

Academic Year 2025

**Graduate School of Science
Hokkaido University**

**Department of Condensed Matter Physics
Department of Cosmo sciences**

Master's Course

(Former Period of Doctoral Program)

Fall Selection

**Application Guidelines for the
Entrance Examination**

(Admission for General Category)

September 2024

Important Notice

I. General Category

Applicants for the general category must submit an English proficiency certificate (either TOEFL or TOEIC original scoresheet). See page 4 for details. Check the examination schedule, etc. on your own, based on the period during which application forms are accepted.

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 by the applicants to the university in the process of applying 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 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 for the Graduate School of Science

Applicants must have completed core subjects in the fields of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences, or related subjects to engage in more specialized and advanced academic research. They must also have the ability, character, and aptitude to study independently and to rigorously investigate the principles of nature.

▪ Principle Selection Policy (Multiple-Layered Evaluation Method)

【General Category】

Written and oral examinations will be conducted in accordance to each department and field of study.

In the written examination, particular emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of "knowledge and skills" and "ability to think, judge, and express".

In the oral examination, particular emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of "knowledge and skills," "ability to think, judge, and express," "ability to work independently and cooperatively", "comprehension", "ability to identify problems", and "interest and motivation".

The Graduate School of Science will comprehensively assess applicants on the basis of the application documents (such as research plan, transcript, etc.).

【Special Category for International Students】

In the oral examination, particular emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of "knowledge and skills," "ability to think, judge, and express," "ability to work independently and cooperatively", "comprehension", "ability to identify problems", and "interest and motivation".

The Graduate School of Science will comprehensively assess applicants on the basis of the application documents (such as research plan, transcript, etc.).

▪ Principle Selection Policy (Evaluation Elements and Their Importance)

【Master's Course】

Category of Entrance Examination	Evaluation Element	3 Key Academic Elements			Comprehension	Ability to identify problems	Interest and motivation	Cultural knowledge
		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

Department	Admission Quota	Website
	April 2025	
Condensed Matter Physics	A few students	http://phys.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/cond-mat/index_eng.html
Cosmosciences	A few students	https://www.cosmo.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/en/index.html

Notes: (1) For more details about each department, please contact the department concerned.
(2) The entrance examination for the winter selection is scheduled in mid-February.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must fulfill one of the following criteria.

- (1) Graduated or are expected to graduate from a university prior to admission;
- (2) Received or are expected to receive a bachelor's degree prior to admission in accordance with Article 104(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 a 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 requires 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; or
- (8) Have been designated by the MEXT (Ministry of Education Notification No. 5, February 7 of 1953).
- (9) Have attended a university for three years or more or completed 15 years of school education outside Japan, and are recognized by the Graduate School of Science as having earned the required number of credits with an excellent academic record; or
- (10) Are recognized as having an academic aptitude equivalent or superior to university graduates through the screening for entrance eligibility conducted by the Graduate School of Science, and have reached the age of 22 at the point of entrance to the Graduate School of Science.

* Applicants must contact their prospective supervisor and obtain his/her acceptance in advance. The approval from the prospective supervisor does not confirm the success in the entrance examination. Also, applicants must check a supplementary description of "Documents Specified by Each Department (Reason for application and List of preferred laboratories or fields.)"

3. Pre-Assessment of Eligibility

Application Period: September 10(Tue) – September 12(Thu), 2024

Applicants who fall under (9) or (10) in “2. Eligibility” must go through a pre-assessment of eligibility prior to the application for entrance examination. Please submit “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 must not pay the entrance examination fee at the time of the pre-assessment. They shall pay the entrance examination fee in accordance with the notes below. (Application documents must be sent by mail and received by the deadline.)

Notes:

*The results of the pre-assessment will be sent to applicants around September 26(Thu), 2024 by post. Once their qualifications have been approved, applicants must pay the examination fee in accordance with “7. Entrance Examination Fee,” and submit the payment certificate by October 4(Fri), 2024. Application will not be accepted if the payment certificate is not received during the specified period.

