

October 2025 Admission
Application Guidelines for the Admission
to the Higher Agricultural Specialist Program for the Republic of Kazakhstan
for the Master's Degree at the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University

The Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, offers a program, *the Higher Agricultural Specialist Program for the Republic of Kazakhstan*, which was selected 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). Therefore, the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, accepts applications for October 2025 admission from those interested in pursuing a master's degree in this program as follows.

1. Outline of the Program

As the gateway to the Sea of Japan, Niigata University makes great efforts in promoting education and research opportunities with Central Asia which is located at a strategic point in the Central Corridor linking Asia and Europe. This program, based on a request from the Kazakhstan's scientific institutions, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and others, aims to foster advanced agricultural specialists urgently needed by the Government of Kazakhstan and to nurture researchers who possess international as well as local perspectives. Student participants in this program will be matriculated at the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, as full-time regular students and pursue a master's degree by taking required courses and conducting research within two years, the standard number of years required to complete the program.

2. Number of Students to be Admitted

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 someone applying as an international student, conforming to any of the conditions listed below.

- (1) Those who have graduated from a university stipulated in Article 83 of the School Education Law (Law 26 of 1947) or who expect to graduate by September 2025.
- (2) Those who have obtained a bachelor's degree according to the provisions of Article 104 Section 7 of the School Education Law or who expect to obtain such a degree by September 2025.
- (3) International applicants from countries which do not require sixteen years of school education before university graduation who fulfil the following two conditions, and who are deemed by the Graduate School to have academic ability equivalent to or greater than graduates of a Japanese university. **(Refer to Note)**
 - a. Those who after finishing university have engaged in research for a minimum of one year as research students or researchers at a university, research institute or equivalent institution either in Japan or another country or who expect to have pursued such research for a minimum of one year by September 2025.
 - b. Those who are 22 years old by September 30, 2025.
- (4) Those who have completed sixteen years of education in a country other than Japan or who expect to have completed such education by September 2025. **(Refer to Note)**
- (5) Those who have completed sixteen years of school education in a country other than Japan by

taking lessons in Japan through a distance learning program provided by that other country or who expect to complete such education by September 2025. **(Refer to Note)**

- (6) Those who have completed or expect to complete by September 2025, in Japan, the curriculum of a university of a country other than Japan (limited to those who have completed a sixteen-year curriculum in the school education of that country) where this educational facility is recognized by the school educational system of that country and has been specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology.
- (7) Those who have obtained a qualification equivalent to a bachelor's degree or who expect to obtain such a qualification by September 2025 in a university or other school in a country other than Japan (limited to those universities or schools whose general educational research activities have been recognized by a person certified by the government or relevant organ of that country or specifically designated as equivalent by the Minister of Education, Sports, culture, Science and Technology) and who have completed a course of study with a program of at least three years (including completion of that program by taking classes in Japan through distance learning provided by the school in the country concerned where the school is an educational institution recognized by the school educational system in that country and has been specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Sports, culture, Science and Technology). **(Refer to Note)**
- (8) Those who have completed after the date specified by the Minister of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology or expect to complete by September 2025 a specialized course at a professional school specifically designated by said Minister (limited to courses of study of a minimum of four years and which reach the standards set by said Minister).
- (9) Those designated by the Minister of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology
- (10) Those matriculated at a graduate school as specified in the provisions of Article 102 Section 2 of the School Education Law and who are deemed thereafter to have adequate academic ability to pursue education in the graduate school of this research department. **(Refer to Note)**
- (11) Those who by September 30, 2025 will have attended university for a minimum of three years as set out in Article 83 of the School Education Law, who are considered likely to obtain excellent results in the credits prescribed by this research department and who have completed fifteen years of school education in a country other than Japan. **(Refer to Note)**
- (12) Those who following individual screening of eligibility for application to this research department are approved as having academic ability equivalent to or greater than a university graduate and who will be 22 years old by September 30, 2025. **(Refer to Note)**

[Note]

Those eligible to apply on the basis of (3), (4), (5), (7), (10), (11) and (12) above should submit the “Application Forms” and the “Application Form for Eligibility Screening of Entrance Examination” to the program director by **Monday, December 23, 2024**.

Eligibility screening results will be announced individually by the program director **on or after Friday, January 10, 2025**.

4. Submission of Application Documents and Any Inquiries

For submitting application documents and any additional question or inquire about the program, should contact to the program director.

Program Director: Hideo HASEGAWA, Professor
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Faculty of Agriculture, Niigata University
To: Hideo HASEGAWA, Professor

5. Application Period

**Wednesday, January 15 -Thursday, January 16, 2025 by 16:00 (Japan Standard Time)
(Application documents must arrive within this period)**

6. Application Procedures

(1) Application Methods

Applicants should submit the following documents to the program director.

(2) Application Documents

Documents and Forms	Instructions
a. 2025 Application Form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (RESEARCH STUDENS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the attached form (Print double-sided)• 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)• Be sure to accurately enter the year and month of the entrance and graduation dates in the designated areas.
b. Field of Study and Research Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the attached form. (Print double-sided)
c. Letter of Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit a letter of recommendation, from a person in a position equivalent to or higher than dean, or department head at the applicant's university addressed to the President of Niigata University.• No specific format required. <p>*Ref.e below: in cases where the academic transcript conversion table cannot be converted to the specified format, the letter of recommendation should show that "university or undergraduate results are within the top 30 percent."</p>
d. Copies of International Passport Pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit copies of applicant's international passport pages, showing the applicant's photograph, name, and nationality. (or a copy of other identification issued by the government of the applicant's home country)
e. Academic Transcript(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit the original academic transcript, with certifying seal or signature from the appropriate authority, issued by the most recent university attended.• Those who are expected to graduate and are still enrolled at university must submit the most updated transcript.• If 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. <p>*If the conversion table cannot be converted to the following format, the Letter of Recommendation (Referred in c. above) is required.</p>

	Classification		Academic Transcript			
	4-step grading		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
f. Certificate of (Expected) Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit the original Certificate of (Expected) Graduation, with certifying seal or signature, or diploma issued by the most recent university attended. 					
g. Documents Certifying the Academic Excellence at the Last Institution Attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please submit a document certifying the applicant's academic excellence at the most recent university attended. For example, GPA, ABC classification, or student ranking (out of total number of students). 					
h. Abstract of Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit abstract of graduation thesis for bachelor's degree. No specific format required. If the applicant cannot submit the graduation thesis, provide documents certifying the reason, such as that there is no thesis-related course available in the curriculum. 					
i. Certificate of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the attached form. 					
j. Documents Certifying Language Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit documents certifying that one of the following conditions is met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score of B2 or above in English in CEFR or score in proficiency test such as TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS. Documents certifying that applicant has completed an educational program meeting the entrance requirements for a master's program at a Japanese graduate school and in which the main language was English. If there are no documents showing applicant's language ability, please submit documents such as any awards received at international conferences or publications in academic journals proving that applicant has appropriate language ability as indicated under a. above. 					
k. Examination Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment is not required at the moment of submitting an application. However, in case you are not selected as a Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship student, please pay an examination fee of 30,000 Japanese yen. 					
l. Photographs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit two extra photographs taken within three months prior to application. They should measure 4.5cm long by 3.5cm wide, showing the applicant's upper body, full face view with no hat, and facing the camera directly. 					

※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 translation 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 the evaluation of application documents and 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, January 20 to Friday, January 31, 2025 (EXCEPT weekends)

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

9. Announcement of Admission Decision

10:00 (Japan Standard Time) on Friday, March 7, 2025

The list of successful applicant's Examinee Numbers shall be posted at the main entrance hall of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University. Successful applicants will also be informed of the admission decision by mail.

The list shall also be posted on the Graduate School of Science and Technology website at 11:00 (Japan Standard Time) of the day of announcement. (<https://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 Scholarship Program may be recommended as MEXT student nominees. When they are granted the scholarship, they will receive the following support;

(1) Monthly stipend: JPY 144,000

(2) Period of Scholarship: For the standard period of years required to complete the master's program (from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2027)

(3) Transportation:

Students will be provided an airline ticket when entering Japan, and when completing the degree program and returning to their home country by the final month of the scholarship period. The Provided airline ticket will be an economy-class ticket for the flight between the international airport closest to the student's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) and the international airport used for the normal route to/from Niigata University.

(4) Fees Required for Entering Niigata University:

Student participants are exempted from the entrance fee and tuition for the standard period of years required for completion.

(5) Other: If for any reason the student participants' 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 the CIS countries at the time of application.

- (2) Age: Applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1990.
- (3) Academic Background: Those who have obtained a bachelor's degree or are expected to obtain such a degree by September, 2025; or those who, following the individual screening of their eligibility for application, are approved by the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University as having academic ability equivalent to or greater than those who have graduated from university and who will be 22 years old by September 30, 2025.
- (4) Major Field of Study: Those who studied one of the following fields at a university are eligible to apply: Management of Food and Resources; Plant Resource Production; Animal Resource Production; High Level Use of Plant Functions; Enhancement of Microorganism Functions; Elucidation of Food Functions; Sustainable Agricultural Produce; Conservation and Use of Forest Resources; Local Management Engineering; Agricultural Engineering; Fluctuation of Water Circulation; Atmospheric Environment.
- (5) Academic Grades: Those who have had a GPA of 2.30 or higher, based on the calculation formula specified by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), in the past years and who are expected to maintain a GPA of 2.30 or higher during the period in which they receive their scholarship stipend.
 ※Niigata University will calculate the students' 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 the CIS countries with which Niigata University has concluded a cooperation agreement or where there are other close collaborations with Niigata University
- (7) Other: Any applicant who meets any of the following conditions is NOT eligible to apply for the scholarship.
 - a. Those currently in the military service.
 - b. Those who are unable to arrive in Japan by the date specified by Niigata University.
 - c. Those who apply for this scholarship from another university and who are granted any other scholarships for international students from the Japanese government (MEXT) or the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).
 - d. Those who expect to obtain a scholarship or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related and others.
 - e. Those who do not meet the expected eligibility requirements or conditions by the specified date.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Those who in the past were international Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship students and who would not have at least three years of educational or work experience from the month after the final payment of the previous scholarship to the starting month of the new scholarship.
 - h. Those who after applying hope to undertake fieldwork or an internship in a country other than Japan.
 - i. Those who failed the entrance examination for the master's degree program at this research department.

12. Admission Procedure

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

- (1) Admission Procedure Period
Mid-September, 2025 (tentative)