International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security

"Human Security and Environment" Program
and
"Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction" Program

The Graduate School of Environmental Studies
Tohoku University

— Guidance for the Entrance Examination for April 2027 Enrollment —



Application period: January 6–19, 2027
Examination date: March 2–4, 2027

November 2026

Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University

International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security

"Human Security and Environment" and "Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction"

——— Guidance for the Entrance Examination ———

I. Aim

Understanding Human Security

In the post-Cold War era, a new concept of "Human Security" focusing on protecting human lives against pestilence, poverty, environmental destruction, climate change, and disputes, has attracted considerable attention as a new framework contrast to the conventional idea of "national security," which focuses on armaments. Following this present trend, the Japanese government is moving toward incorporating the concept of "human security" as the central basis for international cooperation. Especially in developing countries with cultural diversity and varied levels of economic development, many people live in constant danger due to poverty, disasters, poor environmental hygiene, malnutrition, social unrest, and active disregard for human dignity. Additionally, international epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, and Covid-19; environmental and food pollution; terrorism; and drug trafficking jeopardize human security across borders.

Intellectual Contribution to the World

The "human insecurity" of the 21st century is caused by a wide range of factors. Therefore, to address these problems in theory and in practice, leaders must have multiple perspectives beyond conventional academic disciplines, and methodologies must incorporate interdisciplinary skills and knowledge.

In April 2005, Tohoku University launched the International Postgraduate Program in Human Security by linking the Graduate Schools of Agricultural Science, Medicine, International Culture (until 2017) and Environmental Studies. The program aims to contribute intellectually to realizing human security worldwide.

The Human Security program currently consists of four programs: "Food and Agriculture for Human Security", "Public Health Sciences for Human Security", "Human Security and Environment," and "Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)." Each graduate school provides a curriculum designed to develop an understanding of the intricate structure of problems related to food, health, the environment, disaster risk reduction, and regional communities.

Training of Experts, Researchers and Thinkers

The International Postgraduate Program in Human Security is designed to educate current and future leaders and experts who will actively participate in policy planning and regional communities at international and domestic levels.

Both Japanese and international candidates and postgraduate students are considered for admission. Applicants must demonstrate competence in one of the following fields: engineering, natural science, medical science, social science, or disaster science, as well as the potential for leadership in the field of human security.

II. Curriculum and Degree

A. Curriculum

The "Human Security and Environment" and "Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction" programs comprise compulsory core subjects, basic and major subjects, a dissertation, and extra lectures.

1. The program will implement interdisciplinary studies.
2. Common and major subjects: Study of a specialized field in the Graduate School of Environmental Studies.
3. Master's thesis and seminar (by advisor)
   Students must regularly attend seminars and write and defend their Master's theses in their second year under their supervisor's guidance.
4. Doctoral dissertation and seminars (by advisors)
   Students must take the Doctoral Course seminar in the first year and the Doctoral Course training from the second year. The training focuses on writing and defending the doctoral thesis.

B. Degree

The following credits are required to earn a degree:

Master's Course (two-year program): at least 30 credits, including the following:

1. Common subjects, as well as basic and advanced subjects in the field of specialization, as offered by the Graduate School of Environmental Studies.
2. Master's thesis and Seminar.

Doctoral Course (three-year program): at least 16 credits, including the following:

1. Basic subjects of interdisciplinary fields, as offered by the Graduate School of Environmental Studies.
2. Doctoral dissertation and seminar.

Upon completion of the program, the following degrees will be awarded:

Master's Course (Two-year program)

Students in Cultural and Environmental Studies
Master of Environmental Studies or Master of Interdisciplinary Studies

Students in Disaster Science
Master of Disaster Science or Master of Interdisciplinary Studies

Doctoral Course (Three-year program)

Students in Cultural and Environmental Studies
Doctor of Philosophy (Environmental Studies) or Doctor of Philosophy (Interdisciplinary Studies)

Students in Disaster Science
Doctor of Philosophy (Disaster Science) or Doctor of Philosophy (Interdisciplinary Studies)

C. Program Completion Certificate

Completion of the required subjects specified by the program is necessary to obtain a completion certificate.

