

**International Joint Education Program
for Science and Technology (IJEP)
Master's Course**

**Application Information for
General Admission in April / October 2026**

Graduate School of Science and Technology

Kumamoto University

2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan

Phone: +81-96-342-3020

ask-gsst@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

<https://www.fast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/gsst-en/admissions/>

The Graduate School of Science and Technology (GSST) at Kumamoto University offers the International Joint Education Program for Science and Technology (IJEP) for international postgraduate students pursuing to Master's degrees in the following research and educational fields. Enrollment is either in April or in October. The main language of this program for classes and research is English. Basic Japanese language courses are offered at the Center for International Education.

Research and Educational Fields

Department of Science

Course: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Biological Sciences

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Architecture

Education program: Civil and Environmental Engineering, Urban and Regional Planning and Design, Architecture and Building Engineering

Department of Mechanical System Engineering

Education program: Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Systems

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Education program: Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering

Department of Materials Science and Applied Chemistry

Education program: Chemistry and Bioscience, Chemistry and Materials, Materials Science and Engineering

Department of Semiconductor, Computer Science and Applied Mathematics

Education program: Semiconductor Systems, Computer Science and Applied Mathematics

Number of Students for Admission

Several students for each admission

Date of Enrollment

April 1, 2026 for April admission

October 1, 2026 for October admission

Degrees

Master of Science, Master of Engineering, Master of Informatics, or Master of Philosophy will be conferred.

Fees and Tuition

Examination fee: ¥30,000

Enrollment fee: ¥282,000

Tuition: ¥267,900 per semester (¥535,800 per year)

Qualifications of Applicants

1) Nationality: must have a non-Japanese nationality.

2) Education:

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions from ① to ⑤.

*If your application is based on ④ or ⑤, you must apply for the prior screening to validate your qualifications. Follow the guidelines on page 6.

- ① Hold a Bachelor's degree from a Japanese university or are expected to complete the degree at a Japanese university before the date of enrollment in GSST.
 - ② Completed or are expected to complete 16 years of formal education outside of Japan before the date of enrollment in GSST.
 - ③ Hold or are expected to complete a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a three-year or longer program at a foreign university or other foreign educational institution before the date of enrollment in GSST. Universities or educational institutions from which applicants obtained or will obtain a degree must be accredited by a respective foreign government or someone certified by an appropriate foreign governmental agency, or so designated by MEXT.
 - ④ Completed 15 years of formal education outside of Japan and are recognized to have excellent academic records by GSST.
 - ⑤ Are recognized by GSST to have attainments equal to or higher than university graduates, and must be aged 22 years old or older before the date of enrollment in GSST.
- 3) Language: must have good English communication skills. The applicants should have an official score of either TOEFL iBT®, TOEIC®Listening & Reading Test, or IELTS Academic. The preferred minimum scores are 71 for TOEFL iBT®, 700 for TOEIC®Listening & Reading Test, and 6.0 for IELTS Academic. See “Required Documents 8)” for details.

Note:

- 1) Military personnel and military civilian employees are excluded.
- 2) The admission will be revoked if successful applicants fail to submit all necessary paperwork for admission by the designated date.
- 3) The admission will be revoked if successful applicants fail to fulfill the educational requirements as stated before the date of enrollment in GSST.

Application Procedure

Step 1

Check whether you fulfill the qualifications of applicants (See above). When your educational qualification is based on ④ or ⑤, prior screening must be conducted. For application to prior screening, follow the guidelines on page 6. If you are not sure whether you need prior screening or not, please contact us at gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp.



Step 2

Contact a prospective supervisor in Kumamoto University and ask whether you can apply for IJEP Program under his/her supervision. It is highly recommended that applicants contact the prospective supervisor at least three weeks before application deadline.

Please refer following website when you search for a prospective supervisor;

<https://www.fast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/div1/>

If you have a problem contacting a prospective supervisor, please contact following email address;

ask-gsst@kumamoto-u.ac.jp



Step 3

After obtaining confirmation from the prospective supervisor in Step 2, please have face-to-face interviews with the prospective supervisor and at least two more faculty members from the related field(s). Online interviews are acceptable. Interviews must be completed within one year prior to the application deadline. For more details about interview procedure, please contact your prospective supervisor.



Step 4

First, send the required documents in PDF format by email to the Academic / International Affairs Section. Once you receive a response, submit the original documents via express postal mail. If someone other than the applicant submits the original documents in person to the Academic / International Affairs Section, we may request their name and contact information.

***Please note that all the original documents must arrive at the office during the application period.**

Application Period

April 2026 admission: **September 19 to November 7, 2025**

October 2026 admission: **April 3 to May 15, 2026**

Required Documents

- 1) Application Form for IJEP in the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University (format available on website). The applicant's signature must be handwritten. Printed or electronic signatures will not be accepted.
- 2) Statement of objectives written by the applicant. It should include reasons for application to the Graduate School, how the applicant qualifies to be a graduate student, and the applicant's academic, research, and professional goals.
- 3) A certificate of Bachelor's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or a copy of a diploma (original and English translation).
- 4) Official transcripts of academic records in English from each college and university attended, including information such as GPA and ranking.
- 5) A summary of Bachelor's thesis or an equivalent in English. An interim report is acceptable for applicants who have not yet graduated at the time of application.

- 6) A copy of the applicant's passport, or an official certificate of citizenship (original and English translation).
- 7) Two letters of recommendation in English from professors or research supervisors who can evaluate the applicant's academic and research abilities. Each letter must include the recommender's handwritten signature. Printed or electronic signatures will not be accepted.
- 8) An official score of TOEFL iBT®, TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test, or IELTS Academic. Scores are valid only if dated within two years of the application deadline. Submission of a score may be exempt, if the applicant completed a Bachelor's degree or other advanced degree where English is the primary language of instruction (an official document from the university for confirmation may be requested).
- 9) Proof of remittance of the examination fee (¥30,000 Japanese yen).

All bank charges (at least ¥2,500 yen or more) should be paid by the applicant. When you process the wire transfer to the following bank account, please be sure to tell your bank that you will pay for all charges of foreign banks. Inform us at gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp when you made a payment.

Beneficiary: Kumamoto University

Bank: MUFG Bank, Ltd. (Swift Code: BOTKJPJT or BOTKJPJTXXX)

Branch: Kumamoto Branch (Branch No. 655)

Account No: 0667419

Bank Address: 5-1 Karashima-cho, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi, Kumamoto 860-0804, Japan

*If you wish to make a payment from Japan, please contact us at gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp.

- 10) Application Checklist (format available on website).

Please make sure to confirm that you have all the documents by using the Application Checklist before sending the documents.

Note:

- 1) Applicants are advised to discuss research plans with their prospective supervisors beforehand.
- 2) All the documents should be typewritten on A4 size paper (21 x 29.5 cm).
- 3) Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- 4) All application documents will not be returned to the applicants.
- 5) There is no specified format for recommendation letters. However, the letter should be dated and include affiliation, position, signature or seal of the recommender.
- 6) The admission may be revoked, if it is determined that the applicant have made a false statement in the application.

Where to Submit the Required Documents

Academic / International Affairs Section

Graduate School of Science and Technology

Kumamoto University

2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan

Phone: +81-96-342-3982

E-mail: gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Selection Procedure

The GSST selection committee will examine the application documents and the result of the interview. The University will notify the selection results to the applicants within 2 months after the deadline.

Notes

Applicants are advised to become familiar with Japanese culture, customs, climate, and the university system before coming to Japan. Japanese language skills for daily life would be advantageous.

For further information, please contact:

Graduate School of Science and Technology

Kumamoto University

2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan

Phone: +81-96-342-3020

Email: ask-gsst@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Prior Screening

<Guidelines for prior screening of qualification for application>

When your educational qualification is based on ④ or ⑤ on page 3, prior screening is required. Contact us at the Academic / International Affairs Section (gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp) first and then submit the required documents via email during the submission period indicated below. If you pass the screening, submit the application documents on page 4 and 5 during the application period.

(1) Required documents for prior screening

- ① Application Form for IJEP in the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University (format available on website).
- ② A certificate of Bachelor's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or a copy of a diploma.
- ③ Official transcripts of academic records in English from each college and university attended, including information such as GPA and ranking.
- ④ A summary of Bachelor's thesis or an equivalent in English. An interim report is acceptable for applicants who have not yet graduated at the time of application.

(2) Period of submission

April 2026 admission: **October 13 to 17, 2025**

October 2026 admission: **April 20 to 24, 2026**

(3) Where to send

Academic / International Affairs Section

Graduate School of Science and Technology

Kumamoto University

E-mail: gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

(4) Result of the screening

The results will be informed to the applicants after the screening.