

September 2026 Entry
Application Guidelines for M.A. Program / Ph.D. Program
Graduate Program on Global Society
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
The University of Tokyo

Program Overview

The Graduate Program on Global Society (GSP), which was launched in 2012, focuses on the theme of human existence in the age of globalization and seeks to cultivate the agenda-shaping and problem-solving leadership demanded by our multipolar world.

Advances in science and technology require that we question our perspectives on the political, legal, ethical, and ecological dimensions of the human condition. In order to address the challenges of this reality and take advantage of the possibilities that it offers, GSP has developed a program dedicated to exploring the complex relation between law and governance, forging new avenues of multilateral cooperation, and identifying alternate ways of structuring societies in our increasingly global and interdependent world.

GSP is a comprehensive program designed for students interested in crossing the disciplinary boundaries between the humanities and social sciences. Its focus centers upon modern Japanese and Asian societies and the experiences of modernity particular to them. The Program, however, also places such experiences in a wider, comparative contextual framework and, in so doing, sheds light on the diverse and interdependent nature of global society.

The working language of the program is English, but the language and style of communication may vary according to individual courses and interests. All courses offered in GSP are open to students affiliated with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, as well as other graduate schools and programs within the University. GSP students have access to courses offered by other schools and programs in the University system, contingent upon the demonstration of language competency.

Programs

M.A. program

Our M.A. program is tailored to students in the humanities and social sciences who are interested in the political, social, ecological, cultural, or ethical aspects of human existence in global society. It features a curriculum that is designed to promote: 1) further understanding of the changing socio-cultural landscape in Japan, in Asia, and around the world; and 2)

cultivation of the skills needed to shape agendas and solve problems in our current era of globalization.

Ph.D. program

Our Ph.D. program is designed to develop highly qualified researchers capable of making original contributions to scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. Students are expected to conduct independent research focusing on political, social, ecological, cultural, and/or ethical aspects of human existence in a multipolar world. The program is particularly suited for those students who wish to pursue a career as a researcher or professional in fields related to the study of global society.

GSP students will be concurrently enrolled in GSP and one of the four departments of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences: Language and Information Sciences; Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies; Area Studies; or Advanced Social and International Studies. Students must follow GSP curriculum guidelines, however, in order to meet their degree requirements.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://gsp.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>.

Degrees Offered and Projected Numbers of Entrants

The M.A. in Global Studies: Ten (10) students.

The Ph.D. in Global Studies: Three (3) students.

Enrollment Date

September 30, 2026

Fees* (As of 2025 subject to change)

Application fee: 10,000 yen

Enrollment fee: 282,000 yen

Annual Tuition

M.A. program: 535,800 yen

Ph.D. program: 520,800 yen

* The application fee must be paid between November 1, 2025, and December 10, 2025. Application materials cannot be reviewed without receipt of the application fee. Refund of the

application fee is not possible under any circumstances.

* All fees will be waived for MEXT (Monbukagakusho) scholarship students. Application fees will be waived upon submission of either a certificate of MEXT scholarship status or a Certificate of Admission (applicable for prospective MEXT scholars).

* Applicants to the Ph.D. Program who expect to obtain a Master's or professional degree from the University of Tokyo in August or September 2026 are exempt from the application and enrollment fees.

1. Eligibility

M.A. program

Those who have completed or who expect to complete their undergraduate education (a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent) by the time of enrollment* are eligible to apply for the M.A. program.

Applicants whose qualifications differ in any other respect from those stated above must contact the GPEAK Admissions Office by September 16, 2025.

For details, please refer to Appendix 1.

* Note: Those who expect to complete their undergraduate education (a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent) on September 30, 2026, must consult the GPEAK Admissions Office in advance.

Ph.D. program

Those who have or are expected to have a Master's degree or the equivalent (including Ph.D. candidacy) by the time of enrollment* are eligible to apply for the Ph.D. program.

Please note that applicants whose qualifications differ in any other respect from those stated above must contact the GPEAK Admissions Office by September 16, 2025.

