

Course Number	06062
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2006 「The International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP)」

~Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students~

【1. Profile of the University】

①University Department	Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University		
②President	NAKAMURA Mutsuo		
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⑤Web-Address	http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/en/admission/admissions.html http://www.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/grp/i-nhs/home/		
⑥Enrollment (only GraduateSchool)	563 (include MEXT's Sholorship Students: 214)		

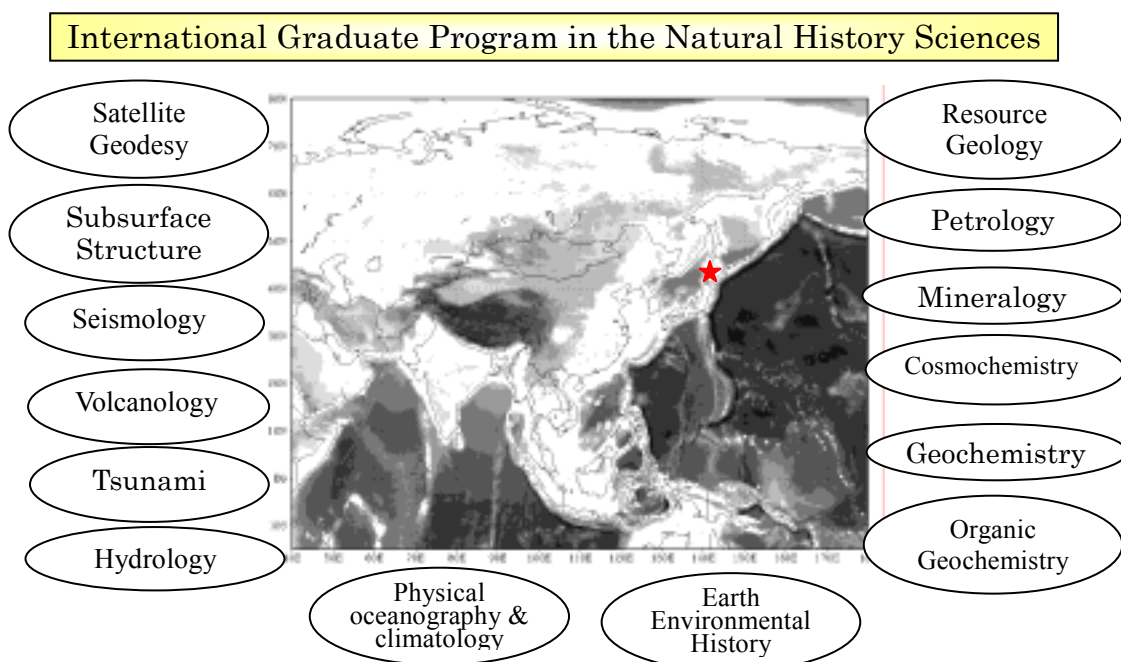
【2. Outline of the Course】

①Course	International Graduate Program in the Natural History Sciences
②Degree	Master course + Doctor course (2+3 years)
③Graduate Course, Department	Department of Natural History Sciences, Graduate School of Science
	(Address) Kita 10-jo, Nishi 8-chome, Kita-ku, Sapporo, 060-0810, Japan
④Collaboration (Universities, Graduate courses, Departments)	
⑤Quota	6 in total (2 master course (MC) students, 4 doctor course (DC) students) (include MEXT's Schlorship Students: 2 MC students, 2 DC students) (include Japanese : 0 MC students, 0 DC students)
⑥Faculties	20 (Full-time(only for this course):0 Full-time(at the department offering this course):20 Parttime:0)
⑦Representative of the Course	Job Title Dean, the Graduate School of Science
	Name OKADA Hisatake

【3. Contents of the Course】

The **International Graduate Program in the Natural History Sciences (I-NHS)** aims at bringing up highly qualified researchers in the field of natural history sciences by providing quality education to international students, mainly from the Asian countries. In order to develop a new view on the Earth, there is ever growing need of conducting comprehensive studies on the natural phenomena without being constrained to any political or territorial boundaries. We believe that this requirement is especially high in Asia, with a high rate of population increase and the remarkable rate of economic growth. The advances in the studies of nature in Asia will contribute to solutions of problems related to not just the Asian region, but the whole globe as well. Therefore, we encourage potential international students to apply to our graduate program. **As only a limited number of students will be supported by the research student scholarships from the Japanese Government, we cordially welcome other students, with funding on their own or through other sources, to attend our program.**

The graduate school of science at Hokkaido University is well known for its contribution to the studies in the field of natural history sciences. **The 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) for the "Neo-Science of Natural History" devoted to** vigorous research and education programs is just an example. It is one of the programs established by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT or Monbukagakusho) **in order to elevate Japanese universities to the world's highest echelons, while fostering people of talent and creativity who will be qualified to assume roles as world leaders.** I-NHS is linked to the 21st century COE program, and together, we aim to add a new aspect of international education to the realm of the studies in the natural history sciences.



The education system of I-NHS consists of the master course (2 years) and doctor course (3 years) under the Department of Natural History Sciences, Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University. Therefore, to obtain a master's or a doctoral degree, requirements for students are the same as those of the said department. To obtain a master's degree, one should take 30 units, including common courses of the graduate school (4 units or more), core courses (12 units: 8 units for individual research and 4 units for seminars), and elective courses, and write a master thesis. To obtain a doctoral degree (doctor of science, equivalent to Ph. D), one should take 30 units including the units one took in his/her master course, and should submit and defense his/her doctoral thesis.

The courses of I-NHS will be given in English by a group of teachers participating in the program. There may be some exception regarding some common courses, which are basically of

introductory level and given in Japanese. The elective courses are selected from the curriculum of the department of natural history sciences, and their scope is wide enough to teach students the fundamentals of the natural history sciences. More detailed description of curriculum can be found at: <http://www.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/grp/i-nhs/home/>

Applicants are not required to have the Japanese language skills. However, they are encouraged to learn Japanese language after their arrival in Japan, or even before that in their own countries. The ability to communicate in Japanese will help international students to understand the Japanese society and its culture, and make their stay in Japan more meaningful. The international student center, Hokkaido university (see http://www.isc.hokudai.ac.jp/www_ISC/isc-e.php) offers Japanese language courses to the international students. As the courses will be given in English medium, the applicants must have a very good knowledge of the English language.

In order to meet the aforementioned I-NHS objectives, every effort will be made to teach students in such a way that [they are able to make individual research plan, conduct research, and write research papers, based on their research findings, for submission to international journals](#). Therefore, besides taking the regular courses, the students will be required to carry out individual research under the supervision of the designated supervisors, who will be experts in particular fields. [Faculties participating in I-NHS are experienced researchers with an excellent record of scientific publications](#), and hence they will fully cooperate with the international students to maintain high academic standards of the students as well as the program.

Hokkaido University has several programs to enable international students to easily adapt to life in Japan and thus to effectively advance in their studies and research at the university. For example, a tutorial system has been implemented with the cooperation of university students and faculty members. International student can participate in the tutorial system for the first year after arrival in Japan. He/she may be assisted by a student tutor, usually selected from the Japanese graduate students attending the same department as that of the international student, for practical matters. Also, educational and cultural counseling is available at the international student center. Furthermore, the Association of Supporters for International Students of Hokkaido University, headed by the university president, helps international student with expenses related to unexpected illness and accidents and also serves as a joint guarantor for contracts required to rent private apartment. Likewise, the Hokkaido University International Women's Club organizes social activities and compiles useful information for international students. Several organizations, including Hokkaido University Clark Memorial Foundation, offer several scholarships for privately financed foreign students.

[Consequently, we believe that I-NHS and Hokkaido university offer ample opportunity for international students \(both funded by the Japanese Government scholarship or privately\) to study the natural history sciences.](#) International students interested in I-NHS are encouraged to contact faculties listed in the I-NHS homepage according to the fields of their study.