

AY2026 Application Guidelines for Research Students at Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University (for International Students)

1. About research students

Research students are not enrolled in a course to obtain a degree but rather are enrolled in a program to conduct research on a specific research topic under the guidance of an academic adviser. Admission will be granted after selection, provided there are no issues, either at the undergraduate or graduate level. Due to this system, it is generally not possible to earn credits for classes.

In addition, to become a research student, undergraduate research students must have graduated from a relevant department at a university (four-year course) or junior college (two-year course). In the case of a graduate school research student, you must have completed a graduate school (and obtained a master's degree).

Before applying, please obtain provisional acceptance from your prospective academic adviser. Please refer to the following website for contact details of the faculty members.

Departments: <https://www.sal.tohoku.ac.jp/en/research/specializations/>

2. How to study abroad as a research student

(1) If you wish to apply for the Japanese Government scholarship (MEXT scholarship) as an international student

For details of the system, please contact your government (MEXT) or the Japanese diplomatic mission in your country.

(2) In the case of using private funds

○ How to apply

After receiving provisional acceptance from the Faculty/Graduate School faculty member, please submit the following documents to the Educational Affairs Office of the Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters. After receiving the submitted documents, we will conduct the selection process and notify you of the results.

(1) Research Student Application Form Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University (prescribed form)

(2) Certificate of graduation (completion) and academic transcripts from the university you last attended. * Not required for graduates of the Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters.

(3) A recommendation letter from your academic adviser at your last attended university or the head of your affiliated organization.

* Not required for graduates of the Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters.

(4) Photocopy of passport

(5) Examination fee: 9,800 yen

The method of payment for the Examination fee differs between those living in Japan and those living overseas. Please see below for details. Please note that the Examination fee is non-refundable.

(1) Those living in Japan

Please pay the fee using an ATM (at a bank or convenience store), internet banking, etc., as follows.

Please submit a copy of the receipt or bank transfer statement (something that proves the payment was made).

<Amount and bank account details for transfer>

Amount: 9,800 yen

Bank name: MUFG Bank (Financial institution code: 0005)

Branch name: Wakatake Branch (Branch code: 809)

Account type: Savings account

Account number: 2259001

Account holder's name: 国立大学法人東北大学

Kana: タイ トウホクタイガク

<Important instructions regarding bank transfers>

- Please note that the sender is responsible for the bank transfer fee.
- In the "Remitter's name" field, please enter "LE & Name in Katakana" for undergraduate research student applicants, and "LF & Name in Katakana" for graduate school research student applicants.
 - Example: If you are Tohoku Taro applying as an undergraduate research student, please enter LE トウホク タロウ.
- Please be careful not to make a duplicate transfer.

(2) Those who live abroad

If you live abroad and it is difficult for you to pay in Japanese yen, please use credit card payment.

For information on how to use credit card payments, please contact the Educational Affairs Office of the Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters at Tohoku University.

* Please note that the Examination fee paid cannot be refunded for any reason.

* If you need to obtain a visa (certificate of eligibility), we will send you an email with instructions for completing the "Application for Certificate of Eligibility" as soon as the application documents arrive, so please follow the instructions outlined in the email.

○ Application period

The admission dates for the Faculty and Graduate School are generally April 1 or October 1. Also, since the immigration procedures for entering Japan are time-consuming, please submit the application documents listed in 2 (2) by the deadline shown below.

Depending on your major/field of study, there may be a preliminary selection process before provisional acceptance. Please check the details on each department's website, etc., and make early preparations so that you can meet the application deadline.

[Important instructions]

- Only original application documents will be accepted. Photocopies cannot be accepted.
- We are unable to return any application documents.
- We are unable to respond to inquiries regarding the selection process.

[Deadlines of application documents]

- Those living in Japan
 - April 2026 enrollment: By Friday, February 27, 2026
 - October 2026 enrollment: By Friday, July 31, 2026
- Those living abroad
 - April 2026 enrollment: By Thursday, December 4, 2025
 - October 2026 enrollment: By Thursday, June 4, 2026

* All application documents must be delivered to the Educational Affairs Office of the Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters by this date. If the application documents do not reach our office by the above deadline, your application will not be accepted.

○ Others

- Required expenses after passing the exam
 - Entrance fee: 84,600 yen
 - Annual tuition fee: 356,400 yen (Please pay three monthly installments of 29,700 yen in advance every three months.)
- The university does not have its own scholarship system. Scholarships offered by private organizations have limited eligibility criteria, and very few applicants are selected, so it is your responsibility to prepare for your own living expenses and tuition fees after enrollment. If the admission fee and tuition are not paid within the specified period, admission will be revoked, and the student will be removed from the list of registered students.
- As the number of rooms in the international student accommodation at Tohoku University is limited, it is often the case that you may not be able to move in even if you apply. Even when you are permitted to move in, you are required to move out after one year.

* Apartments, etc., cost around 30,000 to 55,000 yen per month for the room only.

3. Enrollment period

The enrollment period is limited to one year. However, those who apply for continued enrollment may be permitted to do so for a period not exceeding two years, after selection.

4. Important instructions on proceeding to graduate school

The eligibility criteria for applying to a regular graduate school course (a 2-year master's degree program) are as follows: (1) those who have completed 16 years of school education, or those who are expected to complete it by March of the following year, (2) those who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree by completing a course of study at a foreign university or other foreign school with a duration of at least three years, or those who are expected to be awarded one by March of the following year, etc. Caution is advised for those who are research students wishing to enter Graduate School.

For more details, please refer to the application guidelines for the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University.

Educational Affairs Office of the Faculty/Graduate School of Arts and Letters,
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