*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: October 1(Tue) – October 4(Fri), 2024

Applicants who fall under (1) through (8) in “2. Eligibility” must submit “5. Application Documents” together with the payment certificate (see “7. Entrance Examination Fee”) during the application period. (Application documents must be sent by mail and 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	○	○	○	[Specified form] 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 similar institution	○	○	○	Applicants under (9) in “2. Eligibility” must submit a transcript issued by their current university. *In the case that 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 Conferal (or expected degree conferal) issued by the last university or similar institution.	○	○	○	①An Official Certificate must be issued by the Head of the university or similar institution. (Degree information should be contained if you have already graduated.) ◎ Applicants who graduated or are expected to graduate from a university or similar institution in China (except Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao) must submit the following document in English along with an official certificate of graduation (or expected graduation.) Applicants who; -graduated ... (a) Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate -are expected to graduate ... (a) Online Verification Report of Student Record

					<p>Document (a) can be obtained from the China Credentials Verification (中国高等教育学历证书查询 https://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>②Applicants under (2) in “2. Eligibility” must submit either an Official Certificate of Degree Conferral (or an Application Acceptance Certificate) issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) or a Graduation Certificate (or an expected Graduation Certificate) along with an expected Application Certificate of Degree Conferral issued by the technical school that the applicants are affiliated with.</p> <p>*In the case that 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 or superior to university graduates			○	<p>[In any format] e.g., documents detailing international activities, work experience, language learning experience, research papers, patent publications, certificate of qualification, recommendation letter from faculty etc.</p>
5	Documents specified by each department	○	○	○	See “Documents Specified by Each Department” below.
6	Self-addressed envelope to receive an admission ticket for entrance examination	○	○	○	<p>[Specified envelope] Write your name, mailing address and postal code on the specified envelope with a 480-yen stamp attached. If you need to change your address afterwards, notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section immediately.</p>
7	Stickers to receive application results and to be used for communication purposes	○	○	○	<p>[Specified Sticker] Write your name, mailing address and postal code on each sticker. If you need to change your address afterwards, notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section immediately.</p>
8	Recommendation letter from the head of the undergraduate school or the university which an applicant graduated most recently (must be sealed up)	△	○	△	<p>[A4- sized paper in any format] ① Applicants under (9) in “2. Eligibility” must submit this document. ② Applicants under (1)-(8) or (10) in “2. Eligibility” may submit this document only if applying to the Department of Condensed Matter Physics, or Cosmo sciences (not mandatory).</p>
9	English proficiency certificate. (An original score sheet of TOEFL or TOEIC)	○	○	○	<p>Applicants must submit a score sheet for either (1) or (2). The score sheets must be the originals. (See *[Important] below.)</p> <p>(1) TOEIC Public Testing 【Listening & Reading Test only】 (must have been taken in or after July 2022) *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>(2) TOEFL-iBT (Home Edition is accepted) (must have been taken in or after July 2022) TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC-IP, and TOEIC-Bridge are not accepted.</p> <p>Those who took this year’s examination (summer selection held on August 8 and 9, 2024) and already submitted the score sheet may apply for an exemption (or you may submit a new score sheet). If you wish to apply for an exemption, check the appropriate box in the application document.</p>
10	Self-addressed envelope to receive the result of pre-assessment		○	○	Write your name, mailing address and postal code on a standard envelope with an 84-yen stamp attached.

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

Submission of the English proficiency scoresheet during the application period is final. No additional scoresheets 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 November 5(Tue), 2024.

