

Academic Year 2026

Doctoral Program

Application Guide for the Special Selection for International Students

(外国人留学生特別選考)

【April 2026 Admission】

	April 2026 Admission
Deadline for Obtaining Approval from Faculty Members on Your Application	December 5, 2025
Online Application Period	10:00 am, January 5–5:00 pm, January 9, 2026 (JST)
Examination Schedule	Late January - February 2026 *Specific dates will be announced later.
Notification of Results	9:00 am, March 6, 2026 (JST)
Admission Procedures	Mid-March 2026
Date of Admission	April 1, 2026

* The application is accepted through the online system. Please refer to the instructions on the Graduate School of Science website, which will be posted later.

<https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/juken/graduate-admission.html>

October 2025

Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University

[Disclaimer]

This is an unofficial translation edited by DiRECT; the official document you should refer to is the original one in Japanese, “2026 年度博士課程後期 3 年の課程学生募集要項【一般選抜, 社会人特別選考, 外国人留学生特別選考】(2026 年 4 月進学・編入学).”

Should you have any inquiry regarding this translation, please contact DiRECT.

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◀ Admission Policy of the Graduate School of Science ▶

Science is an academic discipline, wherein the principles and laws of nature are elucidated, and truths are explored, shaped by an insatiable intellectual curiosity about humanity's fundamental questions regarding nature. In addition, science is the foundation of various fields, such as science and technology, humanities, and social sciences, supporting modern society, and is closely related to human life.

The Tohoku University Graduate School of Science works to train world-leading researchers and professionals who are active in various fields of science with humanity and ethics through advanced specialized education based on cutting-edge research.

The Graduate School of Science seeks the following characteristics in students wishing to enroll in the university:

- Those who have the basic academic abilities necessary for scientific research and a strong desire to study at this university
- Those who want to inherit humanity's intellectual heritage, and search for natural truths with freedom of thought and originality to contribute to the advancement of the next generation of natural sciences and technologies.
- Those who have the humanity, ethics, and willpower to become researchers and highly skilled professionals contributing to the development of human culture and society based on scientific thinking.

When accepting students, we conduct a general selection, a special selection for international students, self-recommendation entrance examinations (Master's Program), and a special selection for working adults (Doctoral Program) for each of the six departments with emphasis on whether or not the applicants have the abilities and qualities necessary to conduct research in line with the educational philosophy and goals of the Graduate School of Science.

(Doctoral Program)

In the general selection, basic academic abilities related to specialized fields, contents of research papers, research plans, research motivation, etc. are evaluated, and applicants are selected with particular emphasis on research motivation.

In the special selection for working adults, an oral examination is conducted to evaluate basic academic abilities related to specialized fields, content of research papers, research plans, research motivations, etc., and applicants are selected with particular emphasis on the content of research papers and research motivation.

In the special selection for international students, an oral examination is conducted to evaluate basic academic abilities related to specialized fields, content of research papers, English skills, research plans and research motivations, and applicants are selected with particular emphasis on the contents of research papers and research motivation.

1. Number of Recruitment at each Department

Department	Int'l Students Quota	Research Fields
Mathematics	a few	Algebra, Geometry, Analysis, Manifold Theory, Applied Mathematics, Integrative Applied Analysis and Computation
Physics	a few	Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics, Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics, Condensed Matter Physics, Quantum Condensed Matter Physics, Theoretical Condensed Matter and Statistical Physics, Strongly Interacting Many Particle Quantum Systems, Soft Matter and Biophysics, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Science, Nuclear Radiation Physics, Crystal Physics, Metal Physics, Solid State Spectroscopy, Accelerator Science, Strongly Correlated Electron Physics, Quantum Measurement and Functional Sensing
Astronomy	a few	Astronomy, Theoretical Astrophysics, Space Science
Geophysics	a few	Seismology and Volcanology, Physics of Subduction Zones, Meteorology and Atmospheric Dynamics, Physical Oceanology, Atmospheric Trace Gas, Physical Climatology, Satellite Oceanology, Space and Terrestrial Plasma Physics, Planetary Atmosphere Physic, Planetary Radio-Physics
Chemistry	a few	Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Interdisciplinary Chemistry, Advanced Atomic and Molecular Science, Reaction Mechanism and Dynamics, Solid State Chemistry, Biofunctional Chemistry
Earth Science	a few	Geosphere Evolution, Material Circulation in Geosphere, Environmental Geography, Geoenvironmental Dynamics, Earth and Planetary Materials Science, Comparative Solid Planetology, Reaction and Kinetics in the Earth's Interior, Natural History Science, Petrotectonics, Natural Disaster Science

2. Eligibility

[NOTE] About the Special Selection for International Students*:

As a rule, international students are first admitted as research students and, after a certain period of enrollment, may apply for the Special Selection for International Students. Only individuals who are recognized as possessing an exceptionally high level of academic ability shall be eligible to apply directly for the doctoral course, regardless of their residency status in Japan.

