Academic Year 2027

Graduate School of Science
Hokkaido University

Master's Course

（Former Period of Doctoral Program）

Winter Selection

Guidelines for Application for the Entrance Examination

For enrollment in April 2027 or October 2027

(Admission for General Category)

November 2026

Notes

Applicants for general category must submit a certificate for English Language proficiency (the original of score sheet of either TOEFL or TOEIC). See page 5 for details.
As for the examination schedule, etc., please confirm it by yourself based on the period of application receipt. Applicants who have already submitted a score sheet for the summer admission (August 10 & 11, 2026) may apply for exemption from submitting a score sheet (or may submit a new score sheet). Applicants must tick the box 'Exemption from score sheet submission' on the application form.

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 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 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 with 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	Leaning 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 place great importance on evaluation / ○…Key element we will place importance on evaluation

General Category

1. Admission Quota

Department	Admission Quota		Website's URL
	April 2027	October 2027	
Mathematics	A few students		https://www2.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/dept/math/en
Condensed Matter Physics	A few students		https://phys2.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/cond-mat/
Cosmosciences	A few students		https://www.cosmo.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/en/index.html
Natural History Sciences	A few students		Science Communication: https://sc.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/
Total	A few students		

* For more details about each department, please contact the department concerned.

*There is no Winter Selection for Divisions of "Earth and Planetary Dynamics", "Earth and Planetary System Science", "Seismology and Volcanology" and "Biodiversity" in the Department of Natural History Sciences.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must fulfill one of the following criteria:

(1) Graduated or are expected to graduate from a Japanese 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) by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education;
(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 a foreign country through a distance- learning course offered by an institution 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 a 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 requires 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 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;
(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 structured 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 by the enrollment date.

* Applicants can not apply for “General Category” and “Special Category for International Students” at the same time.
* 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).
* Applicants who wish to enroll in October 2027 must indicate so by checking the appropriate box on the application form.

3. Pre-assessment of Eligibility

Application Period: November 26 – November 30, 2026

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 a 110-yen stamp affixed.

Applicants must 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.

Applications must be received by post during the application period.

[Notes]
*The results of the pre-assessment will be sent to applicants around December 11, 2026, by post. Once their eligibility has been confirmed, applicants must pay the examination fee in accordance with “7. Entrance Examination Fee,” and submit the payment certificate by January 8, 2027. Applications will not be accepted if the payment certificate is not received during the specified 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

Application Period: January 5 – 8, 2027

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. Applications must be received by post during the application period.

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 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 most recent university (undergraduate) 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 most recent university (undergraduate) or equivalent institution	○	○	○	①An Official Certificate must be issued by the Head of the university or equivalent institution. (Degree information should be contained if you have already graduated.) ◎ Applicants who graduated or are expected to graduate from a university or equivalent institution in China (except Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao) must submit the following document written 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 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 at least 15 days at the time of submission. ②Applicants under (2) must submit either i) or ii) certificate. i) Official Certificate of Degree Conferral (or expected degree conferral) issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education 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 * 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.
4	Documents certifying that the applicant has academic skills equal or superior to university graduates			○	[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.
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	○	○	○	[Prescribed envelope] Write your name, mailing address and postal code on the prescribed envelope with a 480-yen stamp attached. If you need to change your address afterwards, notify the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section immediately.
7	Stickers to receive application results and to be used for communication purposes	○	○	○	[Prescribed 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.
8	Recommendation Letter from the head of the undergraduate school or the university (undergraduate) which an applicant graduated most recently (must be sealed up)	△	○	△	[A4- sized paper in any format] ①Applicants under (9) in "2. Eligibility" must submit this document. ②Applicants under (1)-(8) or (10) in "2. Eligibility" may submit this document only if applying to the Department of Mathematics; Condensed Matter Physics; or Cosmosciences (not mandatory).

9	Certificate for English Language Proficiency (The original score sheet of TOEFL or TOEIC)	○	○	○	Applicants must submit either (1) or (2) score sheet. The score sheet must be the original. (See *[Important] below.) (1) TOEIC Public Testing [Listening & Reading] (must have been taken in or after July 2024) *A printed Digital Official Score Certificate could be submitted instead of the original Official Score Certificate. (2) TOEFL-iBT (Home Edition is accepted) (must have been taken in or after July 2024) Those who take TOEFL test as of spring 2026 are required to submit the printed Test Taker Score Report in PDF format downloaded from their ETS account. TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC-IP and TOEIC-Bridge are not accepted. However, TOEFL-ITP [paper test version] is accepted for the department of Mathematics. (3) Those 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. Applicants who have already submitted a score sheet for the summer admission (August 10 & 11, 2026) may apply for exemption from submitting a score sheet (or may submit a new score sheet). Applicants must tick the box 'Exemption from score sheet submission' on the application form.
10	Self-Addressed Envelope to receive the result of pre-assessment		○	○	Write your name, mailing address and postal code on a standard envelope with a 110-yen stamp attached.

(Note) Handling of English Language Proficiency Score Sheet Submission
No additions or replacements of score sheets will be accepted.

◎ Documents Specified by Each Department

Department		Documents to be submitted	Remarks
Mathematics		1. Motivations for application (Prescribed from) 2. Mathematics report and its outline (use a prescribed form for the outline)	1. Describe the motivations for applying to this department. 2. Summarize the research field which you wish to pursue after enrollment and a “theorem” or “theory” in which you are particularly interested (must be 7-10 pages long in A4-sized paper). During the oral examination, an interviewer will ask questions based on this report. The outline of the report must also be provided in a prescribed form.
Condensed Matter Physics		1. List of preferred laboratories or fields (Prescibed form)	Provide your first, second and third choices of laboratories from the List of Supervisors and Research Fields. To do so, you must contact the supervisors of your prospective laboratories in advance and obtain permission to accept you and permission to list the laboratories in the survey sheet.
Cosmosciences		1. List of preferred laboratories or fields (Prescribed 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. To do so, you must contact the supervisors of your prospective laboratories in advance and obtain permission to accept and permission to list the laboratories in the survey sheet. 2. Summarize the research theme that interests you most about your thesis or study related to cosmosciences within two pages in A4-sized paper.
Natural History Sciences	Science Communication	1. List of preferred laboratories or fields (Prescribed form) 2. Motivations for application (Prescribed form)	

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 the Graduate School Enclosed" in red on the envelope and send it by express registered mail. Please use the envelope prepared by you, not the "envelope for sending examination ticket" provided in the admission guidelines.

7. Entrance Examination Fee: 30,000 yen

(1) Students who will receive the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship* or the State-Sponsored Scholarship Program of the China Scholarship Council or students who are currently enrolled in the ISP program of the School of Science 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.

(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 and written), official transcript and other application documents submitted.

9. Examination Dates (oral and written)

Date: February 8 – 9, 2027
Venue: Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University (Kita-10 Nishi-8 Kita-ku, Sapporo)
***Excluding online examination**

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Department</td><td colspan="2">February 8</td><td colspan="2">February 9</td></tr>
<tr><td>AM</td><td>PM</td><td>AM</td><td>PM</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Mathematics</td><td colspan="2">Online Oral Examination
(9:00 or later)</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Condensed Matter Physics</td><td colspan="2">Oral Examination
(9:00 or later)</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Cosmosciences</td><td colspan="2">Oral Examination
(9:00 or later)</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Natural History Sciences</td><td>Science Communication</td><td>Essay
(10:00-11:30)</td><td>Oral Examination
(13:00 or later)</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

*Details of the entrance exam including the exam time and place will be sent along with the admission ticket. The time of the oral examination will differ among examinees.

[Notice]

① Applicants for Condensed Matter Physics and Cosmosciences are questioned about basic academic skills of specialised subjects in the oral examination.

② In the essay examination for the Division of Science Communication in the Department of Natural History Sciences, applicants must choose two topics out of eight listed on the following website: https://sc.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/examination/thesis.html (provided in Japanese)

10. Announcement of Results

The examinee's number of successful applicants will be posted on the website of the Graduate School of Science around 4:30 PM on February 19, 2027.

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 the examination and present it on your desk.
The Graduate School may conduct identity verification. Please make sure to bring a form of identification bearing the applicant's name and date of birth, including a photo, and valid as of the examination date, such as the following items: Student ID, My Number Card (Individual Number Card), Passport, Driver's License Card, Residence Card.
(2) Once an application has been submitted, no change to the applicant's preference will be permitted under any circumstances.
(3) If false information or statements are provided in the application materials or if a photograph of a person other than the applicant or a photograph that has been altered to change the applicant's appearance is used as part of the application materials, such conduct is treated as misconduct, and admission may be rescinded.
(4) Cheating or assisting another applicant in cheating during the examination is treated as misconduct. In addition, the use of any of the following electronic devices is also treated as misconduct: cell phones, smartphones, wearable devices (such as smartwatches and smart glasses), tablet devices, electronic dictionaries, IC recorders, earphones, music players, and other similar devices. Earphones will be considered to be in use if they are worn in the ears.
However, the use of these devices will not be considered misconduct if prior permission has been granted.
Failure to follow the instructions during the examination may be considered misconduct.
(5) If any misconduct is discovered, the applicant will be instructed to stop the examination and leave the examination room. The applicant will not be permitted to take any subsequent examinations, and the institution may take measures such as invalidating the results of all subjects taken by the applicant. If misconduct is discovered after admission has been granted, the admission may be rescinded.
(6) 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 concerning providing reasonable accommodation
https://www.hokudai.ac.jp/admission/gouriteki-hairyo.html

13. Extending the Enrollment Duration

It is possible to extend the standard years of study at the Graduate School of 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 around January 18, 2027, to all applicants whose application documents are 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 (weekdays): 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tel: (011) 706 - 3675
E-mail: r-gakuin@sci.hokudai.ac.jp
Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University
https://www2.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/gs/en

Extension of the Enrollment Duration

1. Aims

When students are under special circumstances, such as having a job, childcare, and nursing care, etc., they may request an extension of their enrollment duration beyond the standard two-year duration (hereinafter referred to as the "Extension of the Enrollment Duration"). The graduate school may approve such requests after reviewing their applications on an individual basis.

2. Intended Students

Students who fall under one of the criteria below and, for that reason, wish to set the enrollment duration longer than the standard duration to complete an academic (research) course:

(1) Have a full-time job in a government office or a private company (excluding those who are exempt from job duty but receive a salary), or work as self-employed, etc.;
(2) Have a part-time job that has a significant influence on the full-time academic work;
(3) Are taking care of their children or 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 duration of the Extension Enrollment Duration shall not exceed four years for the master's degree program, and students can apply for an extension by year. For Students who have been approved for an Extension of the Enrollment Duration, the maximum duration of enrollment is the approved extension duration plus an additional two years.

Students may take a temporary leave of absence from school for up to two years, the same as students under the standard duration of study.

4. Application Procedure

(1) Application Period

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

(2) Required Documents

To apply for the Extension of the Enrollment Duration, please contact the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section in the Science and Life Science Administration Department and request the required forms/documents ahead of time.

① Application Form for Extension of the Enrollment Duration (Form 1).
② Research Plan Under Extension of the Enrollment Duration (Form 2).
③ Documents to prove that an applicant needs to apply for the Extension of the Enrollment Duration

(3) Announcement of Results

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

5. Reducing or Extending the Extension of the Enrollment Duration

When deemed necessary, the Graduate School of Science may approve a reduction or extension of the Extension of the Enrollment Duration only once during the period of a course. For more details about the Extension of Enrollment Duration, please refer to the guide of "理学院在学者用" after enrollment.

6. Annual Tuition Fee

The tuition fee for students granted 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 (two 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 Extension of the Enrollment Duration are approved, the fee will be calculated accordingly. However, the adjustment will not be made to the tuition fee that 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 more details about the Extension of Enrollment Duration, please contact the Graduate School Educational Affairs Section, Science and Life Science Administration Department, Hokkaido University.