

Sustainability Science, Technology, and Policy (SUSTEP) Program  
Application and Admission Guidelines

2026 Fall Semester Enrollment

Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies  
Degree Program in Life and Earth Sciences  
Graduate School of Science and Technology



*University of Tsukuba*

## 1. Enrollment quota

Limited

\*The admission is in October.

## 2. Program outline

This program accepts Japanese students as well as students from foreign countries, who are expected to engage in practical research, policymaking or project implementation, and are highly motivated to learn advanced and practice-oriented expert knowledge. This program is a three-year program, but early completion is also available. All courses and instruction are provided in English.

## 3. Admission requirements

Applicants must satisfy one of the following requirements:

- (1) Individuals who have earned or expect to earn a master's degree by September 2026.
- (2) Individuals who have earned or expect to earn a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a specialized degree in a foreign country by September 2026.
- (3) The following individuals must pass a qualification review by the graduate school of this University in principle by the end of March 2026 prior to the application submission. Necessary documents for this review must be in compliance with University policies:  
<https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/admission/graduate-overview/shikaku/pdf/t2-7.pdf>

## 4. Application documents

- (1) Application Form (year, month, and day are to be indicated): Use prescribed form. Before application, obtain a reference number from a prospective supervisor or degree program representative after signing a form for "Self-Declaration on Specific Categories" (Form 5).  
[https://coi-sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/export\\_control/specific-categories/](https://coi-sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/export_control/specific-categories/)
- (2) Curriculum Vitae (year, month, and day are to be indicated): Use prescribed form.
- (3) Work Experience [if applicable]: Use prescribed form if you have work experience.
- (4) Admission, Photo, and Table Identification Tickets for the Examination: Use prescribed form and attach photographs to the designated areas (Size H4cm×W3cm, full face, upper half of the body, and hat off; taken within three months of application). **Non-compliant pictures are not acceptable.**
- (5) Entrance Examination Fee (30,000 JPY): If you pay at a convenience store, attach the receipt for the examination fee to the Application Form (1). We will not accept payment by cash, revenue stamp, or cheque. Please refer to Section 5 (Page 3) below about the method and period of payment.
- (6) (Expected) Graduation Certificate of Master's Degree (Year and month, of graduation are to be indicated): This document must validate your graduation from master's program issued from the university. **A photocopy is not accepted.**
- (7) Degree Certificate (Year and month of degree are to be indicated): Submit the original or notarized copy of a certificate from university that verifies your master's degree. **A photocopy is not accepted.**

- (8) Academic Transcript (certified copy): The transcript must be issued by the graduate school or university that meets the requirement of the University of Tsukuba in applying for its doctoral programs. If the applicant has credits transferred from other universities, attach these academic transcripts as well. In cases the applicant received a degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees, the degree certificate, academic transcripts and all other certificates concerning the acquisition of the degree are necessary to be submitted. **A photocopy is not accepted.**
- (9) List of Academic Achievements [A4 size; free format]: Provide a list of publications in a free format.
- (10) Research Plan: Use a prescribed form. The applicant must contact a prospective academic supervisor and print his/her name in this form.
- (11) Approval Letter [A4 size; for applicants who are presently employed]: Submit one approval letter from applicant's employer or a letter of resignation signed by the applicant if he or she is working for government organizations, schools, companies or other organizations. In the latter case, the document proving resignation or applicant's letter with signature can suffice.
- (12) An Official Score Certificate of English Proficiency Test: A valid official score report must be one of the following: TOEFL Examinee Score Record, TOEIC Official Score Certificate, IELTS Academic Module Additional Test Report (TRF), or Official Duolingo English Test Certificate. The valid score must be dated on or after June 2024.  
The score certificate must be submitted to the office of the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies before the end of the application period. For information on how to submit the score certificates of each English proficiency test, see Annexes 1 and 2.  
\* An applicant whose mother tongue is English or a person who completed undergraduate/graduate degree in a country, which uses English as an official language may be exempted from this requirement by submitting a "Certificate of English Proficiency Waiver Request (13)".
- (13) Certificate of English Proficiency Waiver Request [If applicable]: Use prescribed form
- (14) Certificate of Government-sponsored (Japanese Government Monbukagakusho Scholarship) Foreign Student [if applicable: free format]: If you are enrolled in another Japanese university at the time of application, submit the certificate of government-sponsored (Japanese Government Monbukagakusho Scholarship) foreign student issued by the university.
- (15) Name and Address Sheet: Use prescribed form
- (16) Application Checklist: Use prescribed form
- (17) Envelope Cover: Use prescribed form

[Note]

- In case your current name is different from that on the documents you submit (e.g., marriage), submit with the proof (e.g., copy of marriage license).
- Any question about an Official Score Certificate of English Proficiency Test will be inquired to the organization that issues the score.

