

**Graduate Program in Global Governance and Sustainable Development (G2SD),  
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 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.

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 the Graduate Program in Global Governance and Sustainable Development are conducted

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

#### **IV. Degree**

The degree offered is a “Doctor of Philosophy (International Cultural Studies)” or “Doctor of Philosophy.” Students will also be offered a certificate recognizing completion of the program.

#### **V. Application**

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

Around 2 for the academic year 2023

Note 1: Admission to the program takes place every April and October. The descriptions in this document are applicable only to October 2023 admissions. For April 2024 admissions, please refer to documents published in the future.

##### **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.

Notes 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.

Please contact the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs for inquiries regarding application qualifications. See page 10 for contact information.

### 3. Application Procedures

#### (1) Application Documents

- a) **Application Form:** Electronically complete the prescribed form in English and print it out. The date and signature must be handwritten.
- b) **Photograph:** Use the prescribed form. The photo must be 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. If 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 graduate school where your Master's degree was or will be conferred, and it must bear the graduate school'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 in 2,000 words or less using A4-sized sheets of paper.
- f) Sample Research Paper Written in English:** You can submit the full text of your Master's thesis written in English as a sample research paper.
- g) Both the (A) Full Text and (B) Abstract of your Master's Thesis.** The Abstract shall be written in English in 2,000 words or less using A4-sized sheets of paper : If you do not have a Master's Thesis, you may submit a paper equivalent to one. In that case, submit both (A) the full text and (B) the abstract of this paper.
- ☞ If you have not yet submitted your Master's thesis, you are requested to submit the **Statement of a Master's Thesis Plan** written in English. Its word count must be between 3,000 and 5,000 words.
  - ☞ If your graduate program does not require a Master's thesis, please see the FAQ section on our website.
  - ☞ If, as a sample research paper for document f), you submit the full text of your Master's thesis or equivalent research paper, you do not need to submit the full text for document g).
- h) 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.
- i) 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 referrer(s). One of the letters shall be written by one of your academic advisors at the university where your Master's degree was or will be conferred.
- j) Statement of Financial Position:** For foreign applicants living abroad at the time of application; examples: a tax return, bank certificate, or a personal financial statement showing a sufficient financial base for studying abroad.
- 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) 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.

**m) 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<sup>イ</sup>トウホクダ<sup>ク</sup>イカ<sup>ク</sup>)

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 pay 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 from online banking that shows your bank account, the amount you paid, the date of transfer and the payer's name.

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

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

**n) 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 certificates and the academic transcripts must be the original documents. Photocopies, digital files, and print-outs of digital files are not considered originals. Application documents will not be returned unless you specifically request that we do so.

\* If you are submitting documents that cannot be reissued, such as your diploma, and therefore want them returned to you, please notify the GSICS Office of Academic Affairs Section 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: Current GSICS students who wish to apply for this program are not required to submit application documents h), i) or m).

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 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 the 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 use a paperclip to secure multi-page documents. Please do not use glue or staples. Your Master's thesis should be submitted as a printout of the original and the pages should be clipped together. Please do not submit a bound copy.

Note 8: After admission, students will assigned to one of four GSICS departments (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) 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 27, 2023 and April 14, 2023. If any part of the application is found to contain fraudulent information, the application will be automatically rejected. If an applicant makes a false statement in the application documents, the applicant may have his or her admission revoked even after admission.

Note 1: Prior to submitting an application, applicants are strongly recommended to contact and consult their prospective supervisors about their research plans after admission.

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**

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 via an online video conferencing system in May or June 2023. 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 Master’s thesis, and their future research plans, and they may also be asked some questions regarding their basic knowledge of their research topics in the interview. Applicants will be notified of the details of the interview such as the time and date after we have received your application documents.

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

(a) Screening results 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](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 of ¥535,800)

Note 1: If the tuition fee is revised during your period of study, you will be charged the revised tuition fee as of the date of the 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 foreign student insurance for foreign students. 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 degree 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 fee for all three years.

## **6. Long-term Course Program**

We offer a Long-term Course Program for students who have difficulty completing in the course in the normal 3 years due to concurrent employment, family duties, caregiving duties, or the like. Although 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. Please 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 following other admissions procedures.

Coursework for students who are deemed eligible for the Long-term Course Program is set in accordance with the curriculum and 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 by the entire 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) Examination results can be disclosed at the applicant's request 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 your 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](mailto:int-kkdk@grp.tohoku.ac.jp)