

GUNMA UNIVERSITY

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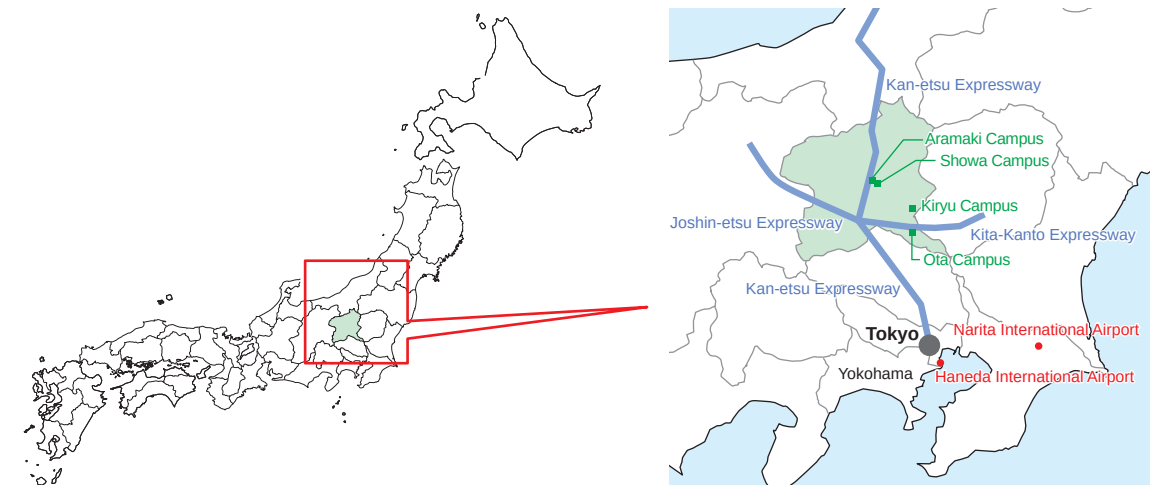


群馬大学
GUNMA UNIVERSITY

Introduction

Gunma University is a Japanese national university corporation located in Gunma Prefecture, approximately 120 kilometers northwest of Tokyo. It is a member institution of the Designated University Corporation System. The 6,000 plus students who study at Gunma University are enrolled into specific programs within its system of schools and faculties. There are four campuses in Gunma Prefecture.

Campus Access Map



TRANSPORTATION

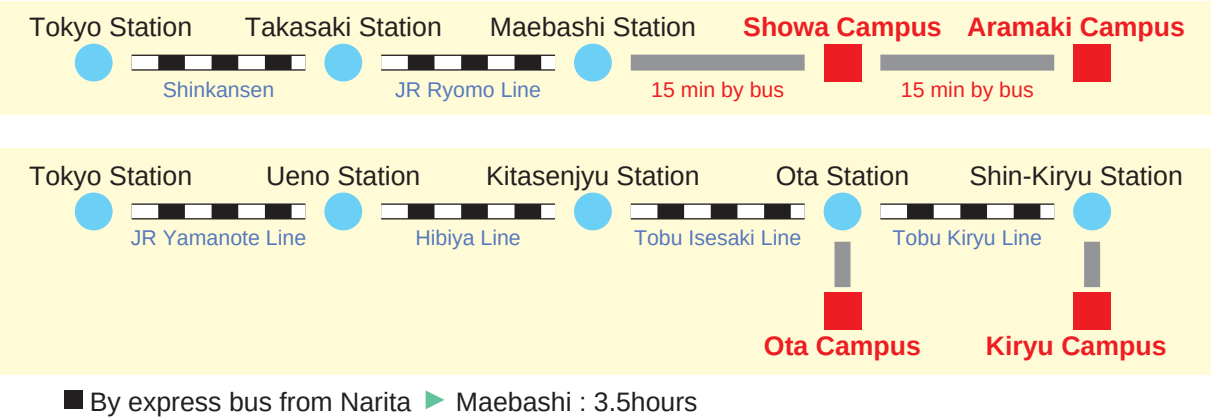


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The Aramaki Campus

The Aramaki Campus, located in the Aramaki-machi section of Maebashi, houses the Cooperative Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Informatics. It is also the location for general studies for all first-year students of all faculties and schools.



Cooperative Faculty of Education



Since 2020, Gunma University and Utsunomiya University (in Tochigi Prefecture) have established the Cooperative Faculty of Education, which is a joint institution between the two universities. Although the two institutions have merged, they maintain their own campuses in Maebashi and Utsunomiya.



The Undergraduate Program in the Cooperative Faculty of Education

The Undergraduate Program in the Cooperative Faculty of Education is for students who wish to become teachers in elementary school, junior high school, high school, kindergarten, and special needs schools. Students obtain teaching licenses in one or more of these contexts.

