



# THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN



From "Education and Learning Vision 2027" by The Open University of Japan  
**The Open University of Japan's Social Mission**

1

Provide broad and diverse support for lifelong learning in the era of the 100-year lifespan

2

Provide a variety of recurrent education opportunities for job development and career advancement

3

Open the path to a degree to the public at large

4

Contribute to the advancement of higher education in terms of content and methods  
by promoting academic research and educational innovation

# Greetings from the President

Thoughts on where we've been and where we're going on our 40th anniversary

With our establishment in 1983, The Open University of Japan is now celebrating its 40th anniversary. Institutionally, we are a private university founded by a special school corporation, The Open University of Japan Foundation, which was established based on the Act on the Open University of Japan. However, in terms of the process of our establishment and the scale of government subsidies, we share characteristics that are very similar to a national university. Our origin can be found in the then Minister of Education's consultation with the Council for Social Education half a century ago in 1967 regarding the ideal of specialized educational broadcasting through video and FM broadcasting. In the background of all this there was firstly a range of different educational reforms being sought regarding problems such as the closed nature of university education, that had come to light during conflicts between schools and students; secondly, people were exploring the possibilities of using the practical applications of UHF and FM broadcasts for education, and thirdly, around the world, prevailing trends were moving more toward promoting lifelong education. In response to this consultation, in 1969 the Ministry of Education announced "About the Establishment of 'The Open University of Japan,'" which went on to become the name of the school. It is because of a start with this background that the Open University of Japan advocates university learning "whenever, wherever, and by whomever," affording our school a multifaceted objective (social mission) that some of the other legendary universities cannot even boast. That objective is our mission to: 1. provide a wide range of university education opportunities to working adults as a lifelong learning institution; 2. guarantee flexible university entrance opportunities for new high school graduates as new higher education system, and 3. disseminate broadcast teaching materials in cooperation with existing universities, credit transfers, and faculty exchange, thereby improving university education on the whole. Currently, in response to the demands of society, we have added 4. the promotion of recurrent education related to occupations and qualifications.



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

The Open University of Japan today is not only Japan's largest remote open-university offering bachelor's degrees, but it also offers a master's program at the School of Graduate Studies and a Ph.D. Program. In addition to transmitting classes over a TV and radio broadcast satellite channel, we offer about 400 classes each semester, including online courses over the Internet. Face-to-face courses at 57 study centers and satellite spaces nationwide, which were temporarily held back due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have resumed, with approximately 3,000 classes offered annually. Live, simultaneous interactive web-based classes, which can be taken from anywhere in Japan via the Internet, began in FY2022. The curriculum offered, both undergraduate and at the School of Graduate Studies, rivals that of comprehensive universities, including health sciences, life sciences, developmental sciences, social sciences, humanities, informatics, and natural sciences. Today, about 85,000 undergraduate and graduate students all over the country are diving into subjects they want to study at their own pace.

With this landmark on its 40th anniversary, The Open University of Japan will continue to value its traditional face-to-face instruction while further advancing digital transformation (DX) and striving to become an institution of higher education that easy to learn from and is truly open to the nation and the world. We hope you stay tuned for the next 10 years at The Open University of Japan.

Note: During FY2020 and 2021, many courses were closed or switched to online classes due to complications arising from COVID-19.

## 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 Doctoral 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
- Apr. 2022** Live Web Courses were launched
- Jul. 2022** Trial examination for credit approval by Internet-Based Testing (IBT) was launched
- Mar. 2024** Next Generation Education Research and Development Center was established

# Faculty of Liberal Arts

## Admission Policy

In order to achieve the University's educational philosophy of providing opportunities for higher education to the public at large, the University will not select students for admission, but will seek the following types of students:

1. The applicant must have the knowledge and ability of a high school graduate to understand the content of study once admitted.
2. The student must be willing and able to sustain a positive approach to media-based learning.

In addition, in order to make learning at the University more effective, the following is desired upon admission:

- Students must be willing to learn together with others from diverse backgrounds.
- Students are required to take courses open to the public by the University to motivate them to learn before enrolling in the program.

