

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS (2026)
to the Program for Biologists and Bioengineers who Leads Nature-Positive
Society with a Special Emphasis on Co-Creation
(Ph.D. Program)
at the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology
Kanazawa University

The Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology is pleased to announce its Program for the Ph. D. Degree in the division of Biological Science and Technology and the division of Frontier Engineering with a special course in English and scholarship for overseas students with outstanding scholastic ability. Selected students will be awarded a Japanese Government Scholarship through the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (*Monbukagakusho:MEXT*).

1. Qualifications

1) Nationality:

An applicant must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are not eligible except the following cases: applicants of dual nationality who reside outside of Japan and who will expatriate from Japanese nationality by the time of arrival.

2) Age:

Applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1991.

3) Academic background:

All applicants must have completed or will complete by the end of September, 2026 from a university or an educational institution which satisfies one of the following requirements:

1. Has International Exchange Agreement with Kanazawa University or its department.
2. Have remarkable academic achievements.

And

All applicants must satisfy one of the following requirements:

1. Have obtained a Master's degree, or expects to obtain a Master's degree by the end of September, 2026.
2. Have successfully obtained a degree equivalent to a Master's degree at a university or college abroad, or expects to gain such a degree by the end of September, 2026.
3. Have spent two years or more at a university or research institution after graduating from a university, or completed a 16-year course of school education abroad.

And be deemed by the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology at Kanazawa University to have academic ability equal to or higher than a Master's degree holder, based on the results of research described in the submitted documents.

4. Be deemed by the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology at Kanazawa University to have academic ability equal to or higher than a Master's degree holder, based on submitted documents.

And be 24 (years old) or older as of September 30, 2026.

4) Academic Record:

Eligible applicants must have GPA (Grade Point Average) of 2.30 or higher at the last university attended.

* NOTICE *

After admission, applicants should keep his/her GPA higher than 2.30 point as well. If his/her GPA will be lower than 2.30 point each year, he/she will be disqualified from the MEXT scholarship student.

The academic record will be calculated by the method which is designated by MEXT.

Method to Determine GPA

	Grade Point				
4-point scale		Excellent	Good	Average	Fail
4-point scale		A	B	C	D
4-point scale		80~100%	70~79%	60~69%	0~59%
5-point scale	S	A	B	C	F
5-point scale	A	B	C	D	F
5-point scale	90~100%	80~89%	70~79%	60~69%	0~59%
Point value	3	3	2	1	0

(number of 3 point grades) x 3 + (number of 2 point grades) x 2 + (number of 1 point grades) x 1 + (number of 0 point grades) x 0

Total number of grades (including those with a value of 0)

5) Language:

The thesis work will be carried out in English.

Applicants must have enough English skills to conduct academic research and education. Each applicant is required to satisfy any of the following conditions.

1. The applicant has a score of any English language proficiency test which is equivalent to / higher than Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) B2.

*The test must be an English proficiency test measuring all four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), and the scores for all four skills must be at or above CEFR B2 level.

*The test must be held on or after December 1, 2023.

*If you want to convert your English scores into CEFR, please refer to the website below.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/koudai/detail/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2019/09/25/1420500_3_2.pdf

2. The applicant completed a curriculum which meets the qualification to enter Japanese Doctoral course of graduate school, in an institution where main instruction was in English.
3. The applicant can be concluded that he/she has English ability equal to or higher than the condition 1.

6) Health:

All applicants should submit a Certificate of Health issued by a qualified and recognized physician.

7) Arrival in Japan:

All applicants must arrive in Japan between September 17, 2026 and October 14, 2026.

8) Visa Requirement:

Selected applicants must obtain a College Student (ryugaku) visa from the Japanese consulate general in the country of their nationality.

Even if selected applicants already have another status of residence, they must change it to the residence status of College Student (ryugaku) by the time they enroll. But even if selected applicants apply for a “Permanent resident” or “Long Term Resident” status again after completing a scholarship student, it may not be certified.

9) Other:

Applicants who meet any of the following conditions are not eligible. If this is identified after acceptance of the scholarship, the grantee will be required to withdraw from the scholarship:

1. Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;
2. Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the date specified by MEXT or the accepting university;
3. Those who were previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdrew from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). However, this does not apply to those who wish to apply for Research Students program and meet any one of the following conditions. In addition, since the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students does not apply to the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs, the previous grantees can apply.
 - those who have at least three years of educational or work experience after the end of the payment of the previous scholarship and before the start of this scholarship;
 - the past grantees of Japanese Studies Students program who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Young Leaders' Program;
 - those who have obtained or are expected to obtain a degree as undergraduate students of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (university recommendation/special selection).
4. Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2026;
5. Those who are planning to receive scholarships or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization, or others after the start of the scholarship payment (the acquisition of student status) period;
6. Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
7. Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status);
8. Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the university;
9. Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.

2. Enrollment

Five research students will be accepted.

3. Scholarship Benefits

- 1) Stipend: 145,000 yen per month (subject to change)
 - ※Stipend will be paid for 3 years from October 2026 to September 2029. The recipient who is admitted into the Ph. D. program of Kanazawa University will not be able to extend his/her term of scholarship.
 - MEXT strictly requires that students admitted into this program complete their Ph.D. studies

within three years from the start of their financial support.

- 2) Travel expenses: round-trip airfare between the applicant's country and Japan
- Transportation to Japan: The grantee will be supplied with an economy class air ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her address at the time of leaving his/her country to an international airport in Japan, such as Kansai International Airport. Domestic flight fee, airport usage fee, airport tax, etc., will NOT be covered. (The address in the country of the grantee's nationality stated in the application is in principle considered as the "Address at the time of leaving your country", ex his/her family's house). Air travel from a country other than the grantee's nationality will not be covered.
 - Transportation from Japan: The grantee who returns to his/her home country within the last-payment month of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy class air ticket from an international airport in Japan to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.
 - Travel expenses will not be paid for domestic recommenders.

Note 1: The cost of any aviation and accident insurance for travel to and from Japan shall be paid by the grantee.

Note 2: If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return home for a temporary visit.

Note 3: The definition of "domestic recommenders" is as follows:

① Those who are staying in Japan with a medium- to long-term resident status at the time of application. Those who have their base of residence in Japan, not including tourists and short-term visitors who are staying in Japan for the purpose of taking entrance examination, etc. It is irrelevant whether the applicant is residing in Japan from the time of after application to the start of scholarship payments.

② Applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application, but will come to Japan as a privately financed international students before the start of receiving scholarship payments.

* If you are or will be in Japan as a privately financed international student, you must complete your program at the school you are enrolled or plan to enroll in before receiving scholarship payments.

* Travel expenses will not be paid for domestic recommenders, regardless of the reasons stated in ① and ②. If applicants return to their country of nationality after applying under condition ①, however, there are no exceptions if students return to Japan before scholarship payments begin.

- 3) Admission/Tuition fee: waived.

4. Application Procedures

The following documents must be submitted in either English or Japanese on A4-sized papers. If this is not possible, you must attach a Japanese translation of each document.

- 1) Cover sheet (use the formats supplied)
- 2) Application form (with photo) (use the formats supplied, in electronic files)
- 3) Field of Study and Research Plan (use the formats supplied, in electronic files)
- 4) Certificate of Master's degree, or a certified letter from the university at which the applicant is currently enrolled, stating the expected graduation date.
- 5) Official academic transcript in your Master program. (※1)
- 6) A copy of applicant's passport (or copy of a certificate of family register, certificate of

- citizenship or other identification issued by the government of his/her home country)
- 7) A letter of recommendation written by the President, Dean or above of the institution addressed to the President of Kanazawa University (use the format supplied).
 - 8) Photographs (4.5×3.5 cm; upper front figure without a hat) taken within the past 6 months. Name and nationality must be indicated on the back. The photographs should be pasted on the specified place of the application form (2). Electronic data can be acceptable.
 - 9) A summary of the Master's thesis written in English.
 - 10) Acceptance letter written by a prospective academic advisor from Kanazawa University (an emailed one is also available).
 - 11) Documents certifying that the applicant meets the requirements of the language ability described on page 2. (※2)
 - 12) For those who are currently employed, a letter of release /recognition from their supervisor, recognizing their right to apply and/or pursue further education in Kanazawa University
 - 13) Certificate of health (use the format supplied to be completed by the examining physician)
 - 14) Pledge to the President (use the format supplied)
 - 15) Pledge to the Director (use the format supplied)

※1 The academic transcripts of the last university you attended must show the grade scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant on all the subjects studied. If it is impossible to calculate your GPA, for example because your grade is judged only by pass / fail etc., please include in “7) A letter of recommendation” the meaning that your academic record is in the top 30% of faculty, university or graduate school.

※2 Submit the following documents as “11) Documents certifying that the applicant meets the requirements of the language ability” .

[1] An original score of any English language proficiency test that measures all four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), such as TOEFL-iBT or IELTS, obtained on or after December 1, 2023.

* The scores for all four skills must be at CEFR B2 level or higher.

And / or

[2] A certificate stating that the main instruction is English, from an institution you have completed / will have completed which meets the qualification to enter Japanese Doctoral course of graduate school.

In case you cannot submit either [1] or [2], submit any documents showing your English ability.

The application documents must be submitted by email to the address below **by noon (JST) on December 25, 2025**, include “[MEXT Nature-Positive]” in the subject header. The originals of the documents submitted by email must be sent by registered air mail after receiving a notification of application complete.

Email address: s-nyusi@adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

Application period: from 9:00(JST) on December 15, 2025 to noon (JST) on December 25, 2025

※Applications will not be accepted if any of the above documents are incomplete, incorrect or not supported by evidence. Those not meeting the specified deadline will not be accepted.

5. Notes

- 1) All applicants must keep in close contact with their prospective academic advisors at Kanazawa University to formulate their research plan.
 - 2) Once submitted, no documents will be returned.
 - 3) After an applicant has agreed to accept the scholarship, they are not allowed to change their host institution in Japan.
 - 4) The scholarship may be terminated in the following cases:
 1. Any information supplied with the application is later found to be false. Admission can be canceled any time after enrollment.
 2. They violate the pledge declared to the MEXT.
 3. They are subjected to a disciplinary punishment or judged by the faculty as not being able to continue the program.
 4. If it becomes definitive that they will not be able to graduate (or complete their course) within the standard course term because of their poor academic achievement or suspension.
 5. They quit Kanazawa University.
 6. They transfer to another university.
 7. They change the status of residence to one other than “College Student (ryugaku)” or they do not obtain the College Student (ryugaku) visa by the time of enrollment.
 8. They receive financial support (a scholarship or fellowship from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others) that is not allowed to be combined with the MEXT Scholarship.
 9. At some point in each year, the recipient’s GPA fell below 2.30. This GPA will be calculated by the method which is designated by MEXT.
 - 5) The scholarship will be suspended if a leave of absence occurs or when the student fails to attend the university for a long time.
 - 6) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will be made about one to one and a half months after the applicants’ arrival in Japan, the applicants are highly recommended to bring at least approximately US\$2,000 to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
 - 7) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account of Japan Post Bank (JP Bank) opened by each applicant after the arrival in Japan. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship payments to other account.
 - 8) Applicants who test positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis following a medical exam must receive treatment before arriving in Japan. Applicants’ arrival in Japan will not be approved if they are not fully recovered by the time of arrival.
 - 9) Applicants are expected to learn and understand the geography, climate, customs and traditions of Japan as well as the rules of Kanazawa University. Although the thesis work can be carried out in English, it is recommended to get accustomed to the Japanese language essential for daily life.
 - 10) Do not use erasable ball-point pens for application documents.
- ※An applicant who is applying for another university with MEXT scholarship at the same time is not eligible. If identified after acceptance of the scholarship grantees, the applicant will be required to withdraw from all scholarships.

6. Selection and Admission

Preliminary selection is carried out by the Selection Committee of the Program for Biologists and

Bioengineers who Leads Nature-Positive Society with a Special Emphasis on Co-Creation, based on the submitted documents listed in item “4. Application Procedure” above. The Committee may contact the applicant by email for further information. Kanazawa University then recommends the selected candidates to MEXT, which will make the final decision of recipients. Admission starts from the semester beginning on October 1, 2026.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the preliminary selection between mid-February and March 2026. Final results of the selection authorized by MEXT will be announced by June 2026.

7. Force majeure

Due to force majeure, the schedule to come to Japan may be changed, the scholarship may be canceled, or the contents of the application guidelines may be changed at any time before or after the notification of acceptance.

Force majeure means events beyond the reasonable control of MEXT, such as natural disasters, government (including local governments; hereinafter the same applies in this section), or acts of government agencies (including border measures such as immigration restrictions and travel restrictions by the Japanese government or national governments concerning infectious diseases), compliance with laws, regulations or orders, fire, storm, flood or earthquake, war (whether declared or not), rebellion, revolution or riot, strike or lockout including but not limited to.

8. Information

For further information, please use the contact below:

Admission Affairs Section
Science and Engineering Administration Department
Kanazawa University
Kakuma-machi, Kanazawa, 920-1192, Japan
Email: s-nyusi@adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp