

Double Degree Program

Doctoral Course

Application Information for Admission in April / October 2027

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: +81-96-342-3039

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. The standard period of enrollment is three years with some exceptions. You are required to stay at least one year at Kumamoto University physically during that time.

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, 2027 for April admission

October 1, 2027 for October admission

Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy in Science, 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:** ¥297,300 per semester (¥594,600 per year)

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

*Please note that applicants in the self-funded category must have a solid financial plan to cover all the expenses, including living costs for the entire period of enrollment and the return flight ticket.

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) Personnel with criminal records, or those on active military duty or reserve during the planned enrollment period at Kumamoto University 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

Step1

Contact a prospective supervisor in Kumamoto University and ask whether you can apply for Double Degree Program under his/her supervision.

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

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

https://www.fast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/gsst-en/departement/#doctoral_course

If you have a problem contacting a prospective supervisor, please contact following email address;
ask-gsst@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

You can proceed to Step 2 before receiving an approval to apply from the prospective supervisor.



Step 2

Fill out E-application Form 1 (<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/J2Q49XC8um>) and submit it before October 16th, 2026 (for April 2027 Admission), April 26th, 2027(for Oct 2027 Admission). If your educational qualification is based on ② or ③, prior screening (page 6) will be conducted. If you are not sure whether you need prior screening or not, please contact us at gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp.



Step 3

After obtaining confirmation from the prospective supervisor in Step1, please have face-to-face or online interviews with the prospective supervisor and at least two more faculty members from the related field(s). 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

Upload the required documents in PDF format by the application deadline to the Proself link provided automatically upon Form 1 submission. (The password is provided in a separate email.)



Step 5

Fill out Form 2 and submit it. The link to Form 2 is provided in the auto-reply message after Form 1 submission.



Step 6

Once you receive an email that the documents have been checked, submit the original documents via express postal mail with tracking. 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.

Application Period

April 2027 admission: **September 18 to November 3, 2026**

[Application Deadline: Nov 3rd, 2026 Japan Standard Time (JST)]

October 2027 admission: **April 2 to May 14, 2027 [Application Deadline: May 14th, 2027 JST]**

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 has 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: +81-96-342-3834

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, and climate, 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: +81-96-342-3039

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. Follow Step 1 and Step 2, and upload the required documents, (1)-① ②③④ below to the link provided automatically upon the E-application [Form 1] submission during the submission period indicated below. If you pass the screening, upload the application documents on page 4 and 5 to the same link 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 2027 admission: **September 18 to October 16, 2026**
- October 2027 admission: **April 2 to 26, 2027**
- (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 by email to applicants after the screening.

Application timeline for Admission 2027

Application Steps [prior screening required]

Step	Prior Screening	Documents	Supervisor	Admission month
1			Contact prospective supervisor	For April 2027 intake
2		E-application [Form 1] →receive automatic reply; Email-1/Email-2 with Proself link and PW		For October 2027 intake
	Upload Documents for prior screening. (1)-①②③④		Approval to take prior screening	Sep18-Oct16, 2026
If you pass the prior screening, go to Step 3.				Apr2-26, 2027
3			interview	
4		Upload the rest of the documents (pdf) to Proself link		Sep18-Nov3, 2026
5		E-application [Form 2]		
6		Shipment of original documents		Apr2-May14, 2027

Application Steps [prior screening NOT required]

Step	Prior Screening	Documents	Supervisor	Admission month
1			Contact prospective supervisor	For April 2027 intake
2		E-application [Form 1] →receive automatic reply; Email-1/Email-2 with Proself link and PW	Approval to apply	For October 2027 intake
3			interview	Sep18-Oct16, 2026
4		Upload the documents (pdf) to Proself link		Apr2-26, 2027
5		E-application [Form 2]		Sep18-Nov3, 2026
6		Shipment of original documents		Apr2-May14, 2027