

**October 2020 Admission**  
**Application Guidelines for the Admission**  
**to the *Glocal Human Resource Development in Agricultural Sciences***  
**for *Leading Regional Revitalization Program***  
**for the Doctoral Degree at the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University**

The Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, offers the *Glocal Human Resource Development in Agricultural Sciences for Leading Regional Revitalization Program* for those who wish to be matriculated either at the Life and Food Sciences or the Environmental Science and Technology major.

This program has been granted as one of the International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP), Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students, by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and some of the successful candidates will be able to receive the scholarship from the MEXT.

Therefore, the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, now accepts applications for October 2020 admission from those interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in this program as follows.

**1. Outline of the Program**

With global and local perspectives, this program aims to nurture individuals capable of utilizing high agricultural technology, not only in Niigata or within Japan but also in the world, including Middle East and other Islamic countries. Furthermore, the program participants will learn to be more creative to lead the advancement in the industry as well as mutual industrial distribution of agricultural products and food in the world. They will be matriculated at the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University (hereinafter the Graduate School), as full-time regular students and pursue a doctoral degree by taking required courses and conducting research within three years, the standard period required to complete the program.

**2. Number of Students to be Accepted**

Major	Number of Students	Major	Number of Students
Life and Food Sciences	Several	Environmental Science and Technology	Several

**3. Eligibility for Application**

An eligible applicant is considered to be anyone applying for the program as an international student, conforming to any of the conditions listed below.

- (1) Those who have a Master's degree or a professional degree (prescribed in Article 5-2 of the Degree Regulations (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture No. 9 of 1953) based on the provisions of the School Education Act, Article 104-1 (hereinafter the same)), or those who expect to obtain such a degree by September, 2020.
- (2) Those who have a degree equivalent to a Master's degree or a professional degree in a country other than Japan or those who expect to obtain such a degree by September, 2020. **(Refer to [Note])**
- (3) Those who, while in Japan, have completed a course of study by a distance learning program provided by a school in a country other than Japan and have a degree equivalent to a Master's degree or a professional degree in that country, or those who expect to obtain such a degree by September, 2020. **(Refer to [Note])**
- (4) Those who have a degree equivalent to a Master's degree or a professional degree upon

completion of a course of graduate study, in Japan, that is conducted at an educational institution in a country other than Japan and recognized as being part of the educational system of that country, and that is specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, or those who expect to obtain such a degree by September, 2020.

- (5) Those who have a degree equivalent to a Master's degree upon completion of a course of study at the United Nations University (hereinafter referred to as the "United Nations University") founded based on the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of December 11, 1972, prescribed in Article 1-2 of the Act on Special Measures Incidental to Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University, or those who expect to obtain such a degree by September, 2020.
- (6) Those who have graduated from university and have engaged in research for a minimum of two years at a university, research institute or other such institution, and who, on the basis of the achievement of that research, are approved by the Graduate School as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than those with a Master's degree. **(Refer to [Note])**
- (7) Those who, after completing 16 years of school education in a country other than Japan, or after completing 16 years of school education by a distance learning program in Japan provided by a school in a country other than Japan, have engaged in research at a university, research institute or other such institution for a minimum of two years and who, on the basis of the achievement of that research, are approved by the Graduate School as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than those with a Master's degree. **(Refer to [Note])**
- (8) Those who, following the individual screening of their eligibility for application, are approved by the Graduate School as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than those with a Master's degree or a professional degree and who will be 24 years old by September 30, 2020. **(Refer to [Note])**

**[Note]**

**Those who are applying for this program on the eligibility basis of (2), (3), (6), (7), (8) as outlined above** should submit the "Application Documents" and the "Application Form for Eligibility Screening of Entrance Examination" to the program director by **Friday, February 7, 2020**. The result of the eligibility screening will be informed to each applicant from the program director **on or after Monday, February 24, 2020**.

**4. Submission of Application Documents and any inquiries about this program should be addressed to the following;**

Program Director: Professor Naoki HARADA

Institute of Science and Technology, Niigata University

Address: Professor Naoki HARADA

Faculty of Agriculture, Niigata University

8050 Ikarashi 2 no-cho, Nishi-ku, Niigata City, Niigata 950-2181 JAPAN

TEL: +81-25-262-6636 FAX: +81-25-262-6854

Email: [glocal20@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp](mailto:glocal20@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp)

**5. Application Period**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020 -Friday, February 28, 2020 by 16:00 (Japan Standard Time)**  
**(Application documents must arrive within this period)**

## 6. Application Procedures

### (1) Application Method

Applicants should submit the following documents to the program director.

