

Academic Year 2026

(For enrollment in April or October 2026)

Graduate School of Life Science

Hokkaido University

Division of Life Science

Division of Soft Matter

Doctoral Course

(Latter Period of Doctoral Program)

Winter Selection

Application Guidelines for the

Entrance Examination

(Admission for International Students Residing Abroad)

November 2025

Important Notice

Notes to international applicants who enter Japan from overseas

Applicants who wish to enroll at Hokkaido University as international students are required to obtain a "Student" status of residence. Therefore, you must apply for a Student Visa before entering Japan. To apply for a Student Visa, a Certificate of Eligibility (COE)* is required.

Please note that the issuance of the COE may take more than three months from the time of application due to Security Export Control inspections and immigration procedures.

Additionally, please note that if your intended research falls under the regulations of the Security Export Control Regulations, restrictions may apply.

*Certificate of Eligibility: This is a certificate that the Immigration Bureau pre-approves applicants' purpose of stay in Japan and speeds up the visa application process.

《Reference》

- **Hokkaido University Website -Application and Acquisition of Visa**

Japanese: <https://intl-student-handbook.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/preparation/visa>

English: <https://intl-student-handbook.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/en/preparation-en/visa-en>

- **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Website**

<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/>

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 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.

The division welcomes students with exceptional abilities to analyze and examine a subject and strong desire to conduct innovative and original research, and understand;

- Basic structure and functions of living matter such as cellular biology and molecular biology
- Higher biological function such as physiology and developmental biology
- Structure and functions of individual molecules and their constituents
- Diversity and common principles of life phenomena

<Division of Soft Matter>

The Division of Soft Matter seeks students who desire to be capable of integrating material sciences 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 matters and applying those to other fields.

The Division especially seeks students who desire to have excellent analytical and discussion skills and to conduct highly original research, such as hierarchy process of soft matters from the microscopic to macroscopic scales and associating principle of dynamic emergent function, designing and constructing advanced soft matter.

▪ 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 oral examination, applicants will be evaluated their “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 research plan, transcript, etc.).

【Special Category for Working-Adults】

By oral examination, applicants will be evaluated their “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 research plan, transcript, etc.).

【Special Category for International Students】

By oral examination, applicants will be evaluated their “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 research plan, transcript, etc.).

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

【Doctoral Course (Latter 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	Oral Examination	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
	Application Documents (Research Plan, Transcript, etc.)	Comprehensively evaluated						
Special Category for Working Adults	Oral Examination	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
	Application Documents (Research Plan, Transcript, etc.)	Comprehensively evaluated						
Special Category for International Students	Oral Examination etc. (※1)	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
	Application Documents (Research Plan, Transcript, etc.)	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

Special Category for International Students

1. Admission Quota

Division and Course	Admission Quota (Enrollment)	
	April 2026	October 2026
Division of Life Science Transdisciplinary Life Science Course Biosystems Science Course Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science Course	A few students	
Division of Soft Matter	A few students	

2. Eligibility

Applicants must be a citizen of a country other than Japan and living outside of Japan (therefore it is difficult to travel to Japan to take the entrance examination). They must be recognized as having enough competence and scholastic performance by a faculty member of the Graduate School of Science who has agreed to be a supervisor* after enrollment. Also, they must fulfill one of the following criteria:

A Received or are expected to receive a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree at a university outside Japan prior to admission;

B Received or are expected to receive a degree equivalent to a master's degree by completing a course at the United Nations University which was established based on the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of December 11 of 1972, stipulated in Article 1(2) of the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan about the Headquarters of the United Nations University (Act No. 72 of 1976);

C Are recognized as having academic aptitude equivalent or superior to those who hold a master's degree by completing a structured education provided by an institute in foreign countries or the United Nations University, and by passing an examination or screening or equivalent specified in Article 16-2 of the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools;

D Have been designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) (Ministry of Education Notification No. 118 of 1989), i.e., completed 16 years of structured education outside Japan and subsequently engaged in research at a university or a research institute for two years or longer, and are recognized by the Graduate School of Life Science as having reached an academic level equivalent or superior to those who hold a master's degree, based on research results; or

E Are recognized as having an academic aptitude equivalent or superior to those who hold a master's degree or a professional degree through the screening for entrance eligibility conducted by the Graduate School of Life Science, and have reached the age of 24 before the time of enrollment in the Graduate School of Life Science.