For details, please refer to Appendix 2.

* Note: Those who are expected to receive a Master's degree or the equivalent (including Ph.D. candidacy) on September 30, 2026, must consult the GPEAK Admissions Office in advance.

2. Selection

Selection for admission is based on the evaluation of the materials submitted by the applicant. Applicant interviews may also be conducted as part of the admission selection process.

Selection for admission regarding those applicants to the Ph.D. program who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GSP in August 2026 is based on the student's Master's thesis, the quality of the student's work and grades while in the M.A. program, and the oral examination. Each applicant will, following the submission of his or her application, receive notification of the appointed selection date and place from the GPEAK Admissions Office.

3. Application Period

Applications for admission will be accepted from December 1 to December 10, 2025. Applications received on December 10 must arrive no later than 4:00 p.m. (JST)

Please submit the necessary application documents (refer to 5. Application Documents) online as follows:

[Application Documents A to D, F to L, and M (Ph.D. only)]

Upload the application documents A to D, F to L, and M (Ph.D. only) to the designated link that will be posted on the GSP website at <http://gsp.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/admissions/index.html>

The link for applicants will be accessible only during the application period. The application documents may NOT be hand-delivered, faxed, or emailed. Applications will only be considered valid if they are uploaded no later than 4:00 pm on December 10, 2025 (JST). The GPEAK Admissions Office is not responsible for any system malfunction caused by applicants' computers.

[Application Document E. Three letters of recommendation including Form #3.]

Please ask your recommenders to upload the signed Form #3 and the signed letter of recommendation to the designated link no later than 4:00 pm on December 10, 2025 (JST). That link will also be posted to the GSP website above.

Your applicant number will be downloadable from the online system during the designated period. For details, please check the instructions which will be updated later on the GSP website above.

Applicants to the Ph.D. program who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GSP in August 2026 must upload their application materials to the designated link, which will be sent from

the GPEAK Admissions Office via e-mail, during the period of May 12 to May 15, 2026.

4. Notification of Result

The applicant numbers of successful applicants will be announced on the homepage of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (https://www.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng_site/index.html) at noon on March 6, 2026 (JST). A formal notification in writing will be sent only to successful applicants. The university cannot respond to inquiries regarding the results of any part of the screening process.

Results of the selection process regarding those applicants to the Ph.D. program who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GSP in August 2026 will be announced on the above homepage at noon on August 7, 2026, and followed by formal notification in writing.

5. Application Documents

Notes:

- None of the documents or materials submitted will be returned.
- All certificates must be official. Successful applicants must submit the original certificates before you enroll in the program.
- The application form and all additional documents must be submitted in English. If any of the required additional documents cannot be submitted in English, the applicant must obtain a translation of each document and submit it along with the original.
- The applicant's signature on the application form indicates that he or she certifies that all documents submitted are truthful, accurate, and entirely his or her own. The University may retroactively cancel the admission of any student who has falsified or misrepresented any part of his or her application.

A. [PDF] CHECKLIST (Form #1)

B. [PDF] APPLICATION FORM (Form #2). Attach a photograph to the application form.

C. [PDF] Certificates of all higher degrees and diplomas awarded or an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning by the time of enrollment. M.A. program applicants must submit their

Bachelor's certificate, and Ph.D. program applicants must submit both their Bachelor's and Master's certificates.

D. [PDF] Official transcripts from each college, university, or other institution of higher learning attended.

E. [PDF] Three letters of recommendation including Form #3. Each letter and Form # 3 must be uploaded to the designated link on the GSP website by each recommender.

F. TOEFL or IELTS score reports.

Only the scores of tests taken on or before November 7, 2025, will be accepted. Applicants must submit the following two types of score reports:

- 1) **[PDF]** A copy of the Test Taker Score Report (TOEFL) or the Test Report Form (IELTS)
- 2) An Institutional Score Report (TOEFL Institution Code = 6184, TOEFL Department Code = 99) / Test Report Form (IELTS) should be sent, by the testing institution, directly to the GPEAK Admissions Office and must arrive at the office by December 19, 2025. Applications missing the score report will not be reviewed.

