

Academic Year 2025

**Division of Life Science
Division of Soft Matter
Graduate School of Life Science
Hokkaido University**

Master's Course

(Former Period of Doctoral Program)

Summer Selection

**Application Guidelines for
Entrance Examination**

For enrollment in October 2024 or April 2025

(Admission for General Category)

June 2024

Schedule for Entrance Examination Graduate School of Life Science 2025

Division of Life Science／Division of Soft Matter: Master's Course (Former Period of Doctoral Program)

Master Course	Open Division and Course	Examination Date
Summer Selection	Division of Life Science - Transdisciplinary Life Science Course, Biosystems Science Course, Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science Course Division of Soft Matter	August 20 – August 21, 2024
Fall Selection	*This selection will be conducted only if the admission capacity does not reach the maximum number allotted for each division and course in the Summer Selection.	October 24 – 25, 2024 (tentative)
Winter Selection	Division of Life Science (Tentative) - Transdisciplinary Life Science Course, Biosystems Science Course Division of Soft Matter (Tentative)	January 9 – 10, 2025 (tentative)

* It will be announced on the website of the Graduate School of Life Science in early September whether the fall selection is carried out or not.

* The Application Guidelines for the winter selection will be announced on the website in November.

* If you wish to work with a particular supervisor or in a specified laboratory, please apply for the summer selection.

The capacity of students for each supervisor and laboratory is limited. Therefore, applicants may be assigned to a laboratory (other than the one they chose) in the same division if the fixed number is exceeded.

* The applicants, who pass the Summer Selection and wish to receive a scholarship from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) may apply for this scholarship in two slots (reserved slot for incoming students and general slot for current students). The applicants, who pass the Fall or Winter selections may apply for only one slot.

Personal Information Management by Hokkaido University

- (1) In handling personal information at Hokkaido University, Hokkaido University makes every effort to obey relevant laws and ordinances such as the “Protection Law for Private Information Held by Independent Administrative Corporations”, and protect personal information pursuant to “National University Corporation Hokkaido University Personal Information Management Rules”.
- (2) Personal information, such as name, address, etc., provided by the applicant to the university in the process of applying for admission and pre-assessment of qualification will be used only for 1) assessment of applicants (processing of application, conducting selection), 2) the announcement of application results, 3) enrollment procedures, 4) surveys and research on enrollee selection methods, and 5) business operations pertaining to 1-4.
- (3) Private companies commissioned by the University (hereafter called “commissioned companies”) may handle personal data to engage in the relevant operations. Part or all of the personal information submitted to the University by the applicant will be provided to the commissioned companies, to the extent necessary for them to carry out their duties.
- (4) After successful applicants are enrolled, the personal information they provided on their application forms will be used for; 1) academic affairs (registration, academic guidance, etc.), 2) student support services (health management, scholarship applications, etc.), 3) career support services, and 4) tuition and fees, and related administrative operations.
- (5) Among the personal information of (4), only contact details, name and address and so on, may be used by Hokkaido University Frontier Foundation, Alumni Association of the School of Science, Alumni Association of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Alumni Association Elm of Hokkaido University with safety measure.
- (6) Applicants will be informed separately about the handling of personal data in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Applicants to whom such rules apply (those applying from within the European Economic Area (EEA) member states) should notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section, Science and Life Science Administration Department, prior to application.

Admission Policy of Graduate School of Life Science

The Graduate School of Life Science provides students with the training that allows them to acquire an interdisciplinary knowledge of advanced life science, from the level of molecules to organisms. We provide comprehensive education with participation by instructors specialized in fields in the basic and applied life sciences, science, pharmaceutical science, medicine, and agriculture.

▪ Type of Students We Seek

<Division of Life Science>

The educational goal of training in the Division of Life Science is to enable students to comprehensively understand various living phenomena through biomolecular interactions, and to apply their knowledge and techniques in real life. On these principles and aims, we seek:

1. Students having a strong intention to study not only basic life science but also the primary level of applied life science, as in medicine, pharmaceutical science, veterinary medicine, agriculture, fisheries science and biotechnology, and willing to acquire advanced analytical techniques and broad, in-depth knowledge of life science.
2. Students having technical capabilities for advanced scientific research and having a strong intention to become a research professional in private firms, national or local governments.

