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2027 Admission Application Guidelines for Non-degree Exchange Students in the Master's Program of the Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Niigata University

The Master's Program of the Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences is recruiting Special Auditing Students and Special Research Students.

1 Eligibility for Admission

Applicants must be a currently enrolled student at level of the Master's degree of a university with which Niigata University has concluded a student exchange agreement.

Those who will have completed his/her degree program at one's home university prior to the end of his/her studies period at Niigata University cannot apply. Those who do not meet this requirement must contact us prior to application.

2 Time Schedule

	2027 April prospective students	2027 October prospective students
Application Deadline	October 28, 2026	May 26, 2027
Date of Admission Notification	Early December 2026	Early July 2027

3 The Term of the Exchange Program

Each applicant will start his/her studies at Niigata University for either one (6 months) or two semesters (12 months). Term dates are as follows;

○2027 April prospective students

・1 Semester(6 months)：April 1, 2027 – September 30, 2027

・2 Semesters(12 months)：April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028

○2027 October prospective students

・1 Semester(6 months)：October 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028

・2 Semesters(12 months)：October 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028

＊Those who do not meet this requirement must contact us prior to application.

＊It is negotiable to set the date of returning home before the end of the term in consultation with your supervisors.

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4 How to Apply

Applicants must submit electronic copies of the required application documents by e-mail by the application deadline. Upon confirmation of the submitted documents, further instructions for the submission of the original documents will be provided separately. The original documents must then be sent by EMS in accordance with the instructions provided.

＊It is required to attach Japanese translations if any documents are produced in a foreign language other than English. The translations can be made by applicants themselves, provided they are written on a word processor and printed out (handwritten is not acceptable).

application documents	Instructions
1) Application for Admission as a Non-degree Exchange Student	(Prescribed form)
2) The latest academic transcript	
3) A Letter of Recommendation from the dean of the applicant's graduate school at home university	(Prescribed form)
4) A certificate of enrollment at home university	
5) Curriculum Vitae	(Prescribed form)
6) Copy of Passport	Submit copies of passport (showing photograph and residential status in Japan)
7) Certificate of health	(Prescribed form)
8) 2 face photos	2 of the same picture, 4cm×3cm sized. Please write your name on the back of each photo
9) A copy of a Certificate (or Notification of the Result) for Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) if applicable.	
10) An application for Certificate of Eligibility for Entry into Japan	(Prescribed form)
11) Documents certifying the applicant's ability to financially support him/herself for the duration of his/her stay.	◎If the applicant covers all of his/her expenses by him/herself, please submit <u>either one document</u> of the following: ☐A certificate and/or document on which the name of the scholarship grant, the monetary amount of the grant, and the provision period of the grant are indicated. ☐A certificate of bank balance of the applicant's displaying sufficient amount for study in Japan in the applicant's bank account.

	◎If a person other than the applicant will cover applicant's expenses, please submit all the following documents: ☐A document which explains the circumstances under which the costs of study in Japan will be paid (Prescribed form) ☐Documents verifying the relationship between the applicant and the Financial Sponsor ☐A certificate of bank balance of the sponsor's displaying sufficient amount for the applicant's study in Japan, in case if the sponsor is living abroad and not in Japan. ☐The sponsor's Income certificate and Employment certificate. ☐If the sponsor lives in Japan, he/she must provide a certificate of payment of residence tax in which the total income, tax amount, and tax due for one year are indicated.
12) Certificate of No Active Tuberculosis	**＊Only applicants who hold the nationality of the designated countries are eligible.** As the list of designated countries is subject to change, please refer to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website for the latest information: https://jpets.mhlw.go.jp/jp/
13) Certificate of Research Activities	**＊For applicants for Special Research Student status only** **＊Please submit this form if your academic supervisor at Niigata University has already been determined. If your supervisor has not yet been determined, please submit the form separately after the supervisor has been decided.** (Prescribed form) Please ask your academic supervisor to complete the form and submit it in electronic format (Word file). The Certificate of Research Activities must be prepared in Japanese.

