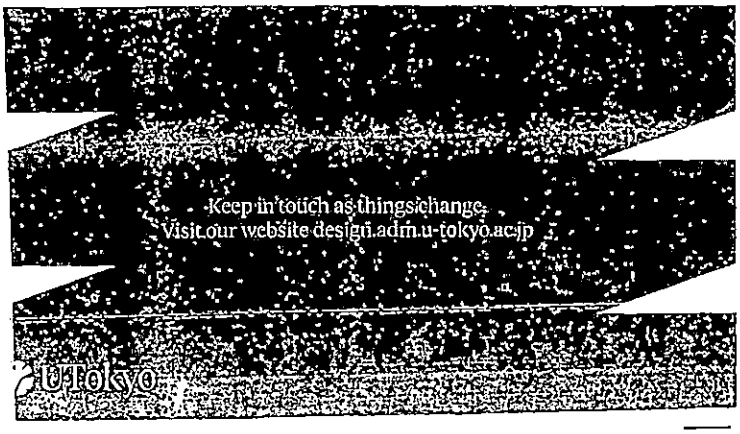
Our community of changemakers

We're bringing together diverse students from Japan and around the world who are passionate about shaping a better future — from those intrigued by design's creative potential to those driven by solving complex social challenges. What connects us is a commitment to new ways of thinking. Through our core program and our network across the university, we're building a community that breaks down traditional boundaries and leverages design as a powerful tool for change.

Japan: your design laboratory

Japan's dynamic interplay of tradition and innovation offers a distinctive perspective on design. With a history shaped by modernization, environmental sustainability, urbanization, and resilience in the face of social and ecological challenges, Japan provides a rich context for exploring the evolving role of design. As Japan's leading academic institution, renowned for its excellence in research, education, and international collaboration across disciplines, the University of Tokyo stands at this intersection of heritage and innovation. Studying here means experiencing where technological advancement, holistic solutions, and deep cultural heritage inform new approaches to shaping our future.



UTokyo

COLLEGE OF DESIGN



At UTokyo College of Design (UTokyo Design), we believe that uniting creative design approaches with knowledge from UTokyo's world-class academic disciplines, we empower a new generation of leaders who can transform complex social challenges into tangible, impactful solutions.

This plan is still under development, and its details are subject to change.

The world needs visionary thinkers who can see beyond traditional boundaries and act to create positive change.

That's why UTokyo Design exists — to cultivate a new kind of graduate. One who combines deep intellectual curiosity with the ability to transform understanding into action. Design is the critical discipline that bridges knowledge and impact, turning insights into solutions.

Understanding social challenges to create change

Making sense of the complexity at the heart of society's biggest challenges is the first step toward solving them. Whether it's climate change, aging populations, digital transformation or cultural heritage preservation, gaining a clear understanding of these issues allows us to approach them with informed, creative solutions.

At UTokyo Design, broad disciplinary knowledge and critical thinking provide the foundation driving real change.

Blending design with expansive knowledge

We're taking a new approach to turn design into a tool for transformation — one that unites design methods with broad, multi-disciplinary knowledge. For us, design goes beyond aesthetics; it's a discipline that applies diverse methods and skills to create products, services, and systems. It drives innovation, solves complex challenges, and shapes industries. By combining creative problem-solving with deep understanding across multiple disciplines, we're shaping a new generation who can navigate complexity and turn bold ideas into real solutions.

A program built for change

Year 01	Year 02	Year 03	Year 04
Interdisciplinary Foundations (IF)* Fundamental classes from across the university	**Interdisciplinary Perspectives (IP)**** Elective modules spanning diverse academic disciplines		**Off Campus Experience** Internship, exchange, fie or similar
Eight Track Design Series Foundational design methods and skills taught through eight workshops	**Change Maker Projects** Design projects focused on social issues and opportunities plus advanced methods and skills		
	View Point Series Internal seminar series related to social issues and design topics		

* IF is a uniquely created curriculum that introduces students to the wide disciplinary knowledge delivered by the full spectrum of UTokyo's Faculties.

** IP covers up to 100 elective subjects in five categories: Environment & Sustainability, Technology Frontiers & AI, Governance & Markets, Healthcare & Wellbeing and Culture & Society

standing challenges te change

making sense of the complexity at the heart of society's biggest challenges is the first step toward solving them. Whether it's climate change, aging populations, digital transformation or cultural heritage preservation, gaining a clear understanding of these issues allows us to approach them with informed, creative solutions.

At UTokyo Design, broad disciplinary knowledge and critical thinking provide the foundation driving real change.

ng design with sive knowledge

We're taking a new approach to turn design into a tool for transformation -- one that unites design methods with broad, multi-disciplinary knowledge. For us, design goes beyond aesthetics; it's a discipline that applies diverse methods and skills to create products, services, and systems. It drives innovation, solves complex challenges, and shapes industries. By combining creative problem-solving with deep understanding across multiple disciplines, we're shaping a new generation who can navigate complexity and turn bold ideas into real solutions.

