

**Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
Kyoto University**

**IEMP Entrance Examination for Doctoral Program
in Summer 2025**

Guideline for International Applicants

Admission Policy

1. Our policy

The Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies seeks to secure the current and future health and sustainability of the global environment in two essential ways: first, by training future researchers and practitioners for future environmental careers in academia, management, policy-making, advocacy and project implementation; and second, by establishing sustainability as the basis of an integrated and interdisciplinary field informed by ethics, science, technology and the humanities that can address the environmental challenges confronting the 21st century.

2. Who are we looking for?

Our goal is to produce graduates who through their excellence and distinctive talents will have an impact in their chosen fields. We are seeking students who demonstrate high moral character and richness of spirit, including:

- Future researchers from all academic fields with a keen interest in global environmental problems and their solutions.
- Future internationally-minded practitioners with a deep enthusiasm for environmental management and a sincere commitment to acquiring and implementing the knowledge and practical skills required to tackle environmental problems from the local to the global level in every walk of life.

Our body of students is diverse, coming from many different backgrounds and possessing many different perspectives. Our students enter through a variety of admission tracks, including a mid-career admissions option for students with extensive work experience in environmental issues, some of whom may choose to study while continuing their professional careers, and an international admissions program for international students.

3. What are we looking for?

The Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies offers master and doctoral programs in the field of environmental management, as well as a doctoral program in global environmental studies. The admission requirements for each of these programs relates to the objective of the study program provided.

3.1 Global environmental studies

Our three-year doctoral program in global environmental studies aims to foster researchers who are capable of grasping the full complexity and reach of global environmental issues and tackling global and local environmental issues with an innovative mindset and a range of methodologies that are drawn from a wide variety of scholarly fields, as well as practitioners who have such academic quality. Applicants to this program should hold a master's degree in their chosen field of study in addition to English language proficiency and a keen interest in global environmental issues, but exemptions may be made for those with demonstrated professional experience and expertise in a field related to their expected area of study.

3.2 Environmental management

Our two-year master's program and three-year doctoral program in environmental management are designed to foster outstanding and internationally-minded practitioners who are capable of applying management skills in the search for practical and sustainable solutions to local and global environmental problems, as well as researchers who have such practical capabilities. Applicants to either of these programs will need basic academic knowledge of global environmental issues and English language proficiency in addition to a keen interest in environmental management.

4. Basic policy on admissions

The admissions process for the master's program will be carried out by means of a comprehensive assessment of documents, foreign language ability, and an interview. The admissions process for the doctoral program will be carried out by means of a comprehensive assessment of documents and foreign language ability as well as a research presentation and interview.

The Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES), Kyoto University, invites international students to apply for three-year doctoral programs in Global Environmental Studies and Environmental Management through a special admission process called the International Environmental Management Program (IEMP), which is an English-taught degree program.

All applicants for this examination must understand the following:

- This examination is for international students with superior academic records and academic scholarships who wish to pursue a graduate degree by taking courses taught in English.
- All applicants are required to select an academic supervisor from the list of eligible faculty members on page 6.
- Applicants **must** contact their intended faculty member (on page 6) **prior to** application in order to request future supervision for their chosen study program and advice for the application process.
- Applicants will not be able to apply for both the IEMP entrance examination and the general entrance examination simultaneously.

Detailed descriptions of each study area are also available at:

GSGES website: <https://www.ges.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/>

GSGES guidebook: <https://www.ges.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/guidebook/>

Applicants* who have graduated or are expected to graduate from an overseas university need to contact the faculty member through the university's **Admissions Assistance Office (AAO)**.

Admissions Assistance Office (AAO): <https://u.kyoto-u.jp/osr7r>

*Not required for the scholars of JICA KCCP.

ENROLLMENT DATE

October 1, 2025 or April 1, 2026

ENROLLMENT CAPACITY

Doctoral Program in Global Environmental Studies: A limited number for each enrollment date

Doctoral Program in Environmental Management: A limited number for each enrollment date

You may apply for either or both of the two programs.

