

Graduate Program in Global Governance and Sustainable Development (G2SD)
FAQ list (as of May 12, 2026)

Application procedures (1): General

[Question 1] Can I send my application documents via email?

[Answer 1] No. Application documents are accepted only through the online application system, The Admissions Office (hereinafter referred to as TAO).

[Question 2] When should I submit my application documents?

[Answer 2] We strongly recommend that you have your application documents reach us **at least a week before** the deadline. This is important because after reviewing your documents thoroughly, we may ask you to make revisions or to submit additional documents. **Any revised documents and/or additional documents must reach us by the deadline.**

[Question 3] My graduate or undergraduate program did not require me to submit a thesis for its completion. What type of paper is accepted as a paper equivalent to a Master's Thesis or an Undergraduate Thesis, as mentioned in the application guidelines? Is there any specific format to follow?

[Answer 3] The following documents will help us examine your ability to conduct research in the field where you intend to work.

For Doctoral Program applicants:

As a substitute for a Master's Thesis, you can submit a term paper in English that you wrote for a course/class you previously enrolled in, a paper you published in an academic journal in English or a paper that describes your graduation project/design in English.

For Master's Program applicants:

As a substitute for an Undergraduate Thesis, you can submit a term paper you wrote for a course/class you previously enrolled in, a paper you published in an academic journal, or a paper that describes your graduation project/design. Regardless of the original language of the document (including English), you must submit the full text along with an abstract written in English, approximately 10% of the total length of the full text. Submitting an abstract alone is not acceptable.

[Question 4] I have a scholarship. Do I still need to submit a Statement of Financial Position?

[Answer 4] If you have been selected as a scholarship recipient, a certificate issued by the foundation will suffice.

[Question 5] Is there a minimum amount that I have to show in my financial statement?

[Answer 5] There is no particular amount specified. However, applicants must usually demonstrate that they will be able to afford at least their first semester. You may visit the following websites to see the cost of living at Tohoku University:

<http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/admissions/tuition_fees.html>

<http://sup.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/tips/cost_en.html>

[Question 6] I have a MEXT scholarship. Do I still have to pay my application fee?

[Answer 6] No, you do not have to pay.

Application procedures (2): Language ability

[Question 7] Do I need to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test?

[Answer 7] No. Scores on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test are not required.

[Question 8] What is the minimum English test score required for enrollment?

[Answer 8] There is no minimum score. In addition, we will evaluate your academic skills in general, including your English language ability, through an examination of your documents and through screening.

Tuition fees and financial support

[Question 9] Can the amounts of the admission fee and tuition fees be reduced?

[Answer 9] Prospective students with economic hardships may apply for an admission fee waiver and/or a tuition fee waiver. For more information, visit:

<http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/admissions/tuition_fees.html>

<<http://www2.he.tohoku.ac.jp/menjo/>>

[Question 10] Are there any scholarships available?

[Answer 10] The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies (GSICS) does not offer scholarships.

Although graduate students work as teaching assistants (TAs) or research assistants (RAs) for their supervisors, the income from this work is not sufficient to cover their living expenses. However, there are other types of financial assistance programs offered by Tohoku University and other foundations, including the Japanese Government. If you are interested in the University Recommendation scheme for a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship, you will need to ask your prospective supervisor to prepare application documents and submit them to the university.

For more information, visit:

Scholarships for international students at

<http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/admissions/financial_aid.html>.

The MEXT scholarship at

<https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/06032818.htm>.

Tuition waivers

<<http://www2.he.tohoku.ac.jp/menjo/>>

Other issues

[Question 11] Should I contact your faculty members in advance?

[Answer 11] Yes, we strongly recommend that applicants contact one (or more) of our faculty members in advance to confirm that our program can accommodate your research interests. To find a prospective supervisor, you can visit the "Faculty" page of our website and check their areas of expertise.

Faculty page < <http://www.intcul.tohoku.ac.jp/g2sd/faculty/>>

[Question 12] I have never taken courses on issues concerning global governance or sustainable development. Am I eligible to study in your graduate program?

[Answer 12] You can apply for the program even if you have not taken courses on issues concerning global governance and sustainable development. However, we strongly recommend that applicants contact one (or more) of our faculty members in advance to confirm that our program can accommodate your research interests.

[Question 13] Should I start as a "research student" (i.e., kenkyu-sei or non-degree seeking student) first, and then apply for the graduate program later?

[Answer 13] If you feel that you have insufficient knowledge regarding your research topic, you can study for 6 or 12 months as a research student if accepted. In any case, you should consult your prospective supervisor about your knowledge of the topic and suitable courses. In any event, if you want to become a research student, you will need to find a supervisor who can accept you as his/her advisee.

[Question 14] How can I decide on a research topic?

[Answer 14] A research topic will be determined based both on your own research interests and on guidance from your prospective supervisor. You are strongly recommended to ask your prospective supervisor in advance about possible research topics.

[Question 15] I have special circumstances or other questions about the application. Who can I contact for application information?

[Answer 15] You can send an email to the Office of Academic Affairs.

Office of Academic Affairs: int-kkdk [a] grp.tohoku.ac.jp (Please change [a] to @.)