Notes:

- TOEFL-ITP scores are not accepted. (For an exception regarding applicants in China, see below.)
- In the case of TOEFL iBT, either recent, valid Test Date scores or the MyBest scores must be sent to our office.
- Applicants are requested to submit scores for the regular versions of TOEFL or IELTS. If TOEFL or IELTS has been suspended in the applicant's country of residence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, then the applicant may instead submit a score report for the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition or IELTS Indicator. Applicants in China may submit scores for TOEFL ITP Plus for China.

English proficiency can also be demonstrated by the receipt of a Bachelor's degree or other advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education where English is the primary language of instruction.

G. GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) General Test score reports.

Only the scores of tests taken on or before November 7, 2025, will be accepted. Applicants must submit the following two types of score reports:

- 1) **[PDF]** A copy of all pages of the Test Taker Score Report
- 2) A Graduate Institution Score Report (Institution Code = 8326, Department Code = 5199) should be sent, by ETS, directly to the GPEAK Admissions Office and must arrive at the office by December 19, 2025. Applications will not be reviewed without the score report.

Important: Any applicant who is found to have cheated on any qualifying exam will not be admitted, and any admitted student who is found after the fact to have cheated may forfeit his or her admission.

H. [PDF] Personal Statement. Applicants should describe, in 500 words or less, their past field of study, the reasons for their interest in the GSP program, their future career plans, and any other information they deem relevant to the consideration of their application.

I. [PDF] Research Proposal. Applicants should describe their detailed research plans, including the tentative title of their research topic, research design and methods, and relevant sources and data for research. For those applying for the M.A. program, the proposal should be between 900 to 1,000 words (excluding reference), and for the Ph.D. program, between 1,200 to 1,500 words (excluding reference).

Notes:

- If the proposed research topic involves a particular country or geographical region and requires a particular language, the applicant will be expected to acquire that language.

J. [JPEG] Passport-style photo (square or 3x4 aspect ratio; medium to high resolution; maximum file size: 2 MB). The photo must have been taken within the last 6 months.

K. [PDF] One Certificate of Remittance (English or Japanese). All applicants, except MEXT (Monbukagakusho) scholarship students and applicants to the Ph.D. program who expect to obtain a Master's or a professional degree from the University of Tokyo in August or September 2025 must pay the application fee prior to submitting the application. Students residing outside of Japan must pay the application fee through the University of Tokyo's online payment system (e-payment). Please visit the website (<https://e-shiharai.net/english>) and follow the instructions. The printed "result" page will constitute the "Certificate of Remittance" and must be provided with the application. Those residing in Japan may pay by bank transfer using a specified payment slip, by credit card, or at a convenience store. Further details are provided on Form #4. The Certificate of Remittance should be submitted. MEXT scholarship students should submit a certificate of proof of their scholarship status instead of a certificate of remittance.

L. [PDF] Proof of Citizenship. A photocopy of your passport, your census register, or other proof of citizenship.

(For Ph.D. Program Applicants Only)

M. [PDF] A chapter of your master's thesis or additional supplemental work (approximately 3,000 words).

Applicants to the Ph.D. program who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GSP in August 2026 are only required to submit those materials listed under B, H, I, J, and M above.

6. Contact

GPEAK Admissions Office
Academic Affairs Division
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
The University of Tokyo
3-8-1 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo
153-8902 JAPAN
E-mail: office[at]gsp.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp

7. Notes

(1) International students are required by the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Cabinet Order No. 319 of 1951) to obtain an appropriate visa prior to entering the GSP Program. Successful applicants will receive further information from the University by the end of May regarding the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and visa application procedures.

(2) The GSP Program does not offer any financial aid or scholarship opportunities of its own. Enrolled students may be eligible to apply for tuition waivers and other financial aid from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, but the competition is very tight. We therefore strongly recommend that, prior to enrollment, applicants identify and apply for all suitable financial aid or scholarship opportunities available to them.

