

Tohoku University Future Global Leadership (FGL) Undergraduate Courses FAQ

1. About Tohoku University and FGL

Q1. What kind of school is Tohoku University?

A. Tohoku University was founded in Sendai City in 1907. Composed of 10 undergraduate faculties/schools, 15 graduate schools, 3 professional graduate schools, and 6 research institutes, it is one of Japan's most distinguished universities.

It employs about 6,300 teaching staff and has a student body of approximately 11,000 undergraduate students and 7,000 graduate students. This includes about 2,300 international students from 93 countries and regions. (as of Nov, 2022)

The university has several unique traditions: "Research First", "Open Doors", and "Practice-Oriented Research and Education". This culture has given the world much original research and many excellent graduates. For example, Koichi Tanaka, a graduate of the Tohoku University Undergraduate School of Engineering, received the 2002 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Tohoku University was also among the first universities in Japan to open its doors to international students, graduating two (from India and China) in 1911. This tradition continues today, and the university is known for its broad acceptance of international students.

For more details, please see the following website:

<http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/about/index.html>

International student numbers can be found here:

http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/about/fact_figures.html

Q2. What are the Future Global Leadership (FGL) Undergraduate Courses?

A. FGL is a degree-conferring undergraduate program taught in English for 4 years. The program recruits students from around the world who share an international perspective, desire to be active on a global scale, and excellent fundamental academic abilities. We encourage students who are interested in Japan and want to study at Tohoku University to apply.

Applicants will undergo a screening process, but no Japanese language proficiency is needed.

Financial support may be available for students who indicate they want it at the time of application. The program also provides housing and opportunities for learning about Japanese language and culture.

Q3. Where can I learn about the courses in this program in more detail?

A. The Tohoku University FGL program offers three courses: Advanced Molecular Chemistry (AMC), International Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (IMAC), and Applied Marine Biology (AMB).

For further details on areas of study for each course, please see the following websites:

Advanced Molecular Chemistry (AMC) <http://web.tohoku.ac.jp/amc/>

International Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Undergraduate Course (IMAC-U)
<http://www.imac.mech.tohoku.ac.jp/>

Applied Marine Biology (AMB) <http://www.agri.tohoku.ac.jp/amb/>

Q4. What are the advantages of this program?

A. All three courses provide an environment where students can learn everything from the basics of their field to the very latest knowledge under world-class instructors.

Students who satisfy the requirements of their course will earn a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Engineering, or Bachelor of Agriculture, depending on the course. Career support is provided for students wishing to enroll in a graduate program, or find employment, after graduation.

Q5. How is Tohoku University's research regarded?

A. Tohoku University is ranked 79th in the QS World University Ranking® 2023. This placed it 22nd in Asia and 5th in Japan. In terms of research results, the QS World University Ranking® 2022 ranked it 72nd in mechanical engineering, 57th in physics, and 71st in natural science.

Tohoku University was ranked 1st in the Times Higher Education Japan University Rankings 2023 for the fourth consecutive year. It was also selected as one of three Designated National Universities by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in August 2017. The university's research is held in high regard, both domestically and abroad. Such results reflect the university's tradition of "Research First."

You can read about Tohoku University's latest research projects on the following websites:

<https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/news/research/index.html>

https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/research/research_highlights/index.html

2. Admissions (Eligibility)

Q1. I'm from a country where secondary education is completed in 11 years. Can I apply to this program?

A. Whether you are qualified will depend on your academic records, so please contact us before applying.

Q2. I want to apply, but I have been studying at an institution that is not a regular school. Can I apply to this program?

A. You are eligible as long as you hold one of the qualifications listed in the Application Guide, such as an International Baccalaureate Degree, etc.

If you do not hold one of the listed qualifications, you may undergo screening by Tohoku University to determine whether or not you are eligible to apply. When undergoing this screening, you will be asked to submit your entire academic history, along with records of educational achievements (transcripts, qualifications) at least *one month before the application deadline*.

Q3. I graduated from a foreign high school but underwent part of my education in Japan. Can I apply to this program?

A. As long as you completed the 12th (final) year of the school education curriculum overseas, and as long as you received education in Japan (or at a school for Japanese citizens overseas) for *equal to or fewer than six years*, you are eligible to apply.

Q4. I graduated from a foreign high school, but I am a Japanese citizen. Can I apply to this program? (This Q also applies to those with Permanent Resident status.)

A. In general, the program is only open to non-Japanese citizens (i.e. foreign nationals, excluding those with Permanent Resident status). However, exceptions may be made for Japanese citizens and foreign permanent residents under the following conditions.

For example, if you have undergone a full 12 years of education at a foreign school, and are considered to have an educational background identical to that of an international student, you may be eligible. Here, "foreign school" refers to a regular, local school in another country. Students who went to schools based in Japan, or schools overseas that are recognized by Japan's Minister of Education (e.g., high schools in foreign countries for Japanese citizens) are not eligible.

