

Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University
Special Course in Agricultural Sciences
- For the Global Future of Life, Food and the Environment -
Guidelines for Applicants, October 2025

“Special Course in Agricultural Sciences - For the Global Future of Life, Food and the Environment -” is a course targeted at international students and is offered in English only.

1. Programs and Divisions that Admit International Students

(1) Programs

[Master’s program]

The Master’s program aims to impart to students profound academic knowledge from a broad perspective, so as to develop research competency in their specialized fields or to cultivate knowledge and skills necessary for engaging in highly specialized professions.

To complete the Master’s program, students are required to attend the Master’s program and receive research guidance for at least two years, to obtain 30 credits or more in their major, and to pass the master’s thesis screening and final examination.

Degree conferred: Master’s degree

[Doctoral program]

The Doctoral program aims to cultivate the advanced research ability and abundant academic knowledge necessary to carry out research activities independently in the field of specialization as a researcher, or to perform other highly specialized duties.

To complete the Doctoral program, students are required to attend the Doctoral program and receive research guidance for at least three years, and to pass the dissertation assessment and final examination.

Degree conferred: Doctoral degree

(2) Divisions and Enrollment Capacity

[Division]

Agronomy and Horticultural Science
Forest and Biomaterials Science
Applied Life Sciences
Applied Biosciences
Environmental Science and Technology
Natural Resource Economics
Food Science and Biotechnology

[Enrollment Capacity]

A few for both Master’s and Doctoral Programs

2. Enrollment

October 2025

3. Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

3.1 Master’s Program

Applicants must satisfy both of the following requirements, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.

3.1.1 Applicants must satisfy all of the following requirements 3.1.1.1 to 3.1.1.3.

3.1.1.1 Applicants must satisfy either of the following requirements (a) or (b) and receive adequate recommendation from the relevant university or organization.

(a) Those currently enrolled in or have graduated from universities which Kyoto University or the Graduate School of Agriculture have close ties based on General Memoranda for Academic Cooperation and Exchange, including Academic Exchange Agreements.

(b) Those who have established close communication with faculty members of Graduate School of Agriculture and are recognized as eligible by Graduate School of Agriculture.*¹

3.1.1.2 Those who have obtained consent from a prospective supervisor of the Graduate School of Agriculture (who will supervise their studies upon enrollment).

3.1.1.3 Those who can acquire “student” residence status at time of enrollment.*²

3.1.2 Applicants must satisfy at least one of the following requirements 3.1.2.1 to 3.1.2.3. Those who do not satisfy any of these requirements at time of application must meet one of these requirements by the end of September 2025 for October 2025 enrollment.

3.1.2.1 Those who have completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country.

3.1.2.2 Those who have completed 15 years of school education in a foreign country, and who are recognized by the Graduate School of Kyoto University as having earned recognized credits with excellent grades.*³

3.1.2.3 Those who are qualified through the individual eligibility screening by the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University and are judged to have academic ability equivalent to or superior to university graduates, and who are 22 years of age or older.*⁴

3.2 2 Doctoral Program

Applicants must satisfy both of the following requirements, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.

3.2.1 Applicants must satisfy the following requirements 3.2.1.1 to 3.2.1.3.

3.2.1.1 Applicants must satisfy either of the following requirements (a) or (b) and receive adequate recommendation from the relevant university or organization.

(a) Those currently enrolled in or have graduated from universities which Kyoto University or the Graduate School of Agriculture have close ties based on General Memoranda for Academic Cooperation and Exchange, including Academic Exchange Agreements.

(b) Those who have established close communication with faculty members of Graduate School of Agriculture and are recognized as eligible by Graduate School of Agriculture.*⁵

3.2.1.2 Those who have obtained consent from a prospective supervisor of the Graduate School of Agriculture (who will supervise their studies upon enrollment).

3.2.1.3 Those who can acquire “student” residence status at time of enrollment.*⁶

*1, *5: A prospective supervisor needs to submit “Exchange Activity Report” to the Student Affairs Office in prior to the application deadline.

*3, *4: Those who are applying under these requirements must undergo a preliminary eligibility screening process before application. Must contact Student Affairs Office by January 8, 2025.

*2, *6: Those who already have a residence status other than "Student" for particular reasons must give prior notice to Student Affairs Office by January 8, 2025.

