

Secondary Guideline for Promoting Graduate School Education (Summary)

August 5, 2011

Official announcement by MEXT Minister

Aim of Initiative

Based on the Central Education Council Reports, the Secondary Guideline for Promoting Graduate School Education” has been drawn up, which clarifies priority measures to be addressed by MEXT without delay, and develops systematic and centralized procedures. (implementation period: 2011 - 2015)

Central Education Council Reports: “Graduate School Education in the New Era” (September, 2005), “Graduate School Education in a Globalizing Society” (January, 2011)
Primary Guideline for Promoting Graduate School Education” implemented for 5 years from 2006 – 2010.

Basic concept

Based on strengthening measures towards the systematization of graduate school education while accounting for: further advances in globalization and our knowledge based society, reconstruction and renovation following the March 11th disaster, and the creation and growth of a new society, by promoting domestic and international dialogue and the information exchange with various societies – placing importance on the active societal contribution of graduates – MEXT shall implement measures which assure and continue to improve the quality of graduate education.

Specific Measures

1. Provides systematic education based on a degree program

● Education according to the concept of the Course-oriented Graduate School System

- Develops a systematic curriculum closely linked from coursework to research work.



- Provides information on good practices
- Promotes good practices on improving the quality of education.

● Establishes an organized education and research guidance system that assures top quality students

- Establishes an organized guidance system to provide systematic education, and clarifies the division of roles and coordination among its professors. Secures quality education through coordination with other majors and universities.
- Improves the quality of teaching through enriching professor evaluations.



- Provides information on good practices of teaching such as a Research advisory committee system by multiple faculty members.
- Redesigns small-scale majors into one united major, coordinates with other majors and universities, and facilitates the reassessment of its admission capacity.

● Promotes measures which secures the effective evaluation of the graduate school

- Promotes measures which effectively evaluates the graduate school such as facilitating self-assessment in each respective field of study.



- Develops evaluation indexes to assess professors' research and education activities.
- Facilitates measures which foster professors (Pre-FD), centered on Joint Usage Center.
- Promotes TAs (Teaching Assistants).



- Provides information on self-assessment in each respective field.

2. Fosters doctorates who inspire future society' s creativity and growth

● Develops a consistent doctoral program

- Doctoral course with a consistent degree program, aimed towards fostering highly qualified graduates who will play active roles in the industry, academia, and/or government.



- Promotes integrated education which breaks barriers between specialized fields such as a double major system and laboratory rotations.
- Introduces and promotes a system in which a comprehensive Qualifying Examination, which assures that the basic knowledge and ability needed to write a doctor' s thesis, may be substituted for the master' s thesis.
- Reconsiders the course term and the number of graduation requirement units.
- Examines degree programs to promote education for adults already active in society.

● Fosters leaders who inspire creativity and growth in society, and creates centers for global graduate education

- Creates centers for global graduate education and assists to develop a consistent doctoral program with top-class domestic/international professors and students. The program aims to foster well-rounded, innovative leaders who inspire creativity and growth in society, and who will internationally play active roles in the industry, academia, and/or government.



- Promotes the creation of “Leading Graduate Schools” (Doctoral Course Leading Program).
- Promotes the creation of an environment which enables doctoral education of international excellence, based on results from the Global COE Program.

3. Establishes an environment where students can learn and research with future prospects and enriches education through dialogue and cooperation with society.

● Improves the transparency of educational information

- Improves the transparency of graduate education so that the industry and local society advances their understanding of graduate education, and students can envision their future career-paths.



- Discloses educational information now compulsory from April, 2011.
- Establishes a system in which information on graduate education is assembled and openly provided.

● Establishes an environment where students can learn and research with future prospects

- Assists top-level students' to concentrate on their study and research
- Implements an open selection process of entrants, both domestically and internationally.
- Introduces a system for flexible research supervising and changing career-paths.



- Enriches "Research Fellowships For Young Scientists" and competitive grants which can be used for fellowships, TAs, and RAs.
- Promotes the disclosure of financial plans.
- Organizes rules for the selection of entrants.
- Promotes organizing rules for change of the laboratory which students belongs to after entering.

● Secures multiple career-paths and strengthens cooperation with society

- Strengthens to foster the students through cooperation with various organizations in the industry and local society.
- Implements measures that enable students to have a choice of multiple career paths in various fields in society.



- Promotes cooperation and dialogue between the industry and academia which surpasses existing relationships.
- Promotes the educational cooperation of the related organizations such as industries, research organizations, NPOs, the academia.
- Keeps track of the careers of doctoral course graduates.

● Improves the education and research environment of young academics

- By providing opportunities for young researchers to become active and independent, promotes a structure which secures future posts and career-paths.



- Establishes a partial fund for "Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research" .
- Popularization of a tenure track system.
- Provides opportunities for young researchers to challenge themselves overseas.
- Promotes students to manage both research and raising children.

4. Promoting the Globalization of Graduate Education

● Promotes international exchange/cooperation and quality assurance

- Takes leadership in discussions on the international quality assurance of universities.
- Promotes the university' s internationalization , cooperation and exchange between western nations and Asian countries.



- Materializes the "CAMPUS Asia" plan.
- Implements "Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization" .

● Collaborative education overcoming borders between Japanese and foreign students

- Collaborative education overcoming borders between Japanese and foreign students through cooperation with foreign universities.
- Fosters globalized human resources with understanding of other cultures and the ability of cultivating knowledge to create new values under a multi-cultural environment.



- Starts "Re-Inventing Japan Project" .
- Considers raising the upper limit of the number of transferrable credits between universities.
- Considers the actualization of joint degree programs with foreign universities.

5. Improves the quality of Professional Graduate Schools

- Promotes enriching and improving the quality of education in professional graduate school, while respecting the original concept aimed at fostering high-level professional who will play an active part internationally and take a leadership role in various economic and social fields.



- Considers its faculty organization after the special measures which allows its full-time teachers to be counted as full-time teachers of other courses have been completed.
- Eliminates special measures if no Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Organization exists.

Assessment of Measures

Along with evaluating and disclosing individual efforts of universities, this guideline will be reassessed in accordance with the measures towards reconstruction and revival after the March 11th disaster.