Courses	Educational Goals
<b>Studies of Living and Welfare</b>	Acquire concepts and knowledge of various issues related to daily life such as food, clothing, shelter, family, health, and welfare. In addition, students will gain a broad understanding and practical knowledge of various issues related to daily life in modern society, including food, clothing, shelter, family, health, and welfare.
<b>Studies of Psychology and Education</b>	Acquire concepts and knowledge of complex issues related to the human mind, development, and education. In addition, students will gain broad knowledge of supporting education and development in today's society.
<b>Studies of Society and Industry</b>	Acquire specialized knowledge of the basic workings of society and industry, as well as the skills to live in a sustainable and prosperous society. In addition, students will gain interdisciplinary knowledge of how society and industry work and a wide range of skills related to a sustainable and prosperous society.
<b>Studies of Humanities and Culture</b>	Acquire knowledge about the state of culture created by humans, including thought, art, history, and literature. In addition, students will also gain a broad knowledge of the various disciplines and methods related to the cultures that humans have created.
<b>Informatics</b>	Acquire knowledge and skills in informatics. In addition, students will gain knowledge of the humanities, social sciences, engineering, and natural sciences necessary for practical problem solving.
<b>Studies of Nature and Environment</b>	Acquire knowledge of aspects of nature based on scientific evidence. In addition, students will also gain knowledge about the relationship between human activities and nature, and about practices and decisions for a sustainable future.

## Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Structure



### Faculty of Liberal Arts

- Studies of Living and Welfare
- Studies of Psychology and Education
- Studies of Society and Industry
- Studies of Humanities and Culture
- Informatics
- Studies of Nature and Environment

### Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The School of Graduate Studies

#### Master's Program

- 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

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

### Number of courses offered in FY2023

Faculty of Liberal Arts	The School of Graduate Studies Master's Program
Television: 168subjects	Television: 5subjects
Radio: 122subjects	Radio: 49subjects
Online courses: 47subjects	Online courses: 35subjects

# Educational System

The Open University of Japan offers three types of courses: broadcast lecture courses, face-to-face courses (schooling), and online courses, with each class offered in one of these formats.

Class instructors consist of experts from a number of public and private universities.

## Broadcast Lecture Courses



Students earn credits by watching or listening to class programs broadcast on BS TV (231ch), BS radio (531ch), etc., and learning through printed materials, submitting mid-term assignments, and taking exams to earn credits. Each course is 2 credits, with 15 times, 45-minute class programs for viewing. Broadcast programs are broadcast nationwide through BS broadcasting and cable TV. Current students may also view the program via the Internet.

- Some subjects can also be viewed on channel 232.
- Some TV subjects are available exclusively via Internet streaming.

## Face-to-Face Courses (Schooling)



These are classes in which students can receive direct instruction from faculty members at Study Centers and other locations. In addition to classroom lecture style classes, there are also hands-on training style classes at locations other than Study Centers.

Each course is 1 credit and consists of 8 classes (7classes 90minutes and 1class 45minutes).

