

# University of Tokyo

The **University of Tokyo** (東京大学, *Tōkyō daigaku*, abbreviated as **Tōdai** (東大) in Japanese and **UTokyo** in English<sup>[7]</sup>) is a public research university in Bunkyo, Tokyo, Japan. Founded in 1877 as the nation's first modern university by the merger of several pre-westernisation era institutions, its direct precursors include the Tenmongata, founded in 1684, and the Shoheizaka Institute.<sup>[8]</sup>

Although established under its current name, the university was renamed **Imperial University** (帝國大學, *Teikoku daigaku*) in 1886 and was further retitled **Tokyo Imperial University** (東京帝國大學, *Tōkyō teikoku daigaku*) to distinguish it from other imperial universities established later.<sup>[9]</sup> It served under this name until the official dissolution of the Empire of Japan in 1947, when it reverted to its original name.

Today, the university consists of 10 faculties, 15 graduate schools, and 11 affiliated research institutes.<sup>[10]</sup> As of 2023, it has a total of 13,974 undergraduate students and 14,258 graduate students.<sup>[10]</sup> The majority of the university's educational and research facilities are concentrated within its three main Tokyo campuses: Hongo, Komaba, and Kashiwa.<sup>[11]</sup> Additionally, UTokyo operates several smaller campuses in the Greater Tokyo Area and over 60 facilities across Japan and globally.<sup>[12][13]</sup> UTokyo's total land holdings amount to 326 square kilometres (approximately 80,586 acres or 32,600 hectares), placing it amongst the largest landowners in the country.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

## History

### Origins

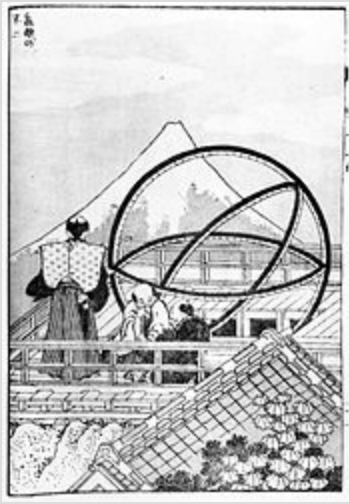
### University of Tokyo

東京大学



Other name	UTokyo
Former name	Tokyo Imperial University
Type	Research university
Established	April 12, 1877
Academic affiliations	<div><div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div>IARU</div></div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div>AEARU</div></div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div>AGS</div></div> <div><div><div></div></div></div> <div>BESETOHA</div>

AALAU



Asakusa Observatory of the Tenmongata by Hokusai

The University of Tokyo traces its roots to three independent institutes founded during the Edo period (1603–1868).<sup>[8]</sup> The oldest, a Shogun-funded Confucian school called Senseiden (先聖殿), was founded in 1630 by Razan Hayashi in Ueno.<sup>[16]</sup> This school was renamed the Shoheizaka Institute (昌平坂学問所, *Shoheizaka Gakumonjo*) and came to be operated directly by the Tokugawa Shogunate in

1791 as part of the *Kansei Reforms*. The *Tenmongata*, established in 1684, was the astronomical research and education arm of the Shogunate.<sup>[17]</sup> It evolved into the Kaisei School (開成学校), a school for Western learnings, after the *Meiji Restoration*. The Kanda Otamagaike Vaccination Centre, established in 1858,<sup>[18]</sup> evolved into a school of Western medicine called Tokyo Medical School (東京医学校, *Tokyo Igakko*). Although plans to establish the country's first university had been in place just after the Meiji Restoration, it was not until around 1875 that it was decided to form the university by merging these schools.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Founding and early days

The University of Tokyo was chartered on April 12, 1877, by the Meiji government. Corresponding to the fields covered by the predecessor schools, it started with four faculties: Law, Science, Letters, and Medicine. The Imperial College of Engineering later merged into the university and became the Faculty of Engineering. In 1886, the university was renamed Imperial University, and it adopted the name Tokyo Imperial University in 1897 after the founding of the next imperial university, what is now Kyoto University.<sup>[9]</sup> By 1888, all faculties had completed their relocation to the former site of the Tokyo house of the Maeda family in Hongo, where they continue to operate today. Among the few extant structures built before this relocation is a gate called Akamon, which has become a widely recognised symbol of the university.

During its initial two decades as a modern institution, UTokyo benefited from the contributions of European and American scholars. In 1871, the Meiji Government made a decision about the direction of academic disciplines: engineering was to be learnt from the United Kingdom, mathematics, physics, and international law from France, while politics, economics, and medicine were to be guided by German expertise. Additionally, agriculture and commercial law knowledge was to be sourced from the United States.<sup>[20]</sup> Following this policy, UTokyo and its predecessor institutions sent their

	Japan
	<span><span><span><span>35°42′48″N</span> <span>139°45′44″E</span></span></span></span>
<b>Campus</b>	<u>Urban</u> (Hongo, Komaba) <u>Suburban</u> (Kashiwa)
<b>Language</b>	<u>Japanese</u> <u>English</u> (for certain courses)
<b>Colours</b>	<span><span> </span><span> </span><span> </span><span> </span></span> Tansei (UTokyo Blue) <sup>[6]</sup>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/">u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/</a> ( <a href="https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/">https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/</a> )
	



UTokyo's Akamon (Red Gate), built in 1827, as seen c. 1903

graduates to universities in these respective countries and also invited lecturers from them. However, by the 1880s, the Japanese government grew concerned over the spread of French republican and British constitutional monarchist ideals among the faculty and students, and eventually Minister of Education Takato Oki instructed the university to reduce the use of English as a language of instruction, and instead to switch to Japanese.<sup>[21]</sup> This shift coincided with the return of UTokyo alumni who had completed their education in Europe, and these returnees began filling roles that had been predominantly held by foreign scholars.



UTokyo students (Kume, Matsuoka, Akutagawa and Naruse), c. 1916

## Interwar period

The first half of the Interwar period in Japan was characterised by the spread of liberal ideas, collectively known as Taishō Democracy.<sup>[22]</sup> This movement was ushered in by the concept of Minpon Shugi by Sakuzō Yoshino, as well as Tatsukichi Minobe's interpretation of sovereignty as inherent to the state rather than the monarchy.<sup>[23]</sup> Both were alumni and professors at the Faculty of Law. Taking advantage of the widespread acceptance of such ideas, prime minister Takaaki Katō, an alumnus of UTokyo, extended suffrage to all males aged 25 and over in 1925, as promised in his manifesto.<sup>[24]</sup> This liberal tendency was also shared among students, exemplified by the labour movement organisation the UTokyo Association of New People (Tōdai Shinjin-kai, 新 人 会 ) and the UTokyo Settlement (Tōdai Settlement, 東大セツルメント).<sup>[25][26]</sup> However, strong reactions against these liberal and socialist ideas also emerged at the university, notably from Shinkichi Uesugi, who mentored and greatly influenced three future prime ministers among his students at UTokyo: Nobusuke Kishi,<sup>[27]</sup> Eisaku Satō,<sup>[27]</sup> and Takeo Fukuda.<sup>[28]</sup>



Emperor Hirohito opening a new campus (now known as the Phase II portion of the Komaba Campus) for the Institute of Aeronautics in 1930

## Great Kanto Earthquake

On September 1, 1923, the Great Kanto Earthquake struck the Kanto Plain, inflicting immense damage upon the university. This damage included the complete destruction of almost all main buildings, including the library, as well as the loss of precious scientific and historical samples and data stored in them.<sup>[29][30]</sup> This led to a university-wide debate as to whether it should relocate to a larger site, such as Yoyogi, but ultimately, such plans were rejected. Instead, the university purchased additional land in its vicinity, which was still owned by the Maeda family, and expanded there.



The University of Tokyo suffered immense damage in the Great Earthquake of 1923.

The reconstruction of the university and its library was brought up in the fourth general assembly of the League of Nations in September 1923, where it was unanimously decided to provide support. The League is said to have been sympathetic especially because the memory of the destruction of KU Leuven in Belgium during the First World War was still fresh.<sup>[31]</sup> The American philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. personally donated \$2 million (approximately \$36 million in 2023). The United Kingdom formed a committee led by former Prime Minister Arthur Balfour, 1st Earl of Balfour, and made substantial financial and cultural contributions.<sup>[32]</sup> Rockefeller Jr. and Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, a younger son of George V, visited the university in 1929, shortly after the new library was completed.<sup>[33]</sup> Prince Henry's visit marked the first Great Ball (大園遊会, *Dai-Enyukai*) in several years, which is now known as the May Festival (五月祭, *Gogatsusai*).<sup>[34]</sup> A large portion of the buildings on Hongo Campus today were built during this reconstruction period, and their unique Collegiate Gothic style is known as Uchida Gothic (内田ゴシック) after Yoshikazu Uchida, the architect who designed them.<sup>[35]</sup>



Most of the buildings on the Hongo Campus today were built during the reconstruction period in a style known as Uchida Gothic, including Yasuda Auditorium and the General Library.