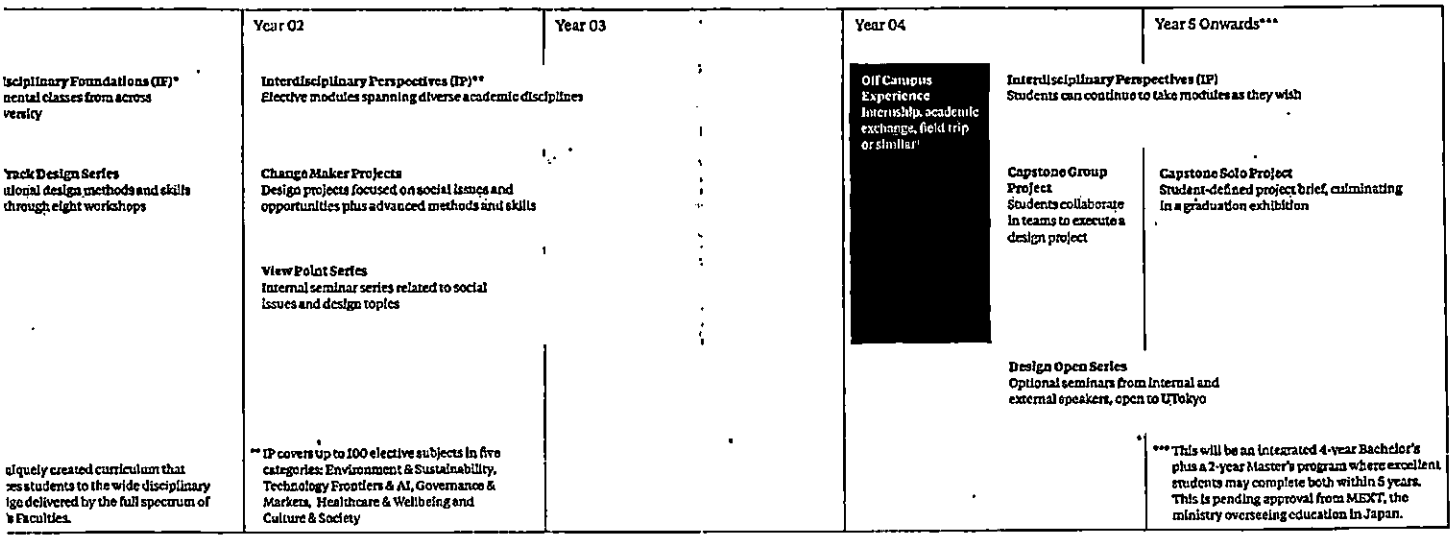
A program built for change

Our innovative five-year Bachelor's/Master's program is built on two pillars: comprehensive design expertise and the university's rich knowledge ecosystem.

In design, we don't prescribe a single approach. Instead, students master multiple design methods and skills — from product and service design to interviewing and prototyping. Studio work sits at our core, bringing together diverse voices and viewpoints from both inside and outside the university.

Alongside the design program, students explore UTokyo's world-class academic offerings, following their interests while developing critical thinking skills through five interdisciplinary perspectives: Environment & Sustainability, Technology Frontiers & AI, Governance & Markets, Healthcare & Wellbeing, and Culture & Society. By integrating these diverse fields through design, students cultivate the ability to develop creative solutions to complex societal challenges.

Learning extends beyond the classroom through individual and group projects, long-term internships, and hands-on experiences.

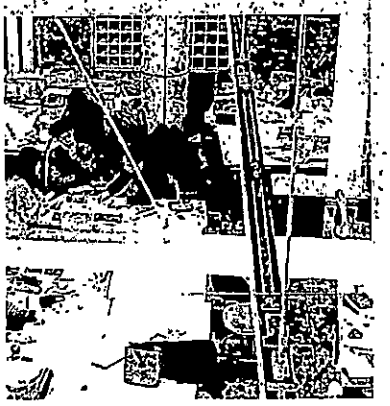


n Starts 2027

We're looking for a diverse range of students from Japan and around the world to start classes in the Fall of 2027.

Admissions will start in Fall 2026 and we will employ a holistic and equitable approach. Our selection system assesses students' future potential by evaluating academic achievements and considering personal attributes, talents, and experiences shaped by distinctive life situations.

This project is currently being planned for submission to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for approval, and may be subject to change in the future.

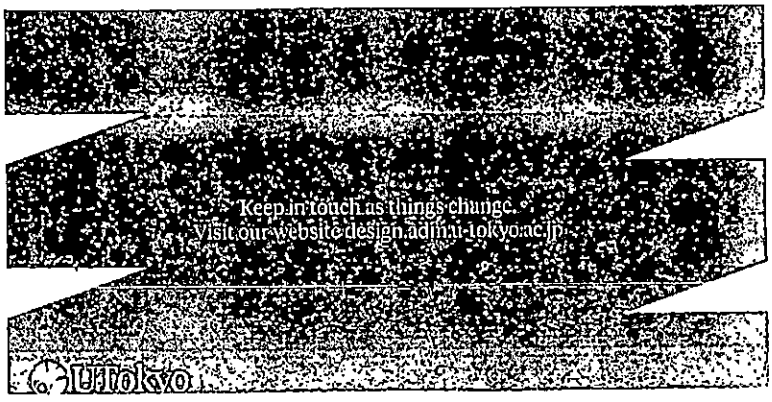


Our community of changemakers

We're bringing together diverse students from Japan and around the world who are passionate about shaping a better future — from those intrigued by design's creative potential to those driven by solving complex social challenges. What connects us is a commitment to new ways of thinking. Through our core program and our network across the university, we're building a community that breaks down traditional boundaries and leverages design as a powerful tool for change.

Japan: your design laboratory

Japan's dynamic interplay of tradition and innovation offers a distinctive perspective on design. With a history shaped by modernization, environmental sustainability, urbanization, and resilience in the face of social and ecological challenges, Japan provides a rich context for exploring the evolving role of design. As Japan's leading academic institution, renowned for its excellence in research, education, and international collaboration across disciplines, the University of Tokyo stands at this intersection of heritage and innovation. Studying here means experiencing where technological advancement, holistic solutions, and deep cultural heritage inform new approaches to shaping our future.



UTokyo