

International Graduate Program in Language Sciences

Tohoku University Graduate School of International Cultural Studies (GSICS)

Application for the 3-year Doctoral Program for the Academic Year of 2023 (Beginning in October, 2023)

I. Aim

The aim of the International Graduate Program in Language Sciences (here after, IGPLS) is to promote interdisciplinary education and research concerning human language from multiple perspectives of linguistics, psychology, brain science and information science. Based on recent development in linguistics and other relevant disciplines, our program seeks to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of linguistics and language sciences, with a focus on theoretical linguistics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics. The program will be conducted in collaboration with the Research Center for Language, Brain and Cognition, which is affiliated with the Tohoku University Graduate School of International Cultural Studies (GSICS).

Degree offered: “Doctor of Philosophy (International Cultural Studies)” or “Doctor of Philosophy”

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.

The three-year doctoral program

In the category of general selection, applicants are evaluated based on (1) their MA theses, (2) their scores in a written test to assess whether they have the advanced knowledge in their specialized fields, and (3) an interview and a review of their application materials, which are to assess their motivation, research plan, and foreign language skills needed for research at a higher level, among other things. These are given roughly equal weight.

In the category of special selection for international applicants applying from overseas, applicants who are recommended by their home universities are evaluated based on (1) a review of their application materials and (2) an interview. We assess whether they have advanced knowledge in their specialized areas. We also examine their ability to conduct research, motivation, and research plan. These are given roughly equal weight.

In the category of selection for those who wish to advance to the doctoral program from our MA program, we assess whether applicants have advanced knowledge in their specialized areas and high-level foreign language skills needed for research, based on (1) their MA theses and (2) a review of their application materials and an interview. These are given roughly equal weight.

In the entrance examination for the Global Governance and Sustainable Development Program, applicants are evaluated based on (1) a review of their application materials and (2) an interview. We examine whether they have the high-level English proficiency needed to study in the program (as English is the medium of instruction), the ability to think critically about today's social issues, and the ability to solve practical problems. These are given roughly equal weight.

In the entrance examination for the International Graduate Program in Language Sciences, applicants are evaluated based on (1) a review of their application materials and (2) an interview. We examine whether they have the high-level English proficiency needed to study in the program (as English is the medium of instruction), the advanced specialized knowledge necessary in the field of language sciences, the practical ability to conduct research, and the ability to perform interdisciplinary analyses. These are given roughly equal weight.

We expect students to possess broad knowledge in their areas of expertise, advanced foreign language skills, and ability to conduct creative research, before their enrollment.

III. Curriculum

All courses in IGPLS are conducted in English. A minimum of 12 units of course work and completion of a Doctoral dissertation are required for the Doctoral degree.

- Advanced Seminar in Language Sciences (independent study) (compulsory): 8 units
- Advanced Lecture in Language Sciences (compulsory): 4 units

IV. Application

1. Positions available:

Around 2

2. Application Requirements

Applicants for the 3-year Doctoral Program should meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) Those who have received, or will receive a Master's degree or professional degree by September 2023.
- (2) Those who have received, or will receive a Master's degree or professional degree, or an equivalent degree from a graduate school in a foreign country by September 2023.
- (3) Those who have completed, or will complete a course conducted by an educational institution of a foreign country via distance learning while residing in Japan, and have received, or will receive a Master's degree or professional degree, or an equivalent degree from that course by September 2023.
- (4) Those who have completed, or will complete a graduate program of a foreign educational facility in Japan, which (i) has been approved by the educational system of that country to operate the graduate program and (ii) is designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (henceforth 'the Minister'), and have received, or will receive a Master's degree, a professional degree, or an equivalent degree by September 2023.
- (5) Those who have completed, or will complete a program at the United Nations University, and have received, or will receive a Master's degree, or an equivalent degree by September 2023.
- (6) Those who have been designated by the Minister. (Notification No. 118 of 1989 from the Ministry of Education.)
 - i) Those who have engaged in research activities for 2 years or longer in universities or research institutes, etc., after graduating from a university, and who are judged, according to the applicants' research activities, to have reached a standard of achievement equivalent to or above the status of a Master's degree or professional degree.
 - ii) Those who have engaged in research activities for 2 years or longer in universities or research institutes, etc., after completing 16 years of school education in a foreign country, or after completing 16 years of school education by finishing a course conducted by a foreign university via distance learning while residing in Japan, and who are judged by the GSICS, according to the applicants' research activities, to have reached a standard of achievement equivalent to or above the status of a Master's degree or professional degree.
- (7) 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 person with a Master's degree or professional degree, and who are 24 years of age or older at the end of September 2023.

Note 1: Applicants who will receive a Master's degree from a graduate school of Tohoku University (including GSICS) shall fall under qualification (1) above, and are exempt from the fees for application and admission.

Note 2: Applicants that fall under qualification (6) or (7) 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 27, 2023 in order to fulfill the requirement for October 2023 admissions.

Please contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs for inquiries regarding application qualifications.
See page 7 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)**
- d) **Academic Transcript:** A transcript issued from the graduate school where your Master's degree was conferred. The transcript must bear the graduate school's formal seal on it.
- e) **Research Plan:** Describe your research plan in English using A4 size sheets of paper in 2,000 words or less.
- f) **Sample Research Paper written in English**
- g) **Master's Thesis** (if it is written in a language other than English, a summary in English with a length of approximately 10 pages using A4 size sheets of paper should be attached to the thesis) or **Statement of Master's Thesis Plan** (the statement should be written within 10 pages (around 300 words per page) using A4 size sheets of paper.).
- h) **Photocopy of Formal Certificate of TOEFL® or TOEIC® test score or IELTS™ Band Score**
- i) **Letter of Reference:** The letter should be written by one of your academic advisors who can accurately evaluate your research ability.
- j) **Statement of Financial Security**
- k) **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.

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`イカ`ク)

Payment deadline: April 13, 2023

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

e.g., KD ***** (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 14, 2023.

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

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, b... etc.) should be clearly marked in the upper right corner of each document.

Note 4: Current GSICS students those who wish to apply for this program are not required to submit application documents f), h), i) and l).

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® or TOEIC® test score older than two years at the 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 certificates, academic transcript and letter 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 Master's 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.

(2) Submission of Application Documents

All application documents must be received between February 27, 2023, and April 14, 2023. 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 application documents (including their academic transcript and research plan), English proficiency (TOEFL® or TOEIC® test score or IELTS™ Band Score) and an interview conducted on-location or online by Tohoku University faculty. 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 14, 2023. (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, 2023.
- (c) Successful applicants are requested to pay the following fees at the time of registration:
 - ① Admission Fee: ¥282,000
Note: Successful applicants who are currently enrolled in GSICS are not required to pay the admission fee.
 - 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 ¥3,620 fee for Gakkensai and Gakkenbai insurance. There is also a ¥33,370 fee for the foreign student insurance. In addition, there is a ¥8,000 fee for joining the Tohoku University Alumni Association (¥6,000 for those who completed their undergraduate studies or graduate studies for Master's degrees at Tohoku University). Further details will be provided in the admission documents. All fees are current as of October 1, 2022 and indicate the total for three 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 3 years due to concurrent employment, housework, caregiving and so on. Though the Doctoral Program normally lasts 3 years, it can be extended to 6 years. Those who wish to extend their period of study from 3 years to 6 years may apply to enroll as Long-Term Course Students. Note that the maximum period of residency for the Doctoral Program is 6 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 (3 years) is divided across full length of the extended term of study (6 years). For details, please contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs.

7. Handling of Personal Information

- (1) Personal information held by Tohoku University is handled in strict compliance with the "Act on the

Protection of Personal Information (Act No. 57 of 2003)", the "Personal Information Protection Regulations of Tohoku University" and any other relevant regulations.

(2) Personal information such as examination results used for the selection of applicants will be used for the following purposes: (a) selection of applicants, (b) admission procedures, (c) pre-enrollment support, (d) follow-up surveys, (e) post-enrollment support (scholarships, tuition exemption, health care, etc.), (f) academic guidance, (g) tuition collection, (h) surveys and research (for improving the entrance exam and analyzing application trends). For applicants who are admitted to the university, personal information from before and after the entrance examination may be analyzed together.

(3) Work related to entrance examinations and educational affairs may be performed by contractors entrusted by the University. In the event that all or part of the personal information of applicants is provided to the contractor, necessary measures will be taken to ensure that the information is handled appropriately in accordance with the "Personal Information Protection Regulations of Tohoku University" and any other relevant regulations.

8. Educational Data Usage

Data, including personal information, that Tohoku University collects through its education/learning activities and stores on its information systems (hereafter, Educational Data) is analyzed with the latest analytical and A.I. technology and is considered vital to our implementation of evidence-based education.

Consequently, the university strives to use Educational Data 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."

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/>

9. Other Information

- (1) Please note that incomplete applications will not be accepted. After we receive your application documents, no corrections are permitted. The application fees is non-refundable. Application documents will not be returned unless you specifically request that we do so.
- (2) Disclosure of the 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 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

International Graduate Program in Language Sciences
Graduate School of International Cultural Studies
Tohoku University

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Name

(Family name)

(Middle name)

(First name)

Date of birth year

Month

Day ,

Year

Nationality

Please check the course which you would like to belong to.

<input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree (2years)	<input type="checkbox"/> Doctor's Degree (3years)
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Present status (Position, Name and Address of University or Employer)

Present mailing address

Phone number _____ Fax number _____

E-mail address _____

Permanent address (if different from above)

Phone number _____ Fax number _____

Photograph

Examinee Number *		Attach photograph here. 5cm×4cm Write your name on the back of the photo. Affix securely.
Name		
Date of Birth	(MM/DD/YYYY)	
Sex (Age)	Male Female ()	

*Do not fill " Examinee Number *"box. For office use only.

- Photo must be taken within the last 3 months before the date you submit your application. It must not be edited or altered in any way.
- Photo must be clear and taken with a plain background.
- No hat (headwear such as turbans/hijabs etc. worn for religious purposes is permitted as long as the face is clearly visible).