

The Nippon Dental University School of Dentistry at Niigata

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The Nippon Dental University was founded in 1907 as the first dental school after enactment of the Japanese Dental Law 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. With regard to international exchange, the university advocated and organized the International Union of Schools of Oral Health (IUSOH) in 1985. Fourteen dental schools from 13 countries concluded an agreement 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 Niigata

The School of Dentistry at Niigata was added in April 1972. Six hundred and twenty students are receiving a full-time, hands-on education as well as undertaking part-time volunteer work, and 330 teachers are in charge of education. The school has a six-year undergraduate curriculum, ranging from general education to basic and clinical training. During their clinical practice at the affiliated hospital, students are provided with detailed and effective education as they rotate through the different departments. In this way, the students can move smoothly onto clinical training after graduation. The school provides dental care through home visits, which is a first for a Japanese dental university. By having students acquire home-visit dental care for the bedridden elderly, the students are being taught the realities and knowledge needed to prepare for the coming aging society.

2. Affiliated Dental Hospital and Medical Hospital at Niigata

The Dental Hospital has such departments as the Comprehensive Dental Care Unit, Children and Orthodontic, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Dental Anesthesia, and Radiology.

In the Medical Examination Center, there are the following facilities: the Disabled Children's Center, the Special Patients' Care Center, the Oral Implant Center, the Clinic For Snoring and Obstructive Sleep Apnea, the Home Dental Care Team, the Clinic for Aesthetic Dentistry, the Clinic for Sports Dentistry, the Breath Odor Clinic, the TMJ and Orofacial Pain Clinic, and the Clinic for Pediatric and Orthodontic Dentistry. The Dental Hospital functions as a comprehensive medical facility for dental care, treatment for jaw disorders, with 50 beds for in-patients.

In addition to the Dental Hospital, the Medical Hospital has departments of Internal Medicine, Surgery, and Otorhinolaryngology, where students gain clinical training.

3. Graduate School of Dentistry at Niigata

The graduate course was established as a doctoral course in April 1990. The speciality of this course consists of a four-tier curriculum: a basic science system, an applied science system, a clinical science system, and characteristic research instruction which is not taught by conventional faculty direction.

4. Dental Research Center

It was described as a "advanced research center design", at the Ministry of Education. Initiation of a high-tech research center was sought after for private universities by the Ministry of Education and has since been adopted at the School of Dentistry at Niigata. The Dental Research Center was built in 1999, where researchers are using the newest equipment and state-of-the-art techniques.

5. Museum of Medicine and Dentistry

The museum was opened as the first public medical museum in Japan in 1989. It displays historical data and aims to contribute to scientific culture by undertaking educational research and carrying out general public presentations of the history of medicine and the history of dentistry.

6. The Dental Hygiene Course at the Junior College at Niigata

The Affiliated School of Dental Hygiene at Niigata, founded in April 1983, was upgraded to the level of a junior college with a Dental Hygiene Course of four years. In 1997, a special research section was initiated, and has since continued to make every effort to improve the training of dental hygienists. The acquisition of the Second Class Home Helper Qualification is included in the curriculum. Clinical training is undertaken at the Affiliated Dental Hospital.

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