Another notable change the earthquake brought about at the university was the expansion of its seismology studies. Long having been the only university in the seismically active country, the university was already known for its seismology research, most notably the contributions made by its alumnus and professor, Fusakichi Omori, in quantitatively evaluating the aftershocks of earthquakes (Omori's law) and developing a new type of seismometer capable of recording primary waves.<sup>[36]</sup> The university set up an independent seismology department in November 1923 to delve into the causes and effects of earthquakes and to better prepare for future seismic events.<sup>[37]</sup> In 1925, with a government grant, the Earthquake Research Institute was established within the university, and it has been in continuous operation up to today.<sup>[38]</sup>

## World War II

In 1941, the Empire of Japan attacked the American bases at Pearl Harbor and joined the World War II as an Axis power alongside Germany. By late 1943, as Japan faced significant defeats in the Pacific theatre, a decision was made to enlist university students studying humanities, sending them to battlefields. During the war, 1,652 students and alumni of UTokyo were killed, including those from varied civilian professions such as doctors, engineers, and diplomats, as well as those killed in action.<sup>[39]</sup> They are commemorated in a memorial erected near the front gate of the Hongo Campus. Most students from faculties of engineering and science remained at university or worked as apprentice engineers, as the expertise of science and technology was deemed indispensable for the war effort. Leo Esaki, who was a student at the department of physics during the war, shared his memory of his university life in 2007: 'The day after the Tokyo Air Raid of 9 March 1945, during



UTokyo's Second Faculty of Engineering was established in 1942 to meet the growing demand for engineers during the Second World War. It evolved into the Institute of Industrial Science after the war.

which more than 100 thousand citizens were killed, professor Tanaka conducted class as usual, without mentioning the war at all'.<sup>[40]</sup> The buildings and facilities of UTokyo were largely immune from air raids, allowing education and research activities to continue.<sup>[41]</sup>

The increased demand brought about by the war for engineers, especially in the fields of aeronautics, machinery, electronics, and shipbuilding, led to the establishment of the Second Faculty of Engineering (第二工学部) at UTokyo in 1942. In the newly built Chiba Campus, around 800 students were enrolled at one time, and military engineering research activities were conducted. It was closed in 1951, and as a successor organisation, the Institute of Industrial Science was established on the site of the former headquarters of the Third Infantry Regiment in Roppongi.<sup>[42][43]</sup> During the war, the Imperial Army attempted to use the university's facilities several times, including plans to relocate the university to Sendai and use the Hongo Campus as a fortress for the anticipated Allied landing, Operation Downfall, to protect the Imperial Palace. President Yoshikazu Uchida consistently denied these requests by persuading them of the importance of culture, education and research for the country's long-term development. In September 1945, efforts by Uchida and Shigeru Nambara, Dean of the Faculty of Law, prevented the campus from becoming the Allied Headquarters.<sup>[44]</sup> Instead, the Dai-Ichi Seimei Building was chosen. Nambara succeeded Uchida as president in December 1945.

## Post-war period

During the American occupation era following Japan's defeat in World War II, the university dropped the word 'imperial' from its name and reverted to its original name, University of Tokyo. During this period, under American pressure to remove the role pre-war education was believed to have played in sustaining the class structure, Japan's education system was reformed. President Nambara was appointed as the chairman of the National Educational Reform Committee and implemented these changes.<sup>[45]</sup> As a result, UTokyo under merged with two Higher Schools, which were university preparatory boy's boarding schools and thus became a four-year university instead of three-year as it is today in 1949. One of the higher schools that merged with UTokyo, the First Higher School, became the College of Arts and Sciences.<sup>[46]</sup> This new college, operating on the same campus of Komaba as the higher school, took on the responsibility of educating all undergraduates for the first year and a half of their degrees. At the request of SCAP, the Department of Education was separated from the Faculty of Letters to establish the Faculty of Education.<sup>[45]</sup> It was also during this period that UTokyo first opened its doors to female students. The first nineteen female students were matriculated in April 1946.<sup>[47]</sup>



Shigeru Nambara, the first post-war president of the university (1945–1951)

## University of Tokyo Struggles

The 1960s saw an intensification of student protests across the world, including the Anti-Vietnam War protests and the May 68 events in France. This zeitgeist of the era was prominently felt in Japan as well, symbolised by the 1960 Anpo protests, in which the death of a UTokyo student, Michiko Kamba,

caused public outrage. In 1968, the University of Tokyo Struggles (東大紛争, *Tōdai Funsō*) began with medical students demanding improvements in internship conditions, in which medical students were forced to work long hours without being paid before being licensed as a doctor.

The conflict intensified with the indefinite strike decision by the students in January 1968 and escalated further following a clash between the students and faculty. Tensions peaked when radical students, most of whom were members of the Zenkyōtō (the All-Campus Joint Struggle Committees), occupied Yasuda Auditorium, leading the university to eventually call in riot police in June— a move seen as abandoning university autonomy. Efforts to resolve the situation began with the resignation of university executives and the appointment of Ichiro Kato as interim president, who started negotiations. The conflict largely ended in January 1969 after a full-scale police operation to remove the occupying students. This operation involved more than 8,500 riot police officers confronting students who fought back with Molotov cocktails and marble stones taken from the auditorium's interior.<sup>[48]</sup> Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, who was an alumnus of UTokyo himself, visited the site the day after the protesters in the auditorium were forcibly removed, and decided to cancel that year's admission process. This led top highschool students to apply reluctantly to other universities such as Kyoto University and Hitotsubashi University, resulting in many applicants who would have been admitted to those universities under normal circumstances failing to gain admission, since applicants are not allowed to apply to multiple prestigious national universities in Japan.<sup>[49]</sup> The aftermath saw 633 prosecutions, and varied sentences, marking a turbulent chapter in the university's history.<sup>[50]</sup>



Yasuda Auditorium became the main site of fierce clashes between protesters and riot police.

## 21st century

### Women's education

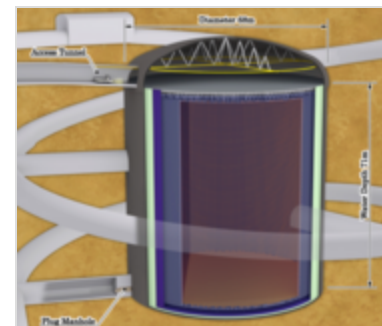
The university first admitted female students in 1946. While the student body has remained predominantly male, various attempts have been made to achieve a more equal gender ratio. In 2023, women made up 23 per cent of first-year undergraduates, the highest percentage in the university's history.<sup>[51]</sup> A quarter of graduate students were female in 2022.<sup>[52][53]</sup>

### Reforms in the 21st century

When the British magazine Times Higher Education first published its world university rankings in partnership with QS in 2004, the University of Tokyo was ranked 12th in the world.<sup>[54]</sup> In the latest 2024 edition of the rankings, it is ranked 29th.<sup>[55]</sup> QS, now with its own rankings, placed the UTokyo at 28th.<sup>[56]</sup> As these numbers suggest, there is a widely shared concern that the university is falling behind its counterparts in the world, and in the future it may struggle to provide a suitable environment for quality education and world-class research.<sup>[57]</sup>



UTokyo faces a challenging reality. Japan's long-lasting economic downturn since the 1990s has led to Japanese companies less willing to invest in research and development than before.<sup>[58]</sup> Additionally, the government's Management Expense Grant (運営費交付金) has been reduced by one per cent annually since 2004.<sup>[59]</sup> This policy, ostensibly aimed at decreasing the university's reliance on the grant and fostering greater independence, has been blamed as one of the main reasons for the decline in the university's competitiveness.<sup>[60]</sup>



UTokyo's Kamiokande project detected cosmic neutrinos for the first time in human history and later proved neutrinos have mass, resulting in Nobel Prizes in 2003 and 2015.