*** Applicants must contact their prospective supervisor in advance, and after obtaining his/her acceptance, they will receive a password necessary for online application. In addition, applicants must request their prospective supervisor to make their recommendation letter (discretionary format) and ask them to directly submit it to the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section during the application period.**

*** Those who wish to enroll in October 2026 must indicate so by choosing "October 2026 enrollment" on the online application registration screen.**

3. Pre-assessment of Eligibility

Application Period for Pre-assessment: November 14 (Fri.) – 5:00 PM JST on November 17 (Mon.), 2025

The Pre-assessment of Eligibility is held prior to the application period for the entrance examination. Applicants who fall under D or E in “2. Eligibility” must apply for this by submitting “6. Application Documents” in PDF format during the above period, by email to the following address. If you provide false information on documents submitted, your application may be rejected.

Email address: r-gakuin@sci.hokudai.ac.jp

Applicants must not pay the entrance examination fee at the time of the pre-assessment.

Notes:

The results of the pre-assessment will be sent to applicants around Tuesday, December 2, 2025; once their eligibility has been confirmed, they must pay the examination fee in accordance with “5. Application Procedure and Payment of the Entrance Examination Fee” during the period described in “4. Application Period.”

Students who will receive the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship or the State-Sponsored Scholarship Program of the China Scholarship Council are not required to pay the examination fee.

4. Application Period

◆ **Online application: November 28 (Fri.), 2025 – 5:00 PM JST on December 4 (Thu.), 2025**

* Note: After completing the online application, applicants must scan all the application documents (see “5. Application Documents”) in PDF format and send them via email by Thursday, December 4.

Email address: r-gakuin@sci.hokudai.ac.jp

◆ **Deadline for submission of the application documents by post: 5:00 PM JST on December 11 (Thu.), 2025**

* Note: Aside from sending PDF files by email, applicants must send hard copies of the application documents by registered mail after online application registration. They must be received by the deadline, so please consider the time for courier delivery.

Applicants under A, B, or C in “2. Eligibility”

Referring to “5. Application Procedure and Payment of Fees”, applicants must apply during the above application period.

Applicants under D or E in “2. Eligibility”

Applicants must first apply for the Pre-assessment of Eligibility, and then once their eligibility has been confirmed by the pre-assessment, complete the application procedure, described in “5. Application Procedure and Payment of Fees”, during the above application period.

5. Application Procedure and Payment of Fees

Applicants must complete all of the following (①-③) by the deadline specified in “4. Application Period.”

① Online Application Registration

1) Access the Hokkaido University Internet Application website (<https://e-apply.jp/e/hokudai-lsci/>) using the password received from your prospective supervisor.

Notes:

i. Detailed information on the online application procedure has been posted on the website, so please read the operation procedures and precautions in advance.

ii. Applicants must have (or have access to) a printer for printing the application documents and have an email address capable of receiving notification of registration and payment (cell phone's email address is not accepted).

2) Follow the instructions on the screen and enter the necessary information.

3) If successfully registered, notification of completion of the registration will be sent to the email address you have provided.

② Payment of the Entrance Examination Fee

The entrance examination fee must be paid in accordance with the instructions provided on the payment procedures screen shown after you complete the online application registration process. Use one of the following methods to make the payment. (Required information and procedures differ depending on the payment method you choose.) Please follow the instructions on the screen.

Entrance Examination Fee: 30,000 yen

I. Credit card.

II. Pay-easy (bank ATM, Japan Post bank ATM, or online banking), convenience store, PayPay Bank, or Rakuten Bank.

III. ChinaPay (online payment service offered by China UnionPay).

Notes:

- i. Along with the entrance examination fee, please note about 500 yen will be added as a handling charge.
- ii. Students who will receive the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship or the State-Sponsored Scholarship Program of the China Scholarship Council 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.

iii. 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.