Important dates for examination

Eligibility screening* and application for examination are to be made through **Online Application System**. *Only for those applicable

-Eligibility screening: https://kjs.gakusei.kyoto-u.ac.jp/iemp_summer2025doctor_eligibility

-Application for examination: https://kjs.gakusei.kyoto-u.ac.jp/iemp_summer2025doctor

	Deadline (JST)	Notes
Application for AAO	At least one month before application for examination	Only for those applicable. See the description above.
Contacting a supervisor	Before application for examination	If AAO is required, contact after AAO's result.
Eligibility screening period	May 30 - June 6	Only for those applicable. See details in 1-2 below.
Announcement of eligibility screening result	June 20	Notified on Online Application System.
Application period	July 2 - 15	Includes payment of examination fee
Examination voucher available	From August 5 onward	Only if application is accepted. Download from Online Application System.
Announcement of interview schedules	August 5	Detailed instructions will be sent by email to applicants required to take the interview.
Online interview date	August 26- 28	The designated date and time are not negotiable.
Announcement of examination result	September 1	Notified on Online Application System
Notification of enrollment procedure	-Enrollment in October 2025: early September, 2025 -Enrollment in April 2026: late February, 2026	Sent to successful applicants

1. Eligibility Requirements and Screening

1-1. General eligibility requirements

Applicants must satisfy all the following requirements.

- 1) You must have completed or intend to complete a master's degree or its equivalent by **September 30, 2025 (for enrollment in October 2025)** or **March 31, 2026 (for enrollment in April 2026)**.
- 2) You must not be a Japanese national.
- 3) You must be able to prove that you have been confirmed to receive a Japanese government scholarship*, another government scholarship**, or a non-government scholarship** when you apply for the program.

*Those who passed the first screening of the Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship embassy recommendation are also eligible.

**Those currently applying for a scholarship at the time of application are not eligible.

1-2. Eligibility screening

Applicants who are **“its equivalent”** in “1-1. General eligibility requirements, 1)” above must first complete the eligibility screening through Online Application System (Access the link below). Enter required information and upload 1) to 4) in “List of documents for eligibility screening” below.

Eligibility screening: https://kjs.gakusei.kyoto-u.ac.jp/iemp_summer2025doctor_eligibility

Application period: from May 30 to 3pm on June 6, 2025 (JST)

* Contents of application cannot be changed once the application is completed.

*The result of the screening will be announced on Online Application System at 10 am on June 20, 2025.

List of documents for eligibility screening:

*Only documents written in English or Japanese are accepted. When not available, a certified translation in either of the two languages should be attached to the documents in the original language.

1) Photo (in JPEG)	A photo in a 6:5 ratio taken within the last six months with plain background, no hat or head covering unless there is a religious or medical reason.
2) Passport (in JPEG/PNG/GIF/PDF)	Pages with the picture and personal information.
3) Academic transcript (in PDF)	Submit official transcript and graduation certificate (or certificate of expected graduation) issued by the university for ALL degrees from your bachelor's degree onward including the current program.
4) Graduation certificate or certificate of expected graduation (in PDF) *If available	*A copy of transcript, graduation certificate or degree certificate is acceptable if the copy is attested by an authorized official of the university with seal and signature.
*Documents certifying achievements and qualifications or showing abilities equal to or higher than a master's degree as well as documents certifying achievements and activities in society can be submitted.	

2. Application for Examination

Make an application on Online Application System (Access the link below). Enter required information and upload the documents below.

Application: https://kjs.gakusei.kyoto-u.ac.jp/iemp_summer2025doctor

Application: from July 2 to 3 pm on July 15, 2025 (JST)

*Contents of application cannot be changed once the application is completed.

List of documents for application:

*Only documents written in English or Japanese are accepted. When not available, a certified translation in either of these two languages should be attached to the documents in the original language.