*International Students are defined as those who do not hold Japanese nationality and who have not been granted permanent residency in Japan.

Applicants for the program must fulfill one of the following conditions. When applying, be sure to obtain consent from a prospective supervisor of your choice in advance and follow the procedures outlined in Note 1 or 2.

- (1) A person who holds (or expects to hold) a master's degree or professional degree by March 31, 2026.
- (2) A person upon whom a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree was conferred (or is expected to be conferred) by a graduate school of a foreign university by March 31, 2026.
- (3) A person who, in Japan, took the course subjects of a corresponding education course provided by a foreign school, and consequently upon whom a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree was conferred (or is expected to be conferred) by March 31, 2026
- (4) A person who completed (or will have completed) a foreign graduate course provided by an educational institution in Japan that is recognized, under the schooling system of the relevant foreign country, as a provider of graduate courses of the foreign country, and that is separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and thereafter upon whom a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree was conferred (or is expected to be conferred) by March 31, 2026.
- (5) A person who completed (or will have completed) a course at the United Nations University and thereafter upon whom a degree equivalent to a master's degree was conferred (or is expected to be conferred) by March 31, 2026.
- (6) A person who studied on the basis of a curriculum of a foreign school, Educational Institution providing Foreign Graduate Courses, or the United Nations University, passed (or is expected to be passed) an examination and assessment equivalent to those prescribed in Article 16-2 of the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture No. 28 of 1974), and is found to have academic abilities at least equivalent to those of master's degree holders by March 31, 2026.
- (7) A person designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture No.118 of 1989); or
 - ① A person who graduated (or will have graduated) from a university and thereafter engaged in the research activities at a university or a research institute etc. for at least two years, who is deemed, based upon the research performance, etc., whom a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree was conferred.
 - ② A person who completed a 16-year curriculum of schooling abroad or completed a 16-year curriculum of schooling of a foreign country by taking course subjects in Japan through a correspondence education course provided by a school of such foreign country and thereafter engaged in the research activities at a university or a research institute, etc. for at least two years, who is deemed, based upon the research performance, etc., whom a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree was conferred.
- (8) A person who is deemed, through an individual university entrance qualification assessment, to have academic abilities at least equivalent to those of master's degree holders or professional degree holders by the Tohoku University Graduate Schools and who has reached (or will have reached) the age of 24 by March 31, 2026.

[NOTE]

Those who apply for the Special Selection for International Students must find a prospective supervisor by themselves and obtain consent from him/her about the application by Fri. December 5, 2025, before applying. Visit the faculty on the department website and contact them directly by email to obtain their consent to study under him/her.

- ① Those who apply for the program under the eligibility requirements of (1) - (6) must gain application approval from the Department Chair through the prospective supervisor. Note that your prospective supervisor needs to inform the department chair of your application intention no later than Friday, December 5, 2025. Then, start preparing for the application as instructed.
- ② Those who apply for the program under the eligibility requirements of (7) or (8) must take the Preliminary Screening. Please see “Section 3: Preliminary Screening” and follow the instructions. Also, obtain approval for your application from the department chair through the prospective supervisor.

3. Preliminary Screening

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements of (7) or (8) must undergo the following preliminary screening procedures.

[NOTE]

The Preliminary Screening for the Special Selection for International Students will be instructed to applicable persons respectively. Therefore, the following information of (1), (2), and (3) is simply the English translation of the original guide in Japanese for your reference.

(1) Preliminary Screening Procedure

- ① Application Deadline: Friday, December 5
- ② Those who wish to apply for the preliminary screening are required to fill out the necessary information in the Google Form in advance.



- ③ After completing the Google Form, please download the Preliminary Screening Application Form from the Graduate School of Science website, fill it out, print, and submit by post along with the required documents.

Be sure to send the documents by express registered mail. On the front of the envelope, clearly write in red: “Application Documents for Preliminary Screening for Doctoral Program (Spring Semester) Enclosed.” Only applications that arrive by Friday, December 5 2025, will be accepted.

Download page: <https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/juken/application.html>

- ④ Applications that lack necessary documents, are incomplete or are otherwise inadequate will not be acceptable.
- (2) The preliminary screening results will be announced via email by Monday, December 15, 2025.
- (3) Those who are granted eligibility through the preliminary screening must complete the application procedures during the designated application period. Also, please print out the screening result and bring it with you on the examination day. You may be asked to present it by the examination supervisor or staff, so be prepared to show it upon request.