3.2.2 Applicants must satisfy one of the following requirements among 3.2.2.1 to 3.2.2.5. Those who do not satisfy the requirement at the time of application, they must meet one of these requirements by the end of September 2025 for October 2025 enrollment.

3.2.2.1 Those who have a master's degree, professional degree or Juris Doctor degree (professional degree in law).

3.2.2.2 Those who have completed in a foreign country a degree equivalent to a Master's program or a professional degree program at a Kyoto University Graduate School.

3.2.2.3 Those who have completed the curriculum at the United Nations University and received a degree equivalent to a Master's Degree.

3.2.2.4 Those specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (namely those who have conducted research for more than 2 years in a university, laboratory, research institute or company after graduating from university or completing 16 years of formal education outside of Japan and who are judged through their research achievements to have academic ability equivalent or superior to those who have completed a Master's program of Kyoto University Graduate School).^{*7}

3.2.2.5 Those who are qualified, through individual entrance examination of the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, and are judged to have academic ability equivalent to or superior to those who have a Master's degree, and who are 24 years of age or older. ^{*8}

Note: For those who need to undergo a preliminary screening process should contact the Student Affairs Office, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University (hereinafter Student Affairs Office), by January 8, 2025 for October 2025 enrollment.

^{*7, *8}: Those who are applying under these requirements must undergo a preliminary eligibility screening process before application. Must contact Student Affairs Office by January 8, 2025.

4. Selection

Applicants are selected by means of a comprehensive evaluation of application documents.

5. Documents to Submit

Application documents should be submitted in English. For documents in a language other than English, English translation must be attached. To obtain the necessary forms, please send your request by email to “agri-kyoumu2@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp”.

[Master's Program]

(1) Application Form for Admission (Form1)

Enter all necessary items on designated form by applicants themselves.

Paste your photo (taken within 3 months, half-length, full-faced, no background) on specified section of application form.

(2) Detailed Educational Background and Employment History (Form2)

Provide your detailed educational background and employment history via designated form.

(3) Proof of transaction or evidence of payment for application fees

After carefully reading attached document “Instructions Regarding Payment of Application Fees” make payment for application fee (10,000 yen). After completing payment, enclose one of the followings: a copy of the receipt or other certification as proof of transaction (if payment is made from outside Japan), an evidence of payment for application fees (if payment is made from inside Japan) or hard copy of “Application Completed” page of credit card online payment system (if payment is made by credit card) with other application documents.

(4) Original of certificate of university graduation (or expected graduation)

If this document is not written in English, English translation must be attached.

(5) Copy of university diploma

Applicants who have not graduated from university at the time of application must submit a copy of university diploma upon graduation.

If this document is not written in English, English translation must be attached.

(6) Original academic transcript issued by university attended

If this document is not written in English, English translation must be attached.

(7) Abstract of graduation thesis or summary of experiments/practical training/seminars

Prepare summary on A4-size paper (approx. 200 to 300 words).

(8) Letter of recommendation 1

Submit letter of recommendation from dean of faculty to which you belong or from which you graduated.

(9) Letter of recommendation 2

Submit letter of recommendation from supervisor at university to which you belong or from which you graduated.

(10) Letter of recommendation 3

If you are employed at a public agency or company at the time of application, submit letter of recommendation from your immediate superior.

(11) Letter of acceptance

Submit letter of acceptance from your prospective supervisor in Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University. (Document written in Japanese is also accepted only for this item.)

(12) Research plan

Submit research plan at Kyoto University (A4-size paper, approx. 200 to 300 words).

(13) Copy of Official Score of English Proficiency Test (TOEFL-iBT or IELTS) ^{*9}

Submit copy of either TOEFL-iBT Official Score Report or IELTS Test Report Form (must include your photo) dated within 24 months of your application.

(14) Copy of passport

^{*9}: Those whose mother tongue is English need not submit. Those who are or have been taught in English at university should contact in advance the Student Affairs Office.

[Doctoral Program]

(1) Application Form for Admission (Form1)

Enter all necessary items in designated form by applicants themselves.

Paste your photo (taken within 3 months, half-length, full-faced, no background) on specified section of application form.

(2) Detailed Educational Background and Employment History (Form2)

Provide your detailed educational background and employment history via designated form.