- The applicant must be responsible for checking all necessary documents before submission. If there is a missing document, the application is not valid.
- All documents submitted will not be returned in principle. The application fee is non-refundable.
- All documents must be in English or Japanese.

## 5. Payment of examination fee

30,000 JPY

[Note] The exemption of this fee applies to those applicants who will receive Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Scholarship, and those who completed within a year or expected to complete a master's program at the University of Tsukuba in July or September 2024, and wishes to continue education in the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies.

### ① Payment period

April 6th (Monday) - May 8th (Friday), 2026

### ② How to Pay

#### a) Convenience store [within Japan]

When applicants use a convenience store for payment (limited to the following stores: LAWSON, Seven-Eleven, Family Mart), prior online registration is needed via PC, cell phone or convenience store information terminal for the payment. Please realize that the terminal will differ at each store.

- › Prescribed form is not necessary.
- › Payment procedure is explained in the attached manual at the end (only available in Japanese).
- › Applicants pay a service fee for the transaction. Please note that examination fees will not be refunded under any circumstances.
- › After completing the payment procedure, please paste a receipt at the designated area of the "Application Form."

#### b) Credit card

Applicants can pay the examination fee online through the E-Payment Site with credit card.

- › Proceed with the on-line payment by accessing the website.
- › <https://e-shiharai.net/english/?schoolcode=OPU5100850000000>
- › The following credit cards are acceptable: VISA, Master, JCB or AMEX
- › After completing the payment procedure, please paste a hard copy of the receipt page on the bottom of the "Application Form" and enclose it with other application documents. Please note that examination fees will not be refunded under any circumstances.

## 6. Application procedures

The applicant should check his/her necessary application documents on the application checklist. Place all documents in an envelope, attach the prescribed envelope cover and submit it directly (in person), or by express registered mail service. Submit the documents to the following address:

Office of the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies

Graduate School of Science and Technology,  
University of Tsukuba  
1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8572 Japan.

After the complete application documents have been accepted, a receipt of application/admission ticket voucher and guidelines for admission will be sent by email to the address written on the application form. **Please make sure your email address is written clearly and correctly on the application form as this address will be used for official correspondence.**

**7. Examination content and Selection process**

- (1) Applicants will be carefully screened both on their application documents and the results of an oral examination in English.
- (2) The oral examination is done via an individual interview about the applicant's research plan and related matters.
- (3) Applicants who reside overseas can take an oral examination via Zoom. If you choose to take examination on Zoom, the examination committee will contact your selected email address and provide necessary information.

**8. Date and place of examination**

- (1) June 2nd (Tuesday)-3rd (Wednesday), 2026
- (2) Location  
University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8572 Japan  
[Note] Detailed information on the examination room and meeting time will be confirmed by email from the Office of the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies.

**9. Notification of the results**

June 30th (Tuesday), 2026. The results will be sent to successful candidates by e-mail from Administration Center in University of Tsukuba on the same day.  
Please check the URL link in that email and follow the instructions to download Letter of Acceptance.

**10. Entrance procedures**

- (1) Successful applicants will receive an email from the Admissions Center of the University of Tsukuba on June 30th (Tuesday), 2026, providing instructions for enrollment procedures. Please complete the enrollment procedures in accordance with the instructions in that email.  
If the applicant is currently employed (except part-time works), she/he must submit either a directive letter for study, warrant of leave, or acceptance letter to enter school issued by the appropriate authority along with the other necessary documents.

(2) Expenses that must be paid on enrollment

① Admission Fee: 282,000 JPY

② Tuition Fee:

267,900 JPY (from October to March) (paid with admission fee)

267,900 JPY (from April to September) (paid in the following academic year)

Total/year: 535,800 JPY

- [Note]
1. If the fee is revised, the new one will be adapted accordingly.
  2. The exemption of this fee applies to those applicants who will receive Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Scholarship, and those who completed within a year or expected to complete a master's program at the University of Tsukuba in July or September 2026, and wishes to continue education in the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies.

- (2) It is necessary for foreign students to have the appropriate visa status for study when they enter the program on October 1st, 2026.

## 11. Other information

- (1) Incomplete application documents will not be accepted nor considered.
- (2) It is not permitted to change your graduate school or program after submitting the application documents.
- (3) The application fee is non-refundable.
- (4) Application documents will not be returned.
- (5) The University of Tsukuba does not provide accommodation for examinees.
- (6) The University of Tsukuba will not reply to any inquiries regarding examination results.
- (7) For further inquiries regarding admission, please contact the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies in the Graduate School of Science and Technology.

## 12. Contact

Office of Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies  
Graduate School of Science and Technology,  
University of Tsukuba  
1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8572 Japan  
[admission@envr.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:admission@envr.tsukuba.ac.jp)

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR EXAMINATION AND ENROLLMENT, OCTOBER 2026  
(Fall Semester)**

- Application period: April 6th (Monday)-May 8th (Friday), 2026  
(9:00 am–12:00pm, 1:30 pm–5:00 pm during weekdays)
- Examination: June 2nd (Tuesday)-3rd (Wednesday), 2026
- Result Notification: June 30th (Tuesday), 2026
- Admission Procedure: Instructions for enrollment procedures will be sent by e-mail on June 30th (Tuesday), 2026.
- Admission date: October 1st (Thursday), 2026
- Entrance ceremony: Late September 2026

## Submission of English Proficiency Test Score Reports

Regarding the English proficiency test score reports accepted as part of the application documents for this entrance examination, please follow the procedures below for each respective test.

### ● TOEIC Listening & Reading Test

#### ① Submission of the Digital Official Score Certificate **(for tests taken in Japan)**

Print the "Digital Official Score Certificate (PDF)" and send it by post together with your other application documents.

#### ② Submission of the original Official Score Certificate **(for tests taken outside Japan)**

Mail the original "Official Score Certificate" together with your other application documents.

### ● TOEFL iBT Test / TOEFL iBT Home Edition

TOEFL iBT scores may be submitted in one of the following two ways:

#### ① Submission of the original Test Taker Score Report

Mail the original "Test Taker Score Report" issued at the test center together with your other application documents.

#### ② Submission of the Official Score Report via ETS

Both of the following steps are required:

(1) Request ETS to send the Official Score Report directly to the university.

[Institution (DI) Code: 9995 / Department Code: 99]

(2) Print the "Test Taker Score Report (PDF)" and send it together with your other application documents.

### ● IELTS Academic

Both of the following steps are required:

(1) Request for Additional TRF (Test Report Form) to be sent

Ask the test center to send an Additional Test Report Form (TRF) to the university.

[Delivery method: Electronically]

(2) Submission of the Test Report Form (PDF)

Print the "Test Report Form (PDF)" and send it together with your other application documents.

(Note 1) Submission of a copy of the original score report is not accepted. Please make sure to submit it using one of the methods mentioned above."

(Note 2) Only score reports that are within the validity period specified in the application guidelines will be accepted.

(Note 3) If the Official Score Report for TOEFL iBT or the Additional TRF for IELTS Academic does not arrive at the university within the application period due to delays from the test institution, your application will not be accepted.

### **Submission of Official Duolingo English Test Certificate**

Applicants for the SUSTEP program may submit an Official Duolingo English Test (DET) Certificate as an “Official Score Certificate of English Proficiency Test” on their application.

Please follow the two procedures below when submitting the DET certificate.

#### **1) Send your test results to our university from the DET My Page**

- Log in to DET official HP with your account.
- Click on "My Tests" in the menu on the left side of the screen.
- Scroll down to your certified test result and click "Share Score."
- Select the institution:  
University of Tsukuba – Graduate School of Science and Technology, Degree Programs in Life and Earth Sciences.
- Press "Send."

#### **2) Mailing of Official Certificate**

- Log in to DET official HP with your account.
- Click on "My Tests" in the menu on the left side of the screen.
- Scroll down to your certified test result and click " Print Results."
- Save your certificate as a PDF , print it out and mail it with other application materials.

Only when the above two procedures are completed within the application period, the Official DET Certificate will be accepted as an application document.

Please refer to the [“Frequently Asked Questions - Sending your Results”](#) on the official website for details on the procedure.