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5 Student Status at Niigata University

The status of exchange students will be either Special Auditing Student or Special Research Student. It is recommended they consider carefully whether to apply for which category of student by understanding each characteristic described as follows;

I. Special Auditing Student

・This is for students who want to audit postgraduate courses.
・The Japanese Immigration Bureau's rules stipulate that international exchange students (Special Auditing Students) must take classes taught for more than 10 hours (600 minutes) per week. Since each class is 90 minutes long, students need to take at least 7 classes per week. Course credit depends on the subject you choose.
・It is possible for the exchange students to take Japanese language classes at the University.
※For information: https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/campus/international/study-japan/program/
・The students can receive advice from a supervisor about which classes to audit after they have arrived in Japan.
・After the study period at Niigata University, the students will receive an Academic Transcript and a Certificate of Enrollment at Niigata University.

II. Special Research Student

・This is for students who want to advance their own research interests at Niigata University.
・There shall be ample time to conduct research as the Special Research Students do not need to attend classes. Nonetheless the students can opt for attending classes if they wish to do so.
・The students can receive advice from a supervisor on their research topics after they have arrived in Japan.
・After the study period at Niigata University, the students will receive a Certificate which proves that he/she has completed the Special Research Student program. (For those who audited courses, a transcript will also be issued.)

6 Tuition and Other Fees

I. Special Auditing Student

(1) Admission fees:Waived

(2) Tuition:Free for fee-exempt students.

Self-funding students pay 14,800 yen per credit. Since it is stipulated by the Immigration Law that international students including the category of Special Auditing Student must take classes more than 10 hours per week (14 credits), the students are required to pay 207,200 yen in total.

※Please pay the tuition by bank transfer.

※The above figure of Tuition is for the fiscal 2026, it may change for the fiscal 2027.

II. Special Research Student

(1) Admission fees:Waived

(2) Tuition: Free for fee-exempt students.

Self-funding students pay 29,700 yen per month. The students are required to pay 178,200 yen in the first month which covers six months, and then pay the same amount every six months.

※Please pay the tuition by bank transfer.

※The above figure of Tuition is for the fiscal 2026, it may change for the fiscal 2027.

7 Admission Procedures after Acceptance to Niigata University

(1) On behalf of students who have been admitted, Niigata University will submit students' Application for Certificate of Eligibility for Entry into Japan to the Immigration Bureau of Japan.

(2) Upon receiving the Certificate of Eligibility from the Immigration Bureau, Niigata University will forward it to the relevant office at the students' home university or to the student.

(3) Students should then apply for a visa at the Japanese Embassy or Consulate in his/her country with the Certificate of Eligibility for Entry into Japan. With the Certificate of Eligibility, a visa will be issued swiftly and immigration inspection will also be quicker because the Immigration Bureau has already recognized the eligibility of the student for his/her entry into Japan.

※Please contact the Japanese Embassy or Consulate in his/her country for inquiries about a visa.

(4) Admitted students may apply to Niigata University for accommodation, either apartments and student housing administered directly by Niigata University. Students do not need a guarantor to live in these accommodations for international students prepared by Niigata University and also the rent is quite low compared with other apartments around campus.

8 Treatment of personal information

(1) Application materials including the names, addresses, and other personal information once submitted, they will be used only for the following purposes: (a) assessment, (b) announcement of assessment, (c) admission procedures, (d) research, study, and analysis of the assessment methods or/-and (e) Others related above mentioned.

(2) Submitted personal information for admission procedure it will only be used after the admission for the following purposes: (a) educational affairs (registration, academic advice, etc.), (b) student support (health management, etc.), and (c) tuition fees, etc.

9 Mailing address for submission of documents

Please note that this varies depending on the major you are applying for.

●Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Academic Affairs Division Graduate School of Modern Society and Culture Niigata University

8050 Ikarashi 2-no-cho, Nishi-Ku, Niigata City, NIIGATA, JAPAN 950-2181

Mail：jimugen@cc.niigata-u.ac.jp

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●Department of Sciences and Technologies
Academic Affairs Division Graduate School of Science and Technology Niigata University
8050 Ikarashi 2-no-cho, Nishi-Ku, Niigata City, NIIGATA, JAPAN 950-2181
Mail：z-gakumu@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp