

Description of the Doctoral Program
Animal Science and Agriculture
Graduate School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Agriculture
Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

1. Education Policy of the Doctoral Program of Animal Science and Agriculture

Admission Policy

The Doctoral Program of Animal Science and Agriculture at the Graduate School of Animal and Veterinary Science and Agriculture, utilizing its educational systems, which involve “fusion of veterinary medicine, animal science and agriculture” and “cooperation with overseas universities,” aims to develop educators and researchers who, while keeping globalization of food and agriculture in mind, have technical knowledge, creativity, excellent research and development skills, and excellent educational abilities as well as great personality. For that purpose, we want students:

1. Who aim to be educators and researchers who can conduct international-standard, advanced research with global views on veterinary medicine, animal science and agriculture, and who have good communication skills,
2. Who are eager to contribute to society domestically and globally by giving back to society their research results in the field where veterinary medicine, animal science and agriculture are fused, and by playing a central role in maintaining animal and human health, conserving the global environment and ecosystem, and developing industries and life science,
3. Who want to pursue comprehensive knowledge and advanced research in a specific area of the animal science and agriculture program, and
4. Who have acquired basic knowledge and skills up to the master’s level in a specific area of the animal science and agriculture program.

Basic policy for admission

1. General Admission

In the interview, we will evaluate the applicant's communication skills, knowledge of his/her specialized field and motivation, taking into consideration the results of the screening of application documents.

2. Special Selection for Mature Applicants

In the interview, we will evaluate the applicant's communication skills, knowledge of his/her specialized field and motivation, taking into consideration the results of the screening of application documents.

3. Admission for International Students

In the proficiency test in English, we will evaluate the applicant's ability to read and understand English based on the grade of TOEIC, TOELF or IELTS. In the interview, we will evaluate the applicant's communication skills, knowledge of his/her specialized field and motivation, taking into consideration the results of the screening of application documents.

Diploma Policy

In the Doctoral Program of Animal Science and Agriculture, the degree shall be conferred on persons who have taken the courses set up in the curriculum and obtained the required credits to complete the program, and have acquired the following skills that enable them to shoulder advanced research using their up-to-date knowledge and skills in the fields of animal science and agriculture such as animal production, ecology and environmental science, food science, agricultural economics, engineering for agriculture, plant production science, and interdisciplinary fields:

1. Ethics

- Ethics based on up-to-date knowledge and skills in the fields of animal science and agriculture such as animal production, ecology and environmental science, food science, agricultural economics, engineering for agriculture, plant production science, animal and food hygiene, and veterinary life science, and interdisciplinary fields, and based on deep understanding of life phenomena and social activities

2. International competence and leadership

- Abilities to conduct international-standard, advanced research in a wide range of fields of the life sciences including the intravital micro-level, the macro-level dealing with individuals and populations, and animal production.
- Abilities to conduct international-standard, advanced research in the field of ecological research dealing with the inside of organisms, individuals and populations.
- Advanced knowledge and skills, and abilities to conduct international-standard, advanced research on processing and utilization of agricultural and livestock products, and their functionality and safety.

- Abilities to conduct international-standard, advanced research on agricultural economy in order to improve productivity of food production utilizing domestic and overseas resources.
 - Abilities to conduct international-standard, advanced research on production techniques and environmental control in order to improve productivity of food production utilizing domestic and overseas resources.
 - A wide range of technical knowledge on veterinary life science, and abilities to conduct international-standard, advanced research.
3. Communication skills
- Internationally competent presentation skills and communication skills necessary to explain their process of thinking and making judgments with regard to their specialty in the fields of animal production, ecology and environmental science, food science, agricultural economics, engineering for agriculture, and plant production science.
4. Technical knowledge and skills:
- Advanced knowledge and skills on animal production, ecology and environmental science, food science, agricultural economics, engineering for agriculture, and plant production science, global views with regard to the fields of veterinary medicine, animal science and agriculture, and their interdisciplinary fields, practical skills and leadership to meet various social needs according to the globalization of agricultural and livestock businesses, and international-standard, advanced research skills.

Curriculum Policy

In order to have the students acquire knowledge and skills specified in the diploma policy of the Doctoral Program of Animal Science and Agriculture, we organize curriculum in accordance with the following policies:

I. Contents of Education

We offer education in the following 1 to 4 to all students, as well as in the following 5 to 12 depending on their specialization.

1. Developing a high-level of ethics as a researcher:

Students will develop a high-level of ethics as educators and researchers using e-learning and active learning.

2. Developing leadership:

- Students will acquire advanced knowledge and skills as well as an ability to manage the whole in order to develop educators and researchers with practical skills and leadership, which enable them to satisfy social needs,
- Students will acquire practical teaching and research skills to become excellent educators and researchers.

3. Developing international competence:

- Students will improve their presentation, debate and academic writing skills to play an active role globally in the future,
- Students will develop international competence through research internship and fieldwork in cooperation with overseas universities in order to acquire advanced research skills.

4. Developing comprehensive research abilities as a doctor:

- Through common courses as well as elective courses from other degree programs, students will acquire a wide range of highly technical knowledge interdisciplinarily from the viewpoint of fusing veterinary medicine, animal science and agricultural studies,
- In addition, students will acquire international-standard, advanced research skills that aim to resolve global issues through research supervision.

5. Students will acquire a wide range of advanced knowledge and skills from life science to production science with regard to biofunction and production and management of domestic animals while keeping animal welfare and environmental conservation in consideration.

6. Students will acquire the globally most advanced knowledge and skills on food safety and animal and human health, involving highly advanced knowledge on food safety management systems and domestic and overseas safety monitoring of agricultural and livestock products, and excellent analysis and livestock management techniques in veterinary medicine and veterinary life science.

7. Students will acquire the globally most advanced knowledge and skills on the roles, functions, and interactions of the components of the natural environment (wild animals, insects and plants), and the compatibility of ecosystem conservation, taking into account animal welfare and ecological conservation in the matured global community.

8. Students will acquire the globally most advanced knowledge and skills on food production and processing from agricultural and livestock ingredients, and on the functionality and safety of these products, from the molecular level to industrial production level.

9. Students will acquire the globally most advanced knowledge and skills on economics and business studies related to food production, taking sustainable recycling and local resources into account, and utilizing resources of Tokachi, Hokkaido, which is regarded as Japan's principal food production base.
 10. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in the latest agricultural engineering to support agricultural production understanding the role of water and soil environment in rural areas and harmony with nature, advanced technology of agricultural machinery and advanced management technology of bioresources from the viewpoint of conservation and management of rural environment and sustainable food production.
 11. Students will acquire advanced knowledge and skills in plant physiology and ecology, genetics and breeding, crop protection, and soils necessary to achieve quantitative and qualitative improvements in plant production.
- II. Methods of Education
1. We offer active learning for students to acquire advanced research skills at an international level and to improve advanced problem-finding and problem-solving skills to resolve global issues.
 2. Students will practice the expressive and communication skills acquired through presentations and thesis writing in English at research internships and fieldwork in cooperation with overseas universities.
 3. We offer practical exercises to improve leadership skills as educators and researchers who can respond to the needs of society.
- III. Evaluation of Learning Outcomes
1. The evaluation methods and criteria for each course are clearly stated in the syllabus of each course and the Evaluation Criteria for Course.
 2. The policies for evaluation on credit, promotion and graduation are established and announced separately in the Assessment Policy and the Evaluation Criteria for Thesis.

Assessment policy

The accomplishments of study required in 'Diploma Policy' and the progresses of study defined in 'Curriculum Policy' are examined as follows:

1. Course Credit

The accomplishment of study concerned with credits of a course is examined as follows:

- Examine whether the requirements for course credits such as attendance, submission of a report or an assignment have been met
- Examine whether the goals of a course have been met

2. Promotion

The accomplishment of study concerned with promotion is examined as follows:

- Examine whether the studies of a student have been progressed according to Curriculum Policy with the test of promotion
- Examine whether the accomplishment of study has been met the goal for each grade with the 'Screening of progress with research' or 'Mid-term screening'

3. Completion

The accomplishment of study concerned with completion is examined as follows:

- Examine whether the Diploma Policy of OUAVM has been met with the final test
- Examine whether the thesis (include the products of research work) / dissertation is worthy to award the master's / doctoral degree of OUAVM

2. Graduate Degree Program of Animal and Food Hygiene

The Graduate Degree Program of Animal and Food Hygiene has been established to train persons who can deal with the acquisition and maintenance of international safety and hygienic standards, which businesses are demanded to meet, as distribution of agricultural products and food beyond nation boundaries is expanding. The program has been developed by making highly professional education on securing food safety into a graduate degree program that students of any of the Specialties can take.

The program trains animal and food hygiene specialists with abilities for practice and application, by conducting professional education on management system for safety and hygiene of agricultural products and other foods in a practical environment that meets international standards.

Students who take this program must take the required and elective courses of this specific program in addition to the

required courses and elective courses common in the doctoral program.

Note: Students in this program are to choose the Doctoral Degree in Agriculture or the Doctoral Degree in Animal and Food Hygiene when they have completed each academic year.

Graduate Degree Program of Animal and Food Hygiene

Persons We Train

By conducting education on internal auditing methods, which is further development from professional education on the HACCP system in food safety management systems, in addition to education for students to acquire the most advanced knowledge and skills on animal and food hygiene, we develop international researchers and advanced specialists on animal and food hygiene.

Diploma Policy

The degree shall be conferred on persons who have acquired a wide range of knowledge and excellent abilities to resolve issues as international researchers who shoulder responsibility of securing food safety.

Curriculum Policy

Students will acquire the globally most advanced knowledge and skills on animal and food hygiene focusing on hygiene all the way from livestock production sites to dining tables..

3. Completion of programs and awarding degrees

Students are awarded the Doctoral Degree in Agriculture or the Doctoral Degree in Animal and Food Hygiene (the Doctoral Degree in Animal and Food Hygiene can be awarded to those who completed the Graduate Degree Program of Animal and Food Hygiene), after they complete the program, i.e., those who have been enrolled in the Doctoral Program of Animal Science and Agriculture of the Graduate School of Animal and Veterinary Science and Agriculture of our university for three years or longer, and have earned the required credits (12 credits for the regular doctoral program, 16 credits for the Graduate Degree Program of Animal and Food Hygiene), who received the necessary research instruction, and passed the examination of their doctoral thesis in addition to the final examinations of the courses relevant to the thesis.

However, for those who achieved excellent results, the period enrolled in the graduate school could be shortened to one year.

4. Admission of Mature Students

The Doctoral Program of Animal Science and Agriculture of the Graduate School of Animal and Veterinary Science and Agriculture of our university has a special selection for mature applicants to admit students who have completed undergraduate studies, have worked at a company, public office or educational institute, and want to study in a graduate school to acquire more advanced academic knowledge and skills. In the special selection for mature applicants, the applicants' experience and achievements in society, and enthusiasm for research will be examined by the interview and document screening.

Before application, the applicants have to consult with their prospective supervisors on the contents of their research and what courses they will take.

5. Special long term limit

This system allows students who have a job or other special considerations to complete their degree within an agreed-upon time (maximum of 6 years) beyond the standard term limit and still pay the same fee as those students who complete their degrees in the standard amount of time.

In principle, those who want to use this system have to apply for it at the time they enroll after consulting with their prospective supervisors.

6. Supervisors

Name	Position	Field of Research	Contents
Iwamoto Hiroyuki	Professor	Agricultural Economics	1) Economic Valuation of the Agricultural Environment 2) Research on internalization of external diseconomies in the livestock industry 3) Research on local resource evaluation
Onishi Kazumitsu	Professor	Plant Breeding	Genetic studies on quantitative traits in crop species
 Oshida Tatsuo	Professor	Mammalogy	Ecological and phylogeographical studies of wild mammals
 Kato Kiyoaki	Professor	Plant Molecular Breeding	Molecular basis and applied studies on plant breeding
Kawashima Chiho	Professor	Animal Nutrition and Reproduction	1) Study on metabolic status and reproductive function during the peripartum period. 2) Study on nutritional and metabolic status of dam and fetus
Kinoshita Mikio	Professor	Food Chemistry	Food biochemistry of functional lipids
Kusaba Nobuyuki	Professor	Animal Hygiene Dairy Production Medicine	1) Animal Hygiene: Disease control of calves 2) Mastitis Control: Prevention and therapy
Kuchida Keigo	Professor	Animal Breeding	Statistical genetics for beef cattle based on objective measurements
Kumano Norikuni	Professor	Insect Ecology	Behavioral Ecology, Population Ecology
Kono Hiroichi	Professor	Agricultural Economics	1) Economics and Epidemiology 2) Development Economics, 3) Livestock Development and Poverty Reduction
Shimada Kenichiro	Professor	Meat Science	Applied studies on meat science / meat processing
Sembokuya Yasushi	Professor	Agricultural Economics	1) Risk management on agricultural production 2) Comparative analysis on food system
Takata Kanenori	Professor	Food Science	Cereal science and food processing
Tani Masayuki	Professor	Soil Science	Evaluation and improvement on soil fertility in arable land
 Tetsuka Masafumi	Professor	Reproductive Physiology	Studies on ovarian physiology, oocyte maturation, fertilization and embryo development in domestic animals
Nakabayashi Kazumi	Professor	Plant Molecular Physiology	Molecular mechanisms of seed dormancy and germination
Nade Toshihiro	Professor	Animal Feeding	Nutritional physiology and meat production
Nishida Takehiro	Professor	Animal Feeding	Nutritional physiology and feed evaluation in ruminants
Hagiya Koichi	Professor	Animal Breeding	Genetic improvement of dairy cattle based on quantitative genetics
Hirata Masahiro	Professor	Rangeland Ecology Culture Anthropology	1) Study on rangeland ecology and environmental conservation in dry areas 2) Study on subsistence and milk culture of pastoralists in dry areas
Fukuda Kenji	Professor	Dairy Chemistry	Studies on functionalities of milk components and lactic acid bacteria
Miyatake Fumihito	Professor	Bioresource Engineering	Research and development of composting technology and compost utilization

Muneoka Toshimi	Professor	Irrigation, Drainage and Rural Engineering	1) River water quality and land use in agricultural and forest watersheds 2) Slope conservation and revegetation technology
Watanabe Jun	Professor	Food Functional Chemistry	Mechanical studies on functionalities of food resources
Aiuchi Daigo	Associate Professor	Applied Entomology	Studies on pest control of pathogen vector insects
Akasaka Takumi	Associate Professor	Conservation Science	1) Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Service 2) Systematic Conservation Planning Anthropogenic Disturbance and Land-use Strategy
Acosta Ayala Tomas Javier	Associate Professor	Animal Production Animal Disease Control	Improving efficiency in dairy and beef cattle production. Herd health management.
Asari Yushin	Associate Professor	Wildlife Ecology	1) Ecological study of arboreal mammals 2) Human-wildlife conflict 3) Road ecology
Kasuga Jun	Associate Professor	Plant Physiology	Abiotic stress adaptation mechanisms in plants
Kawano Youichi	Associate Professor	Agricultural management	1) Management Capabilities 2) Decision Information Analysis 3) Management Strategy in Traditional Industries
Kawamura Kensuke	Associate Professor	Grassland Ecology	Grassland ecology, grazing management, animal behavior, and remote sensing
Kimura Masato	Associate Professor	Agricultural Meteorology	Use of cold energy from natural ice
Kusaba Nobuyuki	Associate Professor	Animal Hygiene Dairy Production Medicine	1) Animal Hygiene: Disease control of calves 2) Mastitis Control: Prevention and therapy
Kubota Satoko	Associate Professor	Agricultural Economics	1) Economic analysis on food safety 2) Risk communication
Goto Tatsuhiko	Associate Professor	Animal Breeding and Genetics	1) Genetic analyses of phenotypes using a variety of chicken breeds 2) Genetic and environmental factors in egg composition traits
Sanetomo Rena	Associate Professor	Plant Genetics and Breeding	Potato genetics and germplasm enhancement
Sugawara Masayuki	Associate Professor	Applied Microbiology	Studies on brewing microorganisms and plant symbiotic bacteria
Hashimoto Naoto	Associate Professor	Nutritional Physiology	Functionality of phytochemicals on energy metabolism
Han Kyu-Ho	Associate Professor	Functional Nutrition	Research for bio-resources on health function
Magata Fumie	Associate Professor	Domestic Animal Reproduction	1) Mechanisms of infertility caused by postpartum diseases in dairy cows 2) Ovum pick up and in vitro production of bovine embryos
Mikami Nana	Associate Professor	Food Science	Meat science, food nutrition
Miyake Shunsuke	Associate Professor	Agricultural management	1) Changes in farm structure and farm management and their impact on farm 2) Economic evaluation by introducing agricultural technology
Muranishi Yuki	Associate Professor	Animal Development	Development and cell fate regulation of domestic animals

Mori Masahiko	Associate Professor	Plant Production Science	Study on physio-morphological characteristics in crop plants
Yamauchi Takeo	Associate Professor	Systematic Entomology	1) Taxonomic study using insect specimens 2) Evaluation of environment using insects as bioindicators 3) Medical and veterinary entomology
Yamashita Shinji	Associate Professor	Food Chemistry	Food function of lipids
Yoshikawa Takuya	Associate Professor	Bioresource Engineering	Studies on fractionation and utilization of biomass, and development of its process
Romero Isami	Associate Professor	International Relations Political Science	Japan's Food Diplomacy
Watanabe Hiroyuki	Associate Professor	Reproductive Engineering	Studies on embryo production using assisted reproductive technology

The Professor marked with  will retire on March 31, 2027. If you would like to be supervised by him/her, please consult in advance about research instruction.

The Professor marked with  will retire on March 31, 2028. If you would like to be supervised by him/her, please consult in advance about research instruction.

The Professor marked with  will retire on March 31, 2029. If you would like to be supervised by him/her, please consult in advance about research instruction.