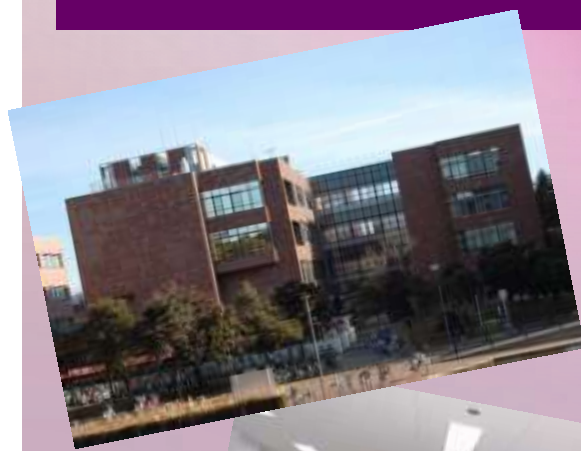


Application Guidelines

Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies The Nippon Foundation Central Asia Fellowship

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba

Period of Application: January 23, 2019 – March 15, 2019



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University of Tsukuba

Academic Environment

Established in October 1973, the University of Tsukuba has inherited the history and tradition handed down from its predecessor (Tokyo University of Education), which was founded in 1872. As the first comprehensive university in Japan to be established under a nation-wide university reform plan, the University of Tsukuba emphasizes openness in higher education. It offers students a new system of education and research through its New University administration.

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

The University of Tsukuba offers undergraduate degrees and at the graduate level, master's, doctoral, and professional degree programs. This program heavily builds upon successful experience of conducting training and research within Special Program for Central Asian Countries established in the University of Tsukuba in 2006.

Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies

Background

Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies is an English-language program offering students various degrees in Japanese and Eurasian Studies in Tsukuba, Japan. It is intended for students from the Eurasian region. Classes, guidance, and writing theses and dissertations are conducted in English. Areas of expertise consist of various subjects related to the humanities and social sciences disciplines including the fields of Japanese, Eurasian and International Studies. The graduates of the program are expected to promote cultural, economic, and technological exchanges between Japan and the Eurasian continent as well as to play active roles in the educational and research institutes of their home countries.

Aims of the Program

The main goals of the fellowship and the program are:

1. To facilitate human resource development in resolving various problems issues related to the sustainable development in Central Asian states and their relations with Japan. In addition, the fellowship also promotes graduate studies into problems related to the stabilization and prosperity of the regions in an academic or practical way, overcoming cultural or historical differences between the regions;
2. To reinforce the networks between Eurasia and Japan through the goals mentioned above.

Program Content

The program is promoted by the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Tsukuba.

Successful applicants enroll in the MA Program, which offers more than 50 courses in English, and develops international, interdisciplinary and problem-oriented approaches to the understanding of a specific country or an area.

Structure of the Program

This is a 1.5-year Master of Arts Graduate Program. Over the course of their studies, students will have an opportunity to receive their education using English-language-based curriculum, in addition to having an opportunity to enroll into complimentary Japanese language education classes. By the end of their studies, students are expected to be proficient in both the English and Japanese languages, in addition to becoming leading specialists in the chosen area of their specialization. The curriculum of the program features, among other subjects, seminars conducted by JICA, the UN, the ADB and governmental agencies, colloquiums based on collaborative research projects and internships at Japanese companies. Those graduating from this program will be in a position to seek employment in academic and research institutions, UN agencies, governmental institutions, and the corporate community.

Language of Instruction

English is the main language of instruction for this program. However, knowledge of the Japanese language is an asset.

Degrees Obtained

Students will receive an MA degree in International Studies from the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Tsukuba.

Admissions

Eligibility

1. *Nationality*. Applicants must be nationals from the following countries: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, or Azerbaijan (6 countries).

2. *Age.* Applicants who were born on or after April 2, 1984.
3. *Educational background.* Applicants who have an undergraduate degree (or are expected to have received one by the time they start the MA program) and who have completed 16 years of school education.
4. *Language Qualifications.* Applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting scores received on English-language proficiency tests (approximate scores are around TOEFL IBT 80, TOEFL CBT 230, TOEFL PBT 500, IELTS 6.0). The scores above provided as approximate ones and each applicant's ability will be checked and considered on a case-by-case basis.
5. *Arrival in Japan.* Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by the last week of September 2019.
6. *Other.* Any applicant who falls under the following conditions is ineligible. If identified after the commencement of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship.
 - a. The applicant is already a recipient of a scholarship from an organization other than The Nippon Foundation.
 - b. The applicant has been unable to graduate within the present date or unable to fulfill graduation requirements for the applicant's undergraduate degree.

Enrollment Quota

This program admits up to 10 students per year. Those applicants who demonstrate outstanding abilities will be awarded scholarships from The Nippon Foundation (up to 5 scholarships per year). Those who qualify for the program but are unable to secure a scholarship from The Nippon Foundation will be admitted into the program as privately-financed students. They will be responsible for the costs of their tuition and residence in Japan over the period of their studies.