<Division of Soft Matter>

The Division of Soft Matter seeks students who desire to be capable of integrating material science and a wide range of life science and developing soft matter science, understanding the structure and function of living matter from the viewpoint of material science, designing and constructing advanced soft matter and applying those finding to other fields.

The Division especially seeks following students.

1. Students who wish to learn basic physics, chemistry and biology and to develop analytical and manufactural techniques in the field of soft matter.
2. Students who wish to acquire technical capabilities for advanced scientific research and to have a strong intention to become educators, researchers or research professional in private firms.

▪ What is Expected to be Learned Before Admission

1. Basic academic skills and knowledge in Life Sciences
2. Basic knowledge in each specialized field that is necessary to engage in research in the graduate school

▪ Principle Selection Policy (Multiple-layered Evaluation Method)

【General Category】

By written examination, applicants will be evaluated their levels of “knowledge and skills”, “ability to think/judge/express” and “comprehension.”

By oral examination, applicants will be evaluated their levels of “knowledge and skills”, “ability to think/judge/ express”, “ability to work independently and cooperatively”, “comprehension”, “interest and motivation”, “ability to identify problems” and “ability to solve problems.”

The Graduate School of Life Science will assess applicants on the basis of their entrance examination (written and oral exams) and the application documents (such as a transcript).

【Special Category for International Students】

By oral examination, applicants will be evaluated their levels of “knowledge and skills”, “ability to think/judge/express”, “ability to work independently and cooperatively”, “comprehension”, “interest and motivation”, “ability to identify problems” and “ability to solve problems.”

The Graduate School of Life Science will assess applicants on the basis of their entrance examination and the application documents (such as a transcript).

▪ **Principle Selection Policy** (Evaluation elements and their importance)

【Master's Course (Former Period of Doctoral Program)】

Category of Entrance Examination	Evaluation Element	Key Academic Elements			Comprehension	Interest and motivation	Ability to identify problems	Ability to solve problems
		Knowledge and Skills	Ability to think, judge, and express	Learning Attitude (to take initiative, to cooperate with diverse people)				
General Category	Writing Examination	◎	◎		○			
	Oral Examination	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
	Application Documents	Comprehensively evaluated						
Special Category for International Students	Oral Examination etc. (※1)	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
	Application Documents	Comprehensively evaluated						

※1 : Examination will be carried out by using Online Meeting System, etc.

(Note) ◎···Key element we will give great importance on evaluation / ○···Key element we will give importance on evaluation

General Category

1. Admission Quota

Division and Course	Admission Quota (enrollment October 2024)	Admission Quota (enrollment April 2025)
Division of Life Science Transdisciplinary Life Science Course Biosystems Science Course Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science Course	20 students	116 students
Division of Soft Matter	A few students	16 students

2. Eligibility

Applicants must fulfill one of the following criteria.

