Open House 2025

Chiba Tech
School of Design & Science

School of Design & Science

School of Design & Science (SDS)
Academic Foundation

SDS operates as the academic arm of Henkaku Center. It is a degree-granting institution, providing structured educational programs that combine rigorous academic training with hands-on research experience. Students in SDS programs work directly with Henkaku Center faculty and participate in ongoing research projects.

sds.chibatech.dev

Henkaku Center
Research Hub

The Henkaku Center serves as our primary research laboratory, focusing on antidisciplinary research that bridges technology, design, governance and society. The Center attracts external funding, hosts visiting researchers, and pursues ambitious projects that push the boundaries of conventional academic disciplines.

henkaku.center

School of Design & Science

ChibaTech
School of Design & Science

School of Design and Science (SDS) is an antidisciplinary graduate school designed to be radically collaborative, project-first, and guided by principles—not rigid academic silos. It is the first English-only graduate school program at Chiba Tech.

At SDS, you'll define your own intellectual path, cross traditional boundaries, and work closely with visionary faculty and peers from different backgrounds to tackle real-world complexities.

Our Programs

SDS offers both Master's and PhD programs built around project-based, antidisciplinary learning and research with real-world impact. Our curriculum spans a diverse range of fields—including artificial intelligence, law and governance, psychology, mindfulness and awareness, engineering, media studies, and design.

To teach students to integrate methods and insights from diverse disciplines, SDS experiments with class formats that incorporate co-teaching and project-based learning. The students are introduced to ongoing projects at the Henkaku Center where students can experience formulating research questions, designing experiments, and testing hypotheses in dynamic, collaborative environments.

Masters

Required

- Advanced Research in Master's Program
- The Antidisciplinary Approach to the Modern World (DNA)
- Practical Antidisciplinary Problem Solving I (APS I)
- Practical Antidisciplinary Problem Solving II (APS II)
- Principles of Awareness

Elective

- Complex System Science
- Design & Prototyping
- Digital Media & Flourishing
- Human and Machine Learning
- Intelligent Agent
- Law and Governance
- Modern Physics
- Modular Practice Seminar
- Technology and Values

PhD

Required

- Advanced Research in Doctoral Program I
- Advanced Research in Doctoral Program II
- Advanced Research in Doctoral Program III
- Career Development Exercises
- Communication Practices
- Engineering Ethics

Elective

- Advanced Complex System Science
- Advanced Design and Prototyping
- Advanced Human and Machine Learning
- Advanced Intelligent Agent
- Advanced Law and Governance

Course Offering at SDS / Henkaku Center

SDS Core Courses (DNA / APS)
Taught by all faculty members, these courses combine lectures, tutorials, and collaborative projects for an antidisciplinary learning experience.

SDS Courses Open to All Chiba Tech Students (PoA, Human & Machine Learning) Courses
Designed to foster cross-disciplinary learning and collaboration between SDS and the broader Chiba Tech community.

Henkaku Center Courses (Entrepreneurship, web3)
Practice-focused courses that connect students with real-world experimentation, emerging technologies, and industry-relevant projects.

Our Students

We are excited to welcome our inaugural cohort of curious and creative students from diverse backgrounds - including engineering, art, business, computer science, policy, and design.

This pioneering group embodies the antidisciplinary spirit of SDS, bringing together varied perspectives to tackle complex global challenges.

First Cohort

distinguished applicants from a highly competitive pool

International Community

with students from Japan, United States, Bhutan, Taiwan, and India

Equal Gender Balance

reflecting our commitment to diversity

Diverse Backgrounds

spanning engineering, art, computer science, sustainability, and design

Henkaku Center

Henkaku Center

As the world's challenges become increasingly complex and interconnected, from climate change to public health to digital transformation, the limitations of traditional disciplinary boundaries have become more apparent.

The Henkaku Center was established to pursue "antidisciplinary" projects, which we define as projects that operate in the gaps between disciplines where conventional academic frameworks often fall short.

Our Center

Founded in 2021, the Henkaku Center at Chiba Tech is a platform for designing, prototyping, and building new forms of knowledge. Whether technical platforms or cultural outputs, we respond to fundamental shifts in our world and open new possibilities for understanding and action. We bring together researchers from all sectors of society to imagine, design, architect, and enact radical transformation, or Henkaku.

Understanding Henkaku

Henkaku (変革) is a Japanese concept that means "transformation" or "radical change."

変 (hen) = change, transformation, unusual
革 (kaku) = revolution, reform

Together, Henkaku suggests fundamental transformation that changes the very nature or structure of something. A profound, systemic shift.

Our Philosophy

We celebrate transformation that unites power with aesthetics, like Sen no Rikyū's quiet revolution of the Japanese tea ceremony, or the architectural visionaries who reshape entire industries. For us, radical transformation is not chaos or destruction; it is redesign, refactoring, and renewal. It is the art of shifting systems from within, preserving their essence while elevating their form.

Guiding Principles

Resilience	**Pull**	**Risk**
Strength	Push	Safety
Sustainability	**Systems**	**Compasses**
Growth	Objects	Maps
Practice	**Public**	**Disobedience**
Theory	Individuals	Compliance
Emergence	**Learning**	**Modular**
Authority	Education	Monolithic

Projects

AI Safety Workshop
Building communities focused on responsible AI development, with the backing of J-AISI.

Artificial Life
Exploring the essence of "life" by constructing living systems

Dabtong House (Bhutan–Chiba Tech Initiative)
Providing Bhutanese students with scholarship and joint research opportunities such as the satellite project.

Neurodiversity & Connected Learning
Designing education that honors learner's unique mind and fosters individual growth.

Probabilistic Computing
Advancing smarter, safer AI using probabilistic programming to help machines reasons more like humans.

Radical Transformation Award
A 10M-yen prize recognizing transformative individuals advancing human flourishing.

Sustainable Robotics Construction
Developing voxel-based, sustainable robotic construction methods in collaboration with MIT.

Tea Project
Cultivating humane technology and community through tea philosophy and the 青灯亭 tea house.

Faculty

Joi Ito
Architect of Antidisiplinary Institution

Mizuki Oka
Engineer of Artificial Life

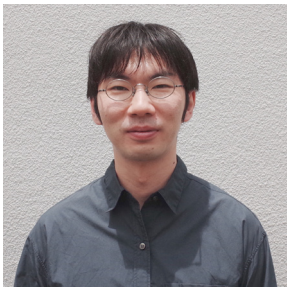
Joe Austerweil
Scientist of Cognition and Machine Learning

Catharina Maracke
Legal Scholar of Digital Governance

Sputniko! (Hiroki Ozaki)
Designer of Speculative Futures

Ira Winder
Engineer of Emergence and Complexity

Hiroki Kojima
Scientist of Life and Information



Daum Kim
Designer of Digital Culture

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HEN KAKU Henkaku Center