

**Graduate Student Recruitment Guidelines
Special Selection for International Students**

**Master's Course (Biological Sciences Course)
Department of Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science
Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences**

Admission in October 2026

Admission in April 2027

April 2026

**Nara Women's University
Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences
Kitauoya Nishimachi, Nara 630-8506, Japan
E-mail: admdesk@cc.nara-wu.ac.jp**

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I. Admission Policy of the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, Nara Women's University

Admission Policy

The Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences at Nara Women's University aims to train independent researchers and highly skilled professionals in diverse academic fields. The Graduate School promotes advanced and specialized education and research in each academic field, while simultaneously creating new interdisciplinary areas of inquiry. Through these educational endeavors, the University aims to nurture women leaders who will contribute to the realization of a gender-equal society and to the international community.

In accordance with this philosophy, the Graduate School welcomes applicants from both Japan and abroad who meet the following criteria:

- Individuals who have acquired the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for graduate-level study through a bachelor's program, a Master's Course (including the first half of a doctoral program), or equivalent professional experience
- Individuals who aspire to pursue their foundational academic field to the most advanced levels
- Individuals who wish to explore contemporary issues through interdisciplinary perspectives
- Individuals with the motivation to reconstruct specialized knowledge and to engage autonomously in solving the issues they aim to investigate
- Individuals who seek to contribute to the international community, including Asia and other global regions, across various fields

To appropriately select such students, each division and course conducts a combination of document screening, oral examinations, and other assessment methods suited to their academic specialization. Various forms of selection are implemented, including General Admission, Special Admission for Working Adults, and Special Admission for International Students.

Department of Chemistry, Biology and Environmental Science

Educational Philosophy

The Department of Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science promotes integrated research and education across chemistry, biology, and environmental science, with the aim of developing women scientists who have a broad perspective, sound ethics, solid knowledge, and strong logical thinking skills, and who can

proactively and collaboratively identify and solve problems.

Desired Student Profile

The Department of Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science seeks to admit students who have a broad interest in the natural sciences, who acquire specialized expertise through advanced and practical research and education in their chosen course, and who develop the ability to identify problems independently, think critically, and solve them, with the motivation to play active roles in society in the future. To this end, applicants are expected to have acquired fundamental and specialized knowledge in mathematics and the natural sciences, or in science-related fields such as engineering or agriculture, through undergraduate study, and to have gained experience in identifying and addressing problems through laboratory work, practical training, exercises, graduation research, seminars, and related activities. As English is indispensable for conducting cutting-edge scientific research, applicants are expected to possess a sufficient level of English proficiency. In addition, communication skills for expressing ideas logically are also required.

Basic Policy for Admission Selection

This entrance examination is intended for international students, and admission decisions are made based on a comprehensive evaluation of application documents, including academic records from the applicant's most recent institution, as well as an oral examination. TOEIC and TOEFL scores are also used in the evaluation.

Biological Sciences Course

Admission Policy

Educational Philosophy

The Biological Sciences Course aims to cultivate individuals with accurate and advanced expertise in biological sciences and related natural sciences; the capacity to update such knowledge autonomously and continuously; strong logical thinking skills; sound ethical judgment; and the necessary communication abilities to contribute proactively to the advancement of society.

Desired Student Profile

The Course seeks students who fully understand the above educational objectives and

who possess the passion and motivation to apply the advanced knowledge and skills gained in this program to future careers in medicine, food chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, agriculture, environmental sciences, and related fields. Applicants are expected to have acquired the following knowledge and abilities by the time of enrollment:

- Foundational and specialized knowledge in mathematics and natural sciences typically studied in undergraduate programs in the sciences
- English proficiency required for studying modern natural sciences
- Verbal communication skills necessary for receiving research supervision and instruction at the graduate level

Basic Policy for Admission Selection

To select applicants who match the Desired Student Profile, comprehensive evaluation is conducted based on examination results and application documents.

For the Special Admission for International Students, an oral examination is administered. TOEIC or TOEFL scores are also converted into points and used in the assessment.

