

September 2025 / April 2026 Entry
Guidelines for Applicants to the Ph.D. Course
Graduate Program on Environmental Sciences, GPES
Multidisciplinary Sciences
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
The University of Tokyo

Program Overview

The Graduate Program on Environmental Sciences (GPES), one of the graduate programs in English at Komaba (GPEAK) is an exciting advanced level degree program (offered at both Masters and Ph.D. level) at the University of Tokyo. It shares its vision with its undergraduate counterpart, the International Program on Environmental Sciences, one of the PEAK (Programs in English at Komaba) program and is likewise delivered entirely in English.

The graduate program steps further and deeper, allowing students to choose their area of specialization from a wide range of relevant fields including natural and agricultural sciences, industrial technologies, and social sciences including economics, politics and other related disciplines. The course is research-focused under tuition of our faculty and provides a unique opportunity to work with world experts at the cutting edge, on problems that global society needs to address right now for its future prosperity.

Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the GPES program will be specialists and professionals

- capable of working internationally in the environment-energy field on the global stage;
- with a systematic understanding of the environment-energy field from both natural and social scientific perspectives;
- who understand and can make judgements on environmental questions on all scales ranging from local to global;
- with a considered and empathetic view of the wide range of different stakeholder viewpoints on environmental issues and who can execute leadership in resolving issues arising from these;
- who can make informed decisions in real time, on site to solve real world problems;
- who are global communicators, capable of addressing both specialists and non-specialists while encompassing the needs of differing cultural groups.

Degree Program Offered and the Number of Available Places

- Ph.D. 10 places

1. Schedules

The GPES offers two selection schedules, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2. The selection procedure and required documents are identical between the two schedules.

2. Selection Procedures

Applicants shall be screened and selected through a comprehensive process. Selection is based on the evaluation of all of the applicant's submitted materials (TOEFL or IELTS and GRE scores, short essays, research plan, etc.), recommendation letters, and, if deemed necessary, an interview, which may be conducted in person or online.

Selection for admission regarding those applicants to the Ph.D. Course who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GPES in August 2025/ in March 2026 is based on the student's Master's thesis, the quality of the student's work and grades while in the Masters Course, 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. Enrollment Dates

Schedule 1 applications: September 30, 2025

Schedule 2 applications: April 1, 2026

4. Applicant Eligibility

Before submitting an application, all applicants must have contacted a potential supervising professor listed on the GPES website at <http://gpes.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/faculty-staff/index.html> and obtained his or her approval.

Those who have or are expected to have a Master's degree or the equivalent (including Ph.D. candidacy) before the enrollment date are eligible to apply for the Ph.D. Course.

Please note that applicants whose qualifications differ in any other respect from those stated above must contact the GPEAK Admissions Office by September 2, 2024 (Schedule 1) or April 11, 2025 (Schedule 2).

For details, please refer to the Appendix.

* Note: In Schedule 1, those who are expected to have a Master's degree or the equivalent (including Ph.D. candidacy) on September 30, 2025 must consult the GPEAK Admissions Office in advance.

5. Application Procedures

(1) Application Period

Schedule 1 applications: November 1 to November 8, 2024

Applicants to the Ph.D. Course who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GPES in August 2025 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 7 to May 9, 2025.

Schedule 2 applications: June 5 to July 4, 2025

Applicants to the Ph.D. Course who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GPES in March 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 December 1 to December 9, 2025.

(2) Application Process

Please submit the necessary application documents (refer to (4) Required Documents) online as follows:

[Application Documents except for 5. Two letters of recommendation]

Upload the application documents to the designated link that will be posted on the GPES website at <http://gpes.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/how-to-apply/downloads.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 November 8, 2024 (Japan Standard Time) for Schedule 1 or July 4, 2025 (Japan Standard Time) for Schedule 2. The GPEAK Admissions Office is not responsible for any system malfunction caused by applicants' computers.

[Application Document 5. Two letters of recommendation]

Please ask your evaluators to upload the signed letter of recommendation (GPES official form) to the designated link that will also be posted on the GPES website above no later than 4:00 pm on November 8, 2024 (Japan Standard Time) for Schedule 1 or July 4, 2025 (Japan Standard Time) for Schedule 2.

Please note that none of the submitted materials will be returned.

(3) Application Fee

JPY 10,000

Note 1: No application fee is required from Foreign National applicants on MEXT scholarships (Monbukagakusho scholarship recipients). Such applicants who are not currently studying / conducting research at the University of Tokyo must submit a certificate of proof of their MEXT scholarship status.

Note 2: No application fee is required for students who are expected to obtain a Master's degree or a professional degree at the University of Tokyo in August or September 2025 (for September 2025 enrollment).

Note 3: No application fee is required for students who are expected to obtain a Master's degree or a professional degree at the University of Tokyo in March 2026 (for April 2026 enrollment).

Note 4: The application fee must be paid between October 1, 2024 and November 8, 2024 for Schedule 1, or May 1, 2025 and July 4, 2025 for Schedule 2. Application materials cannot be reviewed without receipt of the application fee. Refund of the application fee is not possible under any circumstances.

(4) Required Documents

All documents must be prepared in English. Please refer to the check list below to confirm the required materials.

	Required materials	*	Number of files required	Remarks
1	Application Form [Official Form]	○	PDF (1)	- Download and complete the form - Attach a photograph to the application form.
2	Receipt of payment of the Application Fee	○	PDF (1)	- Applicants living abroad: E-payment only. Visit the web site (https://e-shiharai.net/english/) and follow the procedures. Also see "How to make Payment of Examination Fee at E-shiharai.net." for details. - Not required for students on MEXT scholarships. Such scholars should submit a certificate of proof of their scholarship status if they are not currently studying / conducting research at the University of Tokyo. - Applicants living in Japan: E-payment (https://e-shiharai.net/english/) or payment by bank transfer using a specified payment slip. For details of payment, see "How to make Payment of Examination Fee at E-shiharai.net." - Not required for students who are expected to obtain a master's or professional degree from the University of Tokyo.

				-The application fee will not be refunded under any circumstances.
3	Research plan/ Statement of Purpose [Official Form]	○	PDF (1)	-Describe your previous studies and your proposed future research plan (1000 words)
4	Short Essay [Official Form]	○	PDF (1)	-Write the essay in 1000 words according to instructions on Short Essay form.
5	Two letters of recommendation [Official Form]	○	PDF (1) x 2 letters	-These should be completed by two evaluators well acquainted with the applicant's academic ability and personality. -Each signed letter should be uploaded to the designated link on the GPES website by the evaluator.
6	Transcript of Academic Records	○	PDF (1)	-Successful applicants must submit the original documents before you enroll in the program.
7	Certificates of Bachelor's and (expected) Master's Degrees	○	PDF (1)	-Successful applicants must submit the original certificates before you enroll in the program. -Please ask the Office of Registrar at your school to certify your degree instead of sending the original diploma.
8	Master Thesis or additional supplemental work	△	PDF (1)	-Optional, if available
9	TOEFL or IELTS Score Report (TOEFL-ITP is not accepted.)	○	Read through the remarks	1) [PDF] A copy of your Test Taker Score Report (TOEFL) or Test Report Form (IELTS) must be uploaded to the designated link together with other application documents by the application deadline. 2) An Institutional Score Report (TOEFL) / 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 2, 2024 for Schedule 1 or July 22, 2025 for Schedule 2 (Institution Code: 6184, Department Code: 99 for TOEFL). Notes: - (TOEFL iBT) Either a recent, valid Test Date score or the MyBest score must be sent to our office. -Applicants whose native language is English or who have obtained or are expected to a Bachelor's or other advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education where English is the primary language of instruction are not required to submit a TOEFL nor IELTS score. Instead they should describe their English fluency in the application form.
10	GRE (General) Score Report	○	Read through the remarks	1) [PDF] A copy of your Test Taker Score Report must be uploaded to the designated link together with other application documents by the application deadline. 2) A Graduate Institution Score Report should be sent, by the testing institution, directly to the GPEAK Admissions Office and must arrive at the office by December 2, 2024 for Schedule 1 or July 22, 2025 for Schedule 2 (Institution Code: 8326, Department Code: 5199). Note: -Subject test scores may be submitted if available.
11	Passport-style ID photo	○	JPEG (1)	-4cm x 3cm -Taken within the last 6 months -Upper frontal view without hat
12	Proof of Citizenship	○	PDF (1)	-A photocopy of your passport, your census register or other proof of citizenship.
13	Japanese Proficiency Certificate	△	PDF (1)	-Optional, if available.

*○: required, △: optional

Applicants to the Ph.D. Course who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GPES are only required to submit those materials listed under 1, 3, and 11.

(5) Applicant Number

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 GPES website above.

(6) Application schedules

(i) Schedule 1

Document assessments and interviews (if applicable) will be conducted by the end of December 2024.

Applicants chosen to be interviewed will be notified of the details of the interview through e-mail by early December.

(ii) Schedule 2

Document assessments and interviews (if applicable) will be conducted by the end of August 2025.

Applicants chosen to be interviewed will be notified of the details of the interview through e-mail by early August.

6. After Admission/ Enrollment Information

(1) Announcement of selection results and admission procedures

(i) The applicant numbers of the successful candidates in Schedule 1 will be announced on the Komaba I Campus homepage at

https://www.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng_site/index.html at noon on January 16, 2025 (Japan Standard Time). In addition, a letter of acceptance will be sent to successful candidates. No letters will be sent to unsuccessful applicants.

(ii) The applicant numbers of the successful candidates in Schedule 2 will be announced on the Komaba I Campus homepage at

https://www.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng_site/index.html at noon on October 1, 2025 (Japan Standard Time). In addition, a letter of acceptance will be sent to successful candidates. No letters will be sent to unsuccessful applicants.

(iii) No telephone, fax or e-mail inquiries regarding results will be accepted.

(iv) A Certificate of Admission along with other documents related to visa and admission procedures will be sent to successful candidates after confirming your acceptance of our offer. Students who receive the certificate of admission must pay the enrollment fee and complete the appropriate admission procedures during the designated period according to our directions. If the proper admission procedures are not completed during the above period, then admission will be nullified.

(v) Results of the selection process regarding those applicants to the Ph.D. Course who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GPES in August 2025 will be announced on the Komaba I Campus homepage at

https://www.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng_site/index.html noon on August 8, 2025 (Japan Standard Time).

(vi) Results of the selection process regarding those applicants to the Ph.D. Course who expect to obtain a Master's degree from GPES in March 2026 will be announced on the Komaba I Campus homepage at

https://www.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng_site/index.html noon on March 2, 2026 (Japan Standard Time).

(2) GPES Enrollment and Tuition Fees (subject to change)

(i) Enrollment Fee: JPY 282,000

(ii) Annual Tuition Fee: JPY 520,800

Please note that all fees are subject to change. If fees are revised upon enrollment or while enrolled, the revised fees shall be applied to the next payment required after the revision. MEXT scholars are exempt from paying these fees.

Notes

- (1) No amendments to the submitted documents are allowed under any circumstances, however, any changes in name, home address, or mailing address etc. made after document submission must be reported to the GPEAK Admissions Office immediately.
- (2) The enrollment fee will not be refunded under any circumstances.
- (3) International students are required to obtain an appropriate visa according to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Cabinet Order No. 319 of 1951) prior to undertaking the enrollment procedure.
- (4) Those with disabilities may request special accommodation for examination and study. If you wish to apply for such accommodation, please contact GPEAK Admissions Office (office [at] gpes.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp) at your earliest convenience before your application.
- (5) The University will retrospectively cancel the admission of any student who is found to have falsified any of their personal information, academic records or other documents accompanying the application form.
- (6) Application procedures and related schedules subject to change. If changes are made, applicants will be notified by the GPEAK Admissions Office.
- (7) 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.

- (8) 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.

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@gpes.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Appendix

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

- (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 a Master's degree or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date 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 that is designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, which provides program of a foreign graduate school within the school education system of a foreign country, and have conferred or are expected to be conferred 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 a degree equivalent to that of a Master's degree or are expected to be conferred before the enrollment date.
- (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

(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 includes 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 2, 2024 (Schedule 1) or April 11, 2025 (Schedule 2) and submit all the documents specified by the GPEAK Admissions Office as the eligibility for application is confirmed in advance by document screening. Please inquire 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) applies 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 2, 2024 (Schedule 1) or April 11, 2025 (Schedule 2) 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 inquire 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.