

Competing with the world at the cutting edge

NAIST is aiming to be an internationally competitive university.

We are striving to create a research center with a comprehensive perspective, integrating individual research achievements with collaboration between different fields and offering a globally flexible education for scientists and technologists.

Here we introduce the ways in which NAIST is rising to meet these challenges.

■ *Global COE Program*

The Global COE Program is a Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) project, launched in 2007, to improve and enhance the educational and research functions of graduate schools, with the aim of training world-leading creative personnel and creating internationally competitive universities.

The Global Program for Frontier Biosciences, run by an integrated group from the laboratories of the Graduate School of Biological Sciences and the Bioinformatics and Genomics laboratories of the Graduate School of Information Science, has been selected as one of 13 centers in the life sciences field to continue from the 21st Century COE Program: Exploiting New Frontiers in Bioscience.

■ *Support Program for Improving Graduate School Education*

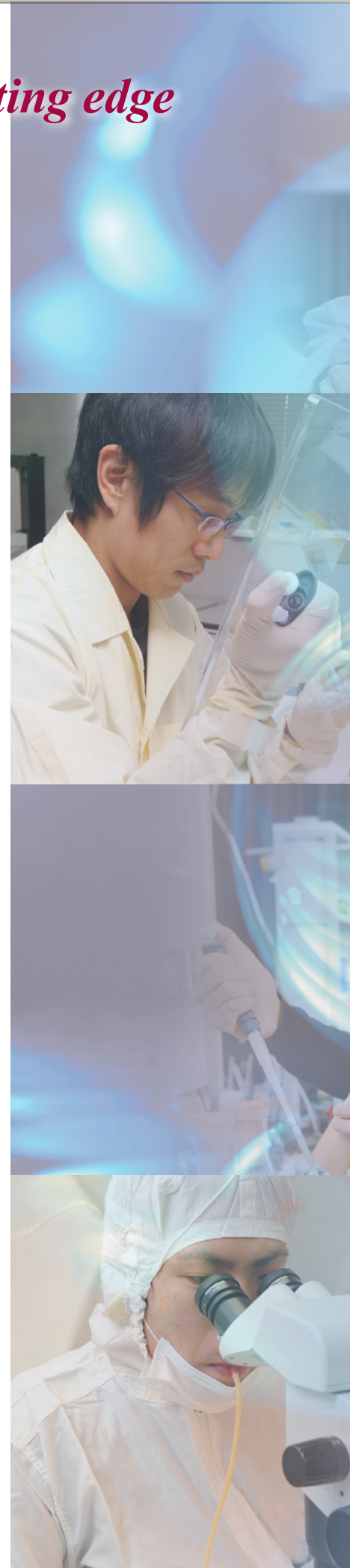
The Graduate Schools of Information Science and Biological Sciences were selected in 2007 for this program, launched in the same year by MEXT, with the objective of making graduate school education more substantial by offering focused support for outstanding educational initiatives.

The Graduate School of Materials Science was also selected for a two-year period from 2006 for a previous program, Initiatives for Attractive Education in Graduate Schools.

■ *Progressive Education Program for IT Specialist Training*

This program, launched in 2007 by MEXT, aims to create educational centers for training world-recognized top-level personnel in the field of information security who will be able to achieve the world's safest IT society, by means of concentrating latent capacity across the divides between universities and between academia and industry, and by enhancing educational content and systems.

The program proposed by NAIST's Graduate School of Information Science was one of only two selected for this project nationwide.





■ *Development of the University Intellectual Property Headquarters Project*

In an evaluation of its performance within the framework of the Development of the University Intellectual Property Headquarters Project, a MEXT project aimed at supporting the development of a model for strategic creation, management and utilization of intellectual property as university and graduate school research achievements (2003–2007), NAIST ranked first in the overall assessment, gaining the top position in three out of four evaluation categories.

■ *MEXT Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration Project (Strategic Development Program)*

In 2008, MEXT launched an Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration Project to support proactive, distinctive activities by national, public and private universities and to upgrade the overall quality of inter-sector collaboration so that universities' intellectual property strategies, which provide the driving force for innovation, can be effectively and sustainably deployed. In the framework of this project, NAIST's Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration Group has been chosen as one of 17 institutions across Japan to implement a project entitled Improving the Global Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration System.

■ *Plant Science Education Promotion Project*

This project was inaugurated in 2005 with support from MEXT to promote postgraduate education in plant science. Within the framework of this project, NAIST solicits research projects each year from postgraduate students throughout Japan and provides assistance with the implementation of selected outstanding projects, mainly in the form of funding and technical guidance. NAIST aims to contribute to raising the level of plant science in Japan by offering postgraduate students and young researchers from across Japan the opportunity to gather and exchange views, facilitating the creation of a network of young plant science researchers.

