

**April 2027 Admission Application Guidebook for Admission
to the Special Selection of International Students for Doctoral Programs through
the International Collaboration Network Based on Future-Leading and Advanced
Graduate-schools (FLAGS) Support at the Graduate School of Science and
Technology, Niigata University**

The Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, provides state-of-the-art education and research to help deepen students' mastery of specialization and develop their comprehensive and interdisciplinary analytical skills. The program's aim is to provide the students with the following abilities:

- (1) The ability to broaden their perspective and recognize their own responsibility toward nature, society, and mankind
- (2) The ability to identify, analyze and solve problems,
- (3) The ability to communicate effectively,
- (4) The ability to make comprehensive and persuasive presentations at international conferences and other venues,
- (5) The ability to write quality papers for scholarly journals.

These application guidelines set forth the selection process for the "Future-Leading and Advanced Graduate-schools (FLAGS)" at the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, which is implemented through Niigata University's international collaboration network.

Niigata University has been selected for the MEXT program "Future-Leading and Advanced Graduate-schools (FLAGS)." With internationalization and industry-academia collaborative education as its pillars, and within an environment of humanities-sciences integration and interdisciplinary studies, the university aims to create "Integrated Knowledge" and to establish a graduate school education hub that cultivates "Doctoral Innovators" capable of solving complex societal challenges.

Ahead of the planned launch of the Doctoral Program in the Graduate School of Integrated Academic Studies in April 2028, the Graduate School of Science and Technology aims to foster individuals who can contribute to the advancement of society and industry by providing opportunities to create "Integrated Knowledge" that combines insights from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and addresses societal challenges that cannot be solved through a single disciplinary perspective alone.

1. Number of Students to be Accepted

Department (Major)	Course (Area of Specialization)	Number of Students to be Accepted
Fundamental Sciences	• Physics • Chemistry • Mathematical Science	A few

Advanced Materials Science and Technology	• Materials Science and Technology • Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering • Advanced Mechanical Science and Engineering	A few
Electrical and Information Engineering	• Electrical and Electronic Engineering • Human Sciences and Assistive Technology • Information and Social Design Science	A few
Life and Food Sciences	• Life Sciences • Applied Life and Food Sciences • Agriculture and Bioresources • Sakeology	A few
Environmental Science and Technology	• Natural Environmental Science • Environmental Science for Agriculture and Forestry • Architecture and Civil Engineering • Earth Science • Natural Disaster and Environmental Science • Field Research in the Environmental Science • Atmospheric Environment Sciences in East Asia (cooperation course)	A few

2. Eligibility for Application

Applicants who can submit a letter of recommendation from a Liaison Professor (or a faculty member serving as a liaison with Niigata University) who has contributed to international exchange with the University, and who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (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 (the same hereafter)), or those who expect to obtain such a degree by March 2027.
- (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 March 2027 (Refer to [NOTE])
- (3) Those who, while in Japan, have completed a course of study by a distance learning program provided by a school of 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 March 2027 (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 of a country other than Japan and recognized as being part of the educational system of the 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 March 2027.
- (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 on December 11, 1972, prescribed in the 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 March 2027.

- (6) Those who have graduated from university and have been engaged in research for a minimum of 2 years at a university, a suitable research institute or other such institutions, and who, on the basis of the outcome (performance) of that research, are approved by the Graduate School of Science and Technology (hereafter the Graduate School) as having academic ability equivalent to or greater than those with a Master's degree (Refer to [NOTE])
- (7) Those who, after completing 16 years study of school education in a country other than Japan, or after completing 16 years educational curriculum of a country other than Japan by following a distance learning program provided by a school of that country, have been engaged in research at a university, a suitable research institute or other such institutions for a minimum of 2 years and who, on the basis of the outcome (performance) of that research, are approved by the Graduate School as having academic ability equivalent to or greater than those with a Master's degree (Refer to [NOTE]).
- (8) Those who, following the individual screening of their eligibility for application, are approved as having academic ability equivalent to or greater than those with a Master's degree or a professional degree and who will be 24 years old by March 31, 2027 (Refer to [NOTE]).

[NOTE] Applicants intend to apply under eligibility requirement (2), (3), (6), (7) or (8) as outlined above, must go through eligibility screening prior to their application. Please refer “II Eligibility and its screening”

3. Application Procedure

(1) Method of Application

Please follow the procedures below:

1. Prepare the application documents listed in Section (4), “Application Documents and Forms”
2. Pay the application fee of JPY 30,000.

* If remitting the fee from overseas, please use Flywire. For payment instructions, refer to page 10.

3. Submit the application documents prepared in Step 1 to the submission address specified in Section (2).

* Please first submit the documents by email in PDF or another electronic format. After we confirm receipt, we will provide further instructions regarding the mailing of the original application documents.

(2) Mailing Address

Academic Affairs Division

Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University

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

TEL: +81-25-262-7387 FAX: +81-25-262-7398

Mail: z-gakumu@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

(3) Application Period

From Friday, September 11 to 16:00 (Japan Standard Time (JST)) on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 (Application documents must arrive within this period)

(4) Application Documents and Forms

Note: All the documents and forms must be prepared in English and bear an official seal and signature of an authorized representative of your institution. If your institution cannot issue English documents, please attach English translation to the original.

Documents and Forms	Instruction
① Application Form for Admission	• Use the attached Application Form in the Application Guidebook. • Affix an identification photograph (4 cm x 3 cm), showing the applicant's full-face view with no hat or head cover and facing the camera directly, on the designated area of the Application Form. Write the applicant's name on the back of the photograph.
② Certificate of (Expected) Completion	• Submit the Certificate of (Expected) Completion of Master's program, officially issued by the institution.
③ Transcript(s)	• An applicant who is currently in a Doctoral program should submit transcripts for both Master's and Doctoral programs. An applicant who is yet to be enrolled in a Doctoral program should submit a transcript for Master's program. An applicant who is in an Integrated Ph.D. program should submit a transcript for this program. All transcripts must bear a seal of the institution and a signature of the registrar or appropriate official. Please contact us if transcripts are unavailable for submission for some reason.
④ Letters of Recommendation	• Two letters of recommendation are required; one should be from the Liaison Professor of Niigata University (or designated faculty liaison of Niigata University), and the other should be from the academic advisor (or a prospective academic advisor at the partner institution if yet to be enrolled). The letters should be addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, and each should state the name of the applicant and (planned) enrollment in the Doctoral program. The letter should also address the intellectual and personal qualities of the applicant. • No specific format is required.
⑤ Master's Thesis and others	• Submit a copy of the Master's thesis or the summary, if the applicant has a Master's degree. • If the applicant cannot submit the Master's thesis because he/she has yet completed the Master's program, submit a Research

	Progress Report, noting details of his/her research progress in the Master's program (Use the attached form).
⑥ Research Plan Form	Use the designated form and describe details of research and study plan in Doctoral program.
⑦ English Language Proficiency Test Score Report	Submit the score report of TOEFL, TOEIC Listening and Reading, or IELTS Academic taken within the last three years. The score report submitted after the application deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances. If the score report is not available in hand, request the testing institution to reissue the score report and submit it by the application deadline. Niigata University does not receive the score report directly from the testing institution. Please make sure to have the reissued score report delivered to you.
⑧ Copies of Passport	Submit copies of applicant's international passport pages (the pages of applicant's photograph, name, and nationality).

4. Method of Admission Selection

Admission selection is based on the evaluation of your application documents and interview.

Note: Admission interviews take place in-person either on-campus or via web-based interactive audio and visual communication. Applicants are asked to orally present their Master's thesis (or Master's Research Progress Report), other research achievements, and Study and Research Plan, and a Q&A session follows.

5. Interview Date

The interview will be held on one day from Wednesday, October 14 to Thursday, October 29, 2026, between 10:00 and 16:00 (JST) (EXCEPT weekends). Individual interview time will be arranged based upon coordination between the applicant and the Graduate School of Science and Technology.

6. Announcement of Admission Decision

Official admission decision shall be announced at 12:00 (JST) on Thursday, December 3, 2026. The list of successful applicants' Examinee Numbers shall be posted on the Double Degree Program website (<https://www.gs.niigata-u.ac.jp/~gsweb/gs/english/index.html>). Individual applicants and the Deans of their institutions will be informed of the admission decisions by mail.

7. Tuition, Fees, and Insurance

(1) Admission fee: 282,000 yen

Tuition fee: 535,800 yen

Please refer to the Niigata University website for details.

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/campus/economic/tuition/fee/>

- (2) The cost for Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research is 3,620 yen for 3 years (subjected to change).

8. Revocation of Acceptance and Admission

- (1) Failure to meet eligibility requirements to enter the Doctoral program at the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, prior to matriculation results in revocation of acceptance and admission.
- (2) Niigata University is entitled to revoke admission even after matriculation if presented with fraudulent or forged information, documents, or any other materials for the purpose of admission and matriculation.

9. Important Points

- (1) Application documents from those who are unable to find a prospective academic advisor at Niigata University by the time of application cannot be accepted.
- (2) No alternations can be made to the Application Form and other required documents after submission.
- (3) Inadequate or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

10. Eligibility and its screening

Those who intend to apply under eligibility requirements (2), (3), (6), (7) or (8), must go through eligibility screening prior to their application.

1. Required Documents for Eligibility Screening

Required documents for screening differ with eligibility requirements. Please refer “5. Eligibility” for details.

Submitted documents for eligibility screening will be used for the application; thus, it is not necessary to resubmit them in time of application.

2. Submission Method

Please submit the required documents by email in PDF or another electronic format.

For official certificates and other supporting documents, original copies must be submitted.

However, instructions regarding the submission of original documents will be provided after the PDF files have been received and reviewed.

Academic Affairs Division

Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University

Email: z-gakumu@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

3. Submission Deadline

5:00 p.m. (JST), Tuesday, September 1, 2026

4. Announcement of Result for Eligibility Screening

Thursday, September 10, 2026

※If you have confirmed that you meet the eligibility requirements, please proceed with the application process as described in "3. Application Procedures" on page 2.

※We will provide details when notifying you of the screening results.

5. Eligibility

◆Eligibility (2) or (3)

“Master’s degree or professional degree in a country other than Japan” is considered as degrees corresponding to “a Master’s degree or a professional degree” awarded on the basis of the provision of the Article 104 of the School Education Act.

[Required Documents for Screening]

Screening Document	Instructions
① Application for Admission	Use the designated form
② Certificate of (Expected) Completion of Master’s Program (Professional Degree) or Certificate of (Expected) Master’s Degree Conferral	• Submit a certificate issued by the Dean of the graduate school or the President of the university where the applicant attended, or is currently enrolled in. • In case the acquired degree is not stated on the Certificate of (Expected) Completion, please submit the Certificate of (Expected) Degree Conferral.
③ Academic Transcript(s)	Submit an official academic transcript issued by the Dean of the graduate school or the President of the university where the applicant attended, or is currently enrolled in, in a sealed envelope.
④ Master’s Thesis and others	• Submit a copy of the Master’s thesis or the summary, if the applicant has a Master’s degree. • If the applicant cannot submit the Master’s thesis because he/she has yet completed the Master’s program, submit a Research Progress Report, noting details of his/her research progress in the Master’s program.
⑤ Research Plan Form	Use the designated form and describe details of research and study plan in Doctoral program.
⑥ Copies of Passport or Residence Card [Foreign national (non-Japanese) applicants]	Foreign national (non-Japanese) applicants should submit copies of their passport (pages for ID photo and VISA residential status) or copies of both sides of their Residence Card.

◆Eligibility (6) or (7)

The Graduate School will confirm the eligibility for application by screening applicants who fulfill the following conditions in (1) and (2).

- (1) Those who have graduated from a Japanese university or have completed 16 years study of school education in a country other than Japan, and have more than 2 years of experience engaged in research at an educational institution, a suitable research institution or a corporation
- (2) Those who, concerning publications, academic theses, academic papers, academic lectures, academic reports and patents, are considered to have research achievements that are equal to or superior to in value to a Master's thesis.

[Required Documents for Screening]

Screening Document	Instructions
① Application for Admission	Use the designated form .
② Certificate of Graduation	Submit a certificate issued by the President of the university or the Dean of the faculty the applicant attended.
③ Academic Transcript	Submit an official transcript issued by the President of the university or the Dean of the faculty the applicant attended.
④ Research Achievement Report	Use the designated form and submit with copies of the applicant's achievement details such as publications, academic theses, academic papers, academic lectures, academic reports, patents, etc.
⑤ Research Progress Report	Use the designated form and describe details of research and study progress at educational institutions, research institutions and corporations, after graduating from university.

◆Eligibility (8)

The Graduate School will confirm the eligibility for application through individual screening, including the ability of each applicant.

Applicants subject to screening for eligibility are those who have completed education at junior colleges, technical colleges, vocational colleges, and other kinds of schools, and those who have completed education at other educational institutions in Japan or a country other than Japan, and who will be 24 years old by March 31, 2027.

[Required Documents for Screening]

Screening Document	Instructions
① Application for Admission	Use the designated form.

② Certificate(s) of Graduation (or Completion)	• Submit a certificate issued by the President of the university the applicant attended. • Applicants who have completed an advanced course program at a junior college or KOSSEN college of technology must submit certificates of graduation and completion of the advanced course programs of the junior college or KOSSEN college of technology.
③ Academic Transcript(s)	• Submit an official transcript issued by the President of the university the applicant attended. • Applicants who have completed an advanced course program at a junior college or KOSSEN college of technology must submit academic transcripts from the college and the transcripts of the advanced course programs of the junior college or KOSSEN college of technology
④ Research Achievement Report	Use the designated form and submit with copies of the applicant's achievement details, such as publications, academic theses, academic papers, academic lectures, academic reports, patents, etc.
⑤ Research Progress Report	Use the designated form and describe details of research and study progress at educational institutions, research institutions and corporations, after graduating from (or completing) school including research carried out while in advanced course programs if completed such programs at junior colleges or KOSSEN colleges of technology.



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Contact: <https://www.flywire.com/support> email: support@flywire.com

The Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, accepts applications for the Future-Leading and Advanced Graduate-schools (FLAGS) Program for April 2027 admission.

Submission of English Language Proficiency Test Score Report

Applicants are required to submit the score report of TOEFL, TOEIC Listening and Reading, or IELTS Academic taken within the last three years. Please note that test scores other than TOEFL, TOEIC Listening and Reading, and IELTS Academic, or reports arriving not in time will not be accepted under any circumstances. If the score report is not available in hand, request the testing institution to reissue the score report and submit it by the application deadline. Niigata University does not receive the score report directly from the testing institution. Please make sure to have the reissued score report delivered to you.

Housing

Accepted students will be individually notified of the housing services.

Contact

Academic Affairs Division

Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University

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

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