Enrollment Date

October 1, 2019.

Scholarship (The Nippon Foundation Central Asia Fellowship)

Those demonstrating outstanding abilities and achievements will be awarded scholarships (five scholarships per year) on a competitive basis. The monthly amount of each scholarship is 117,000 yen (the amount is subject to change). In addition, the fellowship will cover the tuition costs of students. The fellows will also be given opportunities to attend conferences and events both in Japan and internationally.

Travel Expenses

Each grantee of The Nippon Foundation Central Asia Fellowship under this program will be provided with return airfare from the international airport nearest to his/her home address in his/her home country to Narita International Airport, Japan. The return airfare will be provided if (s)he returns to his/her home country during the designated period of time.

Application Documents

First Stage: Completion and submission of the Preliminary Application Form is the first stage of application process. The application form should be sent to the following address:

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

Second Stage: An interview and exam conducted in the applicant's home country constitutes the second stage of screening. Each applicant should bring all related documents (certifying statements of academic and professional background; authenticated English proficiency certificate [TOEFL, IELTS, GRE]; and basic Japanese language skills are assets) on the interview day or send them by post to the following address:

SPJES (Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies)

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Tsukuba^[SEP]
Tennodai 1-1-1, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken JAPAN
305-8571^[SEP]
E-mail: spca-info@ml.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp

Application Checklist for the Second Stage

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

8 photographs (30 x 40mm)

Letter of Recommendation in a sealed envelope.

Official transcripts or official copies of diplomas from all undergraduate and graduate institutions previously attended. **If you are currently studying at the university, please submit a current transcript.*

TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, etc. original score report. **The test should be taken no earlier than 2 years prior the submission date of your application.*

Selection and Notice of Selection

Applicants will be selected based on a comprehensive assessment of their preliminary application documentation and the results of their interviews and exams. Those who are selected for the second stage will be informed individually. However, due to the high volume of applications, the Selection Committee cannot acknowledge the receipt

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of applications or notify those who are not selected for the interview stage.

After the first stage of application screening, the faculty members of the University of Tsukuba will conduct interviews with the semi-finalists. Successful applicants will then have their files reviewed for final approval and related procedures at the University of Tsukuba.

Note: The information and forms that applicants provide to the Master's Program are kept confidential and are used for selection purposes only.

Application Time Schedule

January 23, 2019 – Program is officially announced (Application and application guidelines will be available through the Program Website: <http://www.chiiki.tsukuba.ac.jp/spca.html>)

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March 15, 2019 – Deadline for application and the first stage screening of the application at the University of Tsukuba

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March-April 2019 – Interviews/exams by the commissioning faculty members of the University of Tsukuba

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June 2019 – Receiving an acceptance letter from the University of Tsukuba.

↓
September 20-30 – Arriving in Japan

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October 1, 2019 – Enrolling in the Master's Program in International Area Studies as full-time students

Tuition and related fees

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

Student accommodation

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

Campus Life

Academic Calendar

1. Autumn Semester: October-March
Entrance Ceremony and Guidance: September 30
Orientation with Supervisors: Early October
Classes Begin: October 1

University Festival: November 2-4
Winter Break: December 27-January 5
Last Day of Classes: February 13
Thesis Midterm Presentation: Mid-February-April
Spring Break: February 15- March 31

2. Spring Semester: April-September
Classes Begin: Early April
Thesis Submission: Mid- June
Thesis Oral Defense: End of June
Last Day of Classes: Early August
Summer Break: Early August-September 30
Graduation Ceremony: End of September
These dates may be subject to modification and are not legally binding. The Academic Calendar is also available at
<http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/students/academic/information-calendar2019>

Student Facilities

Students will be able to benefit from the following services:

- (1) Tutor: A tutor will be arranged for each student. They will help students with their life in Tsukuba.
- (2) Copy Card (up to 1000 sheets for free per year; may be subject to change).
- (3) Study Room: The study room for SPJES students is located in the Master's Programs in Humanities and Social Sciences building on the main campus.
- (4) Satellite Room: An air-conditioned computer room (8A210) is available 24 hours per day. Students can use printers (up to 1200 sheets for free per year; may be subject to change)
- (5) Mail Box
- (6) Personal Locker

Faculty Members and Curriculum

For information about our faculty members, please check the program's homepage:

<http://www.chiiki.tsukuba.ac.jp/spca/people/faculty/>

Contact Information

SPJES (Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies)

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Tsukuba^[L]_[SEP]
Tennodai 1-1-1, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken JAPAN
305-8571^[L]_[SEP]
E-mail: spca-info@ml.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp

For more information please visit the pages below:

University Main Page:
<http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/>
SPJES website:
<http://www.chiiki.tsukuba.ac.jp/spca.html>