We aim to nurture educators who:

- have a high level of specialized educational knowledge and skills.
- have a rich sense of humanity.
- can respond flexibly and effectively to the diverse demands of school education.

From the first year to the fourth year, students are required to take courses related to educational practice in order to gain hands-on experience in the school environment. Students are also required to participate in hands-on internship programs at local schools.

General Area	Education Majors
● Humanities & Social Sciences	● Japanese ● English ● Social Studies
● Natural Sciences	● Mathematics ● Science ● Technology
● Arts ● Life & Health	● Music ● Art ● Home Economics ● Health & Physical Education
● Education & Human Sciences	● School Education ● Educational Psychology
	● Special Needs Education

Teaching Licenses That Can Be Obtained

- Type 1 License requires a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- Type 2 License requires at least an associate’s degree.

In order to be employed at public elementary, junior high, high, and special needs schools, students must pass the teacher employment examination administered by the Board of Education of the prefecture in which students wish to work. The Cooperative Faculty of Education provides detailed support for students to pass the teacher employment examinations, including preparatory courses and interview guidance.

Graduate School of Education

The Graduate Program has three course majors in Major in Advanced Practice for School Education.

- 1) Course for Professional Development of School Leadership and Management
- 2) Course for Professional Development of Teachers
- 3) Course for Professional Development of Teachers in Special Needs Education



Faculty of Informatics



The Faculty of Informatics nurtures human resources with skills in IoT, big data, and statistical analysis, as well as with knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. In the midst of the demand for harmony between science and technology on one side and human society on the other, Gunma University’s Faculty of

Informatics aims to nurture well-balanced human resources who are not too biased toward either the humanities or the sciences, with skills in IoT, big data, and statistical analysis, as well as knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. A primary goal is to support “Society 5.0” through an information-based education that crosses the humanities and sciences.



The Undergraduate Program in the Faculty of Informatics

After completing basic education during the first year, students select one of four desired specialized programs.

Program	Description	Possible Industries
Digital Humanities	Program aims to cultivate the ability to use knowledge from the humanities to explore issues in the advanced information society, and to provide practical ideas for problem solving.	Media; ICC; Public Relations; Planning and Research; Public Administration; Social Entrepreneurship; etc.
Social Design & Co-Creation	Program aims to cultivate the ability to identify issues regarding changes in systems, caused by advanced information technology, using social scientific knowledge, and to propose the construction of systems (systems) and measures to solve social issues and achieve social goals.	Civil Service; Finance; Information and Communication; Planning and Sales; Financial Planning; Securities Analysis; Actuarial Science; Management Consulting; etc.
Data Science	Program aims to develop the ability to design methods for collecting big data from society as a whole, using information systems, and to derive solutions from the data collected that are compatible with the desired values.	Data Science; Systems Engineering; IT-related R&D; Personnel in Information service, Finance, and Manufacturing; Civil Service; Actuarial Science; Management consulting; Medical Information Technology; etc.
Computer Science	Program aims to cultivate the ability to follow up on rapidly advancing information technology and to research and develop artificial intelligence and various information systems through an understanding of the mathematical principles of computers and information networks.	IT engineering; Information and Communication Technology Development; Embedded Systems Design; Systems Engineering; IT-related Research; etc.

Graduate School of Informatics

The Graduate School of Informatics offers programs at the master's and doctoral levels.

Master's Programs

To address the diverse demands of modern informatics, the Graduate School of Informatics offers the following two master's programs:

- 1) Information Science and Technology Program
- 2) Social and Information Studies Program

In these programs, students enhance their AI and data science skills in advanced, practical settings, deepen their interdisciplinary knowledge, and develop the ability to conduct cutting-edge research while gaining insight into the relationship between informatics and society.

Doctoral Program in Informatics

The Graduate School of Informatics offers a program in informatics at the doctoral level. As AI, data science, and information technology transform society, we educate doctoral professionals who address future challenges through interdisciplinary expertise in informatics.



Center for Research on Adoption of NextGen Transportation Systems (CRANTS)



The Center for Research on Adoption of NextGen Transportation Systems (CRANTS) is an institute for researching next-generation means of transportation, and through social experiments using these means, aims to demonstrate new transportation systems, implement them throughout society, and solve social and logistical issues. Our current activities are focused on automated driving and slow mobility, but we are also researching the regional implementation of unprecedented vehicles such as ultra-compact electric vehicles (EVs), which we call narrow mobility.



A key feature of our system is the use of Level 4 fully automated vehicles. Unlike conventional driver assistance systems, we view these as a new type of mobility without drivers, bringing entirely new functions, applications, and social impacts. Our initial focus

is on automating route buses, followed by transport between logistics terminals, and eventually regionally limited self-driving taxis.

We are also exploring “slow mobility,” which emphasizes lower-speed transportation for short-distance travel. This approach addresses the over-specification of conventional automobiles and has already demonstrated unique social value through pilot programs.