To address these challenges, UTokyo has implemented various reforms. In 2004, the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners (UTEC) was established. This venture capital firm, affiliated with the university, supports entrepreneurship arising from UTokyo's research and development, aiming to drive innovation across society.<sup>[61]</sup> In 2006, the first phase of development was completed at Kashiwa Campus. Situated in the suburb of Kashiwa, this research-focused campus spans 405,313 square metres (100 acres) and has been at the forefront of advanced scientific research since its inception.<sup>[62]</sup> In 2010, in an attempt to further internationalise and diversify its student body, the university increased its autumn enrollment opportunities for international students.<sup>[63]</sup> UTokyo plans to increase the proportion of female faculty members to above a quarter by newly creating positions for 300 female lecturers by 2027.<sup>[64]</sup> In 2021, the newly elected President Teruo Fujii announced the UTokyo Compass, a guiding framework for the university during his tenure, focusing on diversity, dialogue, and creating a better future.<sup>[65]</sup> It emphasises the university's autonomy and creativity in a new era, advocating multifaceted perspectives on knowledge, people, and places. The Compass encourages dialogue throughout the university and society as a pivotal tool for understanding and questioning, fostering inclusivity, and tackling global challenges. In his announcement, he pledged to make UTokyo 'a university that anyone in the world would like to join'.<sup>[65]</sup>

## Student life

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### Admissions

The University of Tokyo's admission process (東大入試, *todai nyushi*) is regarded as the most selective in Japan and is almost synonymous with something that is difficult to achieve.<sup>[66]</sup> To apply, candidates must achieve high scores in the Common Test for University Admissions, a standardised multiple-choice examination. UTokyo applicants are required to take at least seven subjects in this examination. Applicants for natural sciences take two mathematics tests, Japanese (which consists of modern language, classics, and Chinese classics), one foreign language, sciences (two from physics, chemistry, biology, and geology), and one social study subject chosen from geography, Japanese history, or world history. Humanities candidates take two social studies subjects and one science subject instead.<sup>[67]</sup>

Based on the scores from the Common Test, approximately three times the number of the final admission slots are invited to take the main examination in late February. Based on the idea that regardless of the field of specialisation, all students should have a solid understanding of mathematics and a good command of languages, mathematics, Japanese and one foreign language are compulsory for all applicants.<sup>[68]</sup> For this examination, science candidates are tested in Advanced Mathematics, English, Japanese, and two science subjects. Humanities candidates take Mathematics, a foreign language, Advanced Japanese, and two social studies subjects (options are geography, Japanese history and world history). UTokyo is also known to be the only university that requires all applicants, including those who wish to study natural sciences, to take a non-multiple-choice Japanese and Chinese classics exam. Some applicants are called upon to take an interview.<sup>[69]</sup>



A successful applicant rejoicing on the results day

Successful candidates are notified in March of the same year and are matriculated in April. The official acceptance rates for undergraduate degrees are relatively high, at around 30 per cent,<sup>[70]</sup> which is due to the policy of restricting the number of students who can sit for the exam based on the scores from the Common Test.<sup>[71]</sup> Additionally, Japan's university admission policy does not allow applicants to apply to multiple prestigious national universities,<sup>[72]</sup> hence non-prospective students tend to switch to other national universities where they are more likely to secure admission.

## Junior division

The matriculation ceremony takes place on April 12, the foundation day of the university.<sup>[73]</sup> All first-year students are matriculated at the College of Arts and Sciences at Komaba, which is a remnant of the time when the Komaba Campus served as the separate boarding school known as the First Higher School until 1949.<sup>[74]</sup> There, they spend the first one and a half years of their degrees. Students are required to study a foreign language they have never learnt for at least a year, with classes formed based on their choices. Popular languages include Chinese, French, German, Korean, Spanish, and Russian. These classes are meant to be places where students can interact with peers from different backgrounds and forge long-lasting friendships, especially because they spend a considerable amount of time together. There is a tradition where the previous year's class (上クラ, *uekura*) invites the juniors to overnight orientation camps (オリ合宿, *origasshuku*) in early April.<sup>[75]</sup>



Komaba Campus, where all undergraduates spend a year and a half

Intense academic competition is common among students in the junior division, as they face matriculation to the senior division (進学選択, *shingaku sentaku*, or colloquially *shinfuri*, 進振り) in



September of their second year, where they are assigned to departments based on their grades for the first one and a half years at Komaba.<sup>[76]</sup> The Department of Information Science, the Faculty of Medicine, and the Department of Sociology are amongst the most selective departments in the *Shingaku Sentaku*.<sup>[77]</sup>

## Student housing

Despite its roots as a boarding school, most undergraduates at the university either live with their families at home or in non-university accommodation. Since the closure of the Komaba dormitory (駒場寮, *Komaba-ryo*) in August 2001, there has been no on-campus accommodation for domestic students at the university. There are four university dormitories available for undergraduate students: Mitaka, Toshima, Oiwake and Mejirodai.<sup>[78]</sup> In 2021, approximately five per cent of the undergraduate students lived in one of the university dormitories.<sup>[79]</sup> The university offers more options for international students, with on-campus dormitories available for them at Komaba and Kashiwa.

## Student newspapers and magazines

*The Todai Shimbun* (東大新聞) is the oldest university newspaper still in operation, with its first issue in 1920.<sup>[80]</sup> The editing committee of the newspaper has produced multiple central figures in the country's publishing industry. *Recruit*, a human resources company with the 13th largest market capitalisation among all publicly traded companies in the country as of March 2024, spun off from *the Todai Shimbun*'s advertisement branch in 1961.<sup>[81]</sup> There are several other newer campus newspapers and magazines, the most notable of which is *the Kokasha* (恒河沙).<sup>[82]</sup> *The Kokasha*'s start-of-term issues include evaluations of lecturers by students from the previous year, and are widely read by students in the junior division to decide which modules to take at the beginning of terms. Additionally, there are several other relatively new student magazines, such as the *biscUiT*,<sup>[83]</sup> *the Todai Shimpō* and *the Komaba Times*.<sup>[84]</sup> Apart from those, student web media such as *the UT-base*<sup>[85]</sup> and *the UmeeT* are widely read by students.

## Senior division

After completing the *Shingaku Sentaku*, second-year students matriculate into senior division departments to specialise in their chosen fields. With the exception of the senior division of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Mathematics, which are located in Komaba, all other senior departments are situated in *Hongo*. Consequently, approximately 85 per cent of the students start a new chapter of their university life there.<sup>[86]</sup>

The Hongo Campus is located closer to the centre of Tokyo, and has more restaurants, cafes, and large museums in the vicinity compared to Komaba. In addition to these, the campus itself has fifteen refectories and restaurants, nine cafes, nine convenience stores and kiosks, one bookshop, two barbershops, and an underground gym with two 25-metre pools.<sup>[87][88][89]</sup>



One of the refectories in Hongo, situated underground

Graduation ceremonies take place towards the end of March. Approximately one-third of the graduates enter the workforce upon graduation, while the remainder continue their studies at graduate schools within the university or at universities abroad.<sup>[90]</sup> Popular places of employment for UTokyo graduates include the university itself, government ministries, global conglomerates such as Sony and Hitachi, consulting firms such as McKinsey & Company and PwC Consulting, trading companies such as Mitsubishi Corp and Mitsui Corp, and investment banks.<sup>[91]</sup>



Yasuda Auditorium, the venue for graduation ceremonies

## International education

As of November 1, 2023, the University of Tokyo hosts 5,106 international students, who represent 17.7 per cent of the total student body. Of these, 4,874 are postgraduate students and 460 are undergraduates. Exchange students and postdoctoral researchers are not included in these numbers.<sup>[92]</sup>

At the undergraduate level, there are mainly three routes for those who have not received their secondary education in Japanese to apply to the University of Tokyo. First, individuals with high Japanese proficiency can apply through the special admissions process for students educated overseas (外国学校卒業学生特別選考).<sup>[93]</sup> Students admitted via this route study alongside their peers who received secondary education in Japanese. International students who apply via this route sometimes spend a year studying the language at preparatory schools before matriculation. Second, there are undergraduate programmes called PEAK (Programs in English at Komaba), which accept applications based on international qualifications such as the A-level, SAT, and International Baccalaureate. All modules in these programmes are taught in English. However, learning Japanese is mandatory, and those confident in their Japanese ability can take modules taught in Japanese in other departments.<sup>[94]</sup> Third, the university offers exchange programmes with universities worldwide.<sup>[95]</sup> There are University-wide Student Exchange Programmes (USTEP) with universities such as Tsinghua University, Princeton University, National University of Singapore and Yale University.<sup>[96]</sup> The College of Arts and Sciences has its own exchange programmes called KOMSTEP with universities such as University of Paris.<sup>[97]</sup> The Faculty of Engineering also has its own exchange programmes, whose partner institutions include Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi, University of Cambridge, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.<sup>[98]</sup>

Starting in Autumn 2027, UTokyo plans to offer a five-year programme called the College of Design. The programme aims to 'redefine design as a broad concept (...) based on interdisciplinary knowledge that integrates the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering and other fields'.<sup>[99]</sup> Approximately 100 students will be matriculated annually, with half of them coming from overseas.<sup>[100]</sup>

A wider variety of postgraduate programmes are offered in English,<sup>[101]</sup> making the international student ratio significantly higher for postgraduate studies (31.32 per cent in November 2023).<sup>[92]</sup>

# Organisation

The University of Tokyo operates under a centralised administrative structure, with key policies set by the administrative council, which is chaired by the president.<sup>[102]</sup> However, due to the university's historical development as a merger of various institutions, each of the constituent colleges, faculties, and research institutes maintains its own administrative board. Today, the University of Tokyo is organised into 10 faculties<sup>[103]</sup> and 15 graduate schools.<sup>[104]</sup>

The leader of the University of Tokyo is known as the president (総長, *socho*) and it is a substantive leadership role. The president is elected by the university's board council from among the faculty members for a term of six years. The current president is Teruo Fujii, a scholar in applied microfluidics, who assumed the role in April 2021 and is expected to serve until March 2027.<sup>[105]</sup>



Teruo Fujii, the 31st president of the University of Tokyo

## Faculties and graduate schools

The University of Tokyo's academic structure consists of 10 faculties and their affiliated graduate schools. This organisational structure was introduced as a result of reforms in the 1990s.<sup>[106]</sup>

Faculty	Founded	Locations	Affiliated graduate schools	Colour
<u>Law</u>	1872	Hongo	<u>Graduate Schools for Law and Politics</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Green
<u>Medicine</u>	1868	Hongo, Shirokane	<u>Graduate School of Medicine</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Red
<u>Engineering</u>	1871	Hongo, Kashiwa, Komaball, Asano	Graduate School of Engineering, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> White
<u>Letters</u>	1868	Hongo	<u>Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology</u>	None
<u>Science</u>	1877	Hongo, Komaba (maths)	<u>Graduate School of Science</u> , Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Benikaba
Agriculture	1886	Hongo (Yayoi)	Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo
<u>Economics</u>	1919	Hongo	<u>Graduate School of Economics</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue
<u>Arts and Sciences</u>	1886	Komaba	<u>Graduate School of Arts and Sciences</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Black and Yellow
Education	1949	Hongo, Nakano	Graduate School of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange
Pharmaceutical Sciences	1958	Hongo	Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Enji

In addition to the graduate schools affiliated with specific faculties, the University of Tokyo also includes two independent graduate institutions: the Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies and the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP).

## Research institutes

Apart from the faculties and graduate schools, the University of Tokyo hosts eleven affiliated research institutes (附置研究所). Simultaneously, they function as educational institutions for the graduate schools.<sup>[107][108][109]</sup>

Institute	
Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute (大気海洋研究所)	Advances basic research on oceans and atmosphere, focusing on climate change and evolution of life, and offers graduate education.
<u>Earthquake Research Institute</u>	Conducts basic research on earthquakes and volcanic phenomena, aiming at disaster prevention and mitigation.
<u>Historiographical Institute</u>	Focuses on collecting, researching, and editing historical documents, especially in the field of pre-modern Japanese history.
Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (formerly known as Institute of Oriental Culture, 東洋文化研究所)	Specialises in comprehensive studies of Asia, including humanities and social sciences, and collaborates internationally.
<u>Institute for Cosmic Ray Research</u>	Observes cosmic rays and particles for research in astrophysics and particle physics.
Institute for Solid State Physics (物性研究所)	Researches the properties of materials at the microscopic level, using advanced technologies such as quantum beams and supercomputers.
<u>Institute of Industrial Science</u> (生産技術研究所)	Engages in applied research integrating various fields of engineering, covering almost all aspects of engineering.
<u>Institute of Medical Science</u>	Focuses on diseases such as cancer and infectious diseases, aiming at innovative treatment methods including genomics and AI in healthcare.
Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (定量生命科学研究所)	Conducts advanced research in describing all life dynamics by physical quantities, incorporating fields such as mathematics, physics, and chemistry.
Institute of Social Science (社会科学研究所)	Aims at producing 'comprehensive knowledge' in social sciences, conducting joint research and providing an international platform for empirical social science research.
Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (先端科学技術研究センター)	Engages in interdisciplinary research in various fields such as materials, environment, information, and social sciences, aiming at pioneering new scientific and technological areas.

## UTokyo Institutes For Advanced Study (UTIAS)

UTokyo Institutes For Advanced Study (UTIAS) started in January 2011. Their primary objective is to improve academic excellence and foster an internationalised research environment. There are four UTIAS institutes as of November 2023:<sup>[110]</sup>

Institute	
Tokyo College	Established in February 2019 to collaboratively explore the future of humanity and Earth. Engages in interdisciplinary research on themes such as the digital revolution, Earth's limits, Japan's future, future humanities, and the future of life. It also acts as a host institution for visiting professors, including <u>Jack Ma</u> , the founder of <u>Alibaba Group</u> . <sup>[111][112]</sup>
<u>Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe</u>	Focuses on fundamental questions about the universe, including dark energy, dark matter, and unified theories, with interdisciplinary approaches involving mathematics, physics, and astronomy.
International Research Center for Neurointelligence (IRCN)	Established in October 2017 to create a new field of 'Neurointelligence'. Integrating life sciences, medicine, linguistics, mathematics, and information science, it chiefly aims to further understand human intelligence, and utilise the outcomes to overcome mental illnesses, and develop new types of AI based on brain functioning.
The University of Tokyo Pandemic preparedness, Infection and Advanced research center (UTOPIA)	Established in October 2022, its aim is to equip the society with resilience against future pandemics through fundamental research in infectious diseases, immunity. It takes multi-disciplinary approaches involving immunology, structural biology, AI, and social sciences, and aims to develop systems for quickly providing effective and safe vaccines and treatments in emergencies.

## University of Tokyo library system

The University of Tokyo Library System consists of three comprehensive libraries located on the main campuses—Hongo, Komaba, and Kashiwa—along with 27 other field-specific libraries operated by various faculties and research institutes.<sup>[113]</sup> As of 2024, the University of Tokyo library has a collection of over 10 million books and numerous materials of historical importance.<sup>[114]</sup> This collection ranks it as the second-largest library in Japan, surpassed only by the National Diet Library, which holds a collection of approximately 46.8 million books.<sup>[115]</sup> It also subscribes to about 170,000 journals.



One of the reading rooms, General Library (Hongo)

The headquarters of the library is situated in the General Library at Hongo, which underwent thorough renovation in the late 2010s. It now features a 46-metre-deep automated underground storage capable of housing approximately 3 million books.<sup>[116]</sup>

## University of Tokyo Hospital

The University of Tokyo Hospital is an academic health science centre operated by the Faculty of Medicine. The hospital finds its roots in the Kanda Otamagaike Vaccination Centre, established in 1858. It has 37 clinical examination rooms for a wide range of specialisations including Cardiovascular Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery, among others. With a capacity of 1,210 beds, the hospital facilitated medical services for 389,830 inpatients and 794,454 outpatients in the fiscal year 2010.<sup>[117]</sup> Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals 2023 ranks it 17th in the world, 2nd in Asia, and 1st in Japan.<sup>[118]</sup> It serves as the primary hospital for the Imperial Family of Japan, with both the current emperor and the emperor emeritus having undergone major operations there.<sup>[119][120]</sup>



## Museums

The University of Tokyo operates eight museums, three of which fall under the purview of the University Museum (UMUT).



