

Okayama University Discovery Program for Global Learners

Educational Structure from 2027

March 31, 2026

Okayama University Discovery Program for Global Learners

The Discovery Program for Global Learners (GDP), launched in October 2017, is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program conducted in English, where international students from around the world, returnee students, and students educated in Japan come together to study collaboratively using English as a common language. The program has produced many graduates and contributed to the development of leaders for a multicultural and inclusive society.

In order to further enhance the quality of the program and deepen its liberal arts education, we are updating the educational structure so that students will primarily acquire specialized knowledge and skills by taking courses offered in English by GDP faculty members. Accordingly, the following changes will be implemented for students enrolling from the 2027 academic year.

【Main Changes】

- Elimination of the Track System

Until now, GDP has admitted students under two tracks: the “Discovery Track,” in which students receive supervision for their graduation research from GDP faculty members, and the “Matching Track,” in which students receive supervision from faculty members of other departments.

This track system will end, and the curriculum will be integrated. Students will primarily take courses offered in English by GDP faculty members and, in principle, conduct their graduation research (Senior Project) under the supervision of GDP faculty members.

<Discovery Track>

Conduct graduation research in English under the supervision of dedicated GDP faculty members.

<Matching Track>

Conduct graduation research under the supervision of faculty members from other departments.

eliminated

< Unified Curriculum Starting with 2027 Entrants:>

Centered on the liberal arts and interdisciplinarity, we will deliver a learning experience that embodies collaboration, diversity, and cross-disciplinary thinking.

- ◎ Core curriculum centered on English-medium courses taught by full-time GDP faculty
- ◎ Improvement of language proficiency (English and Japanese)
- ◎ Thorough implementation of interdisciplinary learning

At GDP, we place great emphasis on self-directed and interdisciplinary learning, including across the humanities and sciences, tailored to each student's academic interests and future career goals. Students can design their own curriculum by combining courses offered in Japanese by various faculties at Okayama University.

Students who meet the necessary requirements, including Japanese language proficiency, and receive approval may, in exceptional cases, conduct their graduation research under the supervision of faculty members from other departments.

【Other Information】

With the elimination of the track system, changes to the entrance examination system are also planned. For details, please refer to the notice published on June 5, 2025. The document can be accessed at the following link (Japanese only):

<https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/st/nyushika/pdf/2027yokoku-GDP.pdf>

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