Beyond technology development, our Center’s mission is to implement these systems in society. Achieving this requires collaboration with companies and government agencies, which we promote through initiatives such as the Open Innovation Council to drive innovation together.



The Showa Campus

The Showa Campus is home to the Faculty of Medicine as well as to the large and regionally important Gunma University Hospital, to which the Faculty of Medicine is associated. The Showa Campus is located in the Showa-machi section of Maebashi, a few kilometers to the south of the Aramaki Campus.



Faculty of Medicine, School of Medicine



Faculty of Medicine

Gunma University's Faculty of Medicine includes the School of Medicine and the School of Health Sciences. Both Schools are located on the Showa Campus in the Showa section of the city of Maebashi. However, students take basic liberal arts courses, mostly during their first year, on the Aramaki Campus, which is several kilometers to the north of the Showa Campus.



Through a six-year curriculum that spans from liberal arts education to basic and clinical specialties, the Department of Medical Science broadly teaches scientific knowledge (Science), ethics (Ethics), and skills (Skill) to foster physicians who can be active both globally and locally in various fields, including clinical practice, research, administration, and education. In particular, we have established the nation's first course in medical quality and safety, and are working to enhance medical safety education and education for cooperation among multiple professions. In the fourth year of clinical training, students can learn about medical care according to the characteristics of each region and acquire the skills required of physicians, not only at the affiliated hospitals but also with the cooperation of many medical institutions in each region of the prefecture. The program is designed to enable students to acquire the skills required of physicians.

Graduation from the School of Medicine is a prerequisite for taking the National Medical Practitioner Examination, and a doctor's license can be obtained after passing the National Medical Practitioner Examination. In order to practice medicine after obtaining a medical license, it is required by law to complete the prescribed two years of clinical training for physicians. For this reason, many of our graduates choose to complete two years of training at a clinical training hospital immediately after graduation. After completing the clinical training, they decide their career path according to their career plan, such as obtaining a medical specialty certification in the field of their choice, or continuing on to research or graduate school.

In the future, graduates can be active in society as:

- 1) clinicians mainly engaged in patient care;
- 2) medical researchers;
- 3) physicians involved in medical administration at the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare or at public health centers;
- 4) physicians involved in medical education.

The Faculty of Medicine fosters physicians who can be active both globally and locally in various fields, including clinical practice, research, administration, and education.

Graduate School of Medicine

The Gunma University Graduate School of Medicine aims to explore science, ethics, and skills, and to build a world-leading medical center for education, research, and medical science, through a dynamic fusion of these.

- **Master’s program: Course of Biomedical Sciences**
- **Doctoral Program: Course of Medical Sciences**

The School of Medicine offers over 40 master’s and doctoral courses (programs) in over 60 fields of study:

Region	Department / Major Field
Basic Medicine	Anatomy
	Anatomy and Cell Biology
	Molecular and Cellular Biology
	Biochemistry
	Integrative Physiology
	Neurophysiology and Neural Repair
	Pharmacology
	Developmental Genetics and Behavioral Neuroscience
	Bacteriology
	Infectious Diseases and Host Defense
	Public Health
	Legal medicine
	Medical Philosophy and Ethics
	Medical Education and Development
Clinical Medicine	Internal Medicine
	Cardiovascular Medicine
	Respiratory Medicine
	Gastroenterology and Hepatology
	Endocrinology and Metabolism
	Nephrology and Rheumatology
	Hematology
	Neurology
	Medical Oncology
	General Surgical Science
	Cardiovascular Surgery
	General Thoracic Surgery
	Gastroenterological Surgery
	Breast and Endocrine Surgery
	Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery
	Pediatric Surgery
	Others
	Radiation Oncology
	Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
	Psychiatry and Neuroscience
	Anesthesiology
	Emergency Medicine

Region	Department / Major Field
Clinical Medicine	General Practice Medicine
	Rehabilitation Medicine
	Clinical Laboratory Medicine
	Human Pathology
	Diagnostic Pathology
	Pediatrics
	Obstetrics and Gynecology
	Urology
	Neurosurgery
	Ophthalmology
	Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
	Dermatology
	Plastic Surgery
	Orthopaedic Surgery
	Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
Cooperative Department / Joint Department	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
	Medical Quality and Safety
	Clinical Trials and Regulatory Science (Gunma University Hospital)
	Medical Informatics (Gunma University Hospital)
	Cell Regulation (Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation, Gunma University)
	Molecular Traffic
	Molecular Membrane Biology
	Metabolism and Endocrinology (Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation, Gunma University)
	Epigenetics and Metabolism
	Metabolic Regulation and Genetics
	Molecular Endocrinology and Metabolism
	Developmental Biology and Metabolism
	Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders
	Mucosal Ecosystem Design
	Metabolic Signaling
	Genome Regulation (Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation, Gunma University)
	Genome Sciences
	Heavy Ion Medicine (Gunma University Heavy Ion Medical Center)
	Medical Physics and Biology for Heavy Ion Therapy
	Heavy Ion Clinical Medicine
	Food Science and Wellness (Gunma University Center for Food Science and Wellness)
	Mathematics and Data Science (Gunma University Center for Mathematics and Data Science)
	Gene Therapy Science (Gunma University Initiative for Advanced Research)
	Quantum Biology (National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology (QST)Takasaki Institute for Advanced Quantum Science)

Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences



The Department of Health Sciences focuses on 1) training personnel who will take charge of increasingly sophisticated and specialized health care, 2) training personnel who will support community-based medical education and research, 3) training personnel who will play an active role in an aging society with a very low birthrate and in an international society, and 4) team medicine education.

- The Department of Nursing trains nurses, public health nurses, and midwives.
- The Department of Laboratory Sciences trains clinical technologists and cytologists.
- The Department of Physical Therapy trains physical therapists.
- The Department of Occupational Therapy trains occupational therapists.

All majors boast high pass rates on national examinations. We also encourage students to enter graduate school after graduation.



Graduate School of Health Sciences

The Graduate School of Health Sciences offers the following programs.

Master's Courses:

- 1) Unit of Fundamental Health Sciences
- 2) Unit of Applied Health Sciences
- 3) Unit of International and Community Health Sciences

Doctoral Courses:

- 1) Department of Nursing
- 2) Department of Laboratory Sciences
- 3) Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Interfaculty Initiative in Public Health

Graduate Program in Social Health and Medicine

As an interfaculty initiative in Public Health, the Graduate Program in Social Health and Medicine was established in April 2024 and is jointly operated by the Graduate School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Health Sciences. This program offers both a master's program and a doctoral program in Social Health Medicine.

- 1) The Master's in Public Health (MPH) is currently offered.
- 2) The PhD program (Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health) started in 2026.

Because the distribution of medical resources, population density, aging population, and geographical conditions differ from region to region, maintaining and promoting the health of local residents requires measures specific to each region. In order for each region to build a cooperative system between health, medical care, nursing care, industry, citizens, and government, it is essential to have people with specialized knowledge of social health medicine, such as preventive medicine, epidemiology, and data science.

Social and Health Sciences is an academic field that analyzes data from various angles on human populations to identify potential health issues, develop feasible solutions, implement them in society, and verify the effectiveness of actions.

The program provides globally standardized public health education across five core areas:

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Health Service Administration
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Environmental Health Sciences

Training in Data Science and Regulatory Science are also important components to the programs. We cultivate highly skilled professionals and researchers who can lead in academia, government, healthcare institutions, and industry—contributing to policy development, clinical research, and healthcare innovation to improve population health.



Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation

Japan's Only National University-Affiliated Institute for Endocrinology and Metabolism



The Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation (IMCR) at Gunma University studies the molecular mechanisms underlying homeostasis, with a particular focus on endocrine and metabolic systems and related diseases, including diabetes and obesity. Established in 1963 as the Endocrine Research Institute and reorganized in 1994, IMCR

is the only national university-affiliated institute in Japan dedicated to endocrinology and metabolism. IMCR promotes interdisciplinary and international collaboration, advancing both basic and translational research to gain a deeper understanding of disease mechanisms and develop innovative therapies.



Department	Laboratory / Group
Department of Biological Sciences	- Laboratory of Molecular Traffic - Laboratory of Molecular Membrane Biology - Laboratory of Metabolic Regulation and Genetics - IMCR Joint Usage/Research Support Center
Department of Genomics and Epigenetics	- Laboratory of Epigenetics and Metabolism - Laboratory of Medical Genomics Biosignal Genome Resource Center - Laboratory of Genome Science
Department of Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases	Preventive Medical Science Group - Laboratory of Mucosal Ecosystem Design Therapeutic Medical Science Group - Laboratory of Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders - Laboratory of Developmental Biology and Metabolism - Laboratory of Integrative Metabolic Regulation Translational Research Group - Human Islet Research Unit - Molecular Medicine Research Unit - Metabolomics Research Unit Lifestyle Disease Research Center - Laboratory of Metabolic Signal - Laboratory of Translational Research

Heavy Ion Medical Center



Japan's First University-Affiliated Heavy Ion Medical Center

Gunma University's Heavy Ion Medical Center (GHMC) is a cancer treatment facility that uses heavy ion beams (carbon ions). Heavy ion therapy uses heavy ions accelerated to 70% the speed of light to eliminate the presence of cancer cells deep within the body, allowing painless, scalpel-free treatment of cancers within the body. The construction of the University's treatment system was initiated as a joint project with Gunma Prefecture. As the first facility in Japan to be attached to a university hospital, GHMC began treating patients in 2010, and has accepted patients from overseas as well. In addition to establishing an advanced, integrated cancer treatment system in cooperation with medical institutions in and outside of the Gunma Prefecture, GHMC actively interacts with medical institutions in Europe, the U.S., and Asia, and conducts human resource development and joint research as an international center for advanced heavy-ion radiation therapy. The facility is also used for clinical training for students, and many private citizens participate in tours of the facility.



