

**Graduate Program in Global Governance and Sustainable Development (G2SD),
The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies (GSICS)**

**Application for Master's Program (2-year course)
For April 2021 Admission**

I. Aim

The aim of this graduate program is to enhance one's ability to advance global governance and sustainable development. Since the challenges associated with these tasks are complex and inter-linked, what is needed to deal with them is the ability to question conventional wisdom and to design innovative analytical frameworks on the basis of inter-disciplinary knowledge. This program intends to develop such ability through a combination of critical reviews of theories, on the one hand, and problem-oriented empirical studies, on the other.

II. Curriculum and Degree

All courses in the Master's program are conducted in English. A minimum of 30 units of course work and completion of a Master's thesis are required for the Master's degree. The degree offered is "Master of International Cultural Studies," or "Master of Interdisciplinary Studies." Students will also be offered a certificate recognizing completion of the program.

III. Application

1. Positions Available: Around 5 for the academic year 2021

2. Application Period and Admission

For foreign applicants residing abroad at the time of application, the application documents stated in subsection 4 below must be received between June 26, 2020 and July 22, 2020 (fall screening). For applicants with Japanese nationality and foreign applicants residing in Japan at the time of application, the application documents stated in subsection 4 must be received between December 25, 2020 and January 8, 2021 (spring screening). In both cases, admission to the program takes place in April 2021 (See the table below). An applicant who makes a false statement in the application documents may have his/her admission revoked even after admission.

Note 1: Admissions to the program take place every April and October. The descriptions in this document are applicable only to April 2021 admissions. For October 2021 admissions, please refer to documents published in the future.

Note 2: It is strongly recommended that applicants, prior to application, contact and consult their prospective supervisors on their post-admission research plans.

Note 3: After admission, students will belong to the GSICS department that is overseen by their main supervisor and will be granted use of that department's facilities.

Note 4: The applicants who apply for the G2SD program may also apply, at the same time, for an admission examination of the general program of the GSICS that is taught in Japanese, only if they apply for one of the following departments in the latter program; the Department of Asian and African Studies, the Department of International Politics and Economy, the Department of International Environment and Resources Policy, or the Department of Multiculturalism.

Admission	Applicant	Application Period	Screening
April 2021	Foreigner residing abroad	Jun 26 – Jul 22, 2020	Sep, 2020 (fall screening)
	Japanese, or foreigner residing in Japan	Dec 25, 2020 – Jan 8, 2021	Feb, 2021 (spring screening)

3. Application Requirements

Applicants for the 2-year Master's program should meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) Those who have graduated, or will graduate from a university in Japan established by the School Education Law of Japan (Law 26 of 1947, henceforth "the Law") by March 2021.
- (2) Those who have been granted, or will be granted a Bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education by March 2021.
- (3) Those who have completed, or will complete 16 years of school education in a foreign country by March 2021.
- (4) Those who have completed, or will complete 16 years of a foreign country's school education by March 2021 by finishing a course conducted by an educational institution of that country via distance learning while the student resided in Japan.
- (5) Those who have completed, or will complete a university program of a foreign educational facility in Japan by March 2021, which (i) has been approved by the educational system of that country to operate the university program (graduates must be recognized as equivalent to those completing 16 years of school education in that country) and (ii) is designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture,

Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (henceforth “the Minister”).

- (6) Those who have been conferred, or will be conferred by March 2021 a degree equivalent to a bachelor’s degree upon completion of a curriculum that has a course term of three years or longer 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 individual, or are designated separately by the Minister as having met this requirement) in a foreign country (including cases in which the student completed the curriculum by taking subjects conducted by said school via distance learning while the student resided in Japan, and cases in which the student has completed a curriculum at an educational facility that is positioned within that country’s educational system as per the previous item).
- (7) Those who have graduated, or will graduate by March 2021 from a specialized course of a specialized training college (limited to courses satisfying the standards designated by the Minister including the condition that the course duration be 4 years or longer) that has been designated separately by the Minister after the date designates by the Minister.
- (8) Those who have been designated by the Minister (refer to Notification No.5 of 1953 from the Ministry of Education).
- (9) Those who have been admitted to a graduate school of another university according to Paragraph 2 of Article 102 of the Law, and are judged by the GSICS to have attained a sufficient standard of achievement to study in the GSICS.
- (10) Those whose academic abilities are judged by the GSICS to be equal to or greater than those of a university graduate, and who are 22 years of age or older at the end of March 2021.

Note 1: Applicants who wish to apply under qualification (6) must contact the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS by June 12, 2020 for the fall screening, and November 13 for the spring screening.

Note 2: Applicants that fall under qualification (9) or (10) must undergo a pre-qualification examination, and are required to submit the designated documents for this purpose to the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS by June 12, 2020 for the fall screening, and November 13 for the spring screening, in order to fulfill the requirements for April 2021 admissions.

Please contact the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS for inquiries regarding application qualifications. See page 7 for contact information.

4. Application Procedures

(1) Application Items

- a) **Application Form:** Use the prescribed form. Handwriting is not allowed. Do not change the format.
- b) **Photograph:** Use the prescribed form. Handwriting is not allowed. Do not change the format.
- c) **Certificate of Graduation (or Expected Graduation):** A certificate written in either English or Japanese. In the case where the original certificate is in a language other than English or Japanese, also attach the original.
- d) **Academic Transcript:** A transcript issued in either English or Japanese from the university where your undergraduate degree was or will be conferred, and which bears the university's formal seal. In the case where the original transcript is in a language other than English or Japanese, also attach the original.
- e) **Statement of Research Plan:** Describe your research plan in English on A4 paper in 2,000 words or fewer.
- f) **A Photocopy of Formal Certificate of TOEFL® Test Score (iBT or ITP) or TOEIC® Test Score (Listening & Reading Test or Listening & Reading IP Test) or IELTS™ Band Score (academic):** for applicants for whom English is a foreign language.
- g) **Both (A) Full Text and (B) Abstract of either your Graduation Thesis or Equivalent Research Paper:** The abstract shall be written in English on A4 paper in 2,000 words or fewer.
- h) **Two Letters of Reference:** They shall be written in either English or Japanese. The original letter(s) shall be enclosed in an envelope and sealed with the signature or stamp by the referee(s). One of them shall be written by one of your academic advisors of the university where your undergraduate degree was or will be conferred.
- i) **Statement of Financial Position:** For foreign applicants residing abroad at the time of application. A tax payment certificate, bank certificate, or personal statement showing a sufficient financial base for studying abroad.
- j) **Certificate of Residence:** For applicants who are foreign residents of Japan at the time of application, and who have resided in Japan for more than 90 days; to be issued by the head of the local municipality.
- k) **Certificate of Government-sponsored Foreign Student Status:** For foreign applicants who are studying in another Japanese university as a government-sponsored student.
- l) **Application Fee of ¥30,000:** If you reside in Japan, the fee should be sent by a Postal Money Order; leave the payee/recipient column of the money order blank. You can make a cash payment when you submit application forms directly to the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS. If you reside

abroad, contact int-kkdk@grp.tohoku.ac.jp in advance and we will inform you of the method of a credit card payment.

m) A Letter of Approval for Entrance: If you want to enroll in the GSICS while maintaining employment with your organization, you are required to submit a Letter of Approval for Entrance issued by your employer.

Note 1: For applicants who have completed, or will complete an English course in Global 30 Future Global Leadership programs of Tohoku University or of other universities, the application item f) is not required in your submission.

Note 2: For item f), we will not accept IELTS™ Band Score (academic) older than two years at time of application. Although we will NOT reject TOEFL® Test Score (iBT or ITP) or TOEIC® Test Score (Listening & Reading Test or Listening & Reading IP Test) older than two years at time of application, applicants are strongly recommended to submit newer one. We only accept TOEFL iBT® scores from a single test date, not MyBest™ scores.

(2) Submitting Application Items

The application documents must be received during the stated period by the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS. The item number (e.g., a, and g (A)) should be clearly marked in the upper right hand corner of each document. The application documents shall be sent by registered mail, with the words “Application Documents Enclosed” written in red on the envelope, to the following address:

The Office of Academic Affairs

The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University

41 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8576, Japan

5. Screening Method

Applicants are screened on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation of the application documents (including academic transcript and statement of research plan), English proficiency, and an interview conducted on-location or via Skype video call/teleconferencing system by Tohoku University staff. The interview will be conducted in English or Japanese depending on the applicant’s choice, although some or all questions may be asked in English. Applicants are required to make an oral presentation on their previous research achievements, such as their graduate thesis, and their future research plan, and may also be asked some questions regarding basic knowledge on their research topics in the interview. Applicants will be notified of other details (such as date and time) about the interview later.

6. Announcement of Acceptance and Enrollment

- (a) The results of screening will be posted on the GSICS website on September 16, 2020 for the fall screening, and February 17, 2021 for the spring screening.
- (b) Documents needed for enrollment will be sent to successful applicants. The deadline for enrollment procedures will be stated in the documents (the provisional enrollment period is March 8–9, 2021).
- (c) Successful applicants are requested to pay the following fees at the time of registration:

- ① Admission Fee: ¥282,000
- ② Tuition Fee: ¥ 267,900 (half of the annual tuition fee of ¥535,800)

Note 1: In the case of tuition fees being revised during the period of study, the revised tuition fee amount will apply from the date of revision.

Note 2: Information on exemption of admission or tuition fees is included in documents (b).

- ③ Insurance and others: ¥2,430 (Gakkensai and Gakkenbai insurances) and ¥6,000 (alumni association fee. ¥4,000 for those who graduated from the university). ¥23,340 (insurance for foreign students). Details will be provided in the admission documents after accepted. All amounts are as of April 1, 2020. Each insurance amount is for a two-year period.

7. Long-Term Course Program

We have adopted a Long-Term Course Program for students who have difficulty completing the course in the normal 2 years due to job-holding, housework, nursing care, and so on. Though the Master's program normally lasts 2 years, it can be extended to 4 years. Those who wish to acquire a Master's Degree by extending the normal 2-year completion limit can be admitted as Long-Term Course Students. Note that the maximum period of residency for the Master's program is 4 years. Those who wish to do so must follow the instructions in the notification of acceptance, which will be delivered by mail after the announcement of acceptance, and submit prescribed documents when conducting the other entrance procedures.

Coursework for students who are deemed eligible for the Long-Term Course Program is provided in accordance with the curricula and time schedule for regular students.

The annual tuition fee for long-term course students is calculated as follows: the total amount of tuition fees for the standard term (2-year) of study is divided over the extended term (4-year) of study. For details, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS.

8. Others

- (1) Please note that incomplete applications will not be accepted. After receipt of the application documents, no correction is permitted, and application fees are not refundable.
- (2) Disclosure of examination results is available at the request of applicants during the fiscal year of the examination.
- (3) Appropriate support shall be provided for physically handicapped applicants. Please contact the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS at the earliest possible time to discuss individual needs.

9. Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

The Office of Academic Affairs

The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University

41 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8576, Japan

Fax: +81-22-795-7583

E-mail: int-kkdk@grp.tohoku.ac.jp