An Egyptian Horus sculpture



UMUT



Outpatient Clinic Building of the hospital



Exhibition in UMUT



The University Museum, c. 1900



Nikko Botanical Garden

Museum		Location	Operator
<u>University Museum</u>	The largest university museum in Japan, it has amassed over three million academic materials since 1877. It has hosted numerous planned exhibitions in addition to its permanent exhibition.	Hongo	UMUT
INTERMEDIATHEQUE	A joint venture with Japan Post, it's housed in the JP Tower in Marunouchi and focuses on interdisciplinary experimentation, showcasing scientific and cultural heritage.	JP Tower, Marunouchi, Chiyoda	UMUT/Japan Post
<u>University Museum, Koishikawa Annex</u>	Located in one of the University of Tokyo's oldest buildings, it displays architectural models and photographs documenting the construction of various famous structures from around the world.	<u>Koishikawa botanical garden</u>	UMUT
Komaba Museum	Combining an art and a natural science museum, it features collaborative exhibitions that transcend the boundaries of liberal arts and science.	Komaba	College of Arts and Sciences
Museum of Health and Medicine	Provides information about health and medicine.	Hongo	Faculty of Medicine
Medical Science Museum	Aims to preserve and display historical medical materials, offering a tranquil environment for visitors to reflect on the past, present, and future of medical science.	Shirokanedai	Institute of Medical Sciences
Farm Museum	Located in a renovated dairy barn in the Tanashi University Farm, it showcases farming implements and other agricultural artefacts.	Tanashi farm	Faculty of Agriculture
Agricultural Museum	Displays items related to agriculture, including artefacts such as <u>Hachiko's</u> internal organs.	Yayoi	Faculty of Agriculture

Apart from the aforementioned museums, the University of Tokyo operates several other public facilities, the most notable of which are two botanical gardens managed by the Faculty of Science: Koishikawa and Nikko.

<u>Koishikawa Botanical Garden</u>	Established in 1684, this botanical garden has been operated by the University of Tokyo since its foundation as a modern university in 1877. <sup>[121]</sup> It was in this garden that in 1894 <u>Hirase Sakugoro</u> the discovered spermatozooids of the ginkgo, proving that gymnosperms produce sperm cells. The garden is designated as a <u>National Monument</u> and is open to the public for an admission fee of 500 yen (free for UTokyo students and faculty). <sup>[122]</sup>
<u>Nikko Botanical Garden</u>	Opened in 1902 as an annex to the Koishikawa Garden, this facility is located in the highland resort town of Nikko and primarily focuses on alpine plants. It has become a popular tourist destination in Nikko and is accessible to the public with an admission fee of 500 yen. <sup>[123]</sup>

## Finances

UTokyo's Income and Expenses, 2021-2022 (avg. exchange rate: 1 US\$ = 109.8 yen)

Income (billion yen)		Expenses (billion yen)	
Government fundings	93.1	Personnel	106.1
Self-earned income	81.2	Equipment	134.7
External fundings (research grants, endowments)	91.7	Depreciation	27.9

In 2021-2022, the university had an income of 264.1 billion yen. Of this, 93.4 billion yen (35.1%) was funded by the government, primarily through the Expense Management Grant (運営費交付金). Despite being a national university, this grant from the government has been consistently reduced, dropping from 95.5 billion yen in 2005 to 79.9 billion yen in 2022. A total of 81.2 billion yen (30.5%) was self-earned, through sources such as the university hospitals (54.7 billion yen) and academic fees (16.6 billion yen). The remainder, 91.7 billion yen (34.4%), came from external funding, such as research grants and endowments. Although research grants are primarily earned by research groups and not by the university, the university can typically claim up to 30% of them for university operations, which is included in this number.<sup>[124]</sup>

The total assets of the university are valued at 1.47 trillion yen as of March 31, 2024. Land holdings make up the largest percentage of this figure, valued at 878 billion yen.<sup>[125]</sup> UTokyo's endowment fund is relatively small, at 44 billion yen as of March 2023. This is because national universities in Japan, including UTokyo, were not allowed to invest in high-risk assets until 2018, so endowments were spent rather than invested until that point.<sup>[126]</sup> The UTokyo Foundation is the primary fundraising arm of the university, and it accepts both endowments for the university as a whole and purpose-specific donations.<sup>[127]</sup>

UTokyo's tuition fees have been fixed at 535,000 yen annually for undergraduates and master's students since 2005, regardless of their status (whether domestic or international).<sup>[128]</sup> This makes up approximately 5% of the university's income. However, the decline in government funding and the university's international standing have brought about discussions on whether to raise these fees.<sup>[129]</sup>

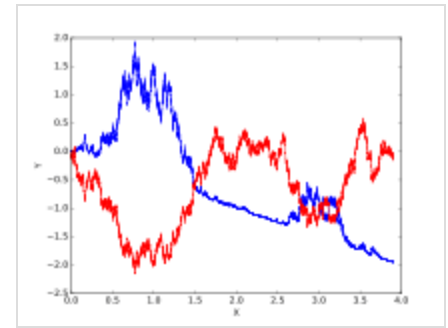
## Notable research

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Since its foundation in 1877, the University of Tokyo has been involved in a wide range of research across various disciplines. Below is a selection of recognised research efforts conducted by individuals and teams affiliated with the university during their work.

- In 1904, Hantaro Nagaoka, an alumnus and professor in the Department of Physics, devised the Saturnian model of the atom. Contrasting with J. J. Thomson's then-popular plum pudding model, Nagaoka's model proposed an atomic structure with a heavy nucleus at the centre and electrons revolving around it.<sup>[130]</sup> Although this model assumed a far larger nucleus than in reality, it inspired Ernest Rutherford's Rutherford model.<sup>[131]</sup>

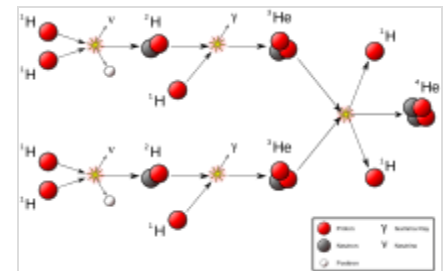
- Teiji Takagi, an alumnus and professor of the Department of Mathematics, proved the Takagi existence theorem in the 1910s. Alongside significant contributions to algebraic number theory, he also introduced the Blancmange curve, a well-known example of a self-affine curve.
- In 1951, Kiyoshi Ito, as a doctoral student in the Department of Mathematics, pioneered the theory of stochastic integration and stochastic differential equations, now known as Itô calculus. This theory is best known for its application in mathematical finance, namely in the Black–Scholes equation for option values.
- On February 11, 1970, a team at the Institute of Space and Aeronautical Science of the University of Tokyo succeeded in launching the country's first satellite, Ohsumi, making the country the fourth nation in the world to have the capability to send objects into orbit with their own launch vehicles.<sup>[132]</sup> The satellite was carried on a Lambda 4S rocket, a joint project by the Institute of Industrial Science at the university and Nissan. The second satellite of the country, Tansei, was named after the school colour of the university (light blue).<sup>[133]</sup> The institute left the purview of the university as part of a government-led project in the 1980s and eventually formed JAXA, but it still operates in close liaison with the university.<sup>[134]</sup>
- Yoshinori Ohsumi made a breakthrough in the study of autophagy, a process for cellular waste management and recycling, when he was a professor at the College of Arts and Sciences at the university.<sup>[135]</sup> Using yeast for his experiments, Ohsumi identified key genes involved in autophagy, shedding light on how cells respond to stress such as malnutrition and infections, and linking the process to various diseases including cancer. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2016 'for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy'.<sup>[136]</sup>
- On February 23, 1987, the Kamioka Nucleon Decay Experiment observatory, part of the Department of Physics, detected cosmic neutrinos for the first time in human history. This discovery significantly contributed to proving that the sun's energy is generated from hydrogen atoms combining into helium (proton-proton reaction chain). Masatoshi Koshihara, leader of this research group, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002.<sup>[137]</sup> In 1998, an expanded version of this neutrino observatory (Super-Kamiokande) detected neutrino oscillation, demonstrating that the 'lepton flavour' of neutrinos changes. This discovery, proving that neutrinos have mass, led to Takaaki Kajita receiving the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2015.<sup>[138]</sup> As the successor to Super-Kamiokande, Hyper-Kamiokande is currently under construction, with the operation's start planned for 2027.<sup>[139]</sup>



Ito Integral (blue) of a Brownian motion (red)



Japan's first satellite, Ohsumi



Proton-proton reaction

## Academic rankings and reputation

Due to its age and its academic and social status, the University of Tokyo is considered to be the most prestigious university in Japan, and reflecting this, its

### University rankings

**THE World**<sup>[140]</sup>

General

28

admission process for undergraduate degrees is regarded as the most selective in the country.<sup>[143][144][145]</sup>