- (1) Graduated or are expected graduated from a college, prior to admission.
- (2) Received or are expected to receive a bachelor's degree prior to admission to the Graduate School in accordance with Article 104, Clause 7, of the School Education Act (Act No. 26 of 1947).
- (3) Completed or are expected to complete 16 years of school education outside Japan, prior to admission.
- (4) Completed or are expected to complete 16 years of school education of a foreign country through a distance-learning course offered by a school of that country while living in Japan, prior to admission.
- (5) Completed or are expected to complete education at an institution established in Japan that is recognized by the school education system of a foreign country as an equivalent to a university of that country (limited to individuals who are recognized as having completed 16 years of school education in that country) and that is designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT), prior to admission.
- (6) Received or are expected to receive a degree equivalent to the bachelor's degree from a university or school outside Japan (limited to the university or school which has received evaluation from the person who is authorized by the government of that country or the relevant agencies regarding the overall performance of its education and research activities, or which has been separately designated by MEXT as equivalent to the aforementioned) by completing a program that require three years or more of course work (including the case of completing a distance-learning course offered by a school of that country while living in Japan, and the case of completing a study at the institution recognized by the school education system of that country and designated by MEXT as referred to in (5)).
- (7) Completed or are expected to complete a specialist training course at a vocational school (limited to a course with a period of four years or more and that satisfies the conditions set by the MEXT) that is designated separately by the MEXT after the date set by the MEXT.
- (8) Have been designated by the MEXT (February 7, 1953 Ministry of Education Notification No. 5).
- (9) Have attended a university for three years or more or completed 15 years of school education outside Japan (including the case of completing a distance-learning course offered by a school of that country while living in Japan), and are recognized by the Graduate School of Life Science as having earned the required number of credits with an excellent academic record.
- (10) Are recognized as having an academic aptitude equivalent or superior to the university graduates through the screening for entrance eligibility conducted by the Graduate School of Life Science, and have reached the age of 22 before the time of enrollment in the Graduate School of Life Science.

* Applicants who wish to enroll in October 2024 must indicate so by checking the appropriate box on the application form.

3. Pre-assessment of Qualification

Application Period for Pre-assessment: June 24 (Mon.) – June 26 (Wed.), 2024

The Pre-assessment of Qualifications is held prior to the application period for the entrance examination. Applicants who fall under (9) or (10) in “2. Eligible Applicants” must go through this by submitting “5. Application Documents” during the period described above. To receive the result, please enclose a self-addressed

envelope with an 84-yen stamp affixed.

Applicants who apply for the Pre-assessment of Qualifications should not pay the entrance examination fee at the time of the pre-assessment. They should pay the entrance examination fee in accordance with the notes below. Application documents must be sent by mail and must be received by the deadline.

Notes:

The pre-assessment application results will be sent to applicants around Tuesday, July 9, 2024, by mail; once their qualifications have been accepted by the pre-assessment, applicants must pay the examination fee, in accordance with “7. Entrance Examination Fee,” and submit the payment certificate by Thursday, July 18, 2024. If the Educational Affairs Section does not receive the payment certificate during the application period, the application will not be accepted and will be regarded as canceled.

Students who will receive the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship, the State-Sponsored Scholarship Program of the China Scholarship Council or the Hokkaido University President’s Fellowship (including those who are expected to receive these scholarships) are not required to pay the examination fee.

* As a general rule, students who currently enroll in the Integrated Science Program are not required to pay the examination fee.

4. Application Period

Application Period: July 12 (Fri.) – July 18 (Thu.), 2024

Applicants who fall under (1) – (8) in “2. Eligibility”

Submit the completed application documents (see “5. Application Documents”) together with the payment certificate (E) (see “7. Entrance Examination Fee”) during the application period.

Application documents must be sent by mail and must be received by the deadline.

5. Application Documents

* Applicants who fall under (9) or (10) in “2. Eligibility” must submit the following documents during the application period described in “3. Pre-assessment of Qualifications.”

* In the following chart, “○” indicates documents that must be submitted by all applicants, while “△” indicates documents that must be submitted for those who fall into the following “Remarks” .

Documents		Applicants			Remarks
		(1)(2) (3)(4) (5)(6) (7)(8)	(9)	(10)	
1	Application Form, Resume, Admission Ticket and Photo Card.	○	○	○	[Prescribed.] Applicants who have completed a distant learning course offered by an overseas educational institution or an overseas school education course are required to attach Resume B .
2	Official Transcript issued by the last university or similar institution previously attended.	○	○	○	Applicants under (9) in “2. Eligibility” should submit a transcript issued by their current academic institution. * In the case that the official transcript is written in a language other than Japanese or English, “Original Official Transcript written in the language concerned” and “Original official translation in Japanese or English” must be attached.
3	Official Certificate of Graduation, or Expected Graduation, issued by the last university or similar institution previously attended; Certificate of Degree Conferral, or Certificate of Expected Degree Conferral.	○	△	○	① An Official Certificate must be issued by the Head of the last university or similar institution previously attended. (Degree information should be contained if you have already graduated.) ◎ Applicants who graduated or are expected to graduate from a university or a similar institution in China (except Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao) must submit the following document written in English along with an official certificate of (expected) graduation. Applicants who; -Graduated ... (a) Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部学历证书电子注册备案表) -Are expected to graduate ... (a) Online Verification Report of Student Record (教育部学籍在线验证报告)