The Kiryu Campus & The Ota Campus

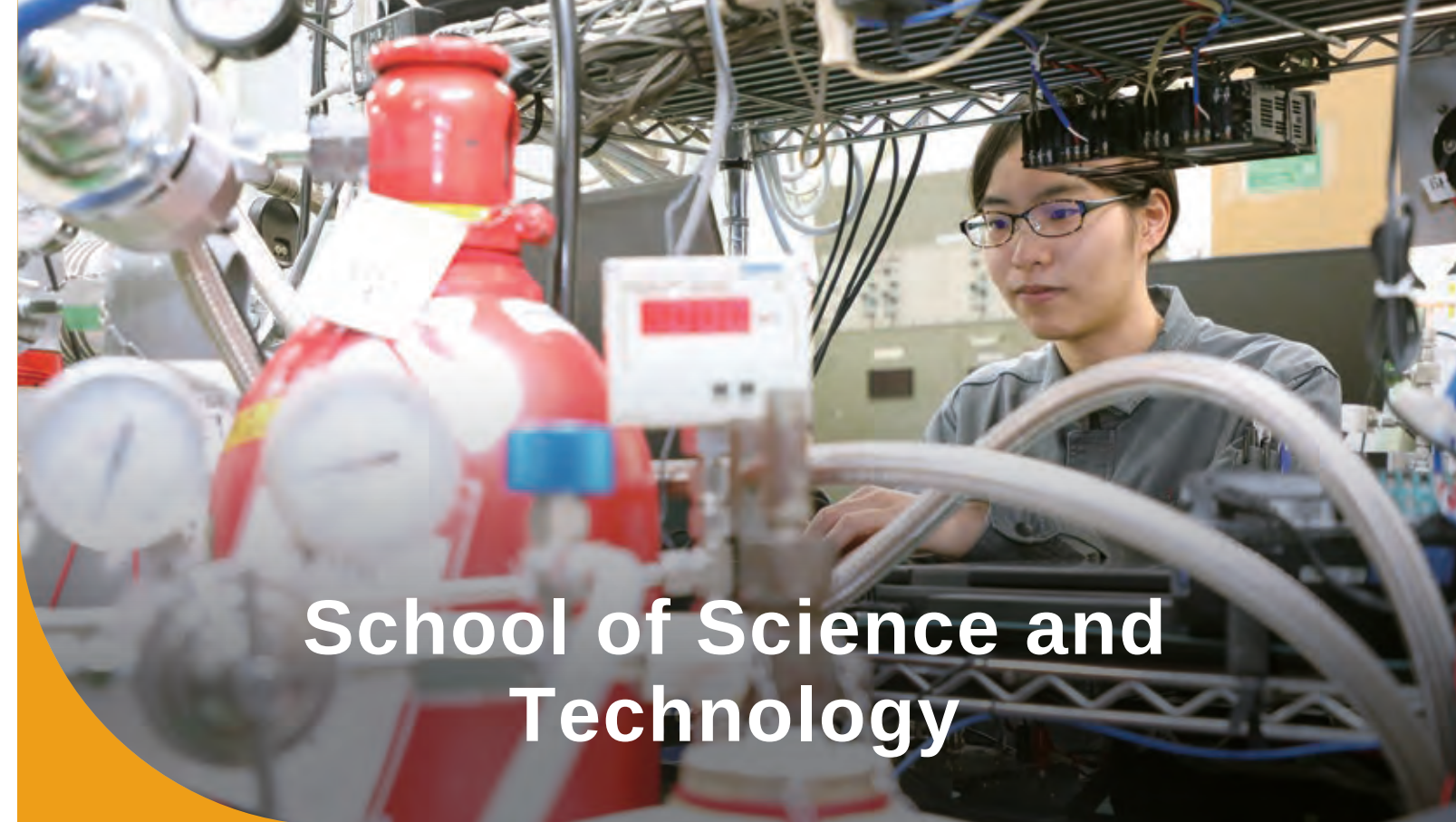
The Kiryu Campus

The Kiryu Campus, which houses the School of Science and Technology, is a bit distant from the Aramaki Campus and Showa Campus. The Kiryu Campus is situated in the city of Kiryu, which is in the southeastern area of Gunma Prefecture.



The Ota Campus

The Ota Campus, which also houses the School of Science and Technology, is located in the city of Ota, which is in the southeastern area of Gunma Prefecture.