<b>QS World</b> <sup>[141]</sup>	General	32
<b>ARWU World</b> <sup>[142]</sup>	Research	27

- The *QS World University Rankings*<sup>[146]</sup> ranked UTokyo 28th in the world in 2023 (1st in Japan). Its subject rankings ranked UTokyo 1st in Japan for all academic disciplines the university covers except for Classics and Ancient History, for which *KyotoU* was recognised as the best. The university was ranked 11th in the world for Natural Sciences, 18th for Engineering and Technology, 35th for Social Sciences & Management, and 32nd for Arts and Humanities.<sup>[147]</sup>
- The *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* ranked UTokyo 28th in the world in 2024 (1st in Japan).<sup>[148]</sup> Its subject rankings ranked UTokyo 1st in the country for all subjects it covers.<sup>[147]</sup> The *Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2023* ranked UTokyo 10th in the world (1st in Japan, 2nd in Asia). In 2017, its *Alma Mater Index*, which measures universities around the world by the number of CEOs of *Fortune* Global 500 companies among their alumni, ranked UTokyo 16th in the world.<sup>[149]</sup>
- UTokyo has consistently been the largest recipient of the KAKENHI Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Japan's largest national research grant) in the country. In FY2022, it alone received approximately 10 percent of the total grants awarded to 1,370 institutions across Japan.<sup>[150][151]</sup>
- In 2023, *Newsweek* recognised the University of Tokyo Hospital as the 17th best hospital in the world (2nd in Asia after *Singapore General Hospital*, 1st in Japan).<sup>[152]</sup>



UTokyo's performance in various world university rankings (2003–2024)



UTokyo's performance in *The World University rankings* compared to other universities (2004-2009 and 2011–2024)



## Subject rankings

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024<sup>[153]</sup>

Subject	Global	National
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>	=32	1
Linguistics	=24	1
Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies	46	1
Archaeology	24	1
Architecture and Built Environment	15	1
Art and Design	49	1
Classics and Ancient History	42	2
English Language and Literature	37	1
History	12	1
Art History	6	1
Modern Languages	7	1
Philosophy	51–100	1–2
<b>Engineering and Technology</b>	18	1
Engineering – Chemical	15	1
Engineering – Civil and Structural	21	1
Computer Science and Information Systems	=38	1
Engineering – Electrical and Electronic	33	1
Engineering – Petroleum	10	1
Engineering – Mechanical	=21	1
<b>Life Sciences &amp; Medicine</b>	36	1
Agriculture and Forestry	36	1
Anatomy and Physiology	28	1
Biological Sciences	31	1
Medicine	42	1
Nursing	101–150	1

ARWU Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2023<sup>[155]</sup>

Subject	Global	National
<b>Natural Sciences</b>		
Mathematics	51–75	1–2
Physics	5	1
Chemistry	24	1
Earth Sciences	34	1
Geography	201–300	1
Ecology	201–300	1–2
Oceanography	48	1
Atmospheric Science	38	1
<b>Engineering</b>		
Mechanical Engineering	151–200	3
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	151–200	1
Automation & Control	47	1
Instruments Science & Technology	101–150	1
Biomedical Engineering	101–150	1–2
Computer Science & Engineering	101–150	1
Civil Engineering	76–100	1
Chemical Engineering	151–200	1
Materials Science & Engineering	76–100	1
Nanoscience & Nanotechnology	101–150	1
Energy Science & Engineering	101–150	1
Environmental Science & Engineering	151–200	1
Water Resources	76–100	1

Subject	Global	National
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>	<b>▲ =32</b>	<b>= 1</b>
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	▼ 41	= 1
Psychology	▲ =77	= 1
Veterinary Science	▼ 48	= 1
<b>Natural Sciences</b>	<b>= =11</b>	<b>= 1</b>
Chemistry	▼ 15	= 1
Earth and Marine Sciences	▲ 11	= 1
Environmental Sciences	▲ =31	= 1
Geography	▼ 18	= 1
Geology	▲ =12	= 1
Geophysics	= =13	= 1
Materials Sciences	= 20	= 1
Mathematics	▼ 29	= 1
Physics and Astronomy	▲ 9	= 1
<b>Social Sciences &amp; Management</b>	<b>▼ 35</b>	<b>= 1</b>
Accounting and Finance	▲ 39	= 1
Anthropology	▲ 33	= 1
Business and Management Studies	▲ =87	= 1
Communication and Media Studies	▲ 51–100	= 1
Development Studies	▲ =26	= 1
Economics and Econometrics	▲ 33	= 1
Education and Training	▲ =57	= 1
Law and Legal Studies	▼ 22	= 1
Politics	▼ =39	= 1
Social Policy and Administration	▼ =29	= 1
Sociology	▲ =24	= 1
Sports–Related Subjects	<b>NEW</b> 49	<b>NEW</b> 1
Statistics and Operational Research	▲ 34	= 1

Subject	Global	National
<b>Natural Sciences</b>		
Biotechnology	▼ 151–200	= 1–2
Transportation Science & Technology	▼ 151–200	= 1–2
Remote Sensing	= 51–75	= 1
Metallurgical Engineering	▲ 51–75	▲ 3–4
<b>Life Sciences</b>		
Biological Sciences	▲ 76–100	▼ 4
Human Biological Sciences	▼ 151–200	▼ 3
Agricultural Sciences	▼ 401–500	▼ 2–3
Veterinary Sciences	▼ 201–300	= 1–6
<b>Medical Sciences</b>		
Clinical Medicine	= 201–300	= 1
Public Health	= 201–300	▲ 1
Nursing	= 201–300	= 1
Medical Technology	= 301–400	▲ 1–6
Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences	= 101–150	= 1
<b>Social Sciences</b>		
Economics	= 201–300	= 1
Statistics	= 101–150	= 1
Political Sciences	▲ 201–300	▲ 1–2
Communication	<b>NEW</b> 201–300	<b>NEW</b> 1
Psychology	= 201–300	= 1

Subject	Global	National
Arts & humanities	▼ 60	= 1
Business & economics	▲ =28	= 1
Clinical & health	▲ 30	= 1
Computer science	▲ 33	= 1
Education	▲ 25	= 1
Engineering	▲ 29	= 1
Life sciences	▲ 30	= 1
Physical sciences	▲ 24	= 1
Psychology	▲ 61	= 1
Social sciences	▲ =40	= 1

## Sites

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Apart from the three main campuses, the University of Tokyo operates a large number of other campuses and facilities globally. The university's land holdings in Japan amount to 326 square kilometres.<sup>[14]</sup> As of 31 March 2023, the university's real estate holdings are valued at 1.14 trillion yen.<sup>[156]</sup>

### Hongo campus

The Hongo campus has been the university's centre since 1884, when the university's administration office relocated to the site. The campus faces Shinobazu Pond in Ueno Park to the east and has in its vicinity the electric district Akihabara, the city's bookshop hub, Jimbōchō, and the city's largest indoor stadium, Tokyo Dome. The campus is served by three Tokyo Metro stations: Hongo-sanchome, Todai-mae, and Nezu.<sup>[157]</sup> It occupies the former estate of the Maeda family, Edo period feudal lords of Kaga Province.<sup>[158]</sup> One of the university's best known landmarks, Akamon (the Red Gate), is a relic of this era. The symbol of the university is the ginkgo leaf, from the trees found throughout the area. The Hongo campus also hosts UTokyo's annual May Festival.<sup>[159]</sup>



General Library



Faculty of Medicine Building 2



Building one,  
Shared by the  
Faculties of Law  
and Letters



University Hospital



Engineering Building 3



Chemistry East Building

## Komaba Campus

The Komaba Campus, serving as the educational hub for the first two years of undergraduate studies, provides general education to around 6,000 first and second year students. The campus, also home to the Graduate Schools of Arts, Sciences, and Mathematical Sciences, has advanced research facilities. It also provides specialised education for about 450 senior division undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences and 1,400 graduate students across various disciplines. It is served by Komaba-Todaimae Station on the Keio Inokashira line, which is directly connected to the main gate of the campus.<sup>[157]</sup>



Komaba Campus  
Building 1



Auditorium 900



Main Refectory



The  
Institute of  
Industrial  
Science



Research Centre for  
Advanced Science and  
Technology



Campus Plaza

## Kashiwa Campus

The Kashiwa Campus specialises in postgraduate education and research. It houses the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences along with advanced research institutes such as the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, the Institute for Solid State Physics, the Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, and the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, equipped with extensive facilities and services.





