

Disease Prevention Global Leader Program (DP-GLP)

Overview 2014-2015

**Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences
Tokyo Medical and Dental University**

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Disease Prevention Global Leader Program @ Tokyo Medical and Dental University

1. Program Objectives

Successful leaders in disease prevention know the importance of transdisciplinary approaches in strengthening disease prevention. Disease Prevention Global Leader Program (DP-GLP) equips young health scientists, educators and administrative officers from the developing countries with advanced knowledge and skills of multi-disciplines, from Basic Sciences and Bioengineering to Clinical Medicine and Public Health, to excel as global, multifaceted leaders in preventive medicine. The DP-GLP is a graduate program that consists of rigorous yet flexible curriculum to satisfy individual training needs. Candidates successfully completing the program receive a Ph.D.

Tokyo Medical and Dental University is one of the top 10 medical graduate schools and the only one with a comprehensive program of disease prevention science in Japan. You will learn the best practices available today during the program and become a part of a professional community working for disease prevention worldwide. Upon completion of the DP-GLP, you will be expected to play a leadership role in institutions of local, national or global health governance or in enterprises.

2. Background

Over the last few decades, many countries especially in underdeveloped and developing countries experienced rapid urbanization, which has led to rapid increases in prevalence of non-communicable diseases. There are high demands particularly from developing countries to strengthen countermeasures and preventive measures against emerging and re-emerging infectious disease and non-communicable diseases. Recent development in bioscience, bioinformatics and biotechnology made important advancements in preventive medicine by allowing us to examine genomic information on disease susceptibility, molecular mechanisms on disease development and host-pathogen interactions etc. Effective management of public health issues urgently requires nurturing professionals and leaders who have research capability and practical knowledge and skills on both public health issues and disease prevention science.

Tokyo Medical and Dental University has been active in promoting academic exchanges and joint research projects with overseas research institutions and hosted many international students and researchers in the past. The Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences engage in academic exchanges, including various educational courses with Asian, Oceanian, African, and Latin American countries. It has grown into the hub of international personal exchange in the field of urban health, health policy, infectious diseases and parasitology, immunology, genome science, noncommunicable disease controls, lifestyle disease controls, community and disaster medicine, bioinformatics and biotechnology. Capitalizing on these experiences, we hope to further respond to requests and needs of cities regarding science, planning, development and policy in disease prevention. This would promote sharing of information through a systematic approach to facilitating international personal exchange and education of foreign students/researchers.

In order to equip young professionals to become disease prevention leaders, the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, founded the DP-GLP, a new international PhD. This program consists of two tracks that have recently been merged together: “Public Health Medicine Leaders Course” and “International Biomedical Science PhD Program” that started in 2001 and 2006 respectively. Up till now, young health scientists and administrative workers from more than 15 countries in Asia, Pacific and Africa regions completed the programs. Not only the students themselves but also the people of their home institutions and countries, have benefitted from those program as they have provided support for personal and academic capacity development of each student and support for their work after graduation through joint-research work .

The DP-GLP is a rigorous and flexible program. Japan has the highest level of public health medicine in the world due to the quality of its public health practices and advancement in bioscience and biotechnology, and Tokyo Medical and Dental University has been consistently ranked by Citation Index as one of the top five medical schools in Japan. The students will be exposed to an environment with high standards of research and practices. At the same time, the students will be given opportunities to study across disciplines from bioscience and biotechnology to public health while developing their own specialty.

Students will receive opportunities to interact with working professionals in public health from Japan and other countries. Located in the center of Tokyo, Tokyo Medical and Dental University has many strong international networks in health research, education and practices. For example, the university has such network for urban health, health policy, infectious diseases and parasitology, non-communicable disease controls, and community and disaster medicine through the work of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Policy Research; Ghana-Tokyo Medical and Dental University Research Collaboration Program on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, Ghana; Latin American Collaborative Research Center, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Santiago, Chile; Chulalongkorn University-Tokyo Medical and Dental University Research and Education Collaboration Center, Thailand; and other programs connected to our Graduate School.

Furthermore, students are able to have advisors from other disciplines such as chemistry, pharmaceutical science and nutrition, and to participate in various educational programs outside the classroom. For example, there is an internship program at international enterprises as a part of the collaborative education program of “Tokyo Interdisciplinary Life Science Consortium” where members are four excellent universities with strength in bioscience in Tokyo, i.e., Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Kitasato University, Ochanomizu University and Gakushuin University.

3. Degrees

In order to accommodate students with diverse backgrounds and research interests, DP-GLP offers two tracks: 1) a Biomedical Science and Technology (BST) track and 2) a Public Health Medicine (PHM) track, and students choose one of them as a major. BST offers a two-year master of science degree and a three-year Doctor of Philosophy in Science or in Engineering, and PHM offers a four-year Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Science or Doctor of Philosophy.

4. Curriculum and Requirements

1) BST track

BST focuses on basic science and development of innovative drug and medical devices in relation to disease prevention. All students with national scholarship need to join a five-year integrated doctoral program (i.e., a two-year master degree followed by a three-year Ph.D.) in order to ensure high quality and consistency of expertise development. Exception applies to students with private scholarships, who may wish to choose either a master degree only or a Ph.D. program only. The master program consists of lectures to teach basic knowledge about genome science, immunology and chemical biology. The Ph.D. program consists of small, round table lectures about disease prevention overview and data science. The program further includes special trainings such as research visits to other departments and internship at international enterprises where necessary.