### (2) Application Documents

Documents and Forms	Instructions																																															
1) 2020 Application Form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Research Students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the attached form (Print double-sided)</li> <li>• Affix a photograph (4.5cm x 3.5cm), showing the applicant's upper body, full face view with no hat, and facing the camera directly, to the designated area. (Photo data acceptable)</li> <li>• Be sure to accurately enter the year and month of the entrance and graduation dates in the designated areas.</li> </ul>																																															
2) Field of Study and Research Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the attached form (Print double-sided)</li> </ul>																																															
3) Letter of Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit a Letter of Recommendation, from the Dean of the graduate school or someone in a higher position at the applicant's university, addressed to the President of Niigata University.</li> <li>• No specific format required.</li> <li>*If the academic grading system is not compatible with the conversion table in 5) below, the Letter of Recommendation should indicate that the applicant's academic performance at graduate school or research department is/was within the top 30 percent.</li> </ul>																																															
4) Copy of Passport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit a copy of the applicant's passport page, showing the applicant's photograph, name, and nationality.</li> </ul>																																															
5) Academic Transcript(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit the original academic transcript, with certifying seal or signature from the appropriate authority, issued by the most recent graduate school attended.</li> <li>• Those who are expected to complete the graduate program and are still enrolled in the program must submit the most updated transcript.</li> <li>• In cases where the grading system is based on letters, such as A, B, C, etc., submit the grade conversion table, converting from letter grading to the point system (100 points maximum). Please also submit a certificate describing the passing grade point.</li> <li>*If the academic grading system is not compatible with the following conversion table, the Letter of Recommendation must include about the applicant's academic performance as referred in 3) above.</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Classification</th> <th colspan="5">Academic Grading System</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Excellent</th> <th>Good</th> <th>Acceptable</th> <th>Fail</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4-step grading</td> <td colspan="2">A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-step grading</td> <td>100-80 points</td> <td>79-70 points</td> <td>69-60 points</td> <td colspan="2">59 points or less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-step grading</td> <td>S</td> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-step grading</td> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-step grading</td> <td>100-90 points</td> <td>89-80 points</td> <td>79-70 points</td> <td>69-60 points</td> <td>59 points or less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Points</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Classification	Academic Grading System					Excellent		Good	Acceptable	Fail	4-step grading	A		B	C	F	4-step grading	100-80 points	79-70 points	69-60 points	59 points or less		5-step grading	S	A	B	C	F	5-step grading	A	B	C	D	F	5-step grading	100-90 points	89-80 points	79-70 points	69-60 points	59 points or less	Points	3	3	2	1	0
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6) Certificate of (Expected) Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit the original Certificate of (Expected) Completion, with certifying seal or signature, or diploma issued by the most recent graduate school attended.</li> </ul>
7) Documents Certifying Academic Excellence at the Last Institution Attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit a document certifying the applicant's academic excellence at the most recent graduate school attended, for example, GPA, ABC classification, or student ranking (out of total number of students).</li> </ul>
8) Abstract of Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit the abstract of the master's thesis.</li> <li>• No specific format required.</li> <li>• If the applicant cannot submit the master's thesis, provide a document certifying the reason, such as that there is no thesis-related course available in the curriculum.</li> </ul>
9) Certificate of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the attached form.</li> </ul>
10) Documents Certifying Language Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit documents certifying that one of the following conditions is met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) Score of B2 or higher in English in CEFR or score in an English language proficiency test, such as TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS.</li> <li>B) Documents certifying that the applicant has completed an educational curriculum meeting the entrance requirements for a doctoral degree at Japanese graduate schools, in which the main language was English.</li> <li>C) In cases where there are no documents showing the applicant's language abilities, submit documents such as any awards received at international conferences or publications in academic journals proving that the applicant has appropriate language abilities as indicated in A) above.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11) Examination Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination fee is not required at the time of application. However, non-MEXT scholarship students must pay the examination fee (JPY 30,000) before entering Niigata University.</li> </ul>
12) Photographs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit four extra photographs taken within three months prior to application. They should measure 4.5cm length by 3.5cm width, showing the applicant's upper body, full face view with no hat, and facing the camera directly.</li> </ul>

- ◇ Application documents must be completed in English and printed double-sided in A4 size, by using document creator software, if possible.
- ◇ Attach English or Japanese translations if the original certificates are in a language other than English.
- ◇ Submitted application documents will not be returned for any reason.

## 7. Method of Admission Selection

Admission selection shall be made upon a review of application documents and an interview.

Note: Interviews will be conducted either face to face or by interactive vocal or visual communication via Internet.

## 8. Interview Date

**The interview will be held on one day from Monday, March 2 to Friday, March 13, 2020**

Individual interview date and time will be informed from the program director.

## 9. Announcement of Admission Decision

## **10:00 (Japan Standard Time) on Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

The list of successful applicants' Examinee Numbers shall be posted at the main entrance hall of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, and admission letters will also be mailed to successful applicants.

The list shall also be posted to the Graduate School of Science and Technology website at 12:00 (Japan Standard Time) of the day of announcement. (<http://www.gs.niigata-u.ac.jp/>)  
No telephone inquiries regarding the admission decision will be answered.

### **10. Scholarship for Accepted Students**

Students who are accepted to the program and meet the eligibility requirements to apply for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program may be nominated as MEXT scholarship students by Niigata University. When they are awarded the scholarship, they will receive the following support;

- (1) Monthly stipend: JPY145,000
- (2) Period of Scholarship: For the period of the standard number of years required to complete the doctoral program (from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2023)
- (3) Travel Expenses (Round trip):  
Students will receive in-bound travel expenses when entering Niigata University and outbound expenses if they return to their home countries within the period of scholarship. The travel expenses cover air fares from the international airport closest to their residence to the international airport closest to the university in Japan.
- (4) Fees Necessary for Entering Niigata University  
Students are exempted from paying the examination fee, entrance fee, and tuition for the period of the standard number of years required for completion.
- (5) Other: If the students' stay at Niigata University exceeds the standard number of years required for completion, if they are expelled or transferred, or in any way violate the oath made to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, even after matriculation, the scholarship stipends will not be provided.

### **11. Eligibility Requirements to Apply for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program**

- (1) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of Turkey or other Middle East regions at the time of application.
- (2) Age: Applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1985.
- (3) Academic Background: Those who have been granted a Master's Degree or are expected to obtain such a degree by September, 2020; those who graduated from a university and have been engaged in research for a minimum of two years at a university or research institute and who are considered, by the Graduate School, to have academic ability, considering their research achievement, equivalent to the level required for a Master's Degree; or those who, following the individual screening of their eligibility for application, are approved as having academic ability equivalent to or higher than those with a Master's Degree and who will be 24 years old by September 30, 2020.
- (4) Major Field of Study: Those who studied one of the following fields at a university are eligible to apply: Plant Production and Environmental Agriculture (Science in Genetics and Breeding, Crop Production Science, Horticultural Science, Plant Protection Science); Animal Life Science (Animal Production Science, Veterinary Medical Science, Integrative Animal Science); Agricultural Science in Society and Economy (Agricultural Science in Management and Economy, Agricultural Science in Rural Society and Development); Agricultural Chemistry

(Plant Nutrition and Soil Science, Applied Microbiology, Applied Biochemistry, Bioorganic Biochemistry, Food Science); Genome Science; Biology (Biological Sciences, Basic Biology); Forest and Forest Products Science (Forest Science, Wood Science); Agro-Engineering (Rural Environmental Engineering and Planning, Agricultural Environmental Engineering and Agricultural Information Engineering); Boundary agriculture (Insect Science, Environmental Agriculture (including Landscape Science), Applied Molecular Cellular Biology); Natural Disaster Science and Disaster Prevention; Environmental Science (Environmental Analysis and Evaluation, Sustainable and Environmental System Development)

- (5) Academic Grades: Those who have had a GPA of 2.30 or higher, based on the calculation formula specified by the MEXT and are also expected to maintain a GPA of 2.30 or higher for the period during which they receive their scholarship stipend.

※Niigata University will calculate the applicants' GPA upon receipt of the application documents.

- (6) Recommendation: Those who are recommended officially by the president or dean of the Graduate School of a university in Turkey or other Middle East regions with which Niigata University has concluded an agreement for cooperation or where there are some close collaborations with Niigata University.

- (7) Other: Any applicant who falls into any of the following categories is NOT eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- 1) Those in the military or expected to join the service at the time of arrival in Japan.
- 2) Those who are unable to arrive in Japan by the date specified by Niigata University.
- 3) Those who are already enrolled in a university in Japan with a student visa or who are expected to be enrolled in a university in Japan as privately financed international students between the time of their application to this program and the date on which they start to receive the scholarship stipend.
- 4) Those who apply for this scholarship from another university or who have been granted any other international student scholarship from the Japanese government (MEXT) or the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).
- 5) Those who expect to obtain a scholarship from an organization (including a governmental organization in their own country) other than the Japanese government (MEXT).
- 6) Those who do not meet the expected eligibility requirements or conditions by the specified date.
- 7) Those who have dual nationality at the time of application and cannot prove that they have renounced their Japanese nationality by the time they arrive in Japan.
- 8) Those who, in the past, were Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship students and who do not thereafter have a study and research career of a minimum of three years by the time of this scholarship take-up.
- 9) Those who, from the time of application, hope to undertake fieldwork or an internship in a country other than Japan.
- 10) Those who failed the entrance examination for the doctoral degree program at the Graduate School.

## 12. Admission Procedure

The following is general information about the university admission procedure. Details will be notified to successful applicants.

- (1) Admission Procedure Period

Thursday, September 24, 2020 – Friday, September 25, 2020 (tentative)