*Applicants who need the eligibility screening are advised to prepare the application documents in advance as there is only a short period between the notification of the screening result and the deadline of application documents.

1) Photo (in JPEG)	A photo in a 6:5 ratio taken within the last six months with plain background, no hat or head covering unless there is a religious or medical reason. This picture will be used for identification during the interview.
2) Passport (in JPEG/PNG/GIF/PDF)	Pages with the picture and personal information.
3) Academic transcript (in PDF)	Upload official transcript and graduation certificate (or certificate of expected graduation) issued by the university for master's degree.
4) Graduation certificate or certificate of expected graduation (in PDF)	*If you are currently enrolled in or have completed a master's program outside of Japan, upload ALL degrees from your bachelor degree onward including the current program. *A copy of transcript, graduation certificate or degree certificate is acceptable if the copy is attested by an authorized official of the university with seal and signature. Those who pass the examination will be required to submit the original papers of the uploaded documents in the enrollment procedure. As the submitted documents will not be returned, do not upload the certificates of which original papers you cannot submit in the enrollment procedure.
5) Guarantee letter (in PDF)	Applicants must upload an official letter/certificate from the sponsor confirming your scholarship acceptance.

6) Copy of master's thesis (in PDF)	Upload a copy of master's thesis or report of relevant work or research experience. *If you have not completed your thesis at the time of application or your thesis is not written in English or Japanese, you should submit a detailed description of your master's research (within ten A4 pages).
7) Statement of proposed research (in PDF)	Upload a report of two to three A4 pages in English on your proposed research topic, determined in consultation with your intended academic supervisor.
8) Two letters of recommendation	Two letters of recommendation from two persons well acquainted with your intellectual ability and personality are required. You must use the function of the Online Application System to ask the recommenders to upload the letters of recommendation. Before sending the request to the recommender through the system, you should contact them by email (or any other communication tool) to make sure the recommenders understand your request. Your application will not be completed on the system without uploading letters of recommendation. Letter A) Should be written by an academic supervisor (or its equivalent) of your current or most recent study program. A designated form will be automatically attached to the request to the recommender on the system. Letter B) Should be written in any format by the dean, head or manager (or their equivalent) of the institution/company to which you currently belong, addressed to the dean of GSGES. *Applicants who currently belong to the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (e.g. as a research student) need to submit A) only. In that case, the letter must be written by a previous academic supervisor (not the current academic supervisor at GSGES).
9) Proof of payment (in JPEG/PNG/GIF/PDF)	EXAMINATION FEE : 30,000 JPY Payment period: from July 2 to July 15, 2025 (JST) Make a payment through EXSS (Examination Settlement Service*). After payment, download the proof of payment from EXSS. *Refer to https://www3.univ-jp.com/kyoto-u/en/ges/ for more details *A handling charge of 650 JPY will be charged. *The family and given name you enter on EXSS should be exactly the same as the one used in Online Application System. *The entrance examination fee will be refunded to the recipients of a Japanese Government Scholarship. Note: Handling fees will not be returned. Bank transfer fee will be borne by the applicants when refunding. *Not required for those expected to graduate from a master's program or a professional degree program at Kyoto University in the previous month of the enrollment date or JICA KCCP scholars who (will be) enrolled in GSGES as a research student.
10) English score (TOEFL, etc.) (in PDF)	English score (TOEFL, etc.) described in Section 4 (4-1) below. *Those who pass the examination will be required to submit the original paper of the uploaded documents later in the enrollment procedure.
11) Letter of provisional acceptance by the intended academic supervisor (in PDF)	Letter of provisional acceptance by the intended academic supervisor is required. You must ask the intended academic supervisor at GSGES to issue this letter. Use the designated form (Download from the GSGES website) *This is a substitute for an evaluation report by the intended academic supervisor, which was announced on the website .