(3) Proof of transaction or evidence of payment for application fees

After carefully reading attached document “Instructions Regarding Payment of Application Fees” make payment for application fee (10,000 yen). After completing payment, enclose one of the followings: a copy of the receipt or other certification as proof of transaction (if payment is made from outside Japan), an evidence of payment for application fees (if payment is made from inside Japan) or hard copy of “Application Completed” page of credit card online payment system (if payment is made by credit card) with other application documents.

(4) Original academic transcript issued by university attended

If this document is not written in English, English translation must be attached.

(5) Original of certificate of master’s program completion (or expected completion)

If this document is not written in English, English translation must be attached.

(6) Copy of master’s program diploma

Applicants who have not completed a master’s program at the time of application must submit copy of master’s program diploma upon completion.

If this document is not written in English, English translation must be attached.

(7) Original of academic transcript for master’s program

If this document is not written in English, English translation must be attached.

(8) Abstract of master’s thesis

Prepare abstract of your master’s thesis (A-4 size paper, approx. 200 to 300 words).

(9) Letter of recommendation 1

Submit letter of recommendation from head of graduate school to which you belong or from which you graduated.

(10) Letter of recommendation 2

Submit letter of recommendation from supervisor at university to which you belong or from which you graduated.

(11) Letter of recommendation 3

If you are employed at a public agency or company at the time of application, submit letter of recommendation from your immediate superior.

(12) Letter of acceptance

Submit letter of acceptance from your prospective supervisor in Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University. (Document written in Japanese is also accepted only for this item.)

(13) Research plan

Submit research plan at Kyoto University (A4-size paper, approx. 200 to 300 words).

(14) Copy of Official Score of English Proficiency Test (TOEFL-iBT or IELTS) ^{*10}

Submit copy of either TOEFL-iBT Official Score Report or IELTS Test Report Form (must include your photo) dated within 24 months of your application.

(15) Copy of passport

*10: Those whose mother tongue is English need not submit. Those who are or have been taught in English at university should contact in advance the Student Affairs Office.

6. Application Procedure

(1) Applicants must submit the above-listed required documents by registered mail such as EMS, DHL or FedEx whatever available within the application period.

Application documents should be sent to:

Student Affairs Office, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University
Kitashirakawa Oiwake-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8502 Japan

(2) Applicants with physical disabilities who require special arrangements should contact in advance the Student Affairs Office.

7. Application Period / Announcement of Successful Applicants

Application period: From January 20 to February 3, 2025

Announcement of successful applicants: March 14, 2025

Notification will be announced to all successful applicants.

8. Application Fee

Application fee: 10,000 yen

Payment period: From January 15 to February 3, 2025

(Please note that payment will not be accepted after the payment deadline, and that only Application fee receipts bearing the bank's receipt seal, with a date of receipt falling within the prescribed payment period, are acceptable.)

Payment method:

See the attached document "Instruction Regarding Payment of Application Fees"

9. Admission Fee and Tuition

Admission fee: 282,000 yen

*The amount shown at left may be revised at the time of enrollment.

Yearly tuition fee: 535,800 yen

*The amount shown at left may be revised at or after the time of enrollment.

10. Notes

(1) Prior to the application, those who have graduated, or expect to graduate, from an overseas university are required to complete AAO process. Please see following web page for the detail.

<https://u.kyoto-u.jp/graduate-admissions-for-overseas-graduates>

(2) When making a correction to the document, cross out the relevant part with double lines and write the correct information above it.

(3) In selecting a laboratory, communicate in advance with the supervisor of the laboratory you wish to enter, after carefully reading the Outline of Graduate School of Agriculture.

If you have any questions in selecting a laboratory, please contact the Student Affairs Office.

(Tel: +81-75-753-2251, E-mail: agri-kyoumu2@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

(4) Applicants who are employed at a company, public agency or research institution: Even if such applicants have passed the selection, unless they resign or take a leave of absence from their work, they will not be admitted.

(5) Contents of the submitted application documents cannot be changed for any reason.

Please also note that paid examination fee will not be returned under any conditions.

(6) Handling of personal information

Personal information (name, gender, date of birth, address etc.) provided in application documents is used only for (1) entrance examinations, (2) admission procedure, scholarship etc., (3) preparation for accepting students.

December 2024

Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University