The Kashiwa Campus is built on 100 acres of land.



The institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR), Kashiwa



A test track for the new generation of railway technology runs across the campus.



A former Tokyo Metro series 01 coach is used as a railway technology testbed.



The Kashiwa II Campus (20 acres) houses accommodation and athletic facilities for the students and faculty of the Kashiwa Campus.

## Shirokanedai Campus

The relatively small Shirokanedai Campus<sup>[160]</sup> hosts the Institute of Medical Science, which is entirely dedicated to postgraduate studies. The institute was originally established by Shibasaburo Kitasato and moved to the current site in Shirokanedai, Minato in 1906. The campus is focused on genome research, including among its research groups the Human Genome Center, which has at its disposal the largest supercomputer in the field.<sup>[161]</sup> The main building of the building was designed by Yoshikazu Uchida in a style matching that of the adjacent Institute of Public Health, which is now opened to the public as Minato Local History Museum.<sup>[162]</sup>

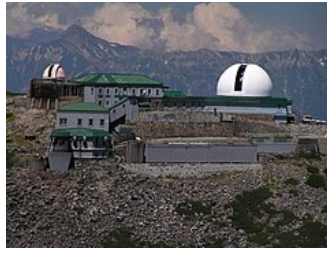


The main building of the Shirokanedai Campus

## Other sites



Koishikawa Botanical Garden, Tokyo



Norikura Solar Observatory



Kemigawa Athletic Ground, Chiba



KAGRA gravitational wave telescope, Gifu



Yamanaka Seminar House, Yamanashi



Atacama Observatory, Mount Chajnantor, Chile



Kemigawa Seminar House, Chiba



Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, Iwate, after the Tsunami of 11 March 2011



Nikko Botanical Garden, Tochigi



Tokoro Archaeological Centre, Tokoro, Hokkaido

## Notable alumni

Throughout its history as a modern university since 1877, a considerable number of UTokyo alumni have become notable in various fields, both academic and otherwise. As of 2024, UTokyo's alumni and faculty include 17 prime ministers of Japan out of 64, 20 Nobel Prize laureates, five astronauts, and a Fields Medalist.<sup>[163]</sup> Additionally, UTokyo alumni have founded some of Japan's largest companies, such as Toyota<sup>[164]</sup> and Hitachi.<sup>[165]</sup> UTokyo alumni also hold chief executive positions in approximately a quarter of the Nikkei 225 companies (47 in 2014),<sup>[166]</sup> a fifth of the total seats in the National Diet (139 out of 713 in 2023),<sup>[167][168]</sup> more than half of the prefectural governorships (27 out of 47 in 2023),<sup>[169]</sup> and about two thirds of the justiceships at the Supreme Court of Japan (11 out of 15 in 2024).<sup>[170]</sup>

Of the 20 Nobel Prize winners affiliated with UTokyo in some way, a total of twelve have earned degrees from the institution, with prizes won in five of the six categories, except for economics. This is the largest number among all universities in Asia.<sup>[171]</sup> However, when including other affiliates such as non-alumnus faculty members, the total number is on a par with Kyoto University.<sup>[172]</sup> The remainder consists of: Hideki Yukawa (Physics, 1949), who served as a professor from 1942 for a few years;<sup>[40][173]</sup> Charles H. Townes (Physics, 1964), who was a visiting scholar for two years in the 1950s;<sup>[174]</sup> Wolfgang Paul (Physics, 1989), who was a visiting lecturer in 1978;<sup>[175]</sup> Anthony James Leggett (Physics, 2003), who was a visiting professor for two years beginning in 1972;<sup>[176]</sup> Gérard Mourou, who was a visiting professor in 1994;<sup>[177]</sup> Tasuku Honjo (Physiology or Medicine, 2018), who was an assistant professor for six years beginning in 1974;<sup>[178]</sup> Harry Markowitz (Economics, 1990)<sup>[179]</sup> and Leonid Hurwicz (Economics, 2007),<sup>[180]</sup> both of whom served as visiting professors.

## Law and politics

### Japanese Prime Ministers who attended the University of Tokyo



Earl Takaaki Kato



Osachi Hamaguchi



Shigeru Yoshida



Ichirō Hatoyama



Eisaku Sato



Yasuhiro Nakasone



Kiichi Miyazawa



Yukio Hatoyama

The University of Tokyo has educated eighteen prime ministers of Japan: Takashi Hara (dropped out), Earl Takaaki Katō (Law, 1881), Baron Reijirō Wakatsuki (Law, 1892), Osachi Hamaguchi (Law, 1895), Kōki Hirota (Law, 1905), Duke Fumimaro Konoe (Letters, dropped out), Baron Hiranuma Kiichirō (Law, 1888), Baron Kijūrō Shidehara (Law, 1895), Shigeru Yoshida (Law, 1906), Tetsu Katayama (Law, 1912), Hitoshi Ashida (Law, 1912), Ichirō Hatoyama (Law, 1907), Nobusuke Kishi (Law, 1920), Eisaku Satō (Law, 1924), Takeo Fukuda (Law, 1929), Yasuhiro Nakasone (Law, 1941), Kiichi Miyazawa (Law, 1941), Yukio Hatoyama (Engineering, 1969). Eisaku Satō received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974, for his commitment to halting the spread of nuclear arms.<sup>[181]</sup>



UTokyo has produced numerous other influential politicians since its establishment. As of December 2023, UTokyo alumni hold 139 seats in the National Diet (the national legislature of Japan), accounting for about a fifth of the total seats.<sup>[168][167]</sup> Six members of the cabinet are UTokyo alumni, including the Chief Cabinet Secretary: Yoshimasa Hayashi; Internal Affairs: Takeaki Matsumoto; Justice: Ryuji Koizumi; Foreign Affairs: Yoko Kamikawa; Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology: Masahito Moriyama; and Economy, Trade and Industry: Ken Saito.<sup>[182][183]</sup> As of April 2023, 27 out of the 47 incumbent governors of Japanese prefectures have received their undergraduate education at UTokyo.<sup>[169]</sup>

UTokyo has produced a large number of distinguished jurists, judges and lawyers. As of February 2024, eleven out of the fifteen incumbent justices of the Supreme Court are UTokyo alumni.<sup>[170]</sup> The university is also the alma mater of all four Japanese judges of the International Court of Justice: Kōtarō Tanaka, Shigeru Oda, Hisashi Owada and Yuji Iwasawa. Tomoko Akane has served as the president of the International Criminal Court (ICC) since March 2024.

## Sciences, engineering and mathematics

### Scientists and engineers who attended the University of Tokyo



Kunihiro  
Kodaira



Masatoshi  
Koshihara



Yoshinori  
Ohsumi



Kenzo  
Tange



Yoichiro Nambu



Kiyoshi Ito



Teiji Takagi



Ei-ichi Negishi

Nine Nobel-awarded scientists have earned degrees from UTokyo: six in physics (Leo Esaki, Masatoshi Koshihara, Shin'ichirō Tomonaga, Yoichiro Nambu, Takaaki Kajita and Syukuro Manabe), one in chemistry (Ei-ichi Negishi) and two in Physiology or Medicine (Yoshinori Ohsumi and Satoshi Ōmura). Additionally, Kunihiro Kodaira won a Fields Medal, often called the 'Nobel Prize for mathematics'. Four architects educated at the Faculty of Engineering have received the Pritzker Architecture Prize: Kenzo Tange, Arata Isozaki, Toyo Ito and Fumihiko Maki.

Other notable UTokyo-educated scientists, engineers, and mathematicians include Kiyoshi Ito, known for his work in probability theory; Hantaro Nagaoka, a pioneer in atomic theory; Yoshio Nishina, who made significant contributions to particle physics; and Teiji Takagi, known for his work in number theory. Yoji Totsuka was an influential figure in neutrino physics. Kikunae Ikeda is credited with discovering umami. Kitasato Shibasaburō discovered the infectious agent of bubonic plague, and Kazuhiko Nishijima contributed to the discovery of the Gell-Mann–Nishijima formula. Hirotsugu Akaike developed the Akaike Information Criterion, and Hideo Shima was the chief engineer behind the development of the Shinkansen bullet train. Yuzuru Hiraga was the chief engineer at the Imperial Japanese Navy, then the third-strongest in the world, and Takamine Jōkichi was the first to isolate adrenaline. Akira Fujishima discovered the photocatalytic properties of titanium dioxide, and Tosio Kato made notable contributions to functional analysis. Kenkichi Iwasawa is known for his influence on algebraic number theory. Shun'ichi Amari invented and formulated the recurrent neural network (RNN) for learning.