					<p>Document (a) can be obtained from the China Credentials Verification (中国高等教育学历证书记查查询 http://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/bgys.jsp) Please make sure the web authentication should be valid at least 15 days at the time of submission.</p> <p>② Applicants under (2) in “2. Eligibility” must submit an Official Certificate of Degree (expected) issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE).</p> <p>* In the case that the official transcript is written in a language other than Japanese or English, “Original Official Transcript written in the language concerned” and “Original official translation in Japanese or English” must be attached.</p>
4	Documents certifying that the applicant has academic skills equal to or greater than those of a college graduate.			<input type="radio"/>	<p>[Discretionary format.] e.g., documents detailing international activities, work experience, or language learning experience; research papers; patent publications; certificates of qualification; recommendation letters from supervisors at schools previously attended.</p>
5	List of preferred supervisors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p>[Prescribed.] Please contact prospective supervisors in advance. Prescribed form is available for download in the graduate school webpage.</p>
6	Self-addressed envelope to receive the admission ticket for the entrance examination.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p>[Prescribed.] Write your name and mailing address on an envelope with a 400-yen stamp attached. If you change your address after applying, please notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section, Science and Life Science Administration Department, Hokkaido University.</p>
7	Stickers for notification of the application results and for communication purposes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p>[Prescribed.] Write your name and mailing address on each sticker. If you change your address after applying, please notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section, Science and Life Science Administration Department, Hokkaido University.</p>
8	Evidence of English proficiency. (E.g. the original score sheets of TOEFL, TOEIC).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p>On applying, applicants must submit one of the following English score sheets. Only scores of tests that took place after July 2022 are accepted. (*See [Important] below) * Those who fall under ③ must consult with the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section about this matter in advance.</p> <p>① TOEFL (iBT or ITP) 1) TOEFL-iBT (Home Edition is acceptable, limited for Test Date score) Submit the original Test Taker Score Report from American ETS. (*See [Important] below) 2) TOEFL-ITP Submit original Individual Score Card.</p> <p>② TOEIC (Public Testing) Submit the original Official Score Certificate. * In the case of taking TOEIC (Public Testing) after April 2023, a printed Digital Official Score Certificate could be submitted instead of the original Official Score Certificate.</p> <p>③ Those who are educated in the English language at the university (or graduate school) in Japan or abroad If documents, which prove that applicants were educated in the English language at the university (or graduate school) attended (e.g.) Medium of Instruction certificate), are submitted, there is a possibility that the English score sheet is exempted from submission. Applicants must contact the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section if applicable.</p>
9	Self-addressed envelope for notification of the pre-assessment results.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p>Write your name and mailing address on a standard envelope with an 84-yen stamp attached.</p>

* [Important] Submission of the English Proficiency Certificate (scoresheet, etc.)

Submission of the English proficiency scoresheet, etc. during the application period is final. No additional

scoresheets nor certificates will be accepted to replace the original submission.

A printed version of the proficiency test results, available online is acceptable for the application if a hardcopy of the original scoresheet can be submitted in person or by postage by Monday, August 19, 2024.

If a hardcopy of the original scoresheet is not submitted by Monday, August 19, 2024, the English Language Proficiency will be considered invalid and regarded as a score of zero. In this case, the entrance examination fee will not be refunded.

