

Tohoku University School of Dentistry

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Tohoku University was founded in Sendai in 1907 as Tohoku Imperial University, the third Imperial University in Japan. Since its foundation, the University has been very progressive and given stimulus to society, and opened its doors to foreign students as far back as 1911, even earlier than University of Tokyo. This epoch-making event characterized the "Open-door" policy of Tohoku University, and the spirit is still vigorous in the University today. Tohoku University has cherished as its fundamental ideal a "Search-for-Truth" spirit, which may be rephrased as "Research First" principle. This does not mean exclusive stress on research at the expense of education; it means that where there is good research, there is good education.

In accordance with the introduction of the new school system, the University took the present name of Tohoku University in 1949. Today, Tohoku University is one of the largest as well as the oldest universities in Japan, comprising 10 Faculties, 13 Graduate Schools (including three Graduate Schools with no respective faculties), five Research Institutes, and many other Educational and Research Centers in five campuses all located in Sendai.

1. School of Dentistry (Faculty of Dentistry)

The School of Dentistry was founded in April 1965 for the purpose of promoting both the teaching of and research into dental science and dental education in Japan. Sixty students are admitted each year and pursue a six-year course comprising subjects common across the campus and specialized subjects in dentistry. Specialized subjects are offered at Seiryō campus. Since the foundation of the School, it has provided with students some unique and leading subjects among the Japanese dental colleges. "Basic Research Program in Dental Science" called "Kiso Jissyu" is one of them. The subject is opened to 5th year students to inspire their "Research Mind" and "Thinking Spirit" for dental research under the one-to-one directions from the staff of the Graduate School. Clinical training is offered to the 5th- and 6th-year students at the affiliated Dental Hospital located on the same campus. The students' pass rate in the National Examination is among the highest of all the dental schools in Japan. The School publishes the Tohoku University Dental Journal to introduce the progress in the research of dental science.

2. Affiliated Dental Hospital

The Dental Hospital was established in 1967 to promote research and education in clinical dentistry and to meet the demands of the community for dental service. The hospital houses 11 clinical divisions and five central service facilities equipped with 174 dental units, one operating service room, and 40 beds, providing the Tohoku area with excellent dental services.

3. Graduate School of Dentistry

The Graduate School (Ph.D. course) was established in April 1972 with the aim to foster leading experts who can contribute to the progress of dental science. It was reorganized in April 2000 and has five major departments. Each department consists of four to five divisions that run both basic and clinical dental science programs. The programs are designed to provide students with extensive research training and to encourage those with "Search-for-Truth" spirit. As all the staffs of the Graduate School of Dentistry are concerned with education in the School of Dentistry, the large number of new Bachelors are requested to apply to the Graduate School for the higher and advanced research courses. The School is also open to foreign students, and a number of students from various countries have studied dental science and were conferred degrees.

4. School for Dental Laboratory Technicians

The School for Dental Laboratory Technicians was inaugurated in 1975. The school takes 20 students per year and two-year course of training is offered to gain a broad education and learn laboratory techniques.

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