

Academic Year 2026

IGSAL

International Graduate School of Arts and Letters

(Doctoral Program for International Students)

Special Admission

(Enrollment in October 2026)

	October 2026 Enrollment
Deadline for Obtaining Approval from Faculty Members on Your Application	November 28, 2025
Application Period	January 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – January 13, 2026, 5:00 p.m. (JST)
Entrance Examination	February 6, 2026
Announcement of Successful Applicants	February 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (JST)
Admission Procedures	Early June 2026
Matriculation Date	October 1, 2026

October 2025

Graduate School of Arts and Letters,
Tohoku University

Admission Policy of the Graduate School of Arts and Letters

The Graduate School of Arts and Letters (GSAL) aims to foster outstanding researchers, well-educated professionals, and leading specialists with high-level expertise in the humanities and social sciences, who will take a comprehensive, flexible approach to the various problems faced by modern society and utilize fundamental knowledge and advanced thinking to find optimal solutions.

Our students are expected to support the development of human society, and to advance the humanities and social sciences through cutting-edge research. It is therefore essential for them to possess advanced specialized knowledge and skills in their fields. Furthermore, their expertise must be grounded in a keen insight into the structure and evolution of social mechanisms together with a deep understanding of human beings and humanity.

The admission process, which includes General Admission, Special Admission for Working Adults, and Special Admission for International Students, is designed to determine whether the future researcher possesses sufficient qualifications and competence to follow the above educational ideals and goals.

The applicant must demonstrate the self-sufficiency necessary to pursue independent research in one of the following areas in the corresponding department: Japanese philosophy, language, literature or history (Department of Japanese Studies); basic theory of culture in general or culture of a specific European or Asian region (Department of Global Humanities); or theoretical studies and empirical research on the nature of humans and human society (Department of Integrated Human Sciences). The applicant must also possess a broad interdisciplinary outlook and excellent communication skills.

Admission is determined by the results of written and oral exams designed to test the applicant's specialized knowledge and academic ability prerequisite for conducting independent and original research (Special Admission for Working Adults and Special Admission for International Students is determined by interview alone). Applicants are also evaluated based on their communication skills and motivation. The interview is structured around the applicant's previous research accomplishments (theses, etc.).

We also strongly encourage applicants to gain wide experience reading, investigating, and contemplating the subject, goal, and methodology of their proposed research project.

1. Admission Quota per Program

Program (Department)	Int'l Students Quota
English Literature (Department of Global Humanities)	Multiple Students
Ethics (Department of Integrated Human Sciences)	Multiple Students
Psychology (Department of Integrated Human Sciences)	Multiple Students
Linguistics (Department of Integrated Human Sciences)	Multiple Students
Computational Humanities and Social Sciences (Department of Integrated Human Sciences)	Multiple Students

[NOTE] Currently Special Admission for International Students is limited to the five programs listed above.

2. Applicant Qualifications

Applicants must satisfy one of the following conditions.

- (1) Possession (or expected awarding) of a master's degree or professional degree by September 30, 2026.
- (2) An age of 24 years or higher as of September 30, 2026, and possession of academic abilities equivalent to or exceeding those of individuals holding a master's or professional degree (to be determined by a preliminary qualifications screening conducted by the GSAL).

[NOTE]

Applicants must find a prospective supervisor at the GSAL and obtain their preliminary approval before the following deadline: November 28, 2025.

Applicants who satisfy condition (2) should contact the Academic Affairs Department via email at art-in@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

3. Application Procedure

Applications are accepted via an Internet application system. The system will be available on the GSAL website for the duration of the application period.

<https://www.sal.tohoku.ac.jp/jp/admissions/grad/>

(1) Application Period

Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 a.m. — Tuesday, January 13, 5:00 p.m. (JST)

Please complete the application by clicking the "Complete my application" button within this period. If you do not press the application completion button, the application will not be completed.

Also, please note that your application will not be accepted even if the above entry period has passed before you press the "Complete my application" button.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

(2) Application Documents

Submission of the following documents is required.

No.	Necessary Items	Notes
1	Application Form and CV	Please enter the required information in the Internet application system.
2	Photo	- Upload photo of yourself to the Internet application system. The photo must have been taken within the last three months and must clearly identify you. The size of the photo must have an aspect ratio of 4:3. It shows a frontal view from the chest up, the full face (no headgear or sunglasses), with a plain background. - Digitally processed photographs are not accepted. - Acceptable data extensions are png, jpg, or jpeg, and the data size should be less than 20MB.
3	Academic Transcript	- Upload the official academic transcript issued by your home institution to the Internet application system. - The transcript should be uploaded in PDF format. *The original document is required at the time of admission.
4	Certificate of Graduation/Completion	- Upload the certificate of graduation or expected completion of a master's course or a professional degree program to the Internet application system. - The certificate should be uploaded in PDF format. *The original document is required at the time of admission.
5	Research Plan (3000 words in English)	- Upload a summary of your previous research and your proposed research plan to the Internet application system. - The research plan should be uploaded in PDF format.
6	Academic Achievements	- Upload your major academic publications, (e.g., master's thesis, etc.) to the Internet application system. - All documents should be uploaded in PDF format.
7	Examination Fee	The fee can be paid by credit card. Please contact the Academic Affairs Department for further information via email at art-in@grp.tohoku.ac.jp Deposit Amount: JPY 30,000 Payment Deadline: strictly by Tuesday, January 13, 2026 The examination fee is not refundable.
8	Certificate of Residence (住民票)	- This document is only required for foreign residents currently residing in Japan. - Please submit a document issued within three months prior to your application date. It must not contain your Individual Number (My Number) and must clearly state your status of residence.

		- Upload your Certificate of Residence (住民票) to the Internet application system. - The certificate should be uploaded in PDF format. *The original document is required at the time of admission.
--	--	--

4. Screening Method

The selection of successful applicants will be based on the screening of submitted documents and an interview.

(1) Interview

The interview will be conducted online; it will be based on the applicant's previous research accomplishments (theses, etc.).

(2) Date and Location (URL)

Examination date: **Friday, February 6, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.~ (JST).**

Location (URL): the applicants will receive the link upon the successful submission of application documents.

5. Announcement of Successful Applicants

Test registration numbers of successful applicants will be posted on the GSAL website on Friday, February 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (JST). Successful applicants will be sent a letter of acceptance through the Internet application system.

[NOTE] Inquiries about the results of screening by phone or any other means will not be accepted.

6. Matriculation Date

October 1, 2026

7. Admission Procedure

(1) Detailed instructions regarding the admission procedure will be enclosed in the letter of acceptance. The admission procedure period is scheduled for early June 2026.

(2) Matriculation Fee and Tuition

① Matriculation Fee: JPY 282,000 (as of 2025)

② Tuition: JPY 535,800 per year; JPY 267,900 per semester (as of 2025)

[NOTE] The tuition fees are subject to revision, and any changes will apply immediately.

8. Application for the Extended Track System

Students who are fully employed or satisfy certain other conditions (see Note 1) are eligible to enter the extended track program with the approval of the GSAL. Extended track students may extend their terms

of study beyond the standard three years (see Note 2), provided that they continue their studies for the entire duration until the successful completion of the doctoral course. The total tuition fee for the extended track is the same as for the standard three-year track.

Details concerning the application procedure for the extended track program are included in the letter of acceptance for successful applicants. Please contact us for further information about the program.

Note 1: Students eligible for the program include: (1) full-time workers and the self-employed, (2) persons who are pregnant, involved in child care or nursing care, or (3) other individuals recognized as suitable by the GSAL.

Note 2: The maximum duration of the term is six years. The extended term may be reduced upon request. As a general rule, the GSAL does not offer a special curriculum for the slow track.

9. Prior Consultation for Applicants Requiring Special Consideration

Applicants requiring special consideration during the examination or after enrollment should consult the Academic Affairs Department no later than Friday, December 5, 2025. The request will not affect the outcome of the screening process in any way.

10. Notes

- Documents submitted will not be returned to applicants.
- Application documents will not be accepted if they contain omissions or other irregularities.
- Application documents cannot be withdrawn or revised after submission.
- Personal information in the application documents will be handled according to the following principles:

① All personal information gathered by Tohoku University shall be treated with due care in compliance with the relevant university regulations, such as the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (2003, Act No. 57), and the National University Corporation Tohoku University Policy on the Protection of Personal Information, and security measures will be taken to protect it.

② Personal information, such as examination scores, used to screen applicants will be used exclusively for educational purposes, such as selecting applicants, enrollment procedures, pre-enrollment instruction, follow-up surveys, post-enrollment student support (scholarships, tuition waivers and health management etc.) and academic advising, or in connection with tuition collection etc., or surveys/research (surveys/analysis related to entrance examination improvements and reasons for applying; including analysis using the enrollees' personal information after enrollment).

③ Tasks related to entrance examinations and academic affairs may be outsourced by Tohoku University to third-party contractors (hereafter, "contractors"). If personal information is provided in whole or in part to contractors, necessary measures will be taken to ensure it is handled appropriately in accordance with the relevant university regulations, such as the National University Corporation Tohoku University Policy on the Protection of Personal Information.

④ Applicants are considered to have agreed to all of the above provisions.

- In the event that applicants commit a serious misconduct prior to admission, acceptance may be revoked, or admission may be revoked even after the enrollment.

- For further information about the application process, please contact:

Academic Affairs Department, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University, Kawauchi 27-1, Aoba-ku, Sendai, 980-8576, Japan

(東北大学大学院文学研究科大学院教務係 〒980-8576 仙台市青葉区川内 27 番 1 号)

Email : art-in@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

11. Disclosure of Examination Results

Individual evaluation is limited to applicants who do not pass the examination.

Requests for grade disclosure should be submitted to the Academic Affairs Department via email no later than Friday, February 27, 2026.

12. Educational Data Usage

Data, including personal information, that Tohoku University collects through its education/learning activities and stores on its information systems (hereafter, Educational Data) is analyzed with the latest analytical and A.I. technology and is considered vital to our implementation of evidence-based education. Consequently, the university strives to use Educational Data effectively and appropriately in compliance with our "Statement on Educational Data Usage," "Policy on Educational Data Usage," and "Tohoku University's 8 Principles of Educational Data Acquisition."

After being admitted to the university, students' personal information, such as entrance exam scores etc., is merged with the university's Educational Data.

URL : <https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/studentinfo/education/08/education0801/>