

**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 2022 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 are the abilities to question conventional wisdom and to design innovative analytical frameworks on the basis of inter-disciplinary knowledge. This program intends to develop such abilities through a combination of critical reviews of theories, on the one hand, and problem-oriented empirical studies, on the other.

**II. Admission Policy**

The Tohoku University Graduate School of International Cultural Studies provides students with the ability to think and analyze in an international and interdisciplinary manner, advanced foreign language skills, and a high level of specialized knowledge and clear awareness of issues in the following three areas: (1) diverse regional cultures of Japan and other areas seen from an international perspective, (2) global issues concerning the environment, resources, and sustainable society in which all humankind can coexist, and (3) language underlying international society. Our educational goal is to train professionals, teachers, and researchers who can play an active role on a global scale with their rich education, international perspective, and high ideal of contributing to the stewardship and development of human civilization and culture. To achieve this goal, we seek students who have clear aspirations of becoming creative researchers or professionals and are active in the international community, equipped with flexible thinking skills, broad academic knowledge, and advanced language skills.

In admitting students, we have entrance examinations in the following categories: general selection, special selection for international applicants applying from overseas, selection for those advancing to the doctoral program from our MA program (only for the three-year doctoral program), entrance examination for the Global Governance and Sustainable Development Program, and entrance examination for the International Graduate Program in Language Sciences. These are used to select applicants who have the advanced abilities and qualities needed to conduct research in line with the educational ideals/goals mentioned above.

In the entrance examination for the Global Governance and Sustainable Development Program, applicants are evaluated based on a review of their application materials and an interview. We examine whether they have the high-level English proficiency needed to study in the program where English is the medium of instruction, the academic motivation and thinking ability to tackle today's social issues, and the ability to set a practical problem to solve. These are given roughly equal weight.

We expect students to acquire basic knowledge in their areas of expertise, basic foreign language skills, and skills in writing logically, before their enrollment.

### **III. 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.

### **IV. Application**

**1. Positions Available:** Around 5 for the academic year 2022

#### **2. Application Period and Admission**

All application documents stated in subsection 4 below must be received between December 1, 2021 and December 23, 2021. A screening process including an interview will be conducted in February 2022. In the case that an applicant makes a false statement in the application documents, the applicant may have his or 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 2022 admissions. For October 2022 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 about 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.

### **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 2022.
- (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 2022.
- (3) Those who have completed, or will complete 16 years of school education in a foreign country by March 2022.
- (4) Those who have completed, or will complete 16 years of a foreign country's school education by March 2022 by finishing a course conducted by an educational institution of that country via distance learning while residing in Japan.
- (5) Those who have completed, or will complete a university program of a foreign educational facility in Japan by March 2022, 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 2022 a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree upon completion of a curriculum that has a course term of 3 years or longer at a university or other school in a foreign country (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). This includes cases in which the student completed the curriculum by taking subjects conducted by said school via distance learning while residing 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 2022 from a specialized course of a specialized training college designated separately by the Minister (limited to courses satisfying the standards designated by the Minister including the condition that the course duration be 4 years or longer).
- (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 2022.

Note 1: Applicants who wish to apply under qualification (6) must contact the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS by November 12, 2021.

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 November 12, 2021.

Note 3: The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies does not accept applications made in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 102 of the Law, or Article 11, item (9) of Tohoku University's General Rules about Graduate Schools.

Note 4: Applicants who apply for the 2022 spring screening of the GSICS general selection (taught in Japanese) can apply for this program at the same time only if the department they apply for in the general program is overseen by their prospective supervisor in this program.

Please contact the Office of Academic Affairs of the GSICS for inquiries regarding application qualifications. See page 8 for contact information.

#### **4. Application Procedures**

##### **(1) Application Items**

- a) Application Form:** Complete the prescribed form in English electronically and print it out. "Date" and "Signature" must be handwritten.
- b) Photograph:** Attach to the prescribed form. The photo must be taken within 3 months before the date you submit your application. It must not be edited or altered in any way.
- 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, attach the original together with an official English or Japanese translation.
- d) Academic Transcript:** The transcript must be issued in either English or Japanese from the university where your undergraduate degree was or will be conferred, and which bears the university's official seal. In the case where the original transcript is in a language other than English or Japanese, attach the original together with an official English or Japanese translation.
- e) Statement of Research Plan:** Describe your research plan in English on A4 paper in 2,000 words or less.
- 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:** The letters shall be written in either English or Japanese. The original letter(s) shall be enclosed in an envelope and sealed with the signature or personal seal of the referee(s). One of the letters 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 Security:** For foreign applicants residing abroad at the time of application, such as: A tax return, 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. The certificate must contain your resident status.

**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:**

1) If you reside in Japan, the fee should be paid with an ATM or through internet banking. The account information is as follows;

Bank : MUFG bank (Bank code: 0005)

Branch : Wakatake branch (Branch code: 809)

Account type: Regular checking account (普通)

Account Number: 2259370

Account holder's name: 国立大学法人東北大学 (Kana: タイ)トウホクダクイカク)

Payment deadline: December 22, 2021

\* Please make sure to enter "KM" and your name in the payer's column.

e.g. KM \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* (Your name in *Katakana*)  
Sir name First name

\* Please cover the bank transfer fee.

2) If you reside abroad, we will inform you of the necessary procedures after we have received your application items other than the application fee. Government-sponsored foreign students are exempted from paying the application fee.

**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: Application documents cannot be changed once they have been accepted.

Note 2: Certificates and Academic Transcript must be the original documents. Photocopies, digital files and printed documents from digital files are not considered as original.

\* If you want to return your documents that cannot be reissued to you, such as diploma, please notify the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs when you submit your application.

Note 3: For applicants who have completed, or will complete an English course in one of the Global 30 Future Global Leadership programs at Tohoku University or other domestic universities, an English language test score certificate (f) is not required.

Note 4: We will not accept an IELTS™ Band Score (academic) older than two years at time of application. Although we will accept TOEFL® (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 a newer score. We only accept TOEFL iBT® scores from a single test date, not MyBest™ scores.

Note 5: Certificates, Academic Transcript and letters of reference cannot be sent directly from the issuing institutions or the referees to us.

Note 6: Please clip each item if it is more than one page. Please do not use glue or staples. The graduation thesis should be submitted as a printout of the original copy and clipped together. Please do not submit a bound copy.

## **(2) Submission of Application Items**

The application items must be received during the stated period by the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs.

**The item number (e.g., a, and g (A)) should be clearly marked in the upper right corner of each item.**

Application items should be sent by registered mail, with the words “Application Documents Enclosed” written in red on the envelope, to the following address:

Office of Academic Affairs  
Tohoku University Graduate School of International Cultural Studies  
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 their academic transcript and statement of research plan), English proficiency, and an interview conducted through an online video conference system. The interview will be conducted in English or Japanese depending on the applicant’s preference, 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 the details of the interview such as time and date after the initial screening.

## **6. Announcement of Acceptance and Enrollment**

(a) The results of the screening will be posted on the GSICS website at 5pm JST on February 16, 2022.

GSICS website: [http://www.intcul.tohoku.ac.jp/english/admission/successful\\_applicants.html](http://www.intcul.tohoku.ac.jp/english/admission/successful_applicants.html)

(b) Documents needed for enrollment will be sent to successful applicants. The enrollment procedures should be completed by early March 2022.

(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 that tuition fees are revised during your period of study, you will be charged the revised tuition fee from the date of revision.

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

③ Insurance and other expenses: There is a ¥2,430 fee for Gakkensai and Gakkenbai insurances and a ¥23,340 fee for Foreign Student Insurance (each insurance policy covers a two-year period). In addition, there is a ¥6,000 fee for joining the Tohoku University Alumni Association (¥4,000 for those who completed their undergraduate at Tohoku University). Further details will be provided in the admission documents. All fees are current as of April 1, 2021.

## **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 concurrent employment, housework, caregiving 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 the 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-years) of study is divided over the extended term (4-years) of study. For details, please contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs.

## **8. Handling of Personal Information**

- (1) All personal information submitted by applicants for the admission procedures will be used solely for educational purposes, such as the selecting applicants, enrollment procedures, post-enrollment student support and academic advising.
- (2) Personal information used to screen applicants will be handled with care as per Tohoku University's regulations on personal information protection and it will not be disclosed to any third party without the applicant's consent.
- (3) Please note that all applicants are assumed to agree with the terms above.

## **9. Others**

- (1) Please note that incomplete applications will not be accepted. After receipt of the application items, no correction is permitted, and application fees are not refundable. Application items will not be returned in principle.
- (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 GSICS Office of Academic Affairs at your earliest convenience to discuss individual needs.

## **10. Contact Information**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Office of Academic Affairs

Tohoku University Graduate School of International Cultural Studies

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

Fax: +81-22-795-7583

E-mail: [int-kkdk@grp.tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:int-kkdk@grp.tohoku.ac.jp)