NOTES on examination fee:

1. The fee is non-refundable.
2. For households in regions where the Disaster Relief Act is effective and whose principal wage-earner has been adversely affected by the disasters listed in the website below, an exemption may be made to the payment of Entrance Examination Fees for cases where a Risai Shomeisho (Disaster victim

Certificate) has been issued. For the list of the disasters and exemption requirements, refer to http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/admissions/fees_exemption/
For further details, contact the GSGES administration office by June 10, 2025 at 5 pm (JST).

3. List of Study Areas and Faculty Member

You should **choose one study area and a faculty member as an academic supervisor from the list** below. Indicate your choice on Online Application System. You must contact him/her **prior to** application in order to request future supervision for the designated study program and advice for the application process.

Eligible study areas and faculty			
Study area	Professor	Associate Professor	Senior Lecturer
Department of Global Ecology			
Global Environmental Policy	Makoto Usami		
Environmental Economics	Kenji Takeuchi		
Global Ecological Economics*		Akihisa Mori	
Sustainable Rural Development	Emi Takeyama	Kenichiro Onitsuka	
Water Environment Conservation	Taku Fujiwara	Taira Hidaka	
Comparative Social Institutions	Tsukasa Mihira		
Environmental Marketing Management		Akira Yoshino	
History of Art and Culture	Erika Takashina		
Environmental Education		Gregory Patrick Trencher	Roger Cloud Baars
Department of Technology and Ecology			
Environmentally-friendly Industries for Sustainable Development	Shinya Echigo	Shuhei Tanaka	
Environmental Infrastructure Engineering	Takeshi Katsumi	Atsushi Takai	
Global Environmental Architecture*	Hirohide Kobayashi	Chiho Ochiai	
Biodiversity Conservation*	Takao Ichioka Kanto Nishikawa		
Landscape Ecology and Planning	Junichi Imanishi	Katsue Fukamachi	
Elemental Materials Chemistry**	Kazuo Tanaka		
Department of Natural Resources			
Regional Planning	Izuru Saizen	Satoshi Asano	
Urban Infrastructure Design	Masashi Kawasaki	Keita Yamaguchi	
Environmental Photo-ceramic Material Chemistry	Setsuhisa Tanabe		
Terrestrial Microbiology and Systematics	Chihiro Tanaka	Akira Yoshimi	
Terrestrial Ecosystems Management	Shinya Funakawa	Hitoshi Shinjo	
Ecosystem Linkages and Human Society	Naoko Tokuchi Ryunosuke Tateno		

* NOT applicable for enrollment in October 2025 and April 2026

** Applicable only for enrollment in October 2025

4. Admission Selection

Admission selection will be carried out by means of a comprehensive evaluation of the documents, English ability and online interview.

4-1. English Score

To evaluate English ability, all applicants including native speakers of English must upload **one** of the following:

- 1) Score record of **TOEFL-iBT** (recommended; including TOEFL iBT Home Edition),
- 2) Official score certificate of **TOEIC Listening & Reading** (Secure/Public testing program),
or
- 3) Test report form of **IELTS (Academic Module)**.

If you do not upload one of the above, you will be graded “zero” for English ability.

IMPORTANT: In each case, the score record submitted should be for a test-score dated on or after April 1, 2022. Original official score reports sent directly to Kyoto University by ETS (Educational Testing Service) will not be accepted. The score records of TOEFL-CBT, TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC Bridge, TOEIC-IP and IELTS (General Training Module) are not acceptable.

Note: Applicants may find the following information useful, if they have several test scores and wish to identify the most suitable for submission:

- **A TOEIC score can be converted using the score comparison table on page 9.**
- **Conversions of IELTS scores into TOEFL scores can be made using the ‘TOEFL iBT and IELTS Academic Module Scores Comparison Tables’ provided by ETS.**

4-2. Interview

Online interviews will be held in accordance with the following:

Date & Time	Contents
August 26 - August 28, 2025 9:00 -18:00 (JST) each day * The date and time of the interview for each applicant will be specified from the above period. (Applicants cannot specify the interview date or time.) * The interview session is approximately 50 minutes long.	Specialized knowledge gained through your master’s study or practical experience; contents of your proposed research plan presentation; any relevant knowledge about the research plan or related subjects.