◆ **Application Documents for Preliminary Screening under the Eligibility of (7) and (8)**

Application Documents	Notes
Individual Qualification Screening Application Form	Please download the designated format from the website.
Academic Transcript	Please submit the original transcript prepared by the head of your most recently attended institution. The document must be sealed.
Other Reference Materials	Thesis or an equivalent paper

4. Applicants who need Special Assistance

Applicants who require special arrangements for the entrance examination or during their studies due to pre-existing conditions or illnesses must consult with the Graduate School Academic Affairs Section by Friday, December 5, 2025 (see the last page for contact details).

Please note that depending on the nature of the request, it may not be possible to make the necessary arrangements in time for the examination. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to consult with us as early as possible.

Please be assured that in the entrance examination of this graduate school, applicants will not be disadvantaged in the admission decision due to pre-existing conditions or illnesses.

5. Application Procedure

(1) Application Period

- ① Application is accepted via the online system. Please visit the link below for application:
<https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/juken/graduate-admission.html>

- ② Online Application Period

From 10:00 am on Monday, January 5 to 5:00 pm on Friday, January 9, 2026 (JST)

Please make sure to click the "Complete my application" button within the designated period to complete your application. Your application will not be considered complete unless you click this button.

Also, if the application period ends before you click the button, your application will not be accepted. We recommend completing the process well in advance to avoid any issues.

③ Applications that lack necessary documents, are incomplete or are otherwise inadequate will not be acceptable.

④ Those who wish to apply to the Geophysics Department should enter their desired field and field of study when entering their information into the online application system.

Please choose either of the groups listed below:

- (A): Seismology and Volcanology, Physics of Subduction Zones
- (B): Meteorology and Atmospheric Dynamics, Physical Oceanography, Atmospheric Trace Gas, Physical Climatology, Satellite Oceanology
- (C): Space and Terrestrial Plasma Physics, Planetary Atmosphere Physics, Planetary Radio-Physics

⑤ Earth Science department applicants should specify one of the research groups from (A), (B), and (C) below in the online application system.

- (A): Geosphere Evolution (Material Circulation in Geosphere), Natural History Science, Geoenvironmental Dynamics, and Natural Disaster Science
- (B): Environmental Geography, Geoenvironmental Dynamics, and Natural Disaster Science
- (C): Earth and Planetary Materials Science (Reaction and Kinetics in the Earth's Interior), Petrotectonics, Natural History Science, and Comparative Solid Planetology

⑥ Making false or misleading statements on the application may result in the cancellation of admission status.

⑦ After submission, declining an application and amendment to written information on the application documents cannot be allowed. The relevant application documents are not returnable (except the master's thesis), and the entrance examination fee is not refundable.

⑧ After the application deadline, if your application is accepted, your examination admission ticket will be made available through the online application system. You will be notified via the email address you registered when your examination admission ticket becomes available. Please note that all important information related to the examination will also be sent to your registered email address. Therefore, be sure to enter an accurate and reliable email address at the time of application and check your email regularly after submitting your application.

⑨ Please download your examination admission ticket from the online application system, print it out, and be sure to bring with you on the day of the examination.

(2) Required Application Documents for “the Special Selection for International Students”

Application documents are as follows and **the uploading items should be a clear and sharp image.**

No.	Necessary Items	Notes
1	Application Form	Fill in the necessary information via the online application system.
2	Photo	Upload the photo image via the online application system. • Photo image (height and width ratio of image should be 4:3) clearly showing the upper half of the body, facing

		front without a hat/cap in front of a plain background, and taken within three months of the application. ▪ Acceptable data extension is PNG, JPG, or JPEG; the data size should be less than 20MB. ▪ Applicants who plan to wear glasses on the examination day should upload a photo in which they are wearing glasses.
3	Entrance Examination Fee	After paying the fee by ATM or internet banking transaction, upload the payment receipt (or a printout of the transfer details if you use online banking) in PDF via the online application system. The file you upload should identify the "banking institution and branch of the remitter," "account number of the remitter," and "remitter." If the above information is unclear due to functional limitations of Internet banking, please write the above information in the margins of the file you upload. ① By ATM and Internet banking transactions Deposit Amount (金額) : JPY 30,000 Payment Period (納入期間) : From Monday, January 5 to Friday, January 9, 2026 (JST)【The deadline is strictly observed.】 Bank (銀行) : <i>Mitsubishi UFJ Ginko</i> (三菱UFJ銀行) Bank code (銀行コード) : 0005 Branch (支店) : <i>Wakatake-shiten</i> (わかたけ支店) Branch code (支店コード) : 809 Account type (預金種別) : <i>Futsuu</i> (普通) Account number (口座番号) : 2259081 Account holder (口座名義) : <i>kokuritsu daigaku-houjin Tohokudaigaku</i> (国立大学法人東北大学) Account holder in katakana (カナ) : コクリツダイガクホウジン トウホクダイガク *Sender's name should be the applicant's name in katakana. *Please burden bank transfer fee at the applicant's expense. ② No need to pay the entrance examination fee for those with the following conditions: - Those who expect to complete the master's program or professional degree program of Tohoku University in

		March 2026. - MEXT (Japanese Government) scholarship students, however, those whose status will become privately financed students after enrolling in the doctoral program need to pay the entrance examination fee. - Those who are to apply for the entrance examination fee waiver for disaster victims caused by large-scale natural disasters in Japan in the academic year 2025. For information regarding the exemption of the entrance examination fee for applicants affected by natural disasters such as typhoons or floods, please refer to the following website. https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/juken/graduate-admission.html ③ <u>The above-mentioned bank account does not accept international remittances.</u> Those living abroad can pay the fee by credit card. Please contact the Graduate Academic Affairs Section in advance to obtain further information.
4	Academic Transcript	- Upload the document in PDF via the online application system. - Submit academic transcripts of both undergraduate and graduate programs. - Those without degrees, including Bachelor's, Master's, or Professional degrees, need to submit a transcript of the educational institution you last enrolled in. <u>*The original document needs to be submitted at the time of the admission procedure.</u>
5	Certificate of (expected) Graduation	- Upload the document in PDF via the online application system. - Submit the certificate of (expected) Graduation from a Master's or Professional degree program. However, the certificate is not required if the degree-awarding date appears on the academic transcript. - If you have a degree other than a master's degree, please also submit a certificate of the degree conferred (or expected) of your highest level of education. <u>*The original document needs to be submitted at the</u>

		<u>time of the admission procedure.</u>
6	Academic Research Paper	- Upload the document in PDF via the online application system. Please notify the Graduate School Academic Affairs Section* if you cannot upload the documents to the system due to storage limitations. - List of academic research papers - Master's thesis or other equivalent papers (If the paper in PDF is unavailable, contact the Graduate Academic Affairs Section*.) If you are currently enrolled in the second year of a master's program and are unable to submit your master's thesis at the time of application due to the deadline set by your university's graduate school, please submit a document (in any format) stating the date by which you will be able to submit your thesis. *For inquiries, please refer to the last page.
7	Research Plan (For Geophysics applicants only)	- Please convert your research plan into a PDF file and upload it via the online application system. - The plan should outline your intended research after enrollment and be approximately two A4 pages in length (any format is accepted). - You may write your plan in either Japanese or English. - If you write in Japanese, please write about 2,000 characters.
8	Copy of Passport or Copy of Residence Card issued by the Japanese Government [Foreign Applicants only]	Upload the document in PDF via the online application system. - Passport: pages with personal information - Residence Card: both front and back sides

[NOTE] A Recommendation letter is not mandatory to submit for the application.

6. Examination and Selection Method

The selection of applicants is determined based on evaluating the application documents and the performance in proficiency examinations. During the examination, please follow the instructions of the staff.

(1) Schedule and Selection Method

The examination is scheduled for late January through February 2026. Applicants will be informed of the specific date and time for the examination and method.

Department	Dates	Contents
Mathematics	February	The examination consists of an oral presentation of the master's thesis and an interview about the applicant's field of expertise (approximately 40-60 minutes per person).
Physics	Late January	The examination consists of an oral presentation of the master's thesis and an interview about the thesis presentation (approximately 30-40 minutes per person).
Astronomy	Late January	The examination consists of an oral presentation of the master's thesis and an interview about the thesis presentation (approximately 60 minutes per person).
Geophysics	Early February	The examination consists of an oral presentation of the master's thesis and research proposal and an interview (approximately 60 minutes per person).
Chemistry	Wed., January 28	The examination consists of an oral presentation of the master's thesis (15 minutes) and an interview about the thesis presentation (10 minutes per person).
Earth Science	Late January through mid-February	The examination consists of an oral presentation of the master's thesis and research proposal and an interview about the thesis presentation (approximately 40-60 minutes per person). Depending on the research fields, a written examination in specialized subjects may be held in English. If this is the case, applicants will be contacted individually later.

(2) Location

[NOTE]

Those living abroad may be able to take the online examination depending on the conditions. Please inquire with your prospective supervisor about the method of the examination.

Unless notified, the examination will be held at the Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University.
(Address: 6-3 Aramaki-Aza-Aoba, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8578, JAPAN)

*Detailed information, such as an examination room, will be notified individually after completing the application procedures.

(3) Disclosure of the Examination Score

Those who request their examination score to be disclosed should submit the request for disclosure (any format including the following information: name, phone number, living address, and email

address) with a copy of your examination admission card to the Graduate Academic Affairs Section in person or via postal mail by Thursday, March 19, 2026. Note that the results for successful and unsuccessful applicants are divided into three levels respectively, and the applicant's result is disclosed based on which level the applicant's score falls into. (The extent of the disclosure may vary for each department or course.)

7. Announcement of Selection Results

The selection results will be posted on the Graduate School of Science website at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 6, 2026. They will also be available via the online system on or after that date. Please note that we do not respond to any inquiries about examination results by phone or other means.

8. Admission Procedures

The enrollment procedure involves submitting documents such as the Written Oath and payment such as the admission fee. Details will be announced separately after the screening results are announced. Also, details regarding enrollment procedures will be provided via the email address registered in the online application system or through the system's messaging function.

(1) The Admission Procedure Period will be mid-March 2026

(2) Admission Fee and Tuition Fee

① Admission Fee: JPY 282,000 (as of October 2025)

[NOTE] Admission fee is not required for those who will have completed the master's program or professional degree program of Tohoku University in March 2026.

② Tuition Fee: JPY 535,800 per year (as of October 2025)

(The tuition fee should be paid each semester; JPY 267,900 per semester)

[NOTE] The above amount is subject to change. If there is a revision to the payment amount, the revised amount will apply from the time the change takes effect.

9. Miscellaneous Information

Handling of Personal Information

① Personal information held by Tohoku University is handled in strict compliance with the "Act on the Protection of Personal Information (Act No. 57 of 2003)" and other laws and regulations, and in accordance with the "Regulations of Protection of Personal Information at National University Corporation Tohoku University" and other relevant regulations of Tohoku University, to ensure the protection of personal information.

② Personal information such as test scores used for admission selection will be used for the following purposes: selection of applicants, admission procedures, pre-entrance education, follow-up surveys, etc., student support after admission (scholarships, tuition exemption, health care, etc.), educational purposes such as academic guidance, tuition collection, and surveys and research (improvement of entrance examinations, surveys and analysis of application trends, etc., for enrolled students, this

includes analysis together with personal information after enrollment).

- ③ Work related to entrance examinations and educational affairs may be performed by contractors entrusted by the University (hereinafter referred to as "contractors"). In the event that all or part of the personal information is provided to the contractor, necessary measures will be taken to ensure that the information is handled appropriately in accordance with the "Regulations of Protection of Personal Information at National University Corporation Tohoku University" and other relevant regulations of Tohoku University.

Educational Data Usage

Data, including personal information, that Tohoku University collects through its education/learning activities and stores on its information systems (hereafter, Educational Data) is analyzed with the latest analytical and A.I. technology and is considered vital to our implementation of evidence-based education. Consequently, the university strives to use Educational Data effectively and appropriately in compliance with our "Statement on Educational Data Usage," "Policy on Educational Data Usage," and "Tohoku University's 8 Principles of Educational Data Acquisition."

After being admitted to the university, students' personal information, such as entrance exam scores etc., is merged with the university's Educational Data.

URL : <https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/studentinfo/education/08/education0801/>

【Reference】

Graduate School of Science

<https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/juken/> (Japanese)

<https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/english/prospective/> (English)

Mathematics

<http://www.math.tohoku.ac.jp/> (Japanese)

<http://www.math.tohoku.ac.jp/english/index-e.html> (English)

Physics

<https://www.phys.tohoku.ac.jp/> (Japanese)

<https://www.phys.tohoku.ac.jp/en/> (English)

Astronomy

<https://www.astr.tohoku.ac.jp/> (Japanese)

<https://www.astr.tohoku.ac.jp/en/> (English)

Geophysics

<https://www.gp.tohoku.ac.jp/> (Japanese)

<https://www.gp.tohoku.ac.jp/index-en.html> (English)

Chemistry

<http://www.chem.tohoku.ac.jp/> (Japanese)

<http://www.chem.tohoku.ac.jp/english/> (English)

Earth Science

<https://www.es.tohoku.ac.jp/JP/> (Japanese)

<https://www.es.tohoku.ac.jp/EN/> (English)

Graduate School of Science Online Entrance Examination Information Session

https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/godo_setsumei/ (Japanese only)

【Inquiries】

Graduate Academic Affairs Section

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October 2025

Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University