The admission policy described in these application guidelines is available in Japanese. In the event of any discrepancy between the Japanese and English versions, the Japanese version shall take precedence.

II. Enrollment Capacity, Application Periods, and Examination Schedule

1. Number of Students to be Admitted

Enrollment in October 2026, Enrollment in April 2027

—Limited number

2. Application Periods, Examination Dates, and Announcement of Results

(Enrollment in October 2026)

• **Application Period:**

June 15, 2026 – June 18, 2026

• **Examination Date:**

July 4, 2026 (Enrollment in October 2026)

• **Announcement of Results:**

July 14, 2026 (Enrollment in October 2026)

(Enrollment in April 2027)

• **Application Period:**

June 15, 2026 – June 18, 2026

January 4, 2027 – January 7, 2027

• **Examination Date:**

July 4, 2026

January 30, 2027

• **Announcement of Results:**

July 14, 2026

February 12, 2027

(1) Application Information

Application Mailing Address

Center for Research and Support in Higher Education, Nara Women's University

Kitauoya Nishimachi, Nara 630-8506, Japan

E-mail: admdesk@cc.nara-wu.ac.jp

Please send your application documents by post so that they **arrive within the application period.**

Write “**Application Documents for the Master's Course Enclosed**” in red on the front of the envelope.

Important Notes Regarding Application

1) Applicants must contact their prospective academic supervisor in advance to discuss

their intended research topic before submitting the application.

International Graduate Program in Biological Sciences

(<https://www.nara-wu.ac.jp/daigakuin/intlgradpro/bio/index.html>)

Examination Month	Application Deadline
July	May 8, 2026 (Fri)
January	October 30, 2026 (Fri)

- 2) Application documents and related materials must be submitted each time you apply.
- 3) Applications with incomplete or missing documents will not be accepted. Please carefully review all application documents before submission.
- 4) Once the application documents have been accepted, no additional documents, changes, or returns will be permitted.
- 5) If any false statements are found in the application documents or if falsified documents are submitted, admission may be revoked even after enrollment.
- 6) The examination fee, once paid, will not be refunded, except in the following cases:
 - ① The applicant paid the examination fee but **did not apply**, or the application was **not received**.
 - ② The examination fee was **paid twice in error**.

If either of the above applies, please contact the **Support Desk**.

E-mail: admdesk@cc.nara-wu.ac.jp

- 7) In cases where the examination fee is refunded under item 6), the refund will be processed in accordance with the University's prescribed procedures.

Please note that the refund process may take a considerable amount of time.

- 8) Applicants who are currently employed must obtain permission to apply in advance, if required by their employer's work regulations or internal rules.
- 9) Personal information obtained by the University, including name, academic records, and learning status, may be used within the scope necessary for academic advising and student support after enrollment.

(2) Selection Method

Admission decisions will be made based on a **comprehensive evaluation** of the applicant's performance in the examinations conducted by the University and the submitted application documents.

(3) Announcement of Admission Results

The list of successful applicants' examination numbers will be posted on the University's website

(<https://www.nara-wu.ac.jp/nyusi/goukaku.html>).

In addition, **official notification of acceptance will be sent by mail** to successful applicants. Applicants must confirm their admission **solely by the official notification**.

Inquiries regarding admission results by telephone or other means will not be accepted.

(4) Admission Fee and Tuition

Admission Fee: 282,000 yen (tentative)

Tuition: 267,900 yen per semester

(Half of the annual tuition of 535,800 yen) (tentative)

Notes:

*1 The admission fee and tuition are subject to revision.

*2 If the tuition is revised during the period of enrollment, the revised amount will apply from the time of revision.

*3 Since Academic Year 2004, the University has implemented the **Long-term Study Program**, which allows students to complete their studies in a planned manner over a period exceeding the standard duration, depending on individual circumstances. For students approved under this program, the annual tuition amount varies according to the approved period of study.

*4 In addition to the above admission fee and tuition, students are required to pay **additional minor expenses at the time of enrollment**, such as premiums for Student Education and Research Accident Insurance.