(1) Evaluation criteria for the interviews:

Your research ability, significance of your proposed research, presentation effectiveness and the contents of application documents.

(2) Grading criteria:

All applicants will be graded according to the sum total of marks (500 points maximum) for English ability (100 points maximum) and interview performance (400 points maximum). The interview assessment includes a review of your proposed research. In order to pass, an applicant’s combined marks must total at least 300 points, comprising at least 240 points out of the 400-point total for the interview.

(3) You should prepare Microsoft PowerPoint slides for the interview.

You will be given approximately 20 minutes for the presentation. Detailed instructions about the submission of presentation files will be given in early August, 2025.

- Before taking the interview, ensure that you will be in an appropriate environment (e.g., a quiet and private room) with a stable internet connection and the necessary equipment (including camera, speaker, microphone). For further details, refer to the attachment " Guidelines for taking the online interview ".
- The examination voucher can be downloaded on the Online Application System from August 5 onward.
- Detailed instructions on the interview, including dates and times, will be emailed on August 5.

5. Announcement of Examination Results

The result will become available on Online Application System at 10 am on **September 1, 2025**.

*The button to the result page will show up.

*We do not respond to any phone calls or other inquiries regarding examination results.

6. Admission and Tuition Fees

Instructions regarding enrollment procedures and payment of admission/tuition fees will be sent to successful applicants by email in early September, 2025 for enrollment in October 2025 or in late February, 2026 for enrollment in April 2026. Admitted students must obtain their college student visas by the enrollment date. See details on the document “Notification for successful applicants” which will be available on the examination result page of Online Application System.

Admission fee: 282,000 JPY

Tuition fee: 267,900 JPY per semester (535,800 JPY annually)

Please note that fees may be subject to change.

Exemption

- Admission fee
Not required for those expected to graduate from a master’s program or a professional degree program at Kyoto University in the previous month of the enrollment date, recipients of MEXT Scholarships, or JICA KCCP scholars.
- Tuition fee
Not required for the recipients of MEXT Scholarships or the scholars of JICA KCCP.

7. Handling of Personal Information

In accordance with Kyoto University regulations, each applicant’s name, gender, date of birth, address and other personal information (including information relating to performance evaluation) as provided in application documents are used only for admission procedures, scholarship applications, and preparations for accepting students.

8. Contact information

All inquiries are to be addressed to the GSGES administration office.

Administration office
Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
Kyoto University
Yoshida Main Campus Research Bldg. No.5,
Yoshida-honmachi, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan
Tel: +81-75-753-9167, Fax: +81-75-753-9187,
E-mail: 160tikyukankyomu@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Note: **The information in this guideline is subject to change without notice. Refer to the latest information available on the website.**

(<https://www.ges.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/admissions/schedule-and-guide/>)

Score Comparison Table of TOEFL-iBT • TOEIC

TOEIC Score	TOEFL iBT Score
65 – 83	14
84 – 100	15
101 – 119	17
120 – 138	18
139 – 153	19
154 – 163	20
164 – 183	21
184 – 205	23
206 – 226	24
227 – 239	25
240 – 250	26
251 – 264	27
265 – 278	29
279 – 291	30
292 – 301	31
302 – 318	32
319 – 335	33
336 – 349	35
350 – 357	36
358 – 368	37
369 – 385	38
386 – 395	39
396 – 408	41
409 – 418	42
419 – 431	43
432 – 442	44
443 – 454	45
455 – 466	47
467 – 474	48
475 – 482	49
483 – 491	50
492 – 507	51
508 – 522	53
523 – 529	54
530 – 536	55
537 – 553	56
554 – 567	57
568 – 576	59
577 – 583	60

TOEIC Score	TOEFL iBT Score
584 – 590	61
591 – 600	62
601 – 613	63
614 – 626	65
627 – 635	66
636 – 642	67
643 – 649	68
650 – 659	69
660 – 671	71
672 – 681	72
682 – 688	73
689 – 696	74
697 – 707	75
708 – 720	77
721 – 726	78
727 – 731	79
732 – 736	80
737 – 745	81
746 – 757	83
758 – 767	84
768 – 774	85
775 – 781	86
782 – 789	87
790 – 798	89
799 – 808	90
809 – 815	91
816 – 824	92
825 – 833	93
834 – 842	95
843 – 849	96
850 – 859	97
860 – 869	98
870 – 880	99
881 – 896	101
897 – 905	102
906 – 914	103
915 – 926	104
927 – 937	105
938 – 949	107

TOEIC Score	TOEFL iBT Score
950 – 960	108
961 – 976	109
977 – 988	110
989 –	111

Guidelines for taking the online interview

Please read and confirm the following items carefully that concern taking the online interview.

What to do by the day of the interview:

1. Ensure that you are in an appropriate environment (e.g. a quiet and private room) when taking the interview.
2. Check in advance whether the interview can be conducted stably with the necessary equipment (including camera, speaker microphone) and whether the internet connection is suitable. Be sure to update your OS and Zoom application and check your connection status, microphone, speaker, and camera settings.
3. If taking an interview from overseas and it is difficult to satisfy the above 1 or 2 items, be sure to notify the GSGES administration office at the time of application for examination through online application system.

What to do on the day of the interview:

1. Have your examination voucher handy.
2. Access the Zoom link specified in the examination guidelines 15 minutes before the interview time.
3. Set the display name on Zoom to your Applicant ID and name. (e.g. 1001: GSGES)
4. Follow the instructions given by the staff. Sit directly in front of the camera, showing your facing and upper body (do not wear a mask) so that we can verify your identity. During the interview, keep your upper body about 1m away from the camera so that it fits in the video frame. Do not use virtual backgrounds.
5. When prompted by the staff, show the entire surroundings of the room with your web camera used for the interview.
6. When prompted by the staff, use Zoom's screen sharing function to demonstrate that no apps or tabs other than Zoom are running on your device.
See below for how to use Zoom screen sharing.
Zoom Help Center <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us> => Audio and Video=> Screen Sharing
7. Be sure to remain visible in the camera during the entire interview.
8. Do not keep anything near you other than the examination voucher and the electronic equipment used for the interview.

About cheating

The following acts may be regarded as cheating and should be avoided.

- Being in an environment where background noise such as telephones interfere with the interview
- Being in the company of a third party during the interview
- Communicating with a third party regarding the interview questions
- Recording the interview video or audio
- Entering and leaving the room during the interview
- Carrying out actions that give the impression of having in hand other items except for the examination voucher and the computer equipment used
- Acts of using the computer equipment for purposes other than the communication about the questions asked (e.g. looking up information online)
- Leaking the contents of questions to other parties
- Committing other acts that impair the fairness of the test (e.g. reading reference materials, intentionally interrupting the internet connection, etc.)

Troubleshooting on the day

- If it is difficult to conduct the interview on the scheduled day due to an Internet connection failure, etc., the interview may be conducted on another day and time during the examination period. Details will be announced later.
- In the event of an incident on the day, we will contact you by phone or email. If the applicant incurs a situation that prevents taking the interview, immediately contact the GSGES administration office by phone or email:
Phone number: +(81)-75-753-9167
e-mail: 160tikyukankyoumu@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Important notice

If there is a connection error or trouble due to the applicant's own reason and the GSGES administration office is not notified, he / she may not retake the interview.

Other necessary matters will be given in the examination guidelines after application.