

Course Number	06001
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2006 「The International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP)」

～Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students～

【1. Profile of the University】

①University Department	Hokkaido University, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine		
②President	NAKAMURA Mutsuo		
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④Contact	Division	Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine	
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⑤Web-Address	http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/veteri/		
⑥Enrollment (only Graduate School)	563	(include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 214)	

【2. Outline of the Course】

①Course	Special Training Program for Veterinary Researchers toward Building an International Network of Veterinary Researchers
②Degree	Ph. D. Course (4 years)
③Graduate Course, Department	Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine
	(Address) Kita18 Nishi9, Kita-ku, Sapporo
④Collaboration (Universities, Graduate courses, Departments)	
⑤Quota	4 (include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 4) (include Japanese : 0)
⑥Faculties	46 (Full-time(only for this course): Full-time(at the department offering this course):46 Part-time:)
⑦Representative of the Course	Job Title: Dean and Professor, the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine
	Name: UMEMURA Takashi

【3. Contents of the Course】

Introduction

Animal health issues transcend borders, as seen in the spread of avian influenza, BSE, foot-and-mouth diseases and other zoonoses. For this reason, collaboration on research and control of these zoonoses are increasing, which calls for the globalization of veterinary science education. From this year the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University and the Research Center for Zoonosis Control* will introduce a special program designed for foreign students who wish to study veterinary science with a special focus on zoonoses.

This special program aims to serve as an opportunity for overseas students to study veterinary medical science at the university and to train experts who will be able to work at the forefront of veterinary medical science in their home countries. We will also provide the skill-upgrading systems as a counterpart conducting a collaborative research.

*Established last year, with facilities to be completed in 2007.

Features of the program

When the facilities of the Research Center for Zoonosis Control are completed in August 2007, the research environment of the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University will be greatly enhanced: The university will have some of Japan's most advanced veterinary medical research facilities, including those that meet the criteria for biosafety level 3. We will start special education program by recruiting researchers in veterinary science, medicine, physical science and computer science. This program is distinguished from most of our existing programs because it has clearer goals and objectives. Degree recipients of the program will undertake research in their home country; therefore, it will become possible to establish a system of international veterinary research.

An advisor for international students enrolled in the program will be assigned to the counseling room for international students. In addition to counseling those who take the program, the advisor will assist the international students through various meetings and Japanese cultural field trips. Through these activities, we will collect evaluation and demands from overseas students to help review and revision of the program.

Educational program and supervisory system

1) Educational system

The Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine consists of six departments plus an animal hospital: Department of Biomedical Sciences (teaching staff: 9), Department of Disease Control (11), Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (11), Department of Environmental Veterinary Sciences (10), Department of Prion Diseases (2), Department of Zoonosis (10), and the animal hospital (1) (as of June 1, 2006).

2) Course work system

The degree requires 30 credits: 26 in core subjects and four in electives. Almost all classes for international students are conducted in English. However, Japanese-language training is provided for at least half a year, because Japanese conversation ability is necessary for smooth living.

3) Research, and submission/defense of the doctoral thesis

A supervisor guides each student through the doctoral research project. The thesis presentation takes the form of lecture in English, followed by examination by a thesis committee consisting of four faculty members (one supervisor and three adjunct supervisors). Submission of a doctoral thesis is allowed only after the student has published two scientific papers as a first author in peer-reviewed international journals.

Eligibility and applications

1) Only the following applicants are eligible:

- Non-Japanese citizens residing outside of Japan.

•Hold a DVM and/or MS. or the equivalent.

2) Selection method

Applicants will be required to provide their academic transcript and teacher recommendations.

Our supervisors evaluate whether the applicant meets the scholarship requirements of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Monbukagakusho). Those who meet the requirements are eligible to apply for admission to the special program. Candidates will be selected by the Committee for International Exchange at the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, based on the submitted documents, and the final decision will be made by the Faculty Council at the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine. The course starts every October.

The details are given on the website of the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University.

Benefits for graduates

1) Career path after graduation

Graduates can start on a career path to a university academic position, a research institute in their own countries, or an international organization such as WHO or the OIE. Or as postdoctoral fellows, graduates can pursue their research at the university.

2) Development of a global network

The Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University has conducted collaborative research with overseas universities and research institutes, and has accepted students from such organizations. It is expected that collaborative research will be more actively conducted with organizations that employ graduates from this special program.

Graduates can participate in international networks to monitor exotic infectious diseases and to control various emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases that have the potential to spread globally.

Persons who will be employed at the graduate school as postdoctoral fellows can contribute to the education of foreign and Japanese students alike.

3) Other benefits

Graduates can receive postgraduate education and exchange information through collaborative research between our university and overseas universities/research institutes. Graduates can apply for our postdoctoral fellowships or study abroad program through the post-doc system or the short-term invitation system. Graduates can participate in building a network for information exchange between graduates and the graduate school, or between graduates. This will be helpful to train coming researchers in veterinary medicine.

International network for veterinary Science