III. Admission

1. Admission Policy

A. Tohoku University

Philosophy & Mission

With over 100 years of history and distinguished traditions, Tohoku University has developed excellence in education and research under its principles of "Research First," "Open Doors," and "Practice-Oriented Research and Education" since its establishment in 1907. The university will maintain these traditions while looking toward even more dramatic progress in the future. As a world-leading center of education and research, it will contribute greatly to the human race by grappling with the difficult and complex issues facing the 21st century. Tohoku University will focus its efforts of its faculties, graduate schools, and research institutes to foster ethical international leaders who will carry humanity into the future, while expanding its globally renowned creative research for the benefit of society at large.

Characteristics

1) Three Foundational Ideals

"Research First," "Open Doors," and "Practice-Oriented Research and Education" — soon after its founding, Tohoku University established this set of unique ideals, the substance of which it is continually developing in response to our changing times.

2) Rich Educational Environment

Tohoku University has numerous research organizations and facilities, primarily comprising 10 undergraduate schools, 15 graduate schools, 3 professional graduate schools, and 6 research institutes. Research institute staff also participate in educational activities (there are approx. 3,000 instructors; enrollment limits are approx. 2,400 for undergraduates, 2,700 for graduate students).

3) Research University

Tohoku University is a school that continuously produces numerous internationally recognized research results and concertedly pushes forward with leading-edge research and education.

4) Active Regional/Industrial-Academic Ties

The university is actively working to expand its diverse regional and industrial ties.

5) Globalizing Education and Research

Among Japan's national universities, Tohoku University is one of the top schools in terms of agreements with overseas universities. It is actively expanding exchange in education and research. The university strives to foster globally active individuals through strong support for studying abroad by Japanese students, as well as recruitment of numerous international students.

Ideal Tohoku University Applicants

Tohoku University seeks students who sympathize with the university's principles and who are motivated by:

① the desire to make outstanding contributions as world-class researchers by addressing the issues facing humanity in the 21st century, and

② the desire to make outstanding contributions to the development of society as highly specialized professionals who possess abundant knowledge and leadership.

To realize these ambitions, students should also have strength of will, academic curiosity, a broad perspective, and an excellent foundation of specialized knowledge and abilities.

Tohoku University Admissions Process (Graduate School)

Depending on the number and type of candidates sought, Tohoku University graduate schools provide multiple categories of, and opportunities for undergoing, entrance exams to meet the needs of candidates from diverse backgrounds. Schools may evaluate the candidate's qualifications, abilities, and specialization using interviews, application documents such as research plans, proficiency exams, and external tests.

B. Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies

By bringing together the multidisciplinary knowledge of Tohoku University, the Graduate School of Environmental Studies (GSES) aims to establish environmental science as an integrated discipline that transcends the traditional divisions of the humanities and sciences in order to establish a culture supporting sustainable development as well as technologies and systems needed to establish resource-circulating societies. To achieve this goal, GSES has set the educational objective of fostering individuals equipped with a combination of broad knowledge and deep expertise relevant to the understanding and solving of environmental problems. By effectively integrating insights from existing academic fields while creating new frontiers of knowledge, GSES seeks to foster environmental professionals capable of playing an active role in the international community. GSES is looking for students who share these goals. We especially welcome applicants with a strong desire and ability to carry out study and research, and the fundamental academic skills needed to achieve their goals.

Six entrance examination subject-groups[1] are conducted to match the varying expertise of applicants. In each subject-group, students are selected through six different examination procedures: General Selection, Special Selection for Recommended Students, Special Selection for Working Persons, Special Selection for International Students, and Special Selection for Graduates of the Early Graduation System. Selection is made based on the applicant’s motivation to conduct research in line with the educational goals of GSES, as well as academic knowledge and outstanding research capabilities.

(Master's course (2 years))

In the General Selection examination, applicants are required to take a written examination to evaluate their specialized knowledge in the relevant field, logical thinking, and ability to write an essay about a specific topic. In addition, applicants must sit an oral examination or interview (here in after referred to as the "oral examination") to evaluate their motivations and research ability as well as their capacity to carry out environmental science in an integrated setting. The selection process is based on a comprehensive evaluation that includes the results of both the written and oral examination, with emphasis placed on the written examination's outcome.

