

Double Degree Program

Doctoral Course

Application Information for Admission in April / October 2026

This Program is for applicants from the universities with which the Graduate School of Science and Technology (GSST), Kumamoto University has a Double Degree Agreement.* Applicants should conform to the Agreement of the Double Degree Program with GSST.

***See the list of the universities in GSST website.**

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 Double Degree Program for international postgraduate students pursuing to Doctoral 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 Advanced Industrial Science

Education program: Environmental Conservation Engineering, Environmental Management and Planning, Architecture and Environment Planning, Building Materials and Structures, Advanced Mechanical Systems, Intelligent Mechanical Systems, Frontier Technology for Energy and Devices, Human and Environmental Informatics, Applied Chemistry and Biochemistry, 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

In accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the agreement on Double Degree Program for each university.

Date of Enrollment

April 1, 2026 for April admission

October 1, 2026 for October admission

Degrees

Doctor of Science, Doctor of Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering, or Doctor of Philosophy in Informatics will be conferred.

Fees and Tuition

Examination fee: ¥30,000

***Enrollment fee:** ¥282,000

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

* In accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the agreement on Double Degree Program for each university.

Qualifications of Applicants

Those who have been or will be accepted as a doctoral student in their home university, with which GSST has an agreement on Double Degree Program, are eligible to apply. In case applicants fail to obtain a student status in their home university, admission to GSST will be revoked.

Applicants should have the following qualifications.

1) Education:

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions from ① to ③

* If your application is based on ② or ③, you must apply for the prior screening to validate your qualifications. Follow the guidelines on page 6.

- ① Hold a Master's degree or are expected to complete the degree before the date of enrollment in GSST.
- ② Conducted research for more than 2 years in a university or a research institute after completion of the 16 years of formal education outside of Japan and recognized to have an equivalent level of education to the Master's degree by GSST.
- ③ Are recognized by the GSST to have attainments equal to or higher than Master's degree holders, and must be aged 24 years old or older before the date of enrollment in GSST.

2) 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 9)" 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 ② or ③, 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 Double Degree 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 Double Degree Program 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) Certificates of Bachelor's degree and Master's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or copies of diplomas (original and English translation).
- 4) A certificate of enrollment in the Doctoral course of your home university. If it is not applicable, a certificate indicating your anticipated admission in the Doctoral course of your home university is required.
- 5) Official transcripts of academic records in English from each college and university attended, including information such as GPA and ranking.
- 6) Summaries of Bachelor's thesis and Master's thesis or equivalents in English.
- 7) A copy of the applicant's passport, or an official certificate of citizenship (original and English translation).
- 8) 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.

- 9) 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).
- 10) 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.

- 11) 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 materials 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 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 the qualification for application>

When your educational qualification is based on ② or ③ on page 3, prior screening is required. Contact us at the Academic / International Affairs Section (gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp) 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 Double Degree Program in the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University (format available on website).
- ② Certificates of Bachelor's degree and Master's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or copies of diplomas.
- ③ Official transcripts of academic records in English from each college and university attended, including information such as GPA and ranking.
- ④ Summaries of Bachelor's thesis and Master's thesis or equivalents in English.

(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

Email: gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

(4) Result of the screening

The results will be informed to applicants after the screening.