

Application Guidelines

Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies (MA)

The Nippon Foundation Central Asia Fellowship

Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences

University of Tsukuba



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.

In addition to its leading position in university reform, the University of Tsukuba plays a major role as the prime academic facility in Tsukuba Science City, which is the home of many of the nation's top research institutions. We strive to maintain an exceptional level of education and research, to foster our university's unique character, and to create an internationally competitive academic institution.

The University of Tsukuba offers undergraduate degrees and at the graduate level, master's, doctoral, and professional degree programs.

Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences is the only institution in Japan that offered a combined program for MA and PhD degrees with a specific focus on Eurasian region. This program heavily built upon successful experience of conducting training and research within Special Program for Central Asian Countries established in the University of Tsukuba in 2006.

Master of Arts Graduate Program in Sustainable Development Goals

Background of the Program

This English-language program is a unique program offering students MA degree. It is intended for students from the Eurasian region (Central Asia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) and Japan. 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, Georgia, and Japan.
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 MA Program, which offers more than 50 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 1.5-year Master's 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 JICA, UN, ADB and 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 the academic and research institutions, UN agencies, governmental institutions and corporate community.

Collaboration with Nippon Foundation Central Asia – Japan Human Resource Development Project

The program offers students to join "Nippon Foundation Central Asia-Japan Human Resource Development Project". The project has been launched in January 2019, sponsored by The Nippon Foundation, to foster human resources, who will contribute to achieve "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" of Central Asian region. Those applicants who demonstrate outstanding abilities will be "Nippon Foundation Central Asia-Japan Human Resource Development Project" and awarded scholarships. The project provides special courses for understanding main ideas of SDGs and its implementation in Japan and Central Asian region.

Note: Please note that those selected for the program and eventually awarded Nippon Foundation fellowship awards will be required to participate in the events organized for the fellows and submit their reports about these events. In addition, the information regarding the details of the fellows such as their names, short biographies as well as their activities with their photos is to be published online and distributed widely as a part of promotional activities of the program. Also, the photos and videos of events organized for the fellows will be made public on the website. Thus, those who apply for the fellowship need to be aware that **their application for the fellowship is considered to be their consent to the conditions above.**

Language of Instruction

English is the main language of instruction for this program.

Degrees Obtained

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

Admissions

Eligibility

1. *Nationality.* Applicants must be from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia or Japan.
2. *Educational background.* Applicants who have an undergraduate degree and who have completed 16 years of school education.
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 2026.
5. *Other.* Any applicant who falls under the following conditions is not eligible. If identified after the commencement of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship.

- . The applicant is already the recipient of a scholarship from an organization other than the Nippon Foundation.
- . The applicant is considered a "future graduate" and selected as such, is unable to graduate within the present date or unable to fulfill graduation requirements.

Enrollment Quota

This program admits up to 10 students per year. Those applicants who demonstrate outstanding abilities will be awarded up to 9 scholarships of Nippon Foundation (subject to availability and approval of funds by the funding institution).

Those who qualify for the program but unable to secure a scholarship of Nippon Foundation will be admitted into the program as privately financed students. They will be responsible for the costs of their tuition and residence in Japan over the period of their studies.

Enrollment Date

October 1, 2026.

Scholarship (Nippon Foundation Central Asia-Japan Human Resource Development Project)

Those demonstrating outstanding abilities will be awarded the following scholarships (up to 9 scholarships per year, subject to availability and approval of funds by the funding institution) on a competitive basis. Amount of scholarship is 113,350 yen/month (MA students). This amount is subject to change.

Travel Expenses

Each grantee of the Nippon Foundation Central Asia-Japan Human Resource Development Project under this program will be provided with an airplane ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address in his/her home country to Narita International Airport.

Upon completion, the grantee will be provided with an airplane ticket if he/she returns to his/her home country during the designated period of time.

Application Documents

There are several stages of the application as below.

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

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

Second Stage (Program application): 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 proficiency certificate [TOEFL, IELTS, GRE etc.]) on the interview day or send them by post to the following address.

*Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies,
Degree 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*

Application Checklist for the Second Stage

These are to be submitted by those applicants who passed the first stage of application process.

- ☐ Program application form (to be provided for those who passed the first stage.
- ☐ 8 photographs (30x40mm)
- ☐ Letter of Recommendation in sealed envelopes.
- ☐ Official transcripts or official copies of diplomas from all undergraduate and graduate institutions previously attended. *If you are currently studying at the university, please submit a current transcript.
- ☐ TOEFL, IELTS, GRE etc. original score report.
*The test should be taken no earlier than 2 years prior the submission date of your application.

*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.

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.

Tentative Application Time Schedule

First Stage: Fellowship application process

November 10, 2025 - Program is officially announced (Preliminary application form and application guidelines will be available through the Program Website:

<https://centralasia.jinsha.tsukuba.ac.jp/info/2290>

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January 15, 2026 - Deadline for the preliminary application and the first stage screening of the application at the University of Tsukuba

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February-March 2026 - Interviews/exams by the commissioning faculty members of the University of Tsukuba

Second stage: Program application process

Mid-April 2026- Additional Documents to be submitted

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Late April 2026 - Second stage interviews/exams by the commissioning faculty members of the University of Tsukuba

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May 2026 - Receiving an acceptance letter from the University of Tsukuba

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September 20-30, 2026 - Arriving in Japan

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October 1, 2026 - Enrolling in the M.A. Program in International Public Policy as full time students

Tuition and related fees

This program admits up to 10 students per year. Those applicants who demonstrate outstanding abilities will be awarded scholarships of Nippon Foundation (up to 9 scholarships per year, subject to availability and approval by the funding institution).

Those who qualify for the program but unable to secure a scholarship of Nippon Foundation will be admitted into the program as privately financed students. They will be responsible for the costs of their tuition and residence in Japan over the period of their studies.

Student accommodation

Successful applicants will be given an opportunity to reside in the university residence halls. The monthly rent is approximately 15,380- 44,000 yen.

Campus Life

Academic Calendar

1. Autumn Semester: October-March
Entrance Ceremony and Guidance: End of September
Orientation with Supervisors: Early October
Classes Begin: October 1
University Festival: Around first week of November
Winter Break: End of December-Beginning of January
Thesis Submission: Early January
Thesis Oral Defense: Mid-January
Last Day of Classes: Mid-February
Thesis Midterm Presentation: Mid-February-April
Spring Break: Mid-February-March 31

2. Spring Semester: April-September
Classes Begin: Early April
Last Day of Classes: Early August
Summer Break: Early August-September 30
Graduation Ceremony: End of September
These dates may be subject to modification and are not legally binding. The Academic Calendar is also available at
<https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/academics/academic-calendar/>

Student Facilities

Students will be able to benefit from the following services:

- (1) Tutor: A tutor will be arranged for each student. They will help students with their life in Tsukuba.
- (2) Copy Card (up to 1000 sheets for free per year; may be subject to change).

(3) Study Room: The study room for SPJES students is located in the building of Master's Programs in Humanities and Social Sciences.

(4) Satellite Room: An air-conditioned computer room is available 24 hours per day. Students can use printers (up to 1200 sheets for free per year; may be subject to change)

(5) Mail Box

(6) Personal Locker

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

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/>

NipCA website:

<https://centralasia.jinsha.tsukuba.ac.jp/en>