If you wish to apply under this exception, you should contact us to confirm your eligibility in advance. This also applies if you hold dual-citizenship in Japan and another country.

Q5. I graduated from an International School (IS) in Japan. Can I apply to this program?

A. Yes. If you are not a Japanese citizen and have completed a 12-year curriculum at an IS accredited by WASC, ACSI, CIS or NEASC you are eligible to apply.

Also, if you attended a Japanese school for equal to or fewer than six years of your 12-year curriculum, you are eligible to apply.

However, if you graduated from an IS school but hold Japanese citizenship or permanent residency in Japan, you are not eligible.

Q6. What are the minimum exam score requirements for GCE-A level, IB, EJU, etc.?

A. There are no minimum score criteria for those tests.

For your reference, the AMC and IMAC-U website provides data showing submitted standardized test scores and success rates in the 2nd Stage Screening.

A M C: [http://web.tohoku.ac.jp/amc/AMC_course_acceptance_rate_\(2016-2019\).pdf](http://web.tohoku.ac.jp/amc/AMC_course_acceptance_rate_(2016-2019).pdf)

IMAC-U: <http://www.imac.mech.tohoku.ac.jp/media/files/admission/admission/reference.pdf>

3. Admissions (Application Documents, Selection Process)**Q1. How will Tohoku University contact me?**

A. Applicants will be contacted individually via the online application system message.

Q2. How do I pay the examination fee?

A. A link to the payment service (e-shiharai.net) will be provided on the FGL website. You will pay by credit card. The name on the credit card need not match your name. So, you can use a credit card belonging to your parent/guardian. Please follow the instructions on the site to complete payment.

Note that your application submission is not complete until the examination fee is paid, even if all application documents have been submitted by the deadline. Be extremely careful.

Q3. I attended high school in India and my classes were taught in English. Will you waive the TOEFL iBT® TEST or IELTS Academic score requirement?

A. No. Even if the classes were in English, if you did not attend a middle/high school in one of the countries shown below*, we cannot waive this score requirement.

*Applicable Countries: America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, UK, Ireland, the Caribbean Islands (Not all Caribbean Islands are eligible. Please inquire in advance.)

Q4. How is the 1st Stage Screening conducted?

A. Submitted documents will be examined and applicants will be chosen based on whether or not they possess sufficient fundamental academic abilities to study at Tohoku University.

Notification of screening results will be sent to each applicant through the online application system, and examination numbers of successful applicants will be listed on the FGL website.

Q5. How is the 2nd Stage Screening conducted?

A. (1) The 2nd Stage Screening is conducted online and consists of a written test and/or interview to assess basic academic ability, level of motivation, and communication skills. The test will be in English. You will need a computer equipped with a webcam and microphone.

(2) Notification of screening results will be sent to each applicant through the online application system, and examination numbers of successful applicants will be listed on the FGL website.

Q6. Where can I find information on number of applicants and acceptance by country?

A. FGL undergraduate admission results from October 2021 to October 2023 are shown below:

October 2021 Admissions

| Course | Applicants | | Accepted | |
|--------|------------|---|----------|--|
| | No. | Country | No. | Country |
| AMC | 30 | Indonesia, Thai, India, Taiwan, US, China, Korea, South Africa, UAE, Japan | 10 | Indonesia, Thai, Taiwan |
| IMAC-U | 64 | China, Thai, Indonesia, India, US, Malaysia, Korea, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, UK, Venezuela, Vietnam, Australia/Japan, France/US, US/Japan | 20 | China, Thai, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UK, Venezuela, Vietnam |
| AMB | 16 | China, Indonesia, Korea, Thai, Japan, Japan/Taiwan, US/Japan | 7 | China, Indonesia, Korea, Japan |
| Total | 110 | | 37 | |

October 2022 Admissions

| Course | Applicants | | Accepted | |
|--------|------------|--|----------|--|
| | No. | Country | No. | Country |
| AMC | 23 | Indonesia, China, Mongol, Thai, US, Bangladesh, South Africa, Moldova, Uzbekistan, US/Canada, France/US | 11 | Indonesia, China, Mongol, Moldova, Uzbekistan, France/US |
| IMAC-U | 87 | Indonesia, Thai, India, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, US, Korea, Mongol, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, UAE, Philippine, Ecuador, Belgium, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Brazil, US/Japan, Ireland/Japan, US/India, France/Argentina, US/Taiwan | 21 | Indonesia, Thai, India, Sri Lanka, Korea, Kazakhstan |
| AMB | 23 | China, Indonesia, Thai, US, UK, Peru, US/Japan, Thai/Japan | 6 | Indonesia, Thai, UK, Thai/Japan |
| Total | 133 | | 38 | |

