



Refining our Graduate School Degrees

YNU *initiative*

YOKOHAMA National University

Our Guiding Light

We recognize that the high-quality teaching found at YNU is rooted in our research activities and laboratories. Cutting-edge research underpins the development of expertise, logical thinking, practical communication skills, ethics, and a sense of responsibility in our graduate students. The following core educational goals lead us in our pursuit of excellence.

Core Educational Goals for Graduate School Degree Programs at YNU

■ Master's Degree Programs

Use education grounded in research to nurture learning that contains breadth of learning and deep specialized expertise, as we cultivate leaders who can make use of their knowledge and research abilities anywhere in the world.

■ Doctoral Degree Programs

Though teaching that is inspired by the pursuit of cutting-edge research, develop researchers who are leaders and top-tier specialists able to contribute to finding the solutions to complex and global problems.

■ Legal Professional Degree Program

Cultivate legal minds that are equipped with a high-level of ethics according to the ideals of freedom and justice, through breadth of education in the fundamentals of law and by fostering the ability to systematically understand both basic and applied fields.



Achieving Our Educational Goals

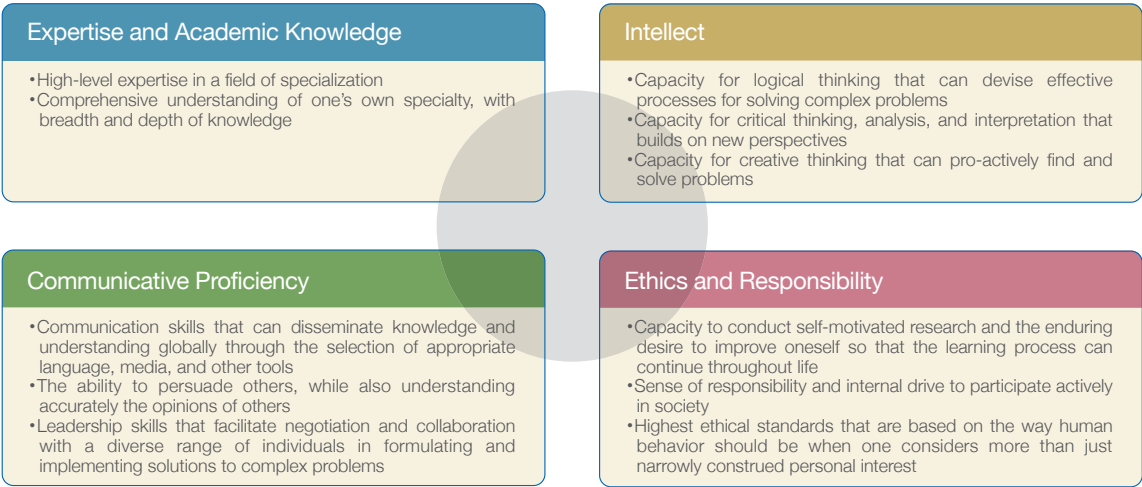
YNU has instituted a Grand Design to achieve our educational goals at the graduate school level. This initiative is based on the following four core policies: Degree Conferral, Enhancing Our Degree Programs, Admission Policy, and Assuring High-Quality Teaching in Our Graduate Schools.

Policy 1

Degree Conferral:
Conferring degrees that testify globally to high-level expertise

In order to confer globally accepted graduate school degrees at YNU, our faculty objectively evaluate if a student has acquired high-level expert knowledge and the pro-active ability to find and solve problems, using the following four types of practical knowledge and skills.

■ Four types of practical knowledge and skills that are grounded in research ability



■ Broadly accepted graduate degrees, awarded on the basis of objective assessment

- Degree conferral shall have a high degree of transparency, based on objective and standardized processes for assessment of educational attainment.
- Degrees shall testify globally to the high-level expertise and academic achievement that they represent.

Policy 2

Enhancing Our Degree Programs:
Degree programs of the highest quality that are rooted in cutting-edge research

In order to cultivate graduate students who can successfully present their research findings to the international community, we are engaging in the following efforts to spur creative collaboration in our research activities and enhance the quality of our graduate school degree programs.

- We promote degree programs that incorporate cutting-edge research findings.
- Our degree programs promote systematic learning in specialized fields that builds on foundations laid in undergraduate education.
- To equip graduate students with interdisciplinary skills and perspectives, we have instituted sub-major programs, in addition to our regular major fields of specialization. These programs are designed to broaden research horizons and take full advantage of the research guidance at YNU that is conducted by multiple faculty members.
- To build the international character of our graduate students and emphasize their connection with global society, we are expanding our English-language education and other methods of instilling a cross-border outlook.
- To foster practical educational activities, we are expanding fieldwork and internships opportunities outside of the research laboratory.
- To develop leaders who can succeed on the world stage, our degree programs equip graduate students with high-level presentation skills so that they can present their research findings at international symposia and conferences.
- Our degree programs emphasize a sense of ethics and responsibility, so our graduate students can become trustworthy global experts and researchers.

Policy 3

Admission Policy:
Attracting individuals who seek to acquire practical and high-level specialization

The primary aim of graduate student education at YNU is to equip our students with practical and high-level expertise in their chosen field of specialization. Our graduate schools seek to enroll individuals who strongly possess the abilities and desire to acquire such expertise, without regard to nationality, gender, age, the university from which a person graduated, and other characteristics.

■ Entrance exams

The graduate schools at YNU have clearly defined their educational objectives and administer various entrance exams in order to admit a wide variety of highly qualified students who fit our admission policy, including international students and students who seek to study while they are employed in full-time work. In addition to our regular entrance exams, special exams that fit the educational objectives of each graduate school are offered, such as, exams for people who are working, exams for international students, and exams for students who have been designated as specially recommended by educational institutions.



Policy 4

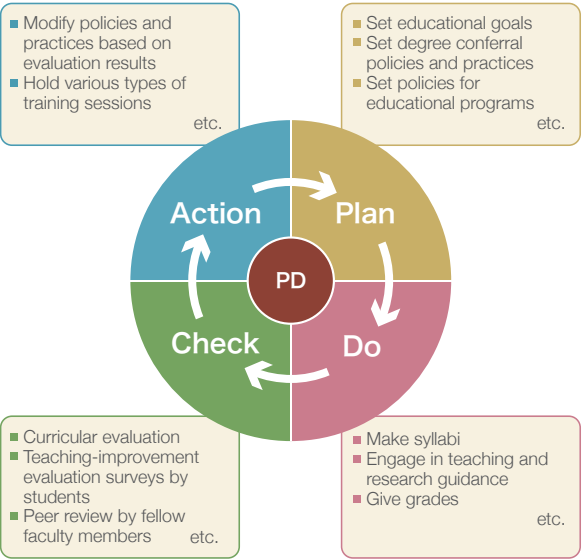
Assuring High-Quality Education in Our Graduate Schools:
Continuous improvement of teaching and research guidance

With the aim of continually improving the abilities of all faculty and staff at YNU, we have implemented a comprehensive Professional Development (PD) program. We are committed to working responsibly toward the ongoing improvement and enhancement of our curricula, teaching, research guidance, and provision of services to our graduate students.

■ Professional Development (PD)

The concept of Professional Development fuses together YNU's efforts for Faculty Development (FD) and Staff Development (SD), which aim to improve the skills and abilities of our teaching & research faculty and our managerial & administrative staff, respectively.

PD	
FD	SD
Faculty Development (FD) is the term given to a series of integrated organizational initiatives that faculty members conduct for the purpose of fostering teaching rooted in high-level research, by improving and enhancing curricula, class content, research guidance, teaching methods, and other educational aspects of our graduate schools. Some Key Activities •Host a variety of different training workshops to improve the ability of faculty to engage in research guidance •Host events where research results are presented •Take surveys of our graduates students to improve faculty teaching •Conduct periodic peer reviews of the research achievements of fellow faculty members	Staff Development (SD) is the term given to a series of integrated organizational initiatives that managerial and administrative staff members conduct for the purpose of achieving more effective and efficient provision of support for research, teaching and services to graduate students, including support in areas such as career counseling. Some Key Activities •Host a variety of training workshops, such as health and safety training sessions •Host training events for mentor development •Increased opportunities for training on presentation skills •Increased opportunities for foreign language training •Hold "Manabi-no-hiroba (Learning Courtyard)" SD training events





YOKOHAMA National University's Grand Design

Since its establishment YNU has fostered the creation of practical knowledge through education and research in line with its principles of "Be Active, Be Innovative, Be Open, Be Global." At the same time, by educating students who will assume key roles in society and broadly disseminating our research results into academic and social networks, we have worked to share this knowledge with the larger community.

Our university's mission is to contribute to human welfare and the ongoing development of society, and we consider it our responsibility to equip students with sophisticated practice-oriented research skills and professional expertise. We aim to fulfill our social responsibility as a national university by achieving our institution-wide goal of developing YNU into an international hub for practical academic endeavors.

With these ideals as a foundation and through our commitment to advanced and practical education grounded in high-level research, we at YNU will continue to develop our distinctive institutional character and cultivate useful knowledge that circulates into society.

YOKOHAMA National University

YNU initiative for Graduate Schools

March 2012

(English Version: March 2013)

This pamphlet was prepared by:
Educational Affairs Division at YOKOHAMA National University
79-8 Tokiwadai, Hodogaya-Ku, Yokohama-shi 240-8501, Japan

Telephone: +81-45-339-3104 Fax: +81-45-339-3100
<http://www.ynu.ac.jp/english>