(5) Enrollment Procedures

Details regarding the **enrollment period and other procedures** will be provided together with the **official notification of acceptance**.

(6) Long-term Study Program

The University offers a **Long-term Study Program** for students who, due to employment, childcare responsibilities, long-term caregiving, illness, or other circumstances, have limited time for research and study compared with regular students and therefore find it difficult to complete the program within the standard period of study (two years for the Master's Course / First Half of the Doctoral Program).

Under this program, students may complete their studies **in a planned manner over a**

period exceeding the standard duration.

For students approved as long-term study students, the total tuition amount payable for the standard period of study

(535,800 yen × 2 years = 1,071,600 yen)

will be **divided and paid over the approved long-term study period.**

Those who wish to take courses under this system are advised to consult the Support Desk by the deadlines shown in the table below.

Application submitted by the designated deadline *before* the application period

Applicants will be notified of the screening results **before the application period begins.**

Those who wish to apply under this option must submit the required documents by the deadlines listed below (documents must arrive by the deadline).

Examination Month	Application Deadline
July	May 8, 2026 (Fri)
January	October 30, 2026 (Fri)

Please note that **application for the Long-term Study Program and its screening results do not affect admission decisions.**

(7) Cases Requiring Prior Consultation or Procedures before Application

1) Special Provisions for Educational Methods

Based on the **Special Provisions for Educational Methods** stipulated in *Article 14 of the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools*, the University may provide classes and/or research supervision **in the evening or during other specified times or periods (such as summer recess)** for applicants who, due to unavoidable circumstances, are unable to fully devote themselves to their studies at the time of enrollment or after enrollment.

Such arrangements may be made **only when special educational necessity is recognized** and when the academic division and educational environment are able to accommodate them. In determining the appropriateness of such arrangements, the University will take into consideration the individual circumstances of the student.

Applicants who wish to request the application of this system **must consult in advance, via the Support Desk, with faculty members of the intended division (course) prior to submitting their application.**

2) Application by Transgender Women (MtF)

Since Academic Year 2021, Nara Women's University Graduate School has accepted applicants who wish to study as **“women” based on their self-identified gender**, regardless of their legally registered sex.

Applicants whose **gender identity is female but whose legal sex differs** must, in principle, contact the consultation office listed below **by email no later than one month prior to the start of the application period**.

Those wishing to apply will be offered an **interview** for the purpose of confirming eligibility for application and discussing matters related to student life after enrollment. All information related to the request for an interview and the interview itself will be **kept strictly confidential**, and the content of the interview **will not be used in any way that disadvantages the applicant during the admission decision process**.

Consultation Office for Transgender Applicants

E-mail: tgsoudan@cc.nara-wu.ac.jp

(No telephone inquiries accepted)

3) Special Arrangements for Examinations and Study

Applicants who require **special arrangements for entrance examinations or academic study** due to illness, injury, disability, or other circumstances must **consult the Support Desk in advance** and complete the prescribed procedures **no later than two weeks before the start of the application period**.

If, after submitting the application, an unexpected accident or other event occurs and special arrangements become necessary, applicants should **immediately contact the Support Desk for consultation**.

Nara Women's University Admissions Support Desk

Kitauoya Nishimachi, Nara 630-8506, Japan

E-mail: admdesk@cc.nara-wu.ac.jp

Applicants eligible for special arrangements include the following categories:

Categories of Applicants Eligible for Special Arrangements

The following individuals may request special arrangements, as applicable:

① Visual Impairments

Eligible individuals include:

- Persons who have received education using Braille
- Persons whose binocular corrected visual acuity is approximately 20/60 (Snellen) or

less, and for whom recognition of standard text or figures is impossible or significantly difficult even with magnification devices

- Persons with severe visual functional impairments other than visual acuity, for whom recognition of standard text or figures is impossible or significantly difficult even with magnification devices
- Persons requiring other visual-related accommodations

② Hearing Impairments

Eligible individuals include:

- Persons whose average hearing level in both ears is 60 decibels or greater
- Persons requiring other hearing-related accommodations

③ Physical Disabilities

④ Chronic Illness or Weak Health

Eligible individuals include:

- Persons with chronic respiratory diseases
- Persons unable or significantly limited in maintaining a seated position due to impairment of torso function
- Persons with severe impairment of both upper limbs
- Persons requiring accommodations for physical disabilities other than those listed above
- Persons with chronic cardiac, renal, gastrointestinal, or similar conditions requiring ongoing medical or lifestyle regulation, or persons with comparable conditions

⑤ Developmental Disorders

Eligible individuals include:

- Persons requiring accommodations due to learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, Asperger's syndrome, pervasive developmental disorders, or related conditions

⑥ Others

- Individuals requiring accommodation not covered in the categories above

(8) Contact Information for Admissions and Prospective Academic Advisors

Nara Women's University Admissions Support Desk

Kitauoya Nishimachi, Nara 630-8506, Japan

E-mail: admdesk@cc.nara-wu.ac.jp

III. Objectives and Completion Requirements of the Master's Course

1. Program Objectives

The Master's Course (First Half of the Doctoral Program) aims to cultivate advanced academic knowledge from a broad perspective, and to develop the research abilities or high-level professional competencies required for occupations that demand specialized expertise.

2. Standard Period of Study

Two years

3. Completion Requirements

To complete the Master's Course, students must:

- Be enrolled in the Program for **at least two years**,
- Earn the required credits,
- Receive necessary research supervision, and
- Pass both the **Master's Thesis Examination** and the **Final Examination** conducted by the Graduate School.

However, students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance may be permitted to complete the Program after **a minimum of one year** of enrollment.

4. Advancement to the Doctoral Program

Students who complete the Master's Course may apply for admission to the Doctoral Program (Second Half of the Doctoral Program). Advancement is determined based on a selection process.

5. Degrees Conferred

Master's Degree (Science or Academic Studies)

IV. Eligibility for Application

Applications for the Special Selection for International Students are limited to **women** who satisfy the conditions below and who hold or are expected to obtain at the time of admission, the resident status of "Student" as defined by the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of Japan (or another status of residence eligible for change to "Student").

However, for fall enrollment, March 31, 2027 should be read as September 30, 2026.

Applicants must meet **one** of the following criteria:

(1) Individuals who have completed, or are expected to complete by **March 31, 2027**, a university program as stipulated in Article 83 of the School Education Act of Japan.

(2) Individuals who have completed, or are expected to complete by **March 31, 2027**, a 16-year course of school education outside Japan.

(3) Individuals who have completed, or are expected to complete by **March 31, 2027**, a 16-year course of school education of a foreign country through correspondence education conducted by a foreign school while residing in Japan.

(4) Individuals who have completed, or are expected to complete by **March 31, 2027**, a program at an educational institution positioned within the school education system of a foreign country as having a university curriculum (limited to institutions whose completion is regarded as having completed a 16-year course of that country's school education), and which has been separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

(5) Individuals who have been awarded a bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree by completing a program of **three or more years** at a foreign university or foreign educational institution

(limited to institutions that have received evaluation or accreditation of their overall educational and research activities by a government or relevant authority of the foreign country, or by an institution designated by MEXT).

This includes completion of such programs through correspondence education conducted by a foreign school while residing in Japan, or completion at institutions designated under item (4).

(6) Individuals who have completed, or are expected to complete by **March 31, 2027**, a specialized professional program at a professional training college designated separately by MEXT, provided that the program meets MEXT criteria including a minimum duration of **four years**.

(7) Individuals designated by MEXT as eligible.

(8) Individuals who have been recognized by Nara Women's University Graduate School, through an individual eligibility screening, as possessing academic abilities equivalent to or higher than a university graduate, and who are at least **22 years of age** or will reach 22 years of age by **March 31, 2027**.

(This includes individuals who completed university education in countries where the standard school education period prior to university graduation is less than 16 years. Such applicants must undergo an individual eligibility screening.)

Important Notes

(1) Applicants who take the examination while expecting to graduate and are admitted will have their admission revoked if they fail to graduate.

(2) Applicants who intend to apply under Eligibility Category (5) or (8) must undergo an individual admission eligibility screening conducted by the Graduate School prior to application.

Please submit the documents listed below by the corresponding deadline shown in the table (all documents must arrive by the deadline). If any of the submitted documents are written in a foreign language other than English, please attach a Japanese or English translation.

The results of the screening will be notified by the beginning of the application period.

Submission Deadlines

Month of Examination	Submission Deadline
July	Friday, May 8, 2026
January	Friday, October 30, 2026

Required Documents

(For applicants who fall under Eligibility Category (5) or (8))

1. Application for Eligibility Screening (designated form of the University)
2. Statement of Purpose (designated form of the University)
3. Declaration of Academic and Research History (designated form of the University)
4. Certificate of Graduation and Academic Transcript from the final school attended
If the applicant has experience as a research student at another university, a certificate of research student status must also be submitted.
5. Research Plan (There is no fixed format.)
6. Academic papers, research achievements, etc.
Any materials that may serve as reference for the screening may be submitted.

V. Application Documents and Examination Subjects

Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following documents.

All documents must be prepared in the specified formats and submitted by the deadline.

1. Application Form

Use the form prescribed by the University.

2. Proof of Payment of Examination Fee

· The application fee (30,000 yen) must be paid using one of the methods available through the E-payment service (<https://e-shiharai.net/ecard/>) . After payment, please submit the payment receipt obtained through the selected method.

Please note that any payment processing fees are the responsibility of the applicant.

3. Certificate of Graduation or Certificate of Expected Graduation

- Must be issued by the university or institution attended.
- Applicants who were deemed eligible through an individual eligibility screening conducted in or after AY2024 are exempt.

However, if the applicant submitted a Certificate of Expected Graduation at the time of eligibility screening and has since graduated, a Certificate of Graduation must be submitted at the time of application.

4. Academic Transcript

- Must be issued by the university or institution attended.
- Applicants recognized as eligible through individual eligibility screening are exempt, except that:

If the applicant submitted a Certificate of Expected Graduation during eligibility screening and has since graduated, the final Academic Transcript must be submitted.

5. TOEFL Examinee Score Report or TOEIC Official Score Certificate

For TOEFL:

Submit one of the following:

- Examinee Score Report (original and a copy)*
- Test Taker Score Report (original and a copy)*
- Downloaded PDF printed on A4 paper

For TOEIC (Listening & Reading):

Submit one of the following:

- Official Score Certificate (original and a copy)*
- Digital Official Score Certificate printed on A4 paper

If the original is not available during the application period:

You may temporarily submit a printout of your score results from the TOEFL or TOEIC website. In this case, you must submit the original and a copy by the day before the examination.**

*The original will be returned after verification.

**If the day before falls on a weekend or holiday, submit by the preceding weekday.

- There is **no restriction on the test date** of TOEFL/TOEIC.
- Scores from institutional tests (TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC-IP) **are not accepted**.

For the 2026 entrance examination, you can submit a score report using the TOEFL iBT® Home Edition.

- Submit **one** score only: the score most advantageous to the applicant.

Changes after submission will not be allowed.

- Applicants whose most recent degree was obtained at an institution where English is the primary language of instruction may be exempt.

Those who believe they may qualify for exemption must inquire **before application**.

6. Copy of Passport

Please submit a copy of your passport (the part that shows your nationality).

7. Statement of Reasons for Application

Please obtain the designated form through the support desk.

All applicants are required to submit this document. When preparing it, only text is permitted; figures and tables are not allowed.

Examination Subjects

The following examinations will be administered:

Oral Examination (300 points)

The oral examination evaluates the applicant's fundamental knowledge in the specialized field, academic motivation, capacity for logical thinking, and readiness for graduate-level study.

