Application Guidelines

Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies (PhD)

Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences

University of Tsukuba

筑波大学
University of Tsukuba

Academic Environment

Established in October 1973, the University of Tsukuba has inherited the history and tradition down from its predecessor (Tokyo University of Education), which was founded in 1872. As the first comprehensive university in Japan to be established under a nation-wide university reform plan, the University of Tsukuba emphasizes openness in higher education. It offers students a new system of education and research through its New University administration.
The University of Tsukuba is the only institution in Japan that offered a combined program for MA and PhD degrees with a specific focus on Eurasian region, which was established in 2006.

Doctoral Program in Sustainable Development Goals

Background of the Program

This English-language program is a unique program offering students PhD degree. It is intended for students from the Eurasian region (Central Asia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia). Classes, guidance, and writing theses and dissertations are conducted in English. Areas of expertise consist of various subjects related to the humanities and social sciences disciplines including the fields of Japanese, Eurasian, and International Studies. The graduates of the program are expected to contribute to the understanding of SDGs and their implementations as well as to play active roles in the educational and research institutes of their home countries.

Aims of the Program

The main goals of the program are:

1. To foster human resources to promote a better understanding of SDGs as well as the associated problems pertaining to Central Asia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

2. To reinforce the networks between Eurasia and Japan through the goals mentioned above.

Program Content

The program is promoted by the Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Tsukuba.
First, students enroll in the PhD Program, which offers more than 30 courses in English, and develops international, interdisciplinary, and problem-oriented approach to the understanding of a specific country or an area.

Structure of the Program

The program consists of a 3-year PhD Program. Over the course of their studies, students will have an opportunity to receive their education using English-language-based curriculum in addition to having an opportunity to enroll in complimentary Japanese language education. By the end of their studies, students are expected to become leading specialists in the chosen area of their specialization. The curriculum of the program features, among other subjects, seminars conducted by governmental and non-governmental agencies, colloquiums based on collaborative research projects and internships at the Japanese companies. Those graduating from this program will be in a position to seek employment in governmental institutions, academic and research institutions, UN agencies, and corporate community.

Language of Instruction

English is the main language of instruction for this program.

Degrees Obtained

Students will receive an PhD degree in International Public Policy at the Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Socials Sciences at the University of Tsukuba.

Admissions

Eligibility

1. *Nationality*. Applicants must be from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, or Georgia.

2. *Educational background*. Applicants who have completed or complete a graduate program (MA) by September 2027.

3. *Language Qualifications* (proofs will only be requested during the second stage of the application process). Applicants must demonstrate their English language proficiency by submitting scores in English Language Proficiency Tests (TOEFL IBT 80, TOEFL CBT 230, TOEFL PBT 500, IELTS 6.0). The scores provided above are approximate, i.e. each applicant's ability will be checked and considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. *Arrival in Japan*. Applicants must be able to arrive to Japan by the last week of September 2027.

Enrollment Quota

This program admits a few students per year. Our program does not have any special scholarship. Those who qualify for the program but unable to secure any scholarship will be admitted into the program as privately financed students. They will be responsible for the costs of their tuition, residence in Japan, and travel expenses over the period of their studies.

Enrollment Date

October 1, 2027.

Application Documents

There are several stages of the application as below.

First Stage: The completion and submission of the Application Form is the first stage of application process. The Application Form should be sent to the following address:

E-Mail: spca-info@ml.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp

＊All of the sections of the application form must be written in the applicant’s own words. The use of AI-generated text or content not authored by the applicant may lead to his/her application being disqualified.

Second Stage: Additional documents will need to be submitted by those applicants who passed the first stage. An interview and an exam conducted in the applicant’s home country constitutes the second stage of screening. Each applicant should bring all related documents (certifying statements of academic and professional background and authenticated English proficienty certificate [TOEFL, IELTS, GRE etc.]) on the interview day, or send them by post or by email to the following address.

Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies,
Doctoral Program in International Public Policy,
Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences,
University of Tsukuba
Tennodai 1-1-1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, JAPAN 305-8571
E-Mail: spca-info@ml.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp

Selection and Notice of Selection

Applicants will be selected based on a comprehensive assessment of their preliminary and program applications, and the results of their interviews and exams. Those who are selected for the second stage will be informed individually. However, due to the high volume of applications, the Selection Committee cannot acknowledge the receipt of applications or notify those who are not selected for the interview stage.
After the first stage of application screening, the faculty members of the University of Tsukuba will conduct interviews with the semi-finalists (those who proceed to the second stage of screening). Successful applicants will then have their files reviewed for final approval and related procedures at the University of Tsukuba.

Preliminary Application Time Schedule

First Stage:

November 16, 2026 - The program is officially announced (Application Form and Application Guidelines will be available through the website: https://www.ipp.tsukuba.ac.jp/english-special-programs-in-english/english-special-program-for-central-asian-countries-spjes/

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January 15, 2027 - Deadline for the application and the first stage screening of the application at the University of Tsukuba

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February-March 2027 - Interviews/exams by the commissioning faculty members of the University of Tsukuba

Second stage:

Mid-April 2027 - Additional Documents to be submitted

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Late April 2027 - Second stage interviews/exams by the commissioning faculty members of the University of Tsukuba

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May 2027 - Receiving an acceptance letter from the University of Tsukuba

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September 20-30, 2027 - Arriving in Japan

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October 1, 2027 - Enrolling in the PhD Program in International Public Policy as full time students

Campus Life

Student accommodation

Successful applicants will be given an opportunity to reside in the university residence halls. The monthly rent is approximately 40,000- 52,000 yen.

Academic Calendar

The Academic Calendar is also available at https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/academics/academic-calendar/

Faculty Members and Curriculum

For information about our faculty members, please check the program's homepage:

https://www.ipp.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/staff/

Contact Information

SPJES, Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies (SPJES)
Doctoral Program in International Public Policy (IPP)
Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Tsukuba
Tennodai 1-1-1, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken JAPAN
305-8571
E-Mail: spca-info@ml.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp

For more information, please visit the pages below:

University Main Page:
http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/
IPP website:
https://www.ipp.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/