If a hardcopy of the original scoresheet is not submitted by November 5(Tue), 2024, the proficiency test results 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 Each Department

Department	Documents to be submitted	Remarks
Condensed Matter Physics	List of preferred laboratories or fields (specified form)	Provide your first, second and third choices of laboratories from the List of Supervisors and Research Fields. When filling in the form, be sure to contact the supervisor in charge of the laboratory of your choice in advance to obtain permission to accept you into the laboratory and to fill in the survey form.
Cosmosciences	1. List of preferred laboratories or fields (specified form) 2. Cosmosciences report (any format in A4-sized paper)	1. Provide your first, second and third choices of laboratories from the List of Supervisors and Research Fields. When filling in the form, be sure to contact the supervisor in charge of the laboratory of your choice in advance to obtain permission to accept you into the laboratory and to fill in the survey form. 2. Summarize the research theme which interested you most about your thesis or study related to cosmosciences within two pages in A4-sized paper.

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

You are required to send your application documents by mail. Please mark “Application Enclosed” in red on the envelope and send it by express registered mail. Prepare an envelope by yourself, do not use the “Envelope for Admission Ticket” 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, the Hokkaido University President’s Fellowship (including those who are expected to receive these scholarships), or students who are currently enrolled in the ISP program of School of Science 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 the letter proving that they will receive this scholarship.
- (2) Remit the examination fee through a bank or a post office by using the payment slip for 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 for the following cases:
 - The applicant has decided not to submit an application after examination fee was remitted, or the application was not accepted.
 - The applicant paid the examination fee twice by mistake.

8. Screening Method

The Graduate School of Science will assess applicants based on the entrance examination (oral exam), official transcript and other application documents submitted.

9. Examination Date and Venue (oral exams)

Date: November 6(Wed) • November 7(Thu), 2024

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

***Excluding online examination**

Department	November 6(Wed)	November 7(Thu)
	A.M. • P.M.	A.M. • P.M.
Condensed Matter Physics	Oral examination (9:00-)	
Cosmosciences	Oral examination (9:00-)	

* Details of the exam including time and venue will be notified when sending the admission ticket.

10. Announcement of Results

The successful examinee's number will be posted on the website of the Graduate School of Science around 4:30 PM on November 21(Thu), 2024. In addition, all applicants are notified of their results individually.

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 (estimated) [Total annual tuition fee = 535,800 yen]

* 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) After submitting the application documents, applicants are not allowed to change their selection of department for any reason.
- (3) If you need special assistance in taking the examination due to physical difficulties, consult with the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section at the time of application.

13. Period of Extended Enrollment

It is possible to extend the standard years of study at the Graduate School of Science. Read "Period of Extended Enrollment" on page 8, and submit an application if you wish to take advantage of this system.

14. Other Information

The admission ticket for entrance examination will be sent around October 17(Thu), 2024 to all applicants whose application document is accepted.

If you have any questions about 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 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. weekday)
Tel: +81-11-706 - 3675
E-mail: r-gakuin@sci.hokudai.ac.jp
Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University
<https://www2.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/gs/en>

Period of Extended Enrollment

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 "Period of Extended Enrollment") 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 Period of Extended Enrollment 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 Period of Extended Enrollment may not continue their study beyond the period of adding 2 years to the Period of Extended Enrollment.

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

As a general rule, application documents for Period of Extended Enrollment should be submitted at the time of application for entrance examination.

(2) Required Documents

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

(3) Announcement of Results

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

5. Reducing or Extending the Period of Extended Enrollment

When regarded as necessary, the Graduate School of Science may approve of reducing or extending the Period of Extended Enrollment only once. The period of reducing the Period of Extended Enrollment may not exceed the period of adding one year to the standard period of study (2 years).

6. Annual Tuition Fee

The tuition fee for students approved to study for an extended period will be calculated by multiplying the annual tuition fee by the number of years equivalent to the standard period 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 annual tuition fee or the changes to the Period 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 are waiting for results of application for Period of Extended Enrollment must not pay the tuition fee before they receive the official notification of results

7. Other Information

For more details about Period of Extended Enrollment, please contact the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section, Science and Life Science Administration Department, Hokkaido University.