

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

**Application for 2-year Master's Program  
for the Academic Year of 2022  
(Beginning in October 2022)**

**I. Aim**

The aim of this graduate program is to enhance students' 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 a 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**

All courses in the Graduate Program in Global Governance and Sustainable Development 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.

### **IV. 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.

### **V. Application**

#### **1. Positions Available**

Around 5 for the academic year 2022

Note 1: Admissions to the program take place every April and October. The descriptions in this document are applicable only to October 2022 admissions. For April 2023 admissions, please refer to documents to be published in the future.

#### **2. 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 September 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 September 2022.
- (3) Those who have completed, or will complete 16 years of school education in a foreign country by September 2022.
- (4) Those who have completed, or will complete 16 years of a foreign country's school education by September 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 September 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 September 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 September 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). The date of the completion of the course must be on or after the date of designation 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, based on GSICS's individual qualification examination, 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 September 2022.

Note 1: Applicants who wish to apply under qualification (6) must contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs by February 28, 2022.

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 GSICS Office of Academic Affairs by February 28, 2022 in order.

Note 3: GSICS does not accept applications made in accordance with Article 102, item (2) of the School Education Act, or Article 11, item (9) of Tohoku University's General Rules concerning Graduate Schools.

Please contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs for inquiries regarding application qualifications. See page 9 for contact information.

### 3. Application Procedures

#### (1) Application Documents

- a) **Application Form:** Complete the prescribed form in English electronically and print it out. The date and signature must be handwritten.
- b) **Photograph:** Use the prescribed form. The photo must have been taken within 3 months prior to the date on which 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.
- d) **Academic Transcript:** A 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 on it. In the case where the original transcript is in a language other than English or Japanese, attach the original.
- e) **Research Plan:** Describe your research plan in English using A4 size sheets of paper in 2,000 words or less.
- f) **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 using A4 size sheets of paper in 2,000 words or less.
- 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 living abroad at the time of application; example: a tax return, bank certificate, or personal financial 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 lived in Japan for more than 90 days. The certificate is to be issued by the head of the local municipality, must contain your resident status and must have been issued within 3 months prior to the date on which you submit your application.
- k) Certificate of Government sponsored Foreign Student Status:** For foreign applicants who are studying in another Japanese university as a foreign student sponsored by the Japanese government.
- l) Application Fee ¥30,000:**

1) Applicants residing in Japan are to pay the application fee via ATM or online bank transfer.

The account information is as follows:

Bank: MUFG bank (Bank code: 0005)

Branch: Wakatake branch (Branch code: 809)

Account type: Savings 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: April 14, 2022

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

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

Family name First name

\* Please cover the bank transfer fee yourself.

\* Foreign remittances cannot be made to this bank account.

\* If you have paid the application fee but decide not to apply for any reason, please contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs by April 20, 2022.

\* Please submit a copy of the receipt, ATM receipt or a screenshot of online banking that shows your bank account, the amount you paid, the date of transfer and the payer name.

2) Applicants residing abroad are to pay the application fee online via credit card. We will inform you of the online credit card payment method after we have received your other application documents.

3) Applicants sponsored by the Japanese government are exempted from paying the application fee.

**m) A Letter of Approval:** If you have a full-time job at the time of application, you must submit a letter of approval for your application and enrollment in GSICS issued by a supervisor or manager at your place of employment.

Note 1: Incomplete applications will not be accepted. After we receive your application documents, no corrections are permitted. The application fee is non-refundable.

Note 2: All certificate and academic transcript must be the original documents. Photocopies, digital files and printed documents from digital files are not considered original. Application documents will not be returned unless you specifically request that we do so.

\* If you are submitting documents such as your diploma that cannot be reissued and therefore want them returned to you, please notify the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs of this when you submit your application.

Note 3: The document number (e.g., a, g (A)) should be clearly marked in the upper right corner of each document.

Note 4: Applicants who have completed or will complete one of the Global 30 Future Global Leadership programs at Tohoku University or other domestic universities do not need to submit document f).

Note 5: We will not accept an IELTS™ Band Score (academic) older than two years at the time of application. Although we will accept a 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 their most recent scores. We only accept TOEFL iBT® scores from a single test date, not MyBest™ scores.

Note 6: You must submit your certificate, academic transcript and letters of reference yourself. We will not accept any documents sent directly from the issuing university or an individual other than yourself.

Note 7: Please clip together multi-page documents. Please do not use glue or staples. Your graduation thesis should be submitted as a printout of the original copy and the pages should be clipped together. Please do not submit a bound copy.

Note 8: After admission, students will belong to one of four GSICS departments (Department of Asian

and African Studies, Department of International Politics and Economy, Department of International Environment and Resources Policy, and Department of Multiculturalism) based upon their choice on the application form and will be granted use of that department's facilities. In principle, applicants are expected to choose the department that is overseen by their prospective supervisor.

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

All application documents must be received between February 28, 2022 and April 15, 2022. If any part of the application is found to contain fraudulent information, the application will be automatically rejected. 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: It is strongly recommended that applicants, prior to application, contact and consult their prospective supervisors about their post-admission research plans.

Note 2: All application documents should be sent together by registered mail, with the words "Application Documents Enclosed" written in red on the envelope, to the following address:

Office of Academic Affairs

Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University

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

## **4. Screening Method**

Applicants are screened on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation of the application documents (including their academic transcript and research plan), English proficiency, and an interview conducted through an online video conference system in May or June 2022. 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 we have received your application documents.

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

(a) The results of the screening will be posted on the GSICS website at 5:00 pm JST on June 15, 2022.

([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. All enrollment procedures are

to be completed by late September, 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 ¥535,800)

Note 1: In the case that the tuition fee is 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 document (b).

- ③ Insurance and other expenses: There is a ¥2,430 fee for Gakkensai and Gakkenbai insurance. There is also a ¥23,340 fee for the foreign student insurance. In addition, there is a ¥6,000 fee for joining the Tohoku University Alumni Association (¥4,000 for those who completed their undergraduate studies at Tohoku University). Further details will be provided in the admission documents. All fees are current as of October 1, 2021 and indicate the total fee for two years.

## **6. 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 extend their period of study from 2 years to 4 years may apply to enroll as Long-Term Course Students. Note that the maximum period of residency for the Master's Program is 4 years. Those who wish to enroll in the Long-Term Course Program 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 set in accordance with the curriculum 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 of study (2 years) is divided across full length of the extended term of study (4 years). For details, please contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs.

## **7. Handling of Personal Information**

- (1) All personal information submitted by applicants for the admission procedures will be used solely for academic purposes, such as the selection of applicants, enrollment procedures, post-enrollment student support and academic advice.



- (2) Personal information used to screen applicants will be handled with care as per Tohoku University's regulations on personal information protection and 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.

#### **8. Other Information**

- (1) Disclosure of examination results is available at the request of applicants during the fiscal year of the examination.
- (2) 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.

#### **9. Contact Information**

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

Office of Academic Affairs

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