◎ Documents specified by the course [Prescribed.: Form 1]

Division of Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course) Division of Soft Matter	Summary of Research	Applicants for the Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course) and Division of Soft Matter must submit a summary of graduation research in current/previous university or proposed research in Hokkaido University. The summary should fit in a one-page A4-sized paper (use Form 1) and 400-600 words in English or 800-1200 words in Japanese. Illustrations and/or tables (black and white or colored) may be included in Form 1 and are not counted toward the word limit. Form 1 is available for download from the graduate school webpage. It is highly recommended that applicants create this form by computer and submit it as a hard copy.
---	------------------------	---

6. Where to Submit

To: Graduate School Educational Affairs Section
Science and Life Science Administration Department
Hokkaido University
Kita-10 Nishi-8, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0810, Japan

* Application documents must be sent by mail. Please mark “Application for Graduate School Enclosed” in red on the envelope and send it by express mail. Applicants must use an envelope prepared separately by you, not the “Self-addressed envelope to receive the admission ticket for the entrance examination” provided in the bound in the Application Guideline.

7. Entrance Examination Fee: 30,000 yen

- (1) Students who will receive the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship, the State-Sponsored Scholarship Program of the China Scholarship Council or the Hokkaido University President’s Fellowship (including those who are expected to receive these scholarships) are not required to pay the examination fee.
 - * As a general rule, students who currently enroll in the Integrated Science Program are not required to pay the examination fee.
 - * MEXT scholarship students recommended by universities other than Hokkaido University are required to submit a copy of a letter verifying that they have received this scholarship.
- (2) Remit the examination fee through the bank account or post office account designated by this University, by using the payment slip for the entrance examination fee which is enclosed with the application forms, and attach the payment certificate to the appropriate section on the application form.
- (3) The examination fee is not refundable except in the following cases:
 - The applicant has not submitted an application, or the application was rejected after the examination fee was remitted.
 - The applicant paid the examination fee twice by mistake.

8. Screening Method

<Division of Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course) and Division of Soft Matter>

① Oral Examination

In this examination, applicants are required to take two kinds of oral examinations: (A) general questions about the reason for applying and the research aspiration, etc. (B) an explanation of the research outline submitted, and basic knowledge and academic skills related to the research outline.

② English Language Proficiency: Based on scores of the external English Language Proficiency Test

③ Selection Criteria

The graduate school will decide on successful applicants by a comprehensive assessment of the results of the oral examination, the score of the external English Language Proficiency Test, and the submitted application documents.

[1] Applicants who apply for the Division of Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course) and the Division of Soft Matter are exempted from taking the written examination.

[2] Applicants who apply for the Division of Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course) and the Division of Soft Matter might be exempted from one of the oral examinations “(B) an explanation of the research outline submitted, and basic knowledge and academic skills.” depending on the “Transcripts” submitted. (Applicants who are exempt from taking the examination will be notified by mail with the admission ticket for the entrance examination).

<Division of Life Science (Biosystems Science Course and Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science Course)>

① Writing Examination

Applicants are questioned about specialized scientific knowledge of your desired Course.

*Concerning the scope of the examination, check the website of the Graduate School of Life Science.

② Oral Examination

③ English Language Proficiency: Based on scores of the external English Language Proficiency Test

④ Selection Criteria

The graduate school will decide on successful applicants by a comprehensive assessment of the results of the writing examination and the oral examination, the score of the external English Language Proficiency Test, and the submitted application documents.

9. Examination Date, Time, and Venue

Date of Examination: August 20 (Tue.) – August 21 (Wed.), 2024

Venue of Examination: School of Science/Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hokkaido University (Kita-ku, Sapporo)

Date Time	August 20 (Tue.)		August 21 (Wed.)	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
Division of Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course)	Oral examination (A)(B)	Oral examination (A)(B)	Oral examination (A)(B)	Oral examination (A)(B)
Division of Life Science (Biosystems Science Course)		Specialized subjects' examination	Oral examination	Oral examination
Division of Life Science (Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science Course)	Specialized subjects' examination		Oral examination	Oral examination
Division of Soft Matter	Oral examination (A)(B)	Oral examination (A)(B)	Oral examination (A)(B)	Oral examination (A)(B)

* The Graduate School will send applicants detailed information on the entrance examination, such as time, location, how to take oral examination and so on.