(3) The University of Tokyo provides reasonable accommodations to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not disadvantaged during entrance examinations and studies after enrollment, and provides consultations for this purpose. Those who wish to request accommodations for entrance examinations should contact the GPEAK Admissions Office (office[at]gsp.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp) at your earliest convenience before your application. Although requests made after the above deadline will still be considered, it is recommended that applicants send their requests well in advance as it may not be possible to provide certain accommodations without sufficient preparation time.

(Please refer to the following website for more details:

<https://gsp.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/index.html>)

(4) The University of Tokyo has established "The University of Tokyo Security Export Control Regulations" in accordance with Japan's "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act", and

rigorously screens potential international students on the basis of these regulations. In particular, international students and some Japanese students are required to undergo screening prior to acceptance.

Therefore, students should be aware that if they fall under any of the items regulated by the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law, even if they are finally accepted through the selection process of the entrance examination, they may not be allowed to enroll thereafter, or their desired research activities may be restricted after enrollment.

(5) The University of Tokyo shall use the personal information obtained through the application process only for the purpose of (1) Selection procedures, (2) Notification of results and (3) Enrollment procedures. For those who enroll, this personal information and the examination results used for admission selection shall also be used for (4) Educational Affairs (school registration, attendance, etc.), (5) Student Support (healthcare, career support, application procedure for tuition exemption and scholarships, use of libraries, etc.) and (6) the Management of tuition payment.

The examination results used for admission selection may be used in future studies for the improvement of admission and education systems at the University of Tokyo.

Appendix 1. Requirements for Eligibility: M.A. Program

Persons who fulfill at least one of the following requirements are eligible to apply for the M.A. program.

(1) Those who have graduated from a Japanese university or are expected to graduate before the enrollment date. (Note 1)

(2) Those who have completed, or are expected to complete before the enrollment date, 16 years of school education abroad. (Note 2)

(3) Those who have been conferred, or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date, a degree equivalent to that of a bachelor's degree from a foreign university or other foreign institution (limited to those whose comprehensive status of education and research activities have been assessed by the government of the said foreign country or a related organization), having completed a program with a completion period of 3 years or more. (Note 2)

(4) Those designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or those who have graduated or are expected to graduate before the enrollment date from an educational institution designated by the Minister. (Note 3)

(5) Those who have been conferred, or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date, a bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD).

(6) Those who are 22 years or older on the enrollment date, whom this graduate school has recognized through individual screening of entrance qualifications, as having abilities that are at least equivalent to those who have graduated from a Japanese university.
(Note 1) (Note 4)

NOTES TO APPENDIX 1

(Note 1)

Japanese universities mentioned in Requirements (1) and (6) above are universities within the boundaries of Japan and as prescribed in Article 83 of the School Education Law.

(Note 2)

Requirements (2) and (3) above include the case of having completed a correspondence program provided by a foreign school of said country while residing in Japan.

(Note 3)

Those mentioned in Requirement (4) above refer to any who have graduated from the following schools or educational institutions.

- The undergraduate program of a foreign school's Japan branch as designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- Specialized training college designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (limited to programs where the program duration is at least 4 years and which satisfies standards determined by the Minister)
- Universities under the old university ordinances, or higher educational institutions (daigakko) under the national/provincial/independent administrative agency ordinances

(Note 4)

(a) Those mentioned in Requirement (6) above refer to those who do not fall into any of the Requirements (1) through (5) above but have graduated from an educational institution equivalent to a 4-year university, and whom this graduate school has recognized, through individual screening of entrance qualifications, as having abilities that are at least equivalent to those who have graduated from a Japanese university.

(b) Those who wish to apply based on Requirement (6) above must contact the GPEAK Admissions Office by September 16, 2025, and submit all the documents specified by the GPEAK Admissions Office, as the eligibility for application is confirmed individually in advance by document screening. Please ask the GPEAK Admissions Office in advance about the eligibility for application and the documents to be submitted.

(c) Those who are recognized as having abilities that are at least equivalent to those who have graduated from a Japanese university through screening of entrance qualification

will be permitted to apply and take the entrance examination. The results of this screening will be notified by e-mail.

Appendix 2. Requirements for Eligibility: Ph.D. Program

Persons who fulfill at least one of the following requirements are eligible to apply for the Ph.D. program.

- (1) Those who are expected to obtain, before the enrollment date, a Master's or a professional degree from the University of Tokyo.
- (2) Those who have already obtained a Master's or a professional degree from the University of Tokyo.
- (3) Those who have obtained, or are expected to obtain before the enrollment date, a Master's or a professional degree from a Japanese university other than the University of Tokyo. (Note 1)
- (4) Those who have been conferred, or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date, a Master's degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD).
- (5) Those who have been conferred, or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date, a degree equivalent to a Master's or a professional degree abroad. (Note 2)
- (6) Those who have completed, or are expected to complete before the enrollment date, a program in an educational institution in Japan which is designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and which provides the program of a foreign graduate school within the school education system of a foreign country, and who have been conferred, or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date, a degree equivalent to a Master's or a professional degree.
- (7) Those who have completed or are expected to complete a program at the United Nations University and have been conferred, or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date, a degree equivalent to that of a Master's degree.
- (8) Those who have passed, or are expected to pass before the enrollment date a screening for the fundamental ability for doctorate dissertation research as specified in Article 16-2 of the Standards for Establishment of Graduate Schools at a school abroad, an educational institution mentioned in Requirement (6) above, or the United Nations University, shall be recognized by this graduate school as having abilities at least equivalent to those who have a Master's degree. (Note 3)
- (9) Those who have graduated from a Japanese university or have completed at least 16 years of academic education overseas, and have been engaged in research at a university, research institute, or other institution in Japan or abroad for at least 2 years, or are expected to have been engaged in research for at least 2 years before the enrollment date, and shall

be recognized by this graduate school as having abilities at least equivalent to those who have a Master's or a professional degree as a result of said research. (Note 1) (Note 2) (Note 3) (Note 4)

(10) Those who are 24 years or older as of the enrollment date, whom this graduate school has recognized, through individual screening of entrance qualifications, as having abilities that are at least equivalent to a Master's or a professional degree holder. (Note 5)

NOTES TO APPENDIX 2

(Note 1)

Japanese universities mentioned in Requirements (3) and (9) above are universities within the boundaries of Japan and as prescribed in Article 83 of the School Education Law.

(Note 2)

Requirements (5) and (9) above include the case of having completed a correspondence program provided by a foreign school of said country while residing in Japan.

(Note 3)

Those who wish to apply under Requirement (8) or (9) above must contact the GPEAK Admissions Office by September 16, 2025, and submit all the documents specified by the GPEAK Admissions Office, as the eligibility for application is confirmed in advance by document screening. Please ask the GPEAK Admissions Office in advance about the eligibility for application and the documents to be submitted.

(Note 4)

Requirement (9) applies to those who have been engaged (or are expected to have been engaged) on a full-time basis or equivalent to full-time status in research at a university, research institute or other institution in Japan or abroad for at least 2 years.

(Note 5)

(a) Those covered under Requirement (10) apply to those who do not qualify under Requirements (1) through (9) above, but are recognized, through individual screening of entrance qualifications by this graduate school, as having attained the equivalent of a Master's or a professional degree.

(b) Those who wish to apply based on Requirement (10) above must contact the GPEAK Admissions Office by September 16, 2025, and submit all the documents specified by the GPEAK Admissions Office, as the eligibility for application is confirmed individually in advance by document screening. Please ask the GPEAK Admissions Office in advance about the eligibility for application and the documents to be submitted.

(c) Those who are recognized as having abilities that are at least equivalent to a Master's or a professional degree holder through screening of qualifications will be permitted to apply and take the entrance examination. The results of this screening will be notified by e-mail.