School of Science and Technology

Gunma University's School of Science and Technology has produced well-known engineers and researchers during its 100 years of existence. The School of Science and Technology aims to nurture science/technology professionals with practical skills, who can respond to the industrial structure that will change drastically and play an active role in society by learning a wide range of science and technology that will support a sustainable society and Society 5.0. The School of Science and Technology boasts a high rate of students going on to higher education and a high rate of employment, with many students finding employment at companies listed on some of the world's major stock exchanges.

Upon entrance into the School of Science and Technology, students are enrolled into either of two clusters:

- Materials and Environment
- Electronics and Mechanical Engineering

During their first year, students study basic general education subjects. In the second year, they move on to basic science subjects by category. From the second half of the second year to the third year, they select the specific area they wish to study.

The School of Science and Engineering is located primarily on the Kiryu Campus in the city of Kiryu, which is in the southeastern part of Gunma Prefecture. The School of Science and Technology also operates a campus in Ota City, where research and other activities are conducted as a base for industry-university collaboration and recurrent education. First-year students, however, take many of their foundational courses in the School of General Studies on the Aramaki Campus.



Cluster of Materials and Environment



In the Cluster of Materials and Environment, students learn a wide range of science and technology subjects — integrating chemistry, biology, and physics — which are fundamental to support a sustainable society.

Program	Description	Possible Industries
Applied Chemistry	Creating the foundations for a sustainable society from materials and life science, students learn about synthesis, structure, and properties of materials, as well as about genes and life sciences.	Chemicals; Food and Cosmetics; Medicine and Pharmaceuticals
Food Science and Engineering	Aiming to become a professional in food production engineering and food science, students gain scientific understanding of food functions and study production engineering related to the creation of food products.	Food Production; Engineering; Materials Companies; Chemicals and Cosmetics
Materials Science	Aiming for comprehensive materials development covering all kinds of materials, students systematically learn a wide range of knowledge and technologies from the basics to the cutting edge of materials development based on materials science and metallurgical engineering.	Chemical and Materials; Electronics; Automotive; Machinery and Precision Technology; Medical Technology
Chemical Engineering	Aiming to develop devices, equipment, and processes to realize a smart society, students gain knowledge and learn technologies to use and produce materials and energy cleanly and without waste.	Chemicals; Engineering; Energy; Materials
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Aiming to protect the safety of the public in harmony with the natural environment, students learn techniques for protection against natural disasters and planning, maintenance, and management of social and economic infrastructures.	Civil Service (Civil Engineering); Construction; Disaster Prevention; Environmental Engineering; Social Infrastructure (Railroads, Roads, Lifelines, etc.)

Cluster of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering



In the Cluster of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering, students study a wide range of science and technology subjects, such as IoT and robotics, which are based on physics and mathematics, and which support Society 5.0.

Program	Description	Possible Industries
Mechanical Engineering	Aiming to develop world-class engineers by acquiring a wide range of skills in energy, materials processing, etc., aiming to develop world-class engineers by acquiring a wide range of technologies in energy and materials processing, etc., students learn about energy conversion technology, material processing technology, and mechanical, material, thermal, and fluid dynamics technologies.	Companies that manufacture automobile, transportation equipment, and general machinery; Companies that manufacture precision, optical, information, and medical technology
Intelligence and Control Engineering	Aiming to create an ultra-smart society, students learn about intelligent mechatronic control technology and IOT-based energy control technology.	Precision Machining; Mechatronics; Medical Technology; Automotive; Transportation; Machinery Manufacturing
Electronics, Information and Communication Engineering	Aiming to become a professional in electrical and electronic engineering, students learn about information technology and AI technology related to the development of motors, including cutting-edge devices, quantum beam technology, communication technology, and information-technology systems.	Electronics; Electrical Equipment Manufacturing; Information and Communications Systems; Automobile and General Machinery Manufacturing

Graduate School of Science and Technology

The School of Science and Technology offers the following master's programs :

- Program of Applied Chemistry
- Program of Materials Science
- Program of Chemical Engineering
- Program of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Program of Mechanical Engineering
- Program of Intelligence and Control
- Program of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineering

The School of Science and Technology also offers the following doctoral programs :

- Materials and Bioscience
- Mechanical Science and Technology
- Environmental Engineering Science
- Electronics and Informatics, Mathematics and Physics

Interfaculty Initiative in Regulatory Science of Biomedical Science and Engineering

Graduate Program in Medical Science and Engineering

The Interfaculty Initiative in Regulatory Science of Biomedical Science and Engineering, located on both the Showa Campus and Kiryu Campus, is a program created in close collaboration between the Graduate School of Medicine and Graduate School of Science and Technology. This program offers a master's course and doctoral course in Heavy Ion Biomedical Science and Engineering.

Building on interdisciplinary collaboration in life sciences, medicine, and engineering, the program cultivates researchers, educators, medical physicists, and highly skilled professionals capable of leading innovation in heavy ion therapy and advanced accelerator technologies. Students gain integrated training in medical physics, radiation biology, medical device development, and regulatory science. The program also promotes innovation in next-generation accelerators (including laser acceleration and superconducting gantries), non-destructive testing technologies, nuclear and fusion applications, and space systems.

Graduates are prepared for careers in medical device and pharmaceutical industries, advanced electronics, universities and research institutes, healthcare institutions, and medical physics.



Graduate School of Food and Population Health Sciences

Master's Program in Food and Population Health Sciences



The Graduate School of Food and Population Health Sciences, established in April 2025, offers a master's program that explores the interdisciplinary field connecting food and health. This field transcends traditional academic boundaries and is grounded in medical science, health science, food science, food production engineering, and environmental science. Through this program, students can conduct comprehensive research on wellness and well-being, food systems, life, the environment, coexistence, and sustainability from the dual perspectives of "food" and "health".



Student Life



Circles and Clubs

Students at Gunma University partake in a variety of club/circle activities, including sports, games, martial arts, science, medicine, education, community support, music, theater, and arts & crafts. In 2025, over 100 clubs were registered.



Festivals and Events

During the spring semester, the students on the Gunma University side of the Joint Faculty of Education hold their annual Sports Festival on the Aramaki Campus.
During the fall semester, the Culture Festival is held, and students set up food and drink stands as well as provide various forms of entertainment and performance.

Student Housing

Dormitories exist for international students and for students who live outside of Gunma Prefecture. Restrictions and time-limitations may apply.
Many students live in affordable small apartments near the campuses, and many others commute from their family homes.



Semesters

Japanese universities operate in accordance with the Japanese fiscal calendar, which begins each year in April (just as the cherry trees blossom) and ends in March the following year. As with most universities in Japan, there are two semesters in the Gunma University school year.

- ◆ Spring semester (zenki) commences near the beginning of April and closes at the end of July or beginning of August.
- ◆ Fall semester (koki) commences near the beginning of October and closes at the end of January or beginning of February.

Tuition & Fees

Studying in Japan inevitably requires a certain amount of financial resources as outlined below. The university requires students to confirm a sufficient preparation of funds before enrolling at Gunma University.

	Entrance Examination Fee	Admission Fee	Tuition (per annum)
Undergraduate Students	¥17,000	¥282,000	¥535,800
Graduate Students	¥30,000	¥282,000	¥535,800
Research Students	¥9,800	¥84,600	¥29,700 (per month)

For more specific information about admissions requirements and procedures, please visit refer the Gunma University Website: <https://www.gunma-u.ac.jp/english>



Global Initiative Center

In 2023, Gunma University established the Global Initiative Center (GIC), integrating foreign language education, International Center, and the Global Frontier Leader (GFL) program to strengthen global education and international engagement.

The Center also promotes a supportive environment for international students while creating opportunities for meaningful exchange between Japanese and international students.

Through these initiatives, Gunma University advances global human resource development and fosters a vibrant, internationally connected campus community.



Mission Statement:

- ◆ Language Education: Developing globally competent communicators and problem-solvers through comprehensive foreign language programs from undergraduate to graduate levels.
- ◆ International Exchange: Enhancing intercultural understanding and collaboration through partnerships with institutions worldwide.
- ◆ Global Frontier Leader (GFL) Program: Cultivating adaptable, ethical leaders with global perspectives and strong analytical and leadership skills.

Summer Session

Students from partner universities are warmly welcome to participate in our session. This program offers a valuable opportunity to learn more about our facilities and research laboratories. Participants will have the chance to visit several campuses of Gunma University, including Aramaki (our main campus), Kiryu (School of Science and Technology), and Showa (School of Medicine). Through these visits, students can explore the campus environment, learn about our research activities, and enjoy new academic and cultural experiences.



I-GFL

Gunma University launched a new all-English special program, the Interdisciplinary Program for Global Frontier Leaders (I-GFL), in April 2026. The program allows Japanese and international students from different academic backgrounds to study together and explore global challenges. Through discussion-based classes and experiential learning opportunities, students develop critical thinking, communication skills, and global perspectives. I-GFL aims to nurture students who can contribute to solving global challenges both locally and internationally. With the launch of this program, we hope to welcome students from our partner universities as well as other international students and further strengthen international learning opportunities at Gunma University.



Gunma Prefecture

Gunma Prefecture, or “Gunma”, is located in Japan’s Kanto Region on the island of Honshu, **approximately 100 kilometers northwest of Tokyo**. Its capital city is Maebashi, which is the seat of the prefectural government as well as home to courts and other governmental offices. The city of Takasaki is a major transportation hub, as two major shinkansen (bullet train) lines pass through and connect to regional and local train lines heading in every direction.

Gunma is landlocked, with no coastline but plenty of mountains. Its shape is said to be that of a flying crane with its head and long neck pointing southeast out of the mountains into the Kanto Plain. The flat section in the southeast of Gunma, where the majority of the population is located, is overlooked **by the “Jomo Sanzan” (three majestic mountains of Gunma), which are Mt. Akagi, Mt. Haruna, and Mt. Myōgi**. Other famous mountains are Mt. Asama (an active volcano on the border with Nagano Prefecture), Mt. Kusatsu-Shirane (another active volcano with many nearby hot springs), and Mt. Tanigawa (on the border with Niigata Prefecture). The Tone River flows southeast out of the mountains and provides famously fresh, clean water to the people of Gunma.

The mountainous terrain of Gunma offers a wide range of **outdoor activities**, including hiking, mountain climbing, whitewater rafting, and camping in warmer months, and skiing and snowboarding during the winter. No matter the season, it is always a good time to visit one of Gunma’s many **onsen (hot spring resorts)**. Ikaho, Isobe, Kusatsu, Minakami, and Shima are all towns famous as onsen resorts, but one need not go far to enjoy onsen, as local hot spring spa facilities exist in or near many towns of Gunma. The onsen experience can be a great way to meet and interact with local people.

The name “Gunma” translates roughly as “herd of horses”, and refers to its ancient history of being a center for horse breeding. During the Kofun Period (roughly 3rd~6th Century), Japan was introduced to Buddhism and the Chinese writing system through mass migration from mainland Asia. Many burial mounds, known as kofun, were constructed throughout Japan during this time, and the area that is today Gunma was no exception. The Hōtōzan Kofun in Maebashi and the Hodota Kofun Cluster in Takasaki are two historical sites. Burial mounds of varying sizes from the Kofun Period, however, are located all over Gunma and are fascinating places to visit.

In more recent history, **Gunma was the center of Japan’s silk industry**, from the beginning of the Meiji Era (1868~1912) until the end of the Second World War. The Tomioka Silk Mill, built 1872 in the Gunma city of Tomioka, was Japan’s first modern factory for processing silkworm cocoons into raw silk. The factory, including iconic wood and red brick buildings, is well preserved and a popular destination for tourists, students, and historians. **In 2014, the Tomioka Silk Mill became a World Heritage Site.**

Currently, **the Gunma economy is focused mainly on manufacturing and agriculture/farming**. Automobile giant Subaru operates four plants in the city of Ota, where it was founded in 1953. Electronics manufacturer Panasonic operates a plant in Oizumi, adjacent to Ota, while Yamada Denki, Japan’s largest consumer electronics retailer, is headquartered in Takasaki. Agriculturally, Gunma is renowned for amazingly healthy and delicious fruits and vegetables such as apples, nashi pears, persimmon, strawberries, cabbage, leeks, gooey yamaimo yam, and ... perhaps most famously ... konjac potatoes, which produce dense gelatinous slabs that can be cut up and used in a variety of savory ways, such as simmered nimono stews and nabe pot cooking. Konjac is well-known as one of the healthiest foods in the world.

Another unique aspect of Gunma agriculture is its dual rice/wheat crop rotation, which is enabled by dry climate and ideal soil conditions. After rice is harvested in the fall, wheat is grown in the same space. As a result, the people of Gunma enjoy wheat-based dishes such as thick okirikomi udon noodles, floury suiton dumplings, and sweet bean-filled tansan manju bread.

In terms of livestock farming, the city of Maebashi is known as the “city of pork” due to its pork production and cuisine. One of Japan’s most popular comfort foods is, in fact, pork cutlets (ton katsu) which can be enjoyed at home and in many of Gunma’s most affordable restaurants.

One of the most attractive points about living in Gunma is its **friendly and engaging population**. As Gunma is not a giant metropolis like Tokyo or Osaka, the culture is more local rather than cosmopolitan. (The past 20 years, however, has brought a higher degree of internationalism.) In Gunma, one is more likely to feel like they are in more traditional Japan, and opportunities to use Japanese with local folks are abundant. This is not, however, to say that the workplace, schools, government offices, and neighborhoods are devoid of English speakers, as modern Japanese society has produced so many more proficient English users.

Lastly, Gunma has a **significant and vibrant non-Japanese community**, situated especially in the town of Oizumi (next to Ota), where many residents are of Brazilian, mostly Japanese Brazilian, descent. Many Peruvian Japanese live in this area as well, and more recently there is an influx of immigrants from Nepal. Much of the labor force that muscles the manufacturing industries in the Ota area is provided by these communities. Many of the shops and restaurants that line the streets of Oizumi display signs and promotional messages in the Portuguese language, which gives visitors the sense that they are visiting a truly unique place.





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