October 2023 Admissions

| Course | Applicants | | Accepted | |
|--------|------------|--|----------|--|
| | No. | Country | No. | Country |
| AMC | 19 | Thai, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Finland, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, US, US/Japan | 12 | Thai, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Finland |
| IMAC-U | 89 | Indonesia, India, Thai, US, China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malaysia, Turkey, Japan, Taiwan, Tunisia, Vietnam, Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Turkmenistan, UK, Thai/Japan | 15 | India, Thai, US, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Philippines, Poland |
| AMB | 13 | China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thai, US/Japan | 6 | China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, US/Japan |
| Total | 121 | | 33 | |

See here for FGL entrance exam results for October 2020 and earlier.

<https://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/degree/undergraduate-english/fgl-faq/>

4. Educational Curriculum

Q1. What kind of classes can I take on this program?

A. An outline of the curriculum is available on the FGL website for your reference. Also see the General Education syllabuses for October 2022 entrants. You can refer to the syllabuses for specialized subjects too.

Q2. Will I be able to take classes together with Japanese students?

A. This program has no Japanese language requirement, but the curriculum is structured to provide as many opportunities for interaction with Japanese students as possible.

With the exception of physical education, all General Education classes for FGL students are conducted in English. Although no Japanese ability is required to enter the FGL program, the curriculum offers Japanese language classes. There are also many classes in which FGL students can learn about global issues and cultural differences together with Japanese students.

Q3. Can I transfer to a different course after entering this program?

A. No. The FGL program uses a specialized admission process. As a result, you cannot transfer to another course after entering. Please obtain sufficient information on each course before applying to the program.

Q4. I am currently enrolled at a university. Is it possible to transfer to an FGL course midway through the curriculum?

A. No, you cannot transfer to FGL as a 2nd or 3rd year student even if you have attended a university. You would have to start from the first year.

Q5. Can I study Japanese at Tohoku University?

A. Yes, FGL students can study Japanese as a foreign language (10 credits). The credits earned will count towards Tohoku University's graduation requirements.

We also provide a system for receiving language credits based on examination scores, such as the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Q6. Can I enter a Tohoku University Graduate School after completing this program?

A. Yes. Upon graduating from this program, you will receive a bachelor's degree in Science, Engineering, or Agriculture, depending on your course. This qualifies you to enter graduate school.

One of Tohoku University's defining characteristics is that most students with a STEM major proceed to the graduate program after completing undergraduate studies. The percentage of students who go on to graduate school averages 80-90% for the Faculty of Science, School of Engineering, and Faculty of Agriculture.

For information on graduate school admissions, please see the website of the department you are interested in applying to. It is also possible to enter graduate school in October instead of April. Tohoku University has a support system that provides career consulting and employment information to assist students with their post-graduation plans.

Q7. Do I have to buy a computer after enrolling?

A. Please obtain a laptop PC for use in classes. It will be necessary to bring a computer to class if asked to do so by the instructor. Details, such as specification requirements, will be provided during/after enrollment procedures.

Q8. Is there any pre-enrollment instruction?

A. From June to September there is the online pre-enrollment class. Conducted in a seminar style, it includes classes on chemistry, mathematics, physics, and basic Japanese for everyday life. Those who take this class will receive 1 credit. Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Students must take this class. It is optional for other students, but we strongly recommend it. Details will be announced after admissions procedures.

5. Scholarships & Housing

Q1. What kind of scholarships and other support are provided to students?

A. Tohoku University may provide any of the following financial support for students who **indicate they want them receive a scholarship at the time of their application.**

Scholarships:

1) International students who achieved excellent outcome on the entrance examination, and meet the criteria specified by Japanese Government (MEXT), will be recommended for *the MEXT Scholarship*, if our new proposal to reserve MEXT Scholarship seats for FGL students in 2024-2026 Admissions is accepted.

* Recipients are awarded JPY 119,000/month for four years, and entrance and tuition fees are waived. They will also receive an economy-class air ticket for travel between an international airport in/near their country of citizenship and Narita International Airport upon enrollment (arrival) and graduation (departure).

* The result of the proposal will be announced around December, 2023.

2) Except for recipients of 1) above, international students who have outstanding academic records and characters, are eligible for the President Fellowship at Tohoku University. Recipients will receive an equivalent amount to examination, entrance, and tuition fees for the first year, and that to tuition after 2nd year, as long as a recipient maintain the qualification.

* This scholarship is paid every semester, not monthly. The monthly cost of living in Sendai for the 1st year is typically JPY 70,000–80,000.

3) Self-financed international students, other than recipients of the scholarship described in 1) above, who achieved an excellent outcome on the entrance examination, are of excