

Admission Guide for the 4th IAUD International Universal Design Research Course



国際ユニヴァーサルデザイン研究学院
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE for UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The International Association for Universal Design (IAUD) will open the 4th phase of the International Universal Design Research Course in April 2026. In the 4th phase, the IAUD will expand internationally, inviting students from all over the world. In addition, UD experts from abroad will join the lecturers/tutors, making the curriculum even more diverse. Classes will be conducted via an AI live interpretation function, so there will be no need to worry about mutual communication with foreign lecturers/tutors and students.

<Admission Policy>

Universal design (UD) is the design of living environments, architecture, equipment, systems, services, etc., with the intention from the beginning to be accessible to as many people as possible. At IAUD, we take it a step forward and believe that "creating a safe and secure social environment that respects the humanity of each individual" is the essence of universal design. This Research Course for Universal Design aims to develop human resources who can perceive the various issues surrounding us from a broad perspective, discover issues on their own, and take action to solve them.

Based on this aim, we seek students as follows;

- people who like manufacturing, town planning, and creating things, and are interested in acquiring the knowledge and skills in design and universal design.
- people who would like to further improve their communication and leadership skills.

- people who are interested in the events of domestic and international society, and who are enthusiastic and willing to make efforts to set up and solve problems on their own.

In addition, as a prerequisite for attending a research course, students must meet one of the following requirements;

- A graduate of a university or junior college.
- Currently employed or have been employed in the past by one of the companies or organizations.
- A person who has passed the intermediate level of the IAUD Universal Design Certification Exams.

The term of this course is one year (30 weeks in total, 15 weeks in the first semester and 15 weeks in the second semester), and the tuition is 600,000 yen per year. However, IAUD members can take the course at the member discount price of 480,000 yen and students at the student discount price of 300,000 yen.

A group discount of 40% off the course fee will be applied only to a group of 10 or more people from a company, organization, or municipality. Thus, the 600,000 yen course fee per person will be reduced by 40% to 360,000 yen. However, this group discount cannot be combined with membership or student discounts.

<Curriculum Policy>

Universal design (UD) is an act of creating a living environment that contributes to society. It is necessary to acquire basic skills that can cope with social changes and technology, and to establish knowledge and skills that can cope with globalization. We will train socially responsible UD professionals with a certain level of expressive skills and a rich sense of humanity.

- In the first semester, as introductory education, students will take up various UD issues from a wide range of fields such as society, people, and daily life and understand the meaning and role of UD. They will also acquire lectures to enhance their education and knowledge.
- In the second semester, students will select a research theme from the Communication Design, Industrial Design, Environmental Design, or Design Management programs, and conduct a final research project based on the research theme they set.

<Diploma Policy>

The curriculum is designed to enable students to learn basic and specialized methods by preparing options from a variety of UD areas according to their personalities and abilities, and to set the following achievement goals.

- Must have basic knowledge and ability of UD. Specifically, they shall acquire knowledge about the concept of UD and examples of its development in society, knowledge about human and natural matters, the ability to develop from ideas, the ability to draw, compose, and use colors skillfully and etc., which can be all acquired from the research.

- Possess basic skills and UD deployment capabilities in the UD area of his/her choice.
- Possess the basic ability to act in accordance with the UD philosophy in society.

16 credits (compulsory: 6, elective: 10) are required to obtain a Diploma (PgDip). A thesis is not required, but students must clear the exams or report submission required for each subject.

<Curriculum>

Subject	Style	compulsory	elective	remarks
General Study for Universal Design	Lecture	2		General Study
Universal Design around the World	Lecture		2	General Study
Inclusive Society in Norway	Lecture		2	Design Management
Tourism for All in Europe	Lecture		2	General Study
Universal Design in India	Lecture		2	General Study
Universal Fashion in India	Lecture		2	Design Management
Universal Environment for Sustainable ASEAN and Beyond	Lecture		2	Environmental Design
Advanced Study for Universal Communication	Lecture		2	Communication Design
Advanced Study for Environmental Design	Lecture		2	Environmental Design
Advanced Study for Universal Design Management	Lecture		2	Design Management
Advanced Study for Universal Signage	Lecture		2	Communication Design
Advanced Study for Mobility Universal Design	Lecture		2	Industrial Design
Advanced Study for Architectural Design	Lecture		2	Environmental Design
Advanced Study for Universal Tourism	Lecture		2	Design Management
Advanced Study for Universal Housing	Lecture		2	Environmental Design
Advanced Study for Universal Town Planning	Lecture		2	Environmental Design
Advanced Study for Sustainable Design	Lecture		2	General Study
Advanced Practice for Universal Design	Lecture/ Practice		2	UD certification Program, Advanced level
Advanced Practice for Inclusive Design	Lecture/ Practice		2	Workshop
Advanced Practice for Sustainable Design	Lecture/ Practice		2	Workshop
Final Research	Practice	4		

* Subjects will be revised (updated and added) as they become available.

<Schedule>

February, 2026: Start of publicity for student recruitment and admission guide

Mid April, 2026: Start 1st semester of 4th phase

Late July, 2026: End 1st semester of 4th phase

Early October, 2026: Start 2nd semester of 4th phase

Late February, 2027: End 2nd semester of 4th phase

Late February, 2027: completion ceremony of 4th phase

<Diploma>

Students who have completed the required courses in the research course and earned 16 credits are awarded a Diploma (PgDip), as shown below.

