

**Academic Year 2025**

**(For enrollment in April or October 2025)**

**Graduate School of Life Science**

**Hokkaido University**

**Division of Life Science**

**Division of Soft Matter**

**Master's Course**

**(Former Period of Doctoral Program)**

**Winter Selection**

**Application Guidelines for the**

**Entrance Examination**

**(Admission for General Category)**

**November 2024**

## **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 eligibility 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 provided for the application for admission and pre-assessment of eligibility 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 security measures.
- (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)	
	April 2025	October 2025
Division of Life Science Transdisciplinary Life Science Course Biosystems Science Course	Approx. 20students	
Division of Soft Matter	A few students	

### 2. Eligibility

**Applicants must fulfill one of the following criteria.**

- (1) Graduated or are expected to graduate 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 structured education outside Japan, prior to admission.
- (4) Completed or are expected to complete 16 years of structured education in foreign countries 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 structured 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 institution outside Japan (limited to the university or institution 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 an institution of that country while living in Japan, and the case of completing a study at the institution recognized by the 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 structured 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 2025 must indicate so by checking the appropriate box on the application form.

### 3. Pre-assessment of Eligibility

**Application Period for Pre-assessment: November 20 (Wed.) – November 22 (Fri.), 2024**

The Pre-assessment of Eligibility is held prior to the application period for the entrance examination. Applicants who fall under (9) or (10) in “2. Eligibility” 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 a 110-yen stamp affixed.

Applicants who apply for the Pre-assessment of Eligibility 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, December 3, 2024, by mail; once their eligibility has been confirmed by the pre-assessment, applicants must pay the examination fee, in accordance with “7. Entrance Examination Fee,” and submit the payment certificate by Thursday, December 12, 2024. If the Graduate School 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.

#### 4. Application Period

**Application Period: December 6 (Fri.) – December 12 (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 Eligibility.”

\* In the following table, “○” indicates documents that must be submitted by all applicants, while “△” indicates documents that must be submitted by those who meet the definition in the “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 school education outside Japan or a distance-learning course offered by a foreign educational institution must fill out Resume B.
2	Official Transcript issued by the last university or equivalent institution	○	○	○	Applicants under (9) in “2. Eligibility” must 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) or Degree Conferral (or expected degree conferral) issued by the last university or equivalent institution	○	△	○	① An Official Certificate must be issued by the Head of the last university or equivalent institution attended. (Degree information should be contained if you have already graduated.)  ② Applicants who graduated or are expected to graduate from a university or an equivalent institution in China (except Hong Kong, Taiwan, 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)  Document (a) can be obtained from the China Credentials Verification (中

					<p>国高等教育学历证书查询 <a href="http://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/bgys.jsp">http://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/bgys.jsp</a>) Please make sure the web authentication should be valid for at least 15 days at the time of submission.</p> <p>② Applicants under (2) in “2. Eligibility” must submit a certificate either i) or ii):</p> <p>i) Official Certificate of (Accepted Application) Degree Conferred issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)</p> <p>ii) Official Certificate of (expected) Graduation issued by the Technical College that the applicant is affiliated with as well as an Official Certificate of (Expected Application) Degree Conferred</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 last attended.</p>
5	List of preferred supervisors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p>[Prescribed.] Directly contact supervisors you prefer in advance. The prescribed form is available for download on 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, mailing address and postal code on an envelope with a 480-yen stamp attached. If you need to change your address afterwards, please be sure to notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section immediately.</p>
7	Stickers to receive application results and to be used for communication purposes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p>[Prescribed.] Write your name, mailing address and postal code on each sticker. If you need to change your address afterwards, please be sure to notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section immediately.</p>
8	English proficiency certificate (E.g. the original score sheet of TOEFL or 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)</p> <p>* Those who fall under ③ must consult with the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section about this matter in advance.</p> <p>①TOEFL (iBT or ITP)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>2) TOEFL-ITP: Submit original Individual Score Card.</p> <p>②TOEIC (Public Testing)</p> <p>Submit the original Official Score Certificate. *In the case of taking TOEIC (Public Testing) after April 2023, a printed Digital Official Score Certificate can be submitted as equivalent to the original.</p> <p>③Those 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> <p>Those who took an examination on the summer selection (held on August 20 and 21, 2024) or the fall selection (held on October 24 and 25, 2024) and already submitted the score sheets or English Proficiency Certificate are exempted from submitting them. If you apply to those, check the appropriate</p>

					box in the application document. (If you wish, you may submit new score sheets or new English Proficiency Certificate.)
9	Self-addressed envelope for notification of the pre-assessment results.		○	○	Write your name, mailing address and postal code on a standard envelope with a 110-yen stamp attached.

**\* [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 which is available online is acceptable for the application if a hard copy of the original scoresheet can be submitted in person or by postage by Wednesday, January 8, 2025. If a hard copy of the original scoresheet is not submitted by Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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 course [Prescribed.]

Division of Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course)  Division of Soft Matter	Research Abstract	Applicants for the Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course) and Division of Soft Matter must submit an abstract of graduation research in current/previous university or proposed research in Hokkaido University. The abstract 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 prepare this summary by computer and submit it as a hard copy.
Division of Life Science (Biosystems Science Course)	Essays	1. Applicants for the Division of Life Science (Biosystems Science Course) should submit an essay for each of the following two subjects: (1) Reasons for applying (no fewer than 200 words, nor more than 400 words in Japanese, or no fewer than 100 words, nor more than 200 words in English) (2) Outline of previous (graduate) study (no fewer than 800 words, nor more than 1,000 words in Japanese, or no fewer than 400 words, nor more than 500 words in English) 2. Useful information. (1) Essays can be submitted in either English or Japanese. (2) Illustrations and tables can be included. (3) The use of a computer word processor is recommended. 3. Form and Format. (1) Use the proscribed form for essays. Please provide necessary information on the proscribed form. It is acceptable to another sheet over the appropriate section of the proscribed form. (2) Using separate sheets for essays. Please provide necessary information on the proscribed form, but attach extra A4-size sheets if necessary (Write the course you wish to apply for and your full name on these sheets.).

## 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 registered 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.  
\* MEXT scholarship students recommended by Japanese Embassies/Consulates, authorities, or universities other than Hokkaido University are required to submit a copy of the letter proving that they will receive this scholarship.  
\* As a general rule, students who currently enroll in the Integrated Science Program are not required to pay the examination fee.
- (2) Remit the examination fee through a bank or a post office designated by this University, by using the payment slip for the entrance examination fee which is enclosed in the application package, 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 application materials after the application fee was remitted.
  - The application was rejected before screening of the application materials.
  - 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 determine successful applicants by a comprehensive assessment of the results of the oral examination, the external English Language Proficiency Test, and the submitted application documents.

\* 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.

<Division of Life Science (Biosystems Science Course)>

- ① Oral Examination  
In this examination, applicants are questioned on their specialized scientific knowledge, general scientific knowledge, and research motivation based upon their written essays [“1. Reason for applying” and “2. Previous study”].
- ② English Language Proficiency: Based on scores of the external English Language Proficiency Test.
- ③ Selection Criteria  
The graduate school will determine successful applicants by a comprehensive assessment of the results of the oral examination, the external English Language Proficiency Test, and the submitted application documents.

\*Oral Examination will be held online using the Internet Meeting System. Details are notified to applicants individually by email.

## 9. Examination Date and Venue

**Date of Examination: January 9 (Thu.) or January 10 (Fri.), 2025**

**Venue of Examination: School of Science, Hokkaido University (Kita 10 Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo)**

**\* Except for the Examination conducted online**

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

\* It is not allowed to apply to more than one Course/Division.

## **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 Thursday, January 23, 2025. All applicants are notified of the results by mail.

## **11. Procedures for Enrollment and Payment of Fees\***

All successful applicants are 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 you require special considerations and arrangements due to illness, injury, physical difficulties, mental disorder, and so on for the screening.

\* Please also consult with the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section if you require special consideration and arrangements for the university life.

## **13. Extension of the Enrollment Duration**

It is possible to extend the standard years of study at the Graduate School of Life Science. Read "Extension of the Enrollment Duration" on page 9, and submit an application if you wish to take advantage of this scheme.

## **14. Other Information**

The admission ticket for the entrance examination will be sent to all applicants around Friday, December 20, 2024, to all applicants whose application document is accepted.

**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: (011) 706-3675

E-mail: [r-gakuin@sci.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:r-gakuin@sci.hokudai.ac.jp)

**Graduate School of Life Science, Hokkaido University**

<https://www.lfsci.hokudai.ac.jp/en/>

## **Extension of the Enrollment Duration**

### **1. Aims**

When students are under special circumstances such as having a job, etc. (including child and nursing care), they may apply for an extension of enrollment duration which exceeds the standard enrollment duration (2 years) (hereinafter referred to as "Extension of the Enrollment Duration"). The graduate school may approve such a request after reviewing their application.

### **2. Intended Students**

Students who fall under one of the criteria below and wish to set the enrollment duration longer than the standard duration:

- (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. Maximum Enrollment Duration**

The maximum enrollment duration is 4 years for the master's degree program, and a student can apply for an extension by the year. For students who have been approved for the Extension of the Enrollment Duration, the maximum duration of enrollment is approved duration plus 2 years.

Note that the maximum duration of a temporary leave of absence is 2 years.

### **4. Application Procedure**

#### **(1) Application Period**

Please submit complete application documents for the Extension of the Enrollment Duration together with the application documents for the graduate school.

#### **(2) Required Documents**

- ① Application Form for Extension of the Enrollment Duration (Form 1)
- ② Research Plan during the Enrollment Duration (Form 2)
- ③ Statement of reasons why an applicant needs the Extension (discretionary format).

#### **(3) Announcement of Application Results**

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

### **5. Reducing or Extending the Duration of Enrollment**

When regarded as necessary, the Graduate School of Life Science may approve Reduction or Extension of the Enrollment Duration only once. The maximum reduction of Extended Duration of Enrollment is the period of adding one year to the standard period of study (2 years).

### **6. Tuition Fee**

The tuition fee for students with the extension of enrollment duration will be calculated by multiplying the annual tuition fee by the number of years equivalent to the standard duration of study (2 years), then dividing the resulting amount by the number of years approved for extended study. If the revision is made to the tuition fee or the changes to the Duration of Extended Enrollment are approved, the fee will be calculated accordingly. However, the adjustment will not be made to the tuition fee which has already been paid.

Students who have not received the results of their application for the Extension of Enrollment Duration must not pay the tuition fee before they receive the official notification of the results.

### **7. Other Information**

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