③ Submission of Application Documents by Post

1) Print the application form and resume that were generated after you completed the online application registration process and send them along with all other necessary documents (see “6. Application Documents”) in an envelope; affix one of the address labels (printed with the application form and resume) to the envelope and send it by registered mail (It must be received by the deadline.). Please note that the application documents will not be returned once submitted.

To: Graduate School Educational Affairs Section

Science and Life Science Administration Department

Hokkaido University

Kita-10 Nishi-8, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0810, Japan

2) The application is considered complete once all documents are received by the Graduate School. Please note that completion of the online application registration alone does not constitute completion of the application procedure.

- Applications received after the application period will not be accepted. Consider the time for courier delivery and be sure to post it well in advance.

6. Application Documents

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

Documents		Applicants		Remarks
		A, B C	D, E	
1	Application Form and Resume	○	○*	Print the application form and resume that were generated after completion of the online application registration process and submit them (print on A-4 size pages). * Applicants under D or E in “2. Eligibility” should submit them after their eligibility has been confirmed by the pre-assessment.
2	Application Form for the pre-assessment		○	Prescribed. Download this form from the online application page and complete it.
3	ID Photo	○	○	One photograph (4cm×3cm)
4	Research Plan after enrollment	○	○	Prescribed. Download this form from the online application page and complete it (print on A-4 size pages).
5	Certificate of Research Career		○	Discretionary format. Certificate issued by a dean, department chair or supervisor at a university, institution, or company concerning the applicant’s research topics and period of research.
6	Official Transcript issued by the last university or equivalent institution	○	○	Applicants may attach recommendation letters from faculty members at academic institutions previously attended. * 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.
7	Official Certificate of Graduation or Expected Graduation issued by the last university or equivalent institution	○	○	① An Official Certificate must be issued by the Head of the Graduate School or equivalent institution last attended. (Degree information should be contained if you have already graduated.) ② Applicants who have graduated or are expected to graduate from a graduate school 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 (中国高等教育学历证书查询 http://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/bgys.jsp) Please make sure the web authentication should be valid for at least 15 days at the time of submission. ② Applicants under C in ” 2. Eligibility” are required to submit an Official Certificate of Qualifying Examination. * 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.
8	Summary of research experience and copies of research papers	△	△	Discretionary format. As proof of their research experience and achievements, applicants may submit these supporting documents.
9	Photocopy of Passport	○	○	Submit a copy of the page of your passport with your name on it.
10	Other documents that the prospective supervisor requests	△	△	

7. Screening Method

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

The Graduate School of Life Science will determine successful applicants by a comprehensive assessment of the results of the oral examination and the submitted application documents.

- * Detailed information on the entrance examination, such as the date, time, and how to take the oral examination online, will be announced to applicants separately.
- * In the Division of Life Science (Transdisciplinary Life Science Course) and the Division of Soft Matter, the oral examination may be omitted or waived depending on the contents of the application materials. (The person applicable will be informed separately.)

<Division of Life Science Biosystems Science Course>

The Graduate School will assess applicants on the basis of their application form, resume, official transcripts from last academic institutions attended, recommendation letter from the prospective supervisor, and all other documents submitted.

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

The Graduate School will assess applicants on the basis of their application form, resume, official transcripts from last academic institutions attended, recommendation letter from the prospective supervisor, and all other documents submitted.

8. 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 JST on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Only successful applicants are notified of the results by email.

9. Procedures for Enrollment and 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.

10. Important Notice

(1) The admission may be rescinded if any false information/statements are found in the application materials.
(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 university life.

《 Reference 》 Information for Hokkaido University admission with regard to providing reasonable accommodation

<https://www.hokudai.ac.jp/admission/gouriteki-hairyo.html>

11 Extension of the Enrollment Duration

It is possible to extend the standard duration 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.

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 (weekday): 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. except 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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/>

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 6 years for the doctoral 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 6 years.

Note that the maximum duration of a temporary leave of absence is 3 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 (3 years).

For details, please check the information board for current students after completing enrollment procedures.

6. Annual 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 (3 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.