TOEIC / TOEFL Scores (100 points)

TOEIC or TOEFL scores submitted at the time of application will be converted into points and used as part of the overall evaluation.

VI. Faculty Members of the Master's Course

Department of Chemistry, Biology and Environmental Science

Biological Sciences Course (Research Fields and Faculty)

<https://www.nara-wu.ac.jp/daigakuin/intlgradpro/bio/index.html>

- **Method of Payment of the Examination Fee**
(e-shiharai.net) <https://e-shiharai.net/ecard/>

Nara Women's University

How to make the Payment for the Application Fee by Credit Card or Union Pay.

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, you can pay anytime! Easy, Convenient and Simple!

You can pay the Application Fee by using Credit Card or Union Pay.



Access

<https://e-shiharai.net/ecard/>



Online Transaction

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Top Page | Click "Examination Fee". |
| 2. Terms of Use and Personal Information Management | Please read the Terms of use and Personal Information Management.
Click "Agree" button located in the lower part of this page if you agree with these terms.
Click "Not agree" button located in the lower part of this page if you do not agree with these terms. |
| 3. School Selection | Check "Nara Women's University(Graduate School)". |
| 4. School Information | Read the information carefully and click "Next". |
| 5. Category Selection | Choose First to Fourth Selection and add to Basket. |
| 6. Basket Contents | Check the contents and if it is OK, click "Next". |
| 7. Basic Information | Input the applicant's basic information.
Choose your credit card and click "Next". |

Paying at Credit Card

Input Credit Card Number (15 or 16-digits), Security Code and Expiration date.

All of your application information is displayed. Check and Click "Confirm".

Click "Print this page" button and print out "Result" page.

Paying at Union Pay

Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the card payment.

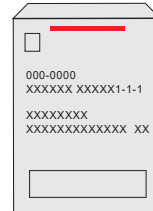
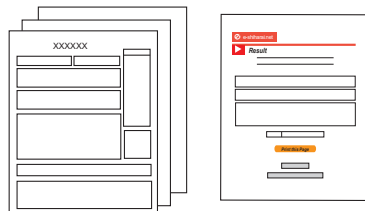
Please click the "Application Results" button in the upper part of this site (e-shiharai.net).

Please write down the "Receipt Number" given when you complete your application, and enter your "Payment Method", "Receipt Number" and "Birth Date". Please make sure your printer is ready.

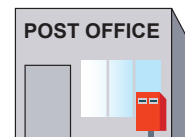
Please print out the "Payment Inquiry - Inquiry result" page.

Enclose the printed "Result" page in an application envelope with other necessary application documents.

Necessary application documents



Mail it via post



[NOTICE/FAQ]

- Please confirm from application documents and complete the payment within the application period.
- A fee is added to Examination fee. For further info, please visit our website.
- It is possible to use a card which carries a name different from that of the applicant. However, please make sure that the information on the basic information page is that of the applicant.
- If you did not print out "Result" page, you can check it later on Application Result page. Please enter "Receipt Number" and "Birth Date" to redisplay.
- Please contact directly the credit card company if your card is not accepted.

For questions or problems not mentioned here, please contact:

E-Service Support Center Tel : +81-3-5952-9052 (24 hours everyday)

Application

Application Forms

<https://ir.nara-wu.ac.jp/survey/index.php/245117>

Disclaimer

1. All information contained in this Application Guidelines is accurate at the time of publication.
However, the University reserves the right to make changes to admissions policies, procedures, examination methods, required documents, schedules, fees, and any other matters without prior notice.
2. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all required documents are accurate, complete, and submitted by the designated deadlines.
Once submitted, application documents and examination fees will not be returned or refunded, except in cases explicitly specified by the University.
3. Changes in external conditions such as natural disasters, public emergencies, transportation disruptions, or administrative directives may result in modifications to the examination schedule, format, or selection procedures.
Any such changes will be announced by the University through appropriate channels.
4. The University assumes no responsibility for disadvantages arising from the applicant's failure to confirm up-to-date information on the University's official website or from errors or delays in postal or electronic communication.