## Business, economics and finance

### Industrialists, economists and central bankers who attended the University of Tokyo



Kiichiro Toyoda, founder of Toyota



Namihei Odaira, founder of Hitachi



Baron Koyata Iwasaki, longest-serving head of Mitsubishi



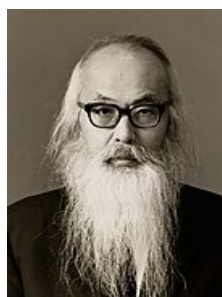
Yoshisuke Ayukawa, founder of the Nissan Group



Viscount Keizo Shibusawa, governor of BoJ



Kazuo Ueda, governor of BoJ since 2023



Hirofumi Uzawa, mathematical economist



Nobuhiro Kiyotaki, New Keynesian economist

Kiichiro Toyoda, an alumnus of the Faculty of Engineering, founded Toyota Motor, the largest car manufacturer in the world and the largest company in Japan by both market capitalisation and revenue.<sup>[164]</sup> Namihei Odaira, also an alumnus of the Faculty of Engineering, founded Hitachi, one of the largest electronics conglomerates in the world.<sup>[184]</sup> Another UTokyo-educated engineer, Yoshisuke



Ayukawa, founded the Nissan Group (*zaibatsu*),<sup>[185]</sup> from which some of Japan's largest companies, such as Nissan, Isuzu, NEC, and SOMPO Holdings, spun off.<sup>[186]</sup> Baron Koyata Iwasaki, a member of the founding Iwasaki family of Mitsubishi, was the longest-serving and last head of the group before it was split up by order of the Allied Occupational Forces after the Second World War. Under his leadership, the group's business evolved significantly, and he founded companies such as Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Nikon. Hiromasa Ezoe, as an educational psychology student at UTokyo in 1961, established Recruit Holdings, the largest human resources company in Japan, which also runs worldwide businesses including Indeed and Glassdoor. UTokyo alumni have held chief executive positions at numerous influential Japanese companies; as of April 2024, companies under the leadership of a UTokyo alumnus include Sony (Kenichiro Yoshida),<sup>[187]</sup> MUFG (Hironori Kamezawa)<sup>[188]</sup> and Mitsubishi Corp (Katsuya Nakanishi [ja]).<sup>[189]</sup> More than half of the governors of the Bank of Japan, the central bank of Japan, have been UTokyo alumni, including the incumbent governor Kazuo Ueda, who previously taught at UTokyo.<sup>[190]</sup>

## Literature, arts and humanities

### Literary figures who attended the University of Tokyo



Soseki  
Natsume



Ryunosuke  
Akutagawa



Junichiro  
Tanizaki



Osamu Dazai



Yukio Mishima



Kobo Abe



Yasunari  
Kawabata



Kenzaburo Oe

Numerous notable literary figures have attended the University of Tokyo, two of whom received the Nobel Prize in Literature: Yasunari Kawabata (Known for *The Dancing Girl of Izu*, *Snow Country* and *The Old Capital*) and Kenzaburo Oe (*A Personal Matter*, *The Silent Cry* and *Death by Water*). Other notable UTokyo-educated writers include: Soseki Natsume (*I Am a Cat*, *Botchan*, *Sanshiro* and *Kokoro*), Ōgai Mori, Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Junichiro Tanizaki, Naoya Shiga, Osamu Dazai, Yukio Mishima, Kobo Abe, Shōyō Tsubouchi, Shinichi Hoshi, Kōyō Ozaki, Jun Takami, Motojiro Kaijii, Shūichi Katō, Kunio Kishida, Hideo Kobayashi, Shigeharu Nakano, Hyakken Uchida, Makoto Oda, Tatsuo Hori, Mari Yonehara and Atsushi Nakajima. Shiki Masaoka is known as the initiator of modern

haiku poetry and one of the most celebrated poets in Japanese history.<sup>[191]</sup> Other notable UTokyo-educated poets include Mokichi Saito, Nobutsuna Sasaki, Makoto Ōoka, Hōsai Ozaki, Saneatsu Mushanokōji and Tatsuji Miyoshi.

Isao Takahata co-founded Studio Ghibli with Hayao Miyazaki and directed animation films including *Grave of the Fireflies*, *Pom Poko*, and *The Tale of the Princess Kaguya*.<sup>[192]</sup> Together with Miyazaki, he created animation films such as *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* and *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*. Yoji Yamada directed the film series *Otoko wa Tsurai yo* and the Samurai Trilogy (*The Twilight Samurai*, *The Hidden Blade* and *Love and Honor*). Koichi Sugiyama is known for composing the music for *Dragon Quest*, along with several other famous video games, anime, films, television shows, and pop songs. Wowaka is considered to be a pioneer in the vocaloid music industry, especially Hatsune Miku.<sup>[193]</sup> Kunio Yanagita made significant contributions to the preservation and studies of Japanese folklore.<sup>[194]</sup> Yanagi Sōetsu initiated the mingei (folk craft) movement, and his contributions made the idea of finding beauty in everyday utilitarian crafts popular. Nam June Paik, a Korean-American media artist, is considered to be the founder of video art.<sup>[195]</sup>

## Other notable alumni and affiliates



Masako, Empress of Japan



Takahito, Prince Mikasa



Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal



Duke Iemasa Tokugawa, 17th head of the Tokugawa clan



Marquess Yoshichika Tokugawa, botanist



Chie Nakane, Social Anthropologist



Yahiko Mishima (left), first Japanese national to compete in the Olympics



Kanō Jigorō, founder of Judo

Masako, Empress of Japan, attended UTokyo after finishing her first degree overseas, although she did not earn a degree from the university. The university's other recent connections with the Imperial family include Takahito, Prince Mikasa, younger brother of Emperor Hirohito, who studied archaeology; Fujimaro, Marquess of Tsukuba, a younger son of Kikumaro, Prince Yamashina, who studied Japanese literature.<sup>[196]</sup> Additionally, Crown Prince Fumihito, and his daughter Princess Mako both worked at the University Museum at different times. King Birendra of Nepal also attended UTokyo but did not earn a degree.<sup>[197]</sup> UTokyo was a preferred educational institution for members of the Japanese aristocracy before any form of peerage, with the exception of the Imperial family, was prohibited with the 1947 constitution. Duke Iemasa Tokugawa, 17th head of the House of Tokugawa, studied law at the university and led a career as a diplomat. Other members of the clan who attended the university include Marquess Yoshichika Tokugawa, who became active as a botanist and patron of arts and sciences later in his life, and Earl Muneyoshi Tokugawa, who was the primary promoter of forestation movements in Japan. Earl Yoriyasu Arima studied agriculture and later served as the Minister of Agriculture. The *Arima Kinen*, the world's largest betting horse race, was named in his honour. Marquess Yoshi Hijikata, with his strong communist sympathies, fled to Soviet Russia and was deprived of his title on account of this. Another communist sympathiser among UTokyo's alumni, Hotsumi Ozaki, played a central role in Soviet espionage with Richard Sorge and was executed for high treason in 1944.

Chie Nakane, a social anthropologist, was one of the first nineteen female students matriculated at UTokyo in 1947, and she later became the first female professor in the university's history.<sup>[198]</sup> Hidesaburo Ueno, an agricultural scientist who studied and worked at the Faculty of Agriculture, is best known as the owner of the devoted dog Hachiko, who continued to wait for him for more than 9 years. Although the university is not particularly noted for athletics today, beginning with Yahiko Mishima, the first-ever Japanese Olympian who competed in the 1912 Summer Olympics, 33 UTokyo students and alumni have competed in the Olympics.<sup>[199]</sup> Kusuo Kitamura, later a senior bureaucrat at the Ministry of Labour, won a gold medal in the Men's 1500 metre freestyle swimming in the 1932 Summer Olympics. Judo, now an Olympic sport, was created by Jigoro Kano in 1882, the year he graduated from UTokyo. He was also the central figure in Japan's successful bid to host the 1940 Summer Olympic Games, which had to be cancelled due to the Second World War.<sup>[200]</sup>

## See also

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- Earthquake engineering
- Imperial College of Engineering
- *International Journal of Asian Studies* – published in association with the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo
- Kikuchi Dairoku
- Koishikawa Botanical Gardens
- Nikko Botanical Garden
- University of Tokyo Library
- University Museum, University of Tokyo



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