

University of Tsukuba, Medical Sciences

International Student FAQ

1. Programs & Curriculum

Q1. Does the University of Tsukuba offer a Master of Public Health (MPH) taught entirely in English?

A. Yes. The MPH (Master of Public Health) track is offered within the Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences. All core courses are delivered in English, and the curriculum allows completion within two years.

Q2. Is there a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in Biomedical Sciences taught in English?

A. Yes. The PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in Biomedical Sciences admits international students each April and October. Coursework and dissertation supervision are available fully in English.

Q3. Can I transfer credits earned under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)?

A. Up to 10 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits completed at an accredited institution may be transferred, subject to faculty review.

2. Admission Requirements

Q1. What is the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) required?

A. A cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 2.3/3.0 on the JASSO scale—or its equivalent on other scales—is required for MEXT scholarship application.

Q2. Is the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) mandatory?

A. Most programs waive the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) if you hold a bachelor's degree in a closely related field. Check each program's web page.

Q3. What English tests are accepted?

A. We accept the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT), and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic. Typical minimum scores are TOEFL iBT 79, and IELTS 6.0 but varies among the graduate program you apply.

Q4. Do I need Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) scores?

A. JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) is not required for admission to English-medium programs, but basic Japanese is helpful for daily life.

3. Application Procedure

Q1. When are the application deadlines for October admission?

A. Online applications open in early January and close on 15 April. All supporting materials indicated on the application guideline must arrive by that deadline.

Q2. Do I need a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) before applying for a Student “Ryugaku” Visa?

A. Varies among the Graduate program you apply. Typically, after you receive an admission offer and pay the enrollment fee, the university applies for a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) on your behalf. You then submit the CoE

to your local embassy to obtain the Student Visa. However, CoE is not required if you were accepted to the MEXT scholarship,

4. Scholarships & Funding

Q1. What is the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) scholarship?

A. Currently, JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) offers a monthly stipend of ¥48 000 for qualified self-financed students. Application is made through the university after enrollment.

Q2. Does the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarship cover all expenses?

A. The MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship covers tuition, a monthly living stipend, and round-trip airfare.

5. Tuition & Fees

Q1. How much is yearly tuition for graduate programs?

A. Tuition is ¥535 800 per academic year, plus a one-time enrollment fee of ¥282 000.

Q2. Are there tuition waivers?

A. Tuition waivers of 33 %, 50 %, or 100 % are available to academically outstanding students demonstrating financial need.

6. Visa & Immigration

Q1. How long does it take to receive a Student Visa after submitting the Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)?

A. Processing at the embassy/consulate usually takes 1-3 weeks after submission of the CoE.

Q2. Can family members apply for Dependent (Family Stay) Visas?

A. Yes. Spouses and children may apply for a Dependent Visa once your Student Visa is issued.

<https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/campuslife/support-international/immigration/family/>

Q3. Can I arrive late due to visa delays?

A. Late arrival of **up to two weeks** is generally permitted **with prior approval**. Please contact your program coordinator immediately to request approval and adjust your start date. If you are funded by a scholarship, you **must follow the scholarship provider's rules** regarding late arrival—whether it is permitted or not.

7. Housing & Campus Life

Q1. Is on-campus housing guaranteed?

A. First-year international students are guaranteed a single room in student dormitories for up to one year, subject to timely application.

Q2. What is the average monthly living cost in Tsukuba?

A. Students typically budget ¥80 000–¥100 000 for housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses.

8. Research & Supervision

Q1. How do I contact a potential supervisor?

A. Email the professor with a concise research proposal (1-2 pages) and your CV (Curriculum Vitae).

Q2. Is joint supervision with industry possible?

A. Possible. The university encourages industry collaboration, and a Co-Advisory Agreement can be arranged.

9. After Graduation

Q1. Can I extend my stay for job hunting?

A. Yes. You may apply for a “Designated Activities (Shūshoku Katsudō)” Visa, valid for up to 6 months.

<https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/campuslife/support-international/immigration/residence-after-graduation/>

<https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/campuslife/support-international/immigration/employment-searching/>

Q2. Does the university provide career support?

A. The University Student Support Center offers workshops, one-on-one counseling, and company interview fairs.

10. Miscellaneous

Last updated — 08 September 2025.