Regarding the dissertation writing, students will be assigned a chief supervisor who is the head of their department, an associate supervisor and an advisor (optional) from faculty members at the start of the program. The graduate supervision system is designed to assess the unique needs of every individual and his/her country and facilitate academic and personal development throughout the program. Under the direction of the supervisor, the student will receive guidance and advice from faculty members with relevant expertise.

2) PHM track

PHM focuses on holistic medicine, community medicine and social medicine in relation to disease prevention. Students spend the first two years on acquiring basic knowledge and skills to carry out public and community health. Students also can learn basic knowledge about bioscience and bioengineering by attending lectures in the BST track. In the third and fourth year, students will receive lectures and practices led by frontline public health professionals working for WHO, universities and research institutes worldwide.

Regarding the dissertation writing, PHM students will also be assigned a chief supervisor who is the head of their department, an associate supervisor and an advisor (optional) from faculty members. The graduate supervision system is designed to assess the unique needs of every individual and his/her country and facilitate academic and personal development throughout the program. Under the direction of the supervisor, the student will receive guidance and advice from faculty members with relevant expertise.

Graduation Requirements

BST students must earn a minimum of 30 units for master of science and 20 units for the Ph.D. course, and PHM students must earn minimum of 30 units in related subjects during their study. Both BST and PHM students must submit a dissertation on their research work also. Tokyo Medical and Dental University will award students a master degree and/or a Ph.D. if their dissertation meets the requirement and they pass a dissertation defense. All courses are provided on our main campus in Tokyo.

Support beyond classroom

Residential programs are available to provide safe and inclusive living and learning environments beyond classroom. International Exchange Center is also available to provide counseling to ensure smooth academic and cultural transitions.

5. Courses and Units

DP-GLP offers a wide range of courses. Students receive units necessary for graduation by completing a specific number of units from core courses and elective courses.

BST-M.A. students

BST-M.A. students are required to take all the courses listed below.

- Introduction to Medicine and Dentistry
- Initial Research Training
- Special Lectures for Advanced Research on Life Science and Technology
- Research for Thesis
- Seminar of Science and Engineering
- Practice of Science and Engineering

BST and PHM-Ph.D students

Core Courses

BST-Ph.D. students and PHM-Ph.D. students are required to take specified two courses and earn 3 units.

- Overview of Public Health Medicine in Disease Prevention (2 unites)
- Overview of Disease Prevention Science I (1 unit)

Elective Courses

Students can choose a range of electives to design a study plan that meets their needs and interests. The number of electives one can take will depend on the program one chooses and that program's individual requirements.

The list of elective courses open to a student depends on the program one chooses. The list is available in the Bulletins of the respective tracks and master/doctoral programs.

Field Studies and Internship

Selected students will be facilitated in conducting field studies and/or internship.

6. Primary Use of English, and Japanese-Language Study for International Students

The primary language of both tracks of the DP-GLP is English. The lectures, practices and dissertation supervision are offered in English. Administrative procedure, lectures and laboratory activities are done mainly in English. However, students are strongly advised to study Japanese language for convenience in daily life beyond the classroom as well as to effectively use materials written in Japanese. English and Japanese language and cross cultural communication classes are available to foster students' smooth acculturation to life and study in Japan.

7. Participation of Japanese Students

Japanese students at departments of Medical and Dental Science and Biomedical Science can participate in this "Disease Prevention Global Leader Program". Those students should register for "Overview of Public Health Medicine in Disease Prevention" and "Overview of Disease Prevention Science I" and study together with international students. Those Japanese students are encouraged to attend other elective courses together with international students.

8. Guide to Enrollment in the Program

There are several paths into the program for international and local (Japanese) enrollees, with and without scholarships. The dates and procedures for the calls for entries for the following paths differ according to the respective recruitment process.

For Autumn (October) Enrollment:

1) Become a Japanese Government Scholar via University Recommendation

Tokyo Medical and Dental University carefully screens academically and individually excellent international students, and recommend the selected students to the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for enrollment in DP-GLP with a Japanese Government Scholarship.

* Candidates need to be living outside Japan at the time of application and before enrollment

2) Become a Riken International School Scholar

Tokyo Medical and Dental University carefully screens academically and individually excellent international students and recommend the selected students to RIKEN for enrollment in BST Track of DP-GLP with a Riken International School Scholarship

3) Self-funded International Students

Self-funded international students (including those who are awarded with scholarship from governments other than the Japanese government or from a non-governmental body) may be selected for enrollment in DP-GLP, as per the call for enrollment.

For Spring (April) Enrollment:

4) Become a Recipient of TMDU Scholar and Earn the Required Credits

Tokyo Medical and Dental University carefully screens academically and individually excellent international students and awards the TMDU Scholarship according to the results of a special examination conducted during the International Summer Program (ISP) of TMDU. The recipient can register for DP-GLP by earning the required credits in DP-GLP core courses.

5) Pass the General Examination and Earn the Required Credits

Tokyo Medical and Dental University opens its general examinations to foreign and local students who wish to enroll in graduate programs. Those who pass the examination can register for DP-GLP by earning the required credits in DP-GLP core courses.

9. Correspondence

General

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BST track

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PHM track

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