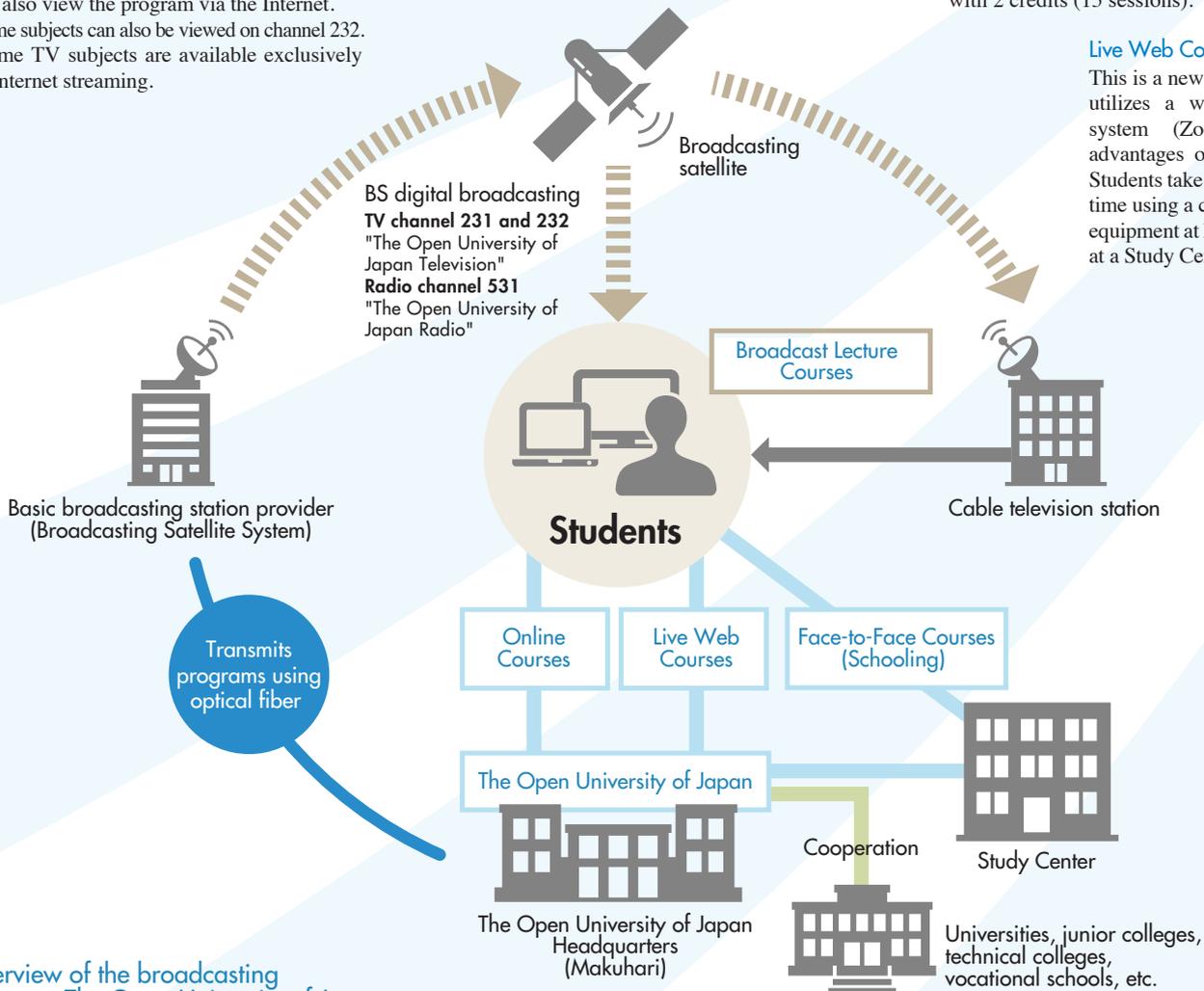
## Online Courses



Established in 2015. Students watch lectures and complete assignments (multiple-choice questions, discussions, reports, etc.) using a computer or other device connected to the Internet. This class is graded by in-class learning activities. Each session lasts about 90 minutes (about 45 minutes for lectures and 45 minutes for learning activities), and there are courses with 1 credit (8 sessions) and courses with 2 credits (15 sessions).

## Live Web Courses

This is a new class format that utilizes a web conferencing system (Zoom) with the advantages of online classes. Students take the course in real time using a computer or other equipment at home, rather than at a Study Center.



## Overview of the broadcasting system at The Open University of Japan

The Open University of Japan broadcasts nationwide via satellite (BS broadcasting).

The Open University of Japan Headquarters at Makuhari is equipped with studio facilities for producing, and master facilities for transmitting broadcast programs. Programs are sent via optical fiber from The Open University of Japan Headquarters to the key broadcasting station provider, which owns a broadcasting satellite, the Broadcasting Satellite System Corporation.

**2015** Third class style established in addition to broadcast lecture and face-to-face courses

### Online courses offered

Online classes, in which students watch lectures on the Internet and submit assignments (quizzes, discussions, reports, etc.) in a set period of time for each subject, were established in 2015 to promote learning.



**2022**

### Web-based credit exams introduced

The Internet-Based Testing system (IBT) was introduced to allow students to take exams anytime, anywhere during the exam period via the Internet, whereas in the past exams were administered at designated dates and times at Study Centers, etc.



**2022**

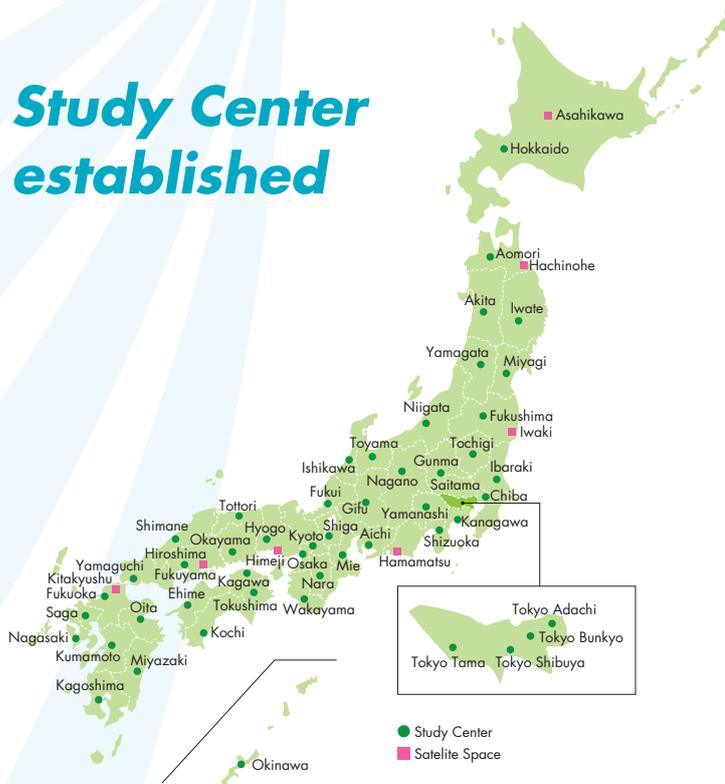
New educational format introduced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic

### Live web classes started

Started simultaneous interactive remote learning classes using a web conferencing system, allowing students to attend classes from home and participate in Q&A sessions and discussions. The system is being expanded and improved with the aim of full-scale operation starting in FY2023.



# Study Center established



# Number of students enrolled (FY2022)

[Faculty of Liberal Arts]

(Unit: People)

Type of student, etc.	Number of students enrolled in the first semester	Number of students enrolled in the second semester
Regular students	59,817	59,892
One-year non-degree students	15,688	14,981
One-semester non-degree students	5,053	5,995
Special auditing students	980	3,083
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,538</b>	<b>83,951</b>

[The School of Graduate Studies]

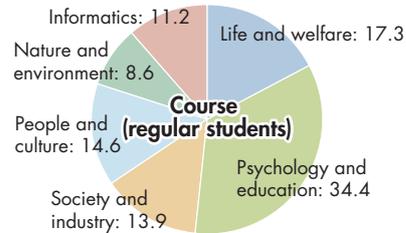
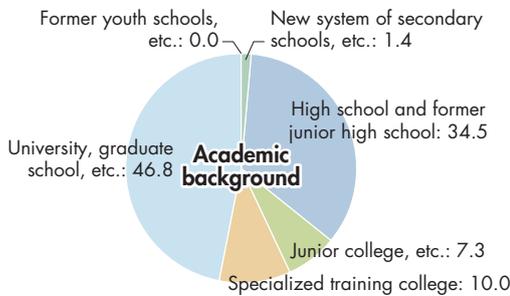
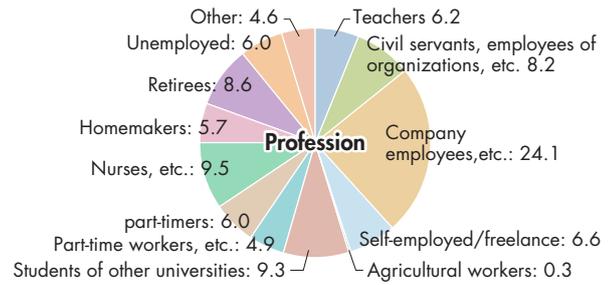
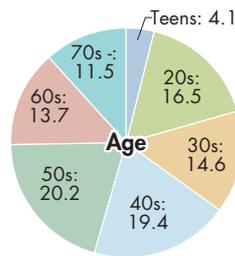
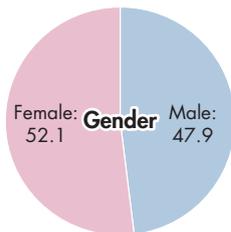
(Unit: People)

Type of student, etc.	Number of students enrolled in the first semester	Number of students enrolled in the second semester
Master's regular students	799	789
One-year non-degree students (master's)	2,532	2,451
One-semester non-degree (master's)	370	506
Special auditing students	17	8
Regular students (Ph.D.)	71	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>3,825</b>

Number of graduates Undergraduates: 6,534 / Masters: 228 / Doctorate: 8

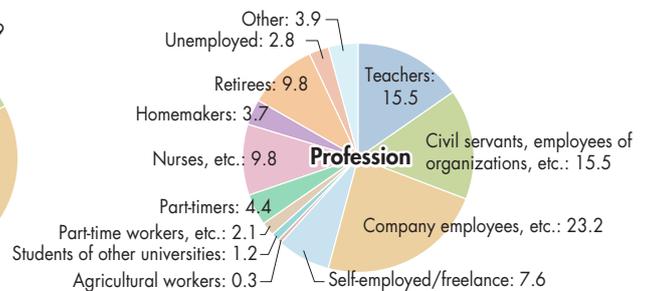
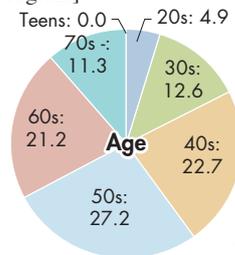
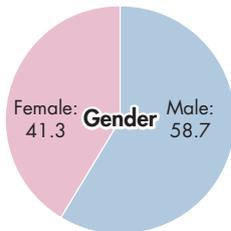
# Attributes of current students (2nd semester, FY2022)

[Faculty of Liberal Arts (including special auditing students)]  
(Unit: %)

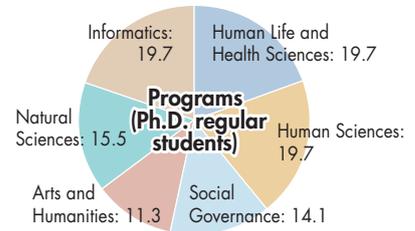
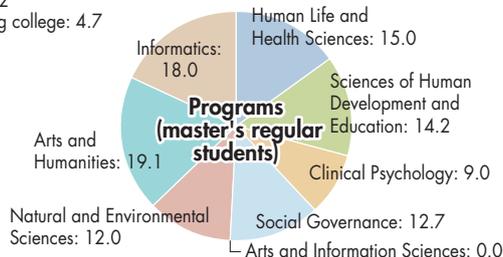
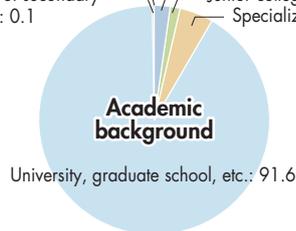


# Attributes of current students (2nd semester, FY2022)

[The School of Graduate Studies Master's Program and Ph.D. Program]  
(unit: %)



Former youth schools, etc.: 0.0  
New system of secondary schools, etc.: 0.1  
High school and former junior high school: 2.5  
Junior college, etc.: 1.2  
Specialized training college: 4.7



# International Exchange Initiatives

As of March 2024, The Open University of Japan has exchange agreements with 13 open universities and other institutions overseas. We are trying to further strengthen cooperation through presentations at international conferences of which our university is a member and observational visits to overseas universities with which we have cooperative exchange agreements. We are also actively involved in international exchange by inviting speakers from overseas distance learning institutions, hosting international symposiums, holding OUI-OUC-KNOU International Seminar, and accepting many visitors from abroad.

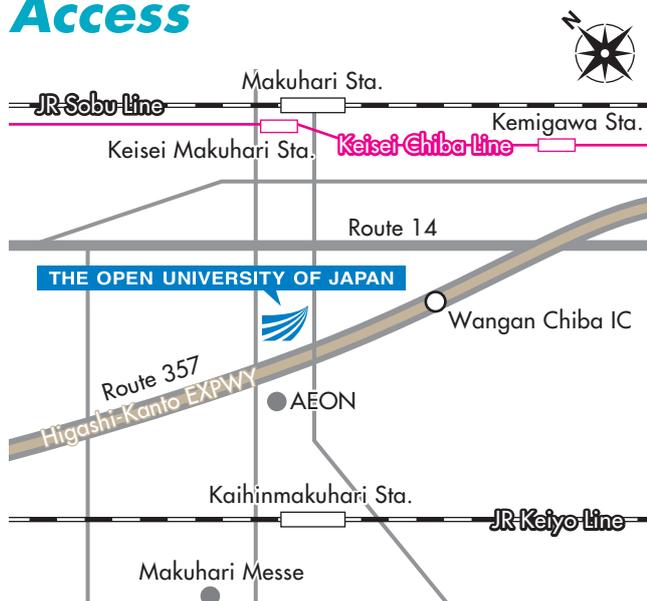
## Overseas universities with cooperative exchange agreements with The Open University of Japan (as of March 2024)

Institution	Country/region	Date of agreement
Royal University of Bhutan	Bhutan	August 18, 2017
Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso	Brazil	September 28, 2018
Athabasca University	Canada	September 19, 1992
The Open University of China	China	May 7, 2009
The Hellenic Open University	Greece	September 26, 2023
National University of Mongolia	Mongolia	October 15, 2019
Korea National Open University	Rep. of Korea	September 22, 2008
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya	Spain	August 1, 2014
National Open University	Taiwan	April 16, 1993
Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University	Thailand	May 15, 2012
Anadolu University	Turkey	January 26, 2024
The Open University	United Kingdom	August 26, 2008
University of Maryland Global Campus	United States of America	November 15, 2009

The Open University of Japan actively participates in international activities as a member of the following international organizations:

- AAOU (Asian Association of Open Universities)
- ICDE (International Council for Open and Distance Education)
- The 1EdTech Consortium, Inc.

## Access



**HANEDA AIRPORT**  
50Min  
Highway Bus for Chiba Chuo Station

**NARITA AIRPORT**  
50Min  
Highway Bus for Chiba Chuo Station



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