

## **The Nippon Dental University School of Dentistry at Tokyo**

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The Nippon Dental University was founded in 1907 as the first dental school prescribed by the Japanese Dental Law announced in 1906 and is the oldest of all private and public dental schools in Japan. The university organization consists of two dental schools, one in Tokyo and the other in Niigata, graduate schools, a junior college, an affiliated school of dental technology and hygiene, and dental and medical hospitals. In January 2001, The Nippon Dental University carried out an enterprising reorganization of its faculty and separated the organization into two elements, faculty chairs and hospital clinics, becoming the first school of dentistry or medicine to do so. The major tasks in the chairs and clinics are research and clinical practice respectively. Undergraduate education is overseen by both divisions, and their common aim is to vitalize education, research and clinical practice, and to achieve a higher level of education, more advanced research and an improvement in medical services. As with regards to inter-national exchange, the university advocated and organized the International Union of Schools of Oral Health (IUSOH) in 1985. Fourteen dental schools from 13 countries concluded a treaty of sister schools to promote academic exchanges. The university will receive overseas graduate school students and dental trainees. The university's educational principles can be summarized as follows: The university trains dentists who possess knowledge, skills and morality and who contribute to the health of the nation as a member of the medical profession.

### **1. School of Dentistry at Tokyo**

The School of Dentistry at Tokyo forms a six-year curriculum, and provides effective and coordinated classes and practices. A comprehensive dental care system is adopted for the students' clinical training at the affiliated dental hospital. The hospital staff instructs the students in general dental practices comprehensively, and an excellent outcome of clinical training is obtained.

A research system in which the whole school is involved is in place, and the research staff and the graduate school students utilize facilities such as electro-probe microanalysis (EPMA), X-ray analysis, electron microscopes, radio- isotope and data processing at the affiliated Dental Research Institute. Wide-ranging international research is also being carried out through the most up-to-date computer systems and the Internet.

### **2. Affiliated Dental Hospital**

The Kyoritsu Dental School Affiliated Hospital, the origin of The Nippon Dental University Hospital at Tokyo, was established in December 1907. The present dental hospital was built in October 1987. The hospital consists of General Dentistry Clinics (endodontics & operative dentistry, prosthodontics, periodontics, preventive dentistry and geriatric dentistry), the Pedodontic & Orthodontic Clinic, the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic, the Multipurpose Clinic, the Implant Clinic, the Psychosomatic Dental Clinic, the TMJ Clinic, the Medically Compromised & Handicapped Patients' Clinic, the Jaw Deformity Clinic, the Oral & Maxillofacial Oncology Clinic, the Dental Dry Dock, the Internal Medicine & Surgery Clinic, wards for inpatients and clinical laboratories.

Treatment of patients and wide-ranging education for bringing up dentists of a new generation are carried out in the hospital. This is reflected in the school's curriculum, which requires students to perform hands-on clinical training.

### **3. Graduate School of Dentistry**

The Graduate School of Dentistry at Tokyo was established in April 1960. The standard term of the doctoral course is four years. The school aims to teach and research theory and its practical applications,

and to achieve a high level of professional knowledge for researchers who are able to contribute to the development of the future of dental medicine and to possess a broad research ability for engaging in professional works in various social fields such as industry and international research organizations.

#### 4. Affiliated School of Dental Technology and Hygiene

The Affiliated School of Dental Technology and Hygiene was founded in 1971. The students receive a high-level education and clinical training under the direct instruction of the Nippon Dental University staff. The term of the dental technology course is two years. There is also a two-year advanced program for the licensed dental technician. The dental hygiene course is three years. Acquisition of the Second Class Home Helper Qualification is included in the curriculum. Clinical training is given at the Nippon Dental University Hospital.

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