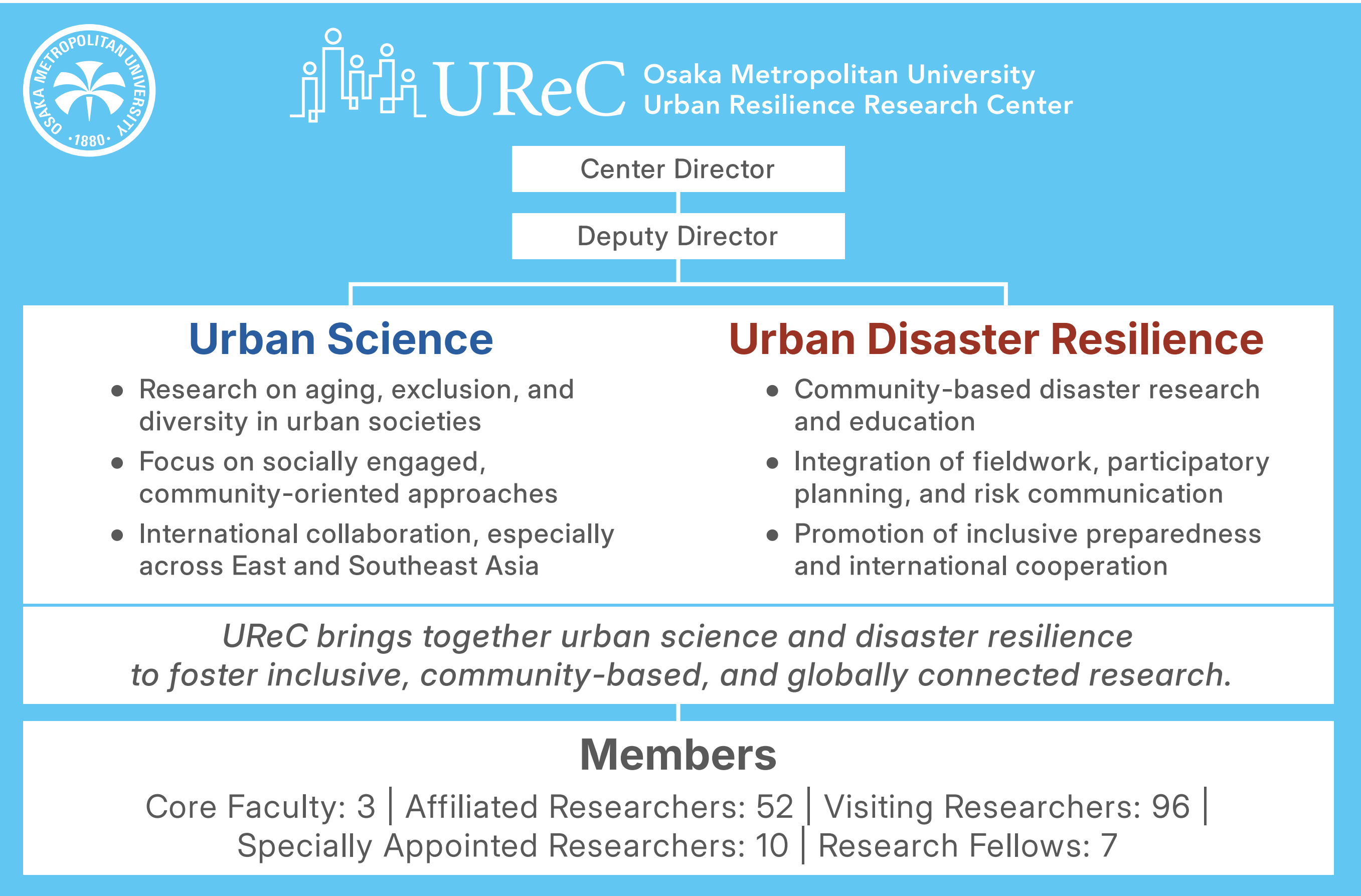




With the establishment of Osaka Metropolitan University in April 2022, the Urban Research Plaza (URP) and the Center of Education and Research for Disaster Management (CERD), previously part of Osaka City University, were integrated to create the Urban Resilience Research Center (UReC). UReC is dedicated to building a more inclusive and livable society by conducting research that addresses social fragmentation, various forms of conflict, and disaster preparedness embedded in everyday life through practical, community-based efforts. Collaborating with faculty from a wide range of disciplines within the university, as well as with external institutions and organizations, UReC actively tackles contemporary urban issues and contributes to resolving the complex risks and crises that cities face today.

Mission of UReC

- To serve as a leading hub for research and practice in urban science and disaster resilience.
- To deepen scientific understanding and advance theoretical frameworks in related domains.
- To cultivate human resources who can contribute at the forefront of urban science and disaster risk reduction.
- To promote collaboration not only within academia but also with practitioners and stakeholders in urban communities.
- To contribute to the realization of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities.



Key Activities of UReC

1 Urban Research

UReC advances interdisciplinary research in areas such as inclusive urban studies in Asia, urban disaster resilience, and conflict management. These efforts aim to address key urban challenges, including population aging, poverty and social exclusion, multicultural integration driven by transnational migration, and the growing risk of compound disasters linked to global environmental change.

2 Human Resource Development

UReC promotes the development of early-career researchers and cross-disciplinary collaboration through initiatives such as on-site seminars, science cafés, and specialized training programs for disaster prevention professionals. It also cultivates disaster prevention leaders and planners capable of designing district-level strategies and supporting the development of community-based disaster hubs. Furthermore, UReC conducts research on multicultural integration, with a focus on engaging foreign residents and diverse community groups.

3 Community Engagement

UReC works to create inclusive urban spaces and strengthen social ties within communities. It also facilitates the development of community-based disaster prevention networks through collaboration with stakeholders such as local governments, businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations. These initiatives foster social inclusion and help address challenges arising from weakened interpersonal and communal relationships in urban areas.

4 Social Collaboration

UReC enhances international and domestic partnerships to advance collaborative research and human resource development in urban science and disaster resilience. In Asia, it works with cities to establish urban resilience hubs that facilitate personnel exchange and mutual learning. In Japan, UReC collaborates with municipal governments on policy development and mutual exchange, while engaging NGOs and private-sector partners in field-based, needs-oriented research.

5 Research Infrastructure

UReC curates academic resources and maintains research infrastructure to support sustained inquiry into urban and disaster-related issues. Its initiatives include publishing scholarly works and developing specialized archives, such as the Urban Library, photo archives, and the Disaster Prevention Museum. The Center also collects and preserves historical records, educational materials, and databases to pass on disaster knowledge to future generations.

Institutional Partnerships for Urban Resilience and Sustainability

Through formal partnership agreements, UReC collaborates with local governments such as Osaka City, Sakai City, and Tondabayashi City to promote community-based disaster risk reduction and urban safety. These partnerships facilitate joint research, policy development, and practical initiatives that are tailored to local needs and contribute to strengthening resilience at the community level.

In addition, UReC participates in the Disaster Research and Education Center Network of Public Universities in Japan, a national platform that connects 14 public universities. Through this inter-university alliance, the Center engages in collaborative disaster research, capacity building, and human resource development to strengthen regional and national resilience.

Selected Research Topics

- Conducting disaster education programs in schools and communities and assessing their effectiveness.
- Providing housing support for vulnerable populations, including people experiencing homelessness and residents of informal settlements.
- Conducting action research in collaboration with local organizations to revitalize marginalized urban areas facing depopulation and aging, such as historically discriminated communities.
- Developing and implementing community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) training programs to foster resident-led disaster preparedness.
- Designing and evaluating effective DRR measures and policies based on citizens' risk perceptions.
- Promoting the social application of disaster knowledge through enhanced risk assessment and the standardization of disaster response practices.
- Advancing evidence-based policy making (EBPM) through empirical research and evaluation.

Joint Usage/Research Center: Platform for Leading-edge Urban Studies

UReC has been designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as a Joint Usage/Research Center under the title Platform for Leading-edge Urban Studies. In this role, the Center promotes interdisciplinary and international research on urban issues, while also contributing to community-based disaster resilience and sustainable development.

As part of its core activities, UReC invites proposals for collaborative research projects, provides funding and support for early-career researchers, and publishes research outcomes for broad dissemination. The Center also fosters international cooperation with institutions in East Asian cities such as Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Yogyakarta, advancing comparative studies and knowledge exchange on shared urban challenges.