Although the content of the examinations for the Special Selection examinations differs according to the characteristics of the targeted applicants, the evaluation and scoring procedure is essentially the same as that of the General Selection examination. However, in the case of the examination for the Special Selection for Working Persons, the relevance of the applicant's professional experience to the proposed research topic is assessed during the oral examination. In the case of the Special Selection for International Students examination in the Humanities and Social Science Group, whether the applicant’s Japanese proficiency is sufficient for research will also be assessed. In all fields, we expect applicants to have

[1] This IPHS has an independent examination system separated from the six groups.

acquired the English language skills necessary for writing and discussing research papers as well as understanding the fundamentals of each specialized field before entering the GSES master courses.

(Doctoral course (3 years))

The General Selection examination may include a written component to ascertain if applicants possess a high level of specialized knowledge in the relevant academic field. However, in particular, the oral examination will be used to comprehensively evaluate the applicant's ability to think logically and formulate a research plan based on a critical consideration of previous research.

In the same way, although the examinations of the Special Selection for Working Persons and the Special Selection for International Students may also include a written examination to assess the applicant's possession of specialized knowledge, selection will mainly be made on the quality of the research proposal along with the applicant's motivation and sense of mission to carry out academic research in a university setting. In the Special Selection for Working Persons and the Special Selection for International Students, while the applicant's expertise may be assessed through a written examination if necessary, selection is mainly based on the oral examination.

In all fields, we expect applicants to have acquired both advanced skills and fundamental knowledge in their respective fields of specialization as well as the ability to orally present research in academic conferences and publish academic papers.

2. Application Procedure

A. Conditions for Application

1) Applicants for the Master's Course must satisfy one of the following conditions:

(1) Have graduated or expect to graduate from a Japanese university by March 2027.

(2) Have acquired or expect to acquire a Bachelor’s degree from a higher education institution approved by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education in Japan by March 2027.

(3) Have completed or expect to complete 16 years of education at a foreign educational institution by March 2027.

(4) Have completed or expect to complete 16 years of education at a foreign educational institution in Japan through a corresponding course of a foreign university or school while residing in Japan by March 2027.

(5) Have completed or expect to complete 16 years of education at a foreign educational institution located in Japan by March 2027.

※ The educational institution must be approved by the educational system of the country in question and designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

(6) Be conferred or expect to be conferred a degree equivalent to a Bachelor's degree upon completion of a three years or longer curriculum at a university or other school (limited to schools whose overall educational and research activities have been evaluated by the relevant country's government or a government-approved entity, or that have been designated by the Minister of Education as meeting this requirement) in a foreign country. This includes cases in which students completed the curriculum via distance learning while residing in Japan and cases in which students completed a curriculum at an educational facility positioned within that country's educational system by March 2027.

(7) Have graduated from a specialized professional school course designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan on or after the date set by the Minister or expect to graduate by March 2027.

※ A specialized course must be at least four years long and meet other criteria stipulated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

(8) Be designated as eligible by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

(9) Have entered a graduate school at another university according to Clause 2 of Article 102 of the School Education Law and be deemed eligible to study at the Tohoku University graduate school.

(10) Be 22 years of age or older by the end of March 2027. Through individual entrance qualification screening, be deemed by the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Tohoku University to have achieved an academic standard equivalent to or higher than that of a university graduate.

*1 Applicants are required to consult with a potential supervisor regarding their intended area of research before applying.

*2 Applicants corresponding to (6) must contact the administration office by December 4, 2026 to verify their eligibility.

*3. Applicants corresponding to (9) and (10) must submit application qualification documents to the administration office by December 4, 2026. The administration office provides the document format.

*4. The Graduate School of Environmental Studies does not apply the admission qualifications regarding a person who was enrolled in a university for at least three years and who, as determined by the Tohoku University graduate schools, achieved excellent results in acquiring the prescribed credits.

*5. Foreign students living overseas may require 2 to 3 months from the time the results are announced until entry into Japan with a student visa is granted. In some cases, completing the coursework of the first semester may be difficult. Therefore, consultation with the prospective academic advisor regarding the timing of the entrance examination is recommended before applying. Requests for early issuance of a certificate of eligibility for residence status will not be accommodated after acceptance. Any actions contradicting the instructions of the university are not permitted.

