

The Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe or IPUM was planned in the Kashiwa Campus by the University of Tokyo funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology by their World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Initiative. More than 80 researchers of the universe from the different regions in the world are studying in this institute.

The ideal institute as conceived by the IPMU researchers involved individual labs encircling a central hall where the researchers could gather together and an exchange of academic ideas could occur at any time. This ideal claims that the university should be an *academia* that holds dialogue at its foundation. The final spatial structure of the building resulted in research support facilities on the first and second floors and 77 individual research labs atop, encircling the Hall. The individual research labs encircling the “urban plaza” is arranged in a spiral fashion. In other words, by going up the gentle slope of stairs from one side of the building to the other, you can move up or down one floor. This structure spatially realizes the equality of all the members of the research institute, and because your awareness is constantly drawn towards the central Hall, it reinforces the centrality of the Hall.