, and the Internet. More than 280 courses are available in undergraduate programs and 60 courses in graduate programs, totaling approximately 340 courses. About a fourth of the broadcast lecture courses are renewed each year, as the lectures' lifespan is set at four years in principle.



■ Textbooks

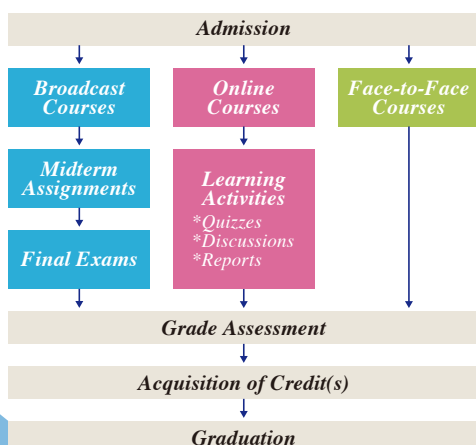
The OIJ courses are designed to be studied through both broadcast lectures and textbooks, which are specially written for each of the courses by the OIJ academic staff and/or other experts in the given field. Some of the textbooks are highly valued by the general public, even after termination of the courses; some are revised with a fresh look and sold as the "OIJ Book Series."

Online Courses – One or Two Credits per Course

For the first time in the history of the university, fully online courses were started in 2016. These online courses utilize the learning management system, Moodle, to deliver video lectures as well as reading materials online, so that students can view the lecture videos and read related materials anytime and anywhere.

Online quizzes given at the end of each session test students' understanding of the materials and students can get immediate feedback after taking these quizzes. In addition, students can ask questions directly to the instructors and participate in online forums to discuss materials with other students. These courses are created by course teams that include the instructor(s), instructional designers, production crew members, and a program manager.

OIJ is planning to significantly expand the line-up of online courses in coming years. Student learning activities and assessment methods for these online courses will be designed according to the objectives of each course.



Face-to-Face Courses (Schooling) - One Credit per Course

Classroom sessions, known as "schooling," along with broadcast lectures, are pivotal in teaching and learning at OIJ. These sessions cover wide-ranging subjects characteristic of the Faculty of Liberal Arts. In addition to the usual lectures and hands-on experiments, the face-to-face sessions sometimes include a variety of formats such as fieldwork and on-site observation visits.



Classroom sessions are usually designed, planned, and held at the Study Centers throughout the country. The Study Centers in each locale offer not only general courses, but also courses in distinctive subjects unique to the given region, such as local history and culture, industry, nature, and so on. Furthermore, several Study Centers collaborate with nearby universities and research facilities to offer such courses.

Academic credits earned at OIJ can be used to fulfill the requirements for certifications/licensure, such as:

- Eligibility to sit for the National Nursing Exam
- Bachelor's degree (Nursing)
- Teaching certificates (advanced certificates, certificates in other subjects, certificates to teach at different levels of schooling)
- School librarian license
- Eligibility to sit for the Clinical Psychology Certification test

*To obtain these certificates, you will be required to meet other requirements set forth by Japanese laws, in addition to earning academic credits at OIJ.

Non-Credit Courses

Channel for lifelong learning

Building on the teaching and research experience of OIJ faculty, while simultaneously breaking away from the traditional framework of higher education, OIJ broadcasts lectures on TV and radio, serving people's diverse needs for lifelong learning. TV and radio broadcasts offer the flexibility to balance work alongside study, giving everyone an opportunity to pursue their passion for lifelong learning.

Webcast Open Lectures: Charged extension courses

OIJ, working in partnership with relevant organizations, provides open access courses designed to develop professional skills that will help accelerate career advancement. Upon successful completion of these courses, OIJ will issue a certificate of completion and a digital badge. These courses are intended to bring flexibility into the learning process and to meet the needs of diverse members of society. Anyone can enroll in these courses, whether OIJ students or non-students.

In 2019, OIJ launched its first open online certification courses, "Programming Education Program," intended primarily for elementary school teachers.

International Cooperation



OIJ has made collaborative agreements with 11 universities worldwide, as of 2021. Under these international exchange agreements, OIJ will direct its efforts toward collaborative course material development; joint research; dual degree programs; and exchange of faculty members, administrative staff, and students in collaboration with the partner institutions.

Bhutan	Royal University of Bhutan	Aug. 18, 2017
Brazil	Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso	Sept. 28, 2018
Canada	Athabasca University	Sept. 19, 1992
China	The Open University of China	May 7, 2009
Rep. of Korea	Korea National Open University	Sept. 22, 2008
Mongolia	National University of Mongolia	Oct. 15, 2019
Spain	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya	Aug. 1, 2014
Taiwan	National Open University	Apr. 16, 1993
Thailand	Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University	May 15, 2012
U.K.	The Open University	Aug. 26, 2008
U.S.A.	University of Maryland Global Campus	Nov. 15, 2009

OIJ is actively participating in international activities as a member of international organizations such as the following:

- AAOU (Asian Association of Open Universities)
- ICDE (International Council for Open and Distance Education)
- IMS GLC (Instructional Management System Global Learning Consortium)
- GUIDE Association

Access



HANEDA AIRPORT
50 Min
Highway Bus for Chiba Chuo Station

NARITA AIRPORT
50 Min
Highway Bus for Chiba Chuo Station

**KAIHIN
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