2) Applicants for the Doctoral Course must satisfy one of the following conditions:

(1) Have acquired or expect to acquire a Master‘s or professional degree by March 2027.

(2) Have acquired or expect to acquire a degree equivalent to a Master’s or professional degree abroad by March 2027.

(3) Have acquired or expect to acquire a Master’s or professional degree abroad through a corresponding course while residing in Japan by March 2027.

(4) Have acquired or expect to acquire a Master’s or professional degree at an educational institution in Japan designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan by March 2027.

(5) Have completed a course at the United Nations University and acquired or expect to acquire a degree equivalent to a Master’s degree by March 2027.

(6) Have completed a course at an educational institution that runs courses from a foreign school or graduate school or the United Nations University and have been admitted as having achieved an academic standard equivalent to or higher than that of a Master’s degree holder by passing the exam and eligibility screening in accordance with Clause 2 of Article 16 of the Graduate School Establishment Standards.

(7) Be designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan as follows;

i. Have engaged in research activities at universities or research institutes for more

than 2-years after graduation and have been deemed by an eligibility screening at Tohoku University to have an academic ability equivalent to those who have obtained a Master's or professional degree.

ii. Have engaged in research activities at universities or research institutes for more than 2-years after completing a formal 16-year education abroad or 16-year of foreign education in Japan through a corresponding course at a foreign university or school while residing in Japan. Possess academic ability deemed by an eligibility screening at Tohoku University to be equivalent to those who have obtained a Master's or professional degree.

(8) Applicants must be 24 years of age or older by the end of March 2027. Through individual entrance qualification screening, the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Tohoku University must recognize that applicants have achieved an academic standard equivalent to or higher than that of students who obtained a Master's or professional degree.

*1 Applicants must consult with a potential supervisor regarding the research plan for this program before applying.

*2 Applicants corresponding to (7) must contact the potential supervisor by December 4, 2026, to verify their eligibility.

*3 Applicants corresponding to (8) must contact the administration office by December 4, 2026, to verify eligibility.

*4 Foreign students living overseas may require 2 to 3 months from the time the results are announced until entry into Japan with a student visa is granted. Consequently, consultation with the prospective academic advisor regarding the timing of the entrance examination is recommended before applying. Please note that requests for early issuance of a certificate of eligibility for residence status after acceptance cannot be accommodated. Any actions contradicting the instructions of the university are not permitted.

B. Submission of Applications

Applications should be submitted through the designated online application system, The Admissions Office (hereinafter referred to as TAO). Applicants should complete the following application procedures within the application period.

1) Application period: Entrance Examination for April 2027.

Applications for the **Master's Course** and **Doctoral Course** will be accepted **from 9:00 on January 6 to 16:00 on January 19, 2027, Japan time.**

2) Registration Methods

(1) Access the following URL and enter the necessary information to create an account.
https://admissions-office.net/en/portal

(2) After creating an account, log in from the above URL.
Use the "Application Schemes" menu to search for "Tohoku University ｜ Graduate School of Environmental Studies ｜ International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security ｜ Spring entrance examination for April 2027 enrollment," then follow TAO's directions and the directions below to apply.

(3) The application documents are as listed in "**C. Documents required for application**".
For the documents listed in the "**Application Documents to be Entered into TAO**", complete the TAO application form or upload the documents as PDF files.

Files for the forms specified by the Graduate School are available for download on the Graduate School website, where this application guide is posted. These must be downloaded and used.
After uploading the documents listed in "**Application documents to be entered into TAO and submitted in original paper form**" to TAO, submit the original paper form as described in (4).
Upon completion of the application, TAO will send an email confirming completion.

(4) The original paper form shall be submitted by mail or in person to the administration office.
Submission period: From January 6 to January 26, 2027.

If submitted by mail
- Write "**Human Security Program Application Documents**" in red on the front of the envelope. Send the envelope via a trackable method to the following address:

Academic Affairs Section,
Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University
468-1, Aramaki-aza-Aoba, Aoba-Ku, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8572 Japan

- The application must arrive by the last day of the application period.

If submitting an application directly to the administration office:
- Please refer to **IX**.
- Office Hours: 9:00‐12:30, 13:30‐16:30
- The office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays.

* False declarations in application documents can lead to cancellation of entrance approval, even after enrollment.
If false declarations are discovered after a degree has been conferred, the degree may be revoked.
In either case, entrance and tuition fees will not be refunded.

C. Documents Required for Application

Ideally, all university certifications and transcripts are issued in English. If not, an English or Japanese translation officially verified by the issuing institution should be attached. If an officially verified translation cannot be obtained, the administration office must be consulted before submitting the application.

- Submitted documents will not be returned.
- Copies, digital files, or printouts of digital files of certificates will not be accepted as originals.

1) Two-year Master's Course

Application documents to be entered into TAO

(1) An application form and curriculum vitae (Complete the forms on TAO)
(2) A letter of acceptance
- This form is prepared by the prospective supervisor using the prescribed format of this graduate school.

(3) A research proposal
(4) A letter of reference
- This letter should be provided by an academic advisor who can evaluate the applicant's research ability based on their previous academic activities. There are no

specific format requirements for this letter.

(5) Face photo data
- A color photo of the applicant taken within 3 months prior to application.
- If glasses are worn by the applicant, the photograph must include them.
- The photograph must show the full face and upper body against a plain background without a hat.
- 4:3 aspect ratio (vertical to horizontal)
- File format: JPEG (JPG) between 100kB and 5MB

Note: Photos edited or altered using software or apps are not allowed. If a photo is found to be edited during the exam or screening, it may be regarded as failure of identity verification or false representation.

(6) The examination fee of 30,000 Japanese yen must be paid by Tuesday, January 19. Payment may be made through an ATM, financial institution, convenience store or internet banking. A copy of the ATM transaction statement or internet banking transaction evidence must be submitted as an attachment with the "Payment Confirmation of Examination Fees" form.

Amount (金額): 30,000 yen
Bank (銀行): Mitsubishi UFJ Bank (三菱 UFJ 銀行)
Bank Code: 0005
Branch (支店): Wakatake-shiten (わかたけ支店)
Branch Code: 809
Account Type (預金種別): Futsuu (普通)
Account Number (口座番号): 2259226
Account Holder (口座名義): Kokuritsu Daigaku-houjin Tohokudaigaku (国立大学法人東北大学)
Account Holder in Kana (カナ): ﾀﾞｲ)ﾄｳﾎｸﾀﾞｲｶﾞｸ

*1. The payer name must match the applicant's name in katakana
*2. A copy of the account information, including the amount, date of transfer, and name of the payer, must be attached.
*3. The bank transfer fee is to be paid by the applicant.

- <u>This bank account information does not support international wire transfers from outside Japan. Payment by credit card is permitted for overseas applicants.</u>
Prospective applicants should contact the administration office in advance for further details.

Application documents to be entered into TAO and submitted in original paper form

(7) An official transcript of grades issued by the applicant's home university
(8) An official graduate certification issued by the applicant's home university
(9) A certificate of the Bachelor's degree issued by the applicant's home university
(10) A formal certificate of TOEFL®, TOEIC®, or IELTS scores
- Valid official tests include: TOEFL iBT®, TOEIC® Listening & Reading, and IELTS (Academic test or General Training test)
- The certificate must be submitted by February 26, 2027.
Applicants who fail to submit their scores by this date will not be allowed to take the examination.
Certificates obtained before March 2, 2025 are not accepted.
- For the TOEIC® Listening & Reading, submit the Digital Official Score Certificate for tests taken in Japan, or the paper Official Score Certificate for tests taken outside of Japan.

Note: The Digital Official Score Certificate is issued only to individuals who took the TOEIC® Listening & Reading within Japan.

- For the TOEFL iBT ®, submit the Test Taker Score Report and request ETS to send your scores the Official Score Report directly to the Graduate School. TOEFL® Institution Code Number (DI code) for sending scores is “C648”.
  Note: The Graduate School accepts only Test Date scores from a single test date; MyBest® scores are not accepted.
- For the IELTS, submit the Test Report Form as a PDF file.
  Note: Ensure that the Test Report Form Number is included on the Test Report Form.
  Note: Submission of a hard copy of the Test Report Form is not required.
- The Graduate School cannot return TOEFL®, TOEIC®, or IELTS certificates.

(11) A residence record issued by the mayor of a city, ward, town, or village in Japan
- Foreign applicants residing in Japan for more than 90 days must provide this document.
- The document must be issued after November 2026 and indicate residence status without My Number.
- Research students enrolled in the graduate school at the time of application who will remain enrolled until March 2027 are exempt from submitting this certificate.

2) Three-year Doctoral Course

Application documents to be entered into TAO

(1) Application form and curriculum vitae (Complete the forms on TAO)
(2) A letter of acceptance
- The form is prepared by the prospective supervisor using the prescribed format of this graduate school.

(3) A research proposal
(4) A letter of reference
- This letter should be provided by an academic advisor who can evaluate the applicant’s research ability based on their previous academic activities. There are no specific format requirements for this letter.

(5) Articles or essays published by the applicant.
(6) Face photo data
- A color photo of the applicant taken within 3 months prior to application.
- If glasses are worn by the applicant, the photograph must include them.
- The photograph must show the full face and upper body against a plain background without a hat.
- 4:3 aspect ratio (vertical to horizontal)
- File format: JPEG (JPG) between 100kB and 5MB

Note: Photos edited or altered using software or apps are not allowed. If a photo is found to be edited during the exam or screening, it may be regarded as failure of identity verification or false representation.

(7) The examination fee of 30,000 Japanese yen must be paid by Tuesday, January 19. Payment may be made through an ATM, financial institution, convenience store or internet banking. A copy of the ATM transaction statement or internet banking transaction evidence must be submitted as an attachment with the "Payment Confirmation of Examination Fees" form.

Amount (金額): 30,000 yen
Bank (銀行): Mitsubishi UFJ Bank (三菱 UFJ 銀行)
Bank Code: 0005
Branch (支店): Wakatake-shiten (わかたけ支店)
Branch Code: 809
Account Type (預金種別): Futsuu (普通)

Account Number (口座番号): 2259226
Account Holder (口座名義): Kokuritsu Daigaku-houjin Tohokudaigaku
(国立大学法人東北大学)
Account Holder in Kana (カナ): ﾀﾞｲ)ﾄｳﾎｸﾀﾞｲｶﾞｸ
*1. The name of the payer name must match the applicant's name in Katakana
*2. A copy of the account information, including the amount, date of transfer, and name of the payer, must be attached.
*3. The bank transfer fee is to be paid by the applicant.

- This bank account information does not support international wire transfers from outside Japan. Payment by credit card permitted for overseas applicants. Prospective applicants should contact the administration office in advance for further details.

Application documents to be entered into TAO and submitted in original paper form

(8) An official transcript of grades issued by the applicant's home graduate school
(9) An official transcript of grades issued by the applicant's home university
(10) An official graduate certification issued by the applicant's home graduate school
(11) A certificate of the Master's degree issued by the applicant's home graduate school
(12) A formal certificate of TOEFL®, TOEIC®, or IELTS scores
- Valid official tests include: TOEFL iBT®, TOEIC® Listening & Reading, and IELTS (Academic test or General Training test)
- The certificate must be submitted by February 26, 2027. Applicants who fail to submit their scores by this date will not be allowed to take the examination.
Certificates obtained before March 2, 2025, are not accepted.
- For the TOEIC® Listening & Reading, submit the Digital Official Score Certificate for tests taken in Japan, or the paper Official Score Certificate for tests taken outside Japan.
Note: The Digital Official Score Certificate is issued only to individuals who took the TOEIC® Listening & Reading within Japan.
- For the TOEFL iBT ®, submit the Test Taker Score Report and request ETS to send the Official Score Report directly to the Graduate School. TOEFL® Institution Code Number (DI code) for sending scores is "C648".
Note: The Graduate School accepts only Test Date scores from a single test date; MyBest® scores are not accepted.
- For the IELTS, submit the Test Report Form as a PDF file.
Note: Ensure that the Test Report Form Number is included on the Test Report Form.
Note: Submission of a hard copy of the Test Report Form is not required.
- The Graduate School cannot return TOEFL®, TOEIC®, or IELTS certificates.

(13) A residence record issued by the mayor of a city, ward, town, or village in Japan
- Foreign applicants residing in Japan for more than 90 days must provide this document.
- The document must be issued after November 2026 and indicate residence status without My Number.
- Research students enrolled in the graduate school at the time of application who will remain enrolled until March 2027 are exempt from submitting this certificate.

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3. Entrance Examination

1) Number of students to be admitted

Quotas for the Master's and Doctoral Courses are highly limited. The entrance date is in April 2027.

Admission is granted to the Department of Frontier Sciences for Advanced Environment (Cultural Environmental Studies or Disaster Science).

2) Screening

Successful applicants will be selected based on the total score from the oral examination (i.e., the interview), language proficiency, and submitted documents.

During the interview, applicants will give a presentation of approximately 15 minutes on their previous research and intended research plan. A 25-minute Q&A session will then be conducted to evaluate applicants' research abilities.

Note: Applicants are required to submit a file summarizing their presentation in advance; details will be provided after application.

3) Examination date and details

The oral entrance examination (i.e., the interview) will be conducted from March 2 to 4, 2027, as follows:.

- Applicants residing in Japan: In-person
  (Location: Aobayama New Campus, Tohoku University)
- Applicants residing outside Japan: Online (via Google Meet, etc.)

Details regarding the exam will be communicated via TAO messages or email from prospective supervisors.

Note: Applicants must communicate with prospective supervisors before submitting application documents.

Note: For online examinations, applicants may be asked to present identity verification documents on the day of the exam if verification solely against the examination admission ticket is insufficient. Additionally, audio and video recordings of the applicant and computer screen during the exam will be made for post-exam verification and checking for misconduct.

4) Examination admission ticket

The ticket must be downloaded from TAO, printed on white A4 paper, and presented on the day of the exam. The start date for downloading will be announced in a TAO message.

IV. Selection and Announcement of Results

The results of the entrance examination will be posted on the Graduate School of Environmental Studies website (https://www.kankyo.tohoku.ac.jp/en) at approximately 17:00 JST on March 9, 2027. Acceptance letters will be sent to successful applicants via TAO after the online announcement. Inquiries regarding results will not be accepted via phone or email.

V. Fees

1) Entrance and tuition fees (2027 enrollment)

(1) Master's Course (two-year program)

Entrance fee	282,000 Japanese yen
Tuition fees	Japanese Students: 535,800 Japanese yen per year (267,900 JPY for each term) (estimated) International students*: 900,000 Japanese yen per year (450,000 JPY for each 1st and 2nd term) (estimated) *Refers to individuals residing in Japan under the "Student" residence status, as per Appended Table I of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. **Note**: The above amounts are estimates. If the amounts are revised, the new amounts will take effect at the time of the revision.
Other fees	Student insurance and textbooks

(2) Doctoral Course (three-year program)

Entrance fee	282,000 Japanese yen
Tuition fees	535,800 Japanese yen per year (267,900 JPY for each term)
Other fees	Student insurance and textbooks

2) Entrance and tuition fee exemption or postponement

Students facing illness, accidents, or special circumstances may seek exemption or postponement of the entrance and tuition fees. Applications for these waivers require submission of the prescribed forms during the acceptance period. Further details regarding this program are available from the administration office.

- Scholarships for International Students in the Master's Course

  Scholarships equivalent to either the full tuition amount or half of the tuition amount will be awarded to approximately the top one-third of students, who will be selected based on their entrance examination results, academic performance, and other relevant factors.

  ※ The tuition exemption program based on financial need will be discontinued at the end of the 2026 academic year.
  A new scholarship program for international students will begin in the 2027 academic year.

- Support for Doctoral Students

  In April 2026, Tohoku University launched the "Tohoku University Graduate School LEAP Program," a comprehensive support package for doctoral students.
  An overview of the program is available on the LEAP Program page of the Organization for Advanced Graduate School website:

https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/LEAP.html

Note: Students may be ineligible if their annual income exceeds a certain threshold or because of the terms of other scholarships they currently receive.

VI. Handling of Personal Information

(1) All personal information gathered by Tohoku University shall be treated with due care in compliance with the relevant university regulations, such as the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (2003, Act No. 57), and the National University Corporation Tohoku University Policy on the Protection of Personal Information, and security measures will be taken to protect it.

(2) Personal information, such as examination scores, used to screen applicants will be used exclusively for educational purposes, such as selecting applicants, enrollment procedures, pre-enrollment instruction, follow-up surveys, post-enrollment student support (scholarships, tuition waivers and health management etc.) and academic advising, or in connection with tuition collection etc., or surveys/research (surveys/analysis related to entrance examination improvements and reasons for applying; including analysis using the enrollees' personal information after enrollment).

(3) Tasks related to entrance examinations and academic affairs may be outsourced by Tohoku University to third-party contractors (hereafter, "contractors"). If personal information is provided in whole or in part to contractors, necessary measures will be taken to ensure it is handled appropriately in accordance with the relevant university regulations, such as the National University Corporation Tohoku University Policy on the Protection of Personal Information

VII. Educational Data Usage

Tohoku University strives to use Educational Data including personal information stored in the information system in education and learning activities, effectively and appropriately in compliance with our "Statement on Educational Data Usage," "Policy on Educational Data Usage," and "Tohoku University's 8 Principles of Educational Data Acquisition" while paying attention to the protection of personal information.
After being admitted to the university, students' personal information, such as entrance exam scores etc., is merged with the university's Educational Data.
URL https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/studentinfo/education/08/education0801/

VIII. Important Notes

(1) Application documents and examination fees submitted cannot be returned.

(2) If the examination guide has not been received or if it is impossible to download the examination admission ticket ten days before the examination date, the administration office must be contacted.

(3) Applicants who require consultation regarding the need for special assistance or other considerations when taking the exam or conducting their studies should submit an informal written application indicating the items listed below. Such a request will not affect the outcome of the selection process, as all applicants will be treated equally.
- Deadline for consultation: As a rule, no later than December 4, 2026.
- Information to be included in the application:
  a) Name, address, email address, and phone number of applicant
  b) Name of university from which the applicant graduated
  c) Any special considerations regarding taking the examination
  d) Any special considerations desired in the study environment
  e) Nature of any special considerations provided thus far
  f) Other relevant information about daily life circumstances
  g) Reference materials (if medical treatment is currently being received, a medical certificate issued by a physician must be enclosed)

(4) Based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, Tohoku University has established Security Export Control Rules and screens each submitted application when accepting international students. If their research plans apply to regulatory concerns, the aforementioned students may not be able to receive the desired education, and their research themes may be limited.

(5) For in-person examinations, applicants who have contracted an infectious disease for which suspension of attendance is stipulated under the Ordinance for Enforcement of the School Health and Safety Act (e.g., influenza, measles, COVID-19, etc.) and have not yet recovered are not permitted to take the examination on the exam day, as there is a risk of infecting other applicants, invigilators, and staff. However, this does not apply if a school physician or other medical doctor has determined that there is no risk of infection based on the applicant's condition. In such cases, taking the examination online may be permitted; please contact the administration office for inquiries.
Please note that the University will not conduct supplementary examinations for the reasons stated above.
Applicants are strongly advised to pay full attention to infection prevention and health management so that they can take the examination in optimal physical condition on the day of the exam.

IX. Administration Office

Academic Affairs Section,
Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University
Address: 468-1, Aramaki-aza-Aoba, Aoba-Ku, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8572, Japan
E-mail: kankyo.nyushi@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

Please refer to the following websites for further information about this program.
- https://www.kankyo.tohoku.ac.jp/en/
- https://www.kankyo.tohoku.ac.jp/en/intlprograms.html

(MODEL)

2027

International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security

"Human Security and Environment"

"Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction"

Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

(to be filled out **by a faculty member** familiar with applicant's aptitude)

Name of applicant	Family name	First name	Middle name

I. How long and how well have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

II. Please evaluate the applicant's previous accomplishments, intellectual independence, capacity for analytical thinking, and state reasons for you're supporting this application. (Please do not hesitate, if necessary, to use a separate sheet).

Faculty Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Affiliation: _____

Contact information (E-mail/ Telephone)

_____