* Application to more than one division/course is not acceptable.

10. Announcement of Application Results

The examinees' number of successful applicants will be posted on the website of the Graduate School of Life Science, Hokkaido University, around 4:30 PM on Friday, September 6, 2024. All applicants are notified of the results by mail.

11. Procedures for Enrollment and Payment of Fees*

All successful applicants will be notified of the registration procedure at the time of notification of results.

Enrollment Fee: 282,000 yen (estimated).

Tuition Fee: 267,900 yen.

[For the first semester. Total annual tuition fee = 535,800 yen] (estimated).

* If the tuition fee is revised during the period of your enrollment, the revised fee becomes effective immediately.

12. Important Notice

- (1) Make sure to bring your admission ticket on the day of examination and put it on your desk.
- (2) Please consult with the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section by the time of application if special considerations due to illness, injury, physical difficulties, mental disorder, and so on are required for admission.
 - * Please also consult with them if any special requests are considered for academic.

13. Extending the Period of Registration

It is possible to extend the standard years of study at the Graduate School of Life Science. Read "Extending the Period of Registration" on page 10, and submit an application if you wish to take advantage of this system.

14. Other Information

The admission ticket for the entrance examination will be sent to all applicants around Monday, August 5, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the application procedure, please contact the following:

Graduate School Educational Affairs Section
Science and Life Science Administration Department
Hokkaido University
Kita-10 Nishi-8 Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0810, Japan
(Office hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm weekday)

Tel: +81-11-706-3675
E-mail: r-gakuin@sci.hokudai.ac.jp

Graduate School of Life Science, Hokkaido University
<https://www.lfsci.hokudai.ac.jp/en/>

Extending the Period of Registration

1. Aims

When students under special circumstances such as having a job, etc. (including child and nursing care) have asked for an extension to complete the program for a period exceeding the standard years of study (2 years) with a scheduled plan of study, such scheduled study (hereinafter referred to as "Extended Period of Registration") may be approved after reviewing their application.

2. Intended Students

Students who fall under one of the criteria below and for that reason, wish to set the study period longer than the standard period to complete an academic (research) course:

- (1) Have a full-time job in a public office or company (excluding those who are exempt from job duty but receive a salary), or are self-employed;
- (2) Have a part-time job that has a significant influence on the full-time academic work;
- (3) Are taking care of children or other family members, which has a significant influence on the full-time academic work; or
- (4) Are visually impaired, hearing impaired, physically handicapped, etc., which are deemed to have a significant influence on the academic work for an extended period of time.

3. Attendance Period

The period approved for the Extended Period of Registration is up to 4 years for the master's degree program, and a student can apply for extension by the year. Students who have been approved of Extended Period of Registration may not continue their study beyond the period of adding two years to the Extended Period of Registration.

Students may take a temporary leave of absence from school for up to 2 years, the same as the students under the standard period of study.

4. Application Procedure

(1) Application Period

Please submit complete application documents for Extended Period of Registration and for the entrance examination together.

(2) Required Documents

- ① Application Form for Extended Period of Registration (Form 1)
- ② Research Plan Under Extended Period of Registration (Form 2)
- ③ Documents to prove that an applicant needs to apply for Extended Period of Registration (discretionary format).

(3) Announcement of Application Results

The Graduate School of Life Science reviews each application individually and will notify the results to all the successful applicants of the entrance examination.

5. Annual Tuition Fee

The annual tuition fee is determined by the calculation below for every year of the term.

$$\text{Annual tuition fee for students approved to study for an extended period} = \text{Annual tuition fee for his/her attending year} \times \frac{\text{Regular course term (2 years)}}{\text{Number of years approved for extended study (years)}}$$

6. Other Information

For the details about Extended Period of Registration and request for application documents, please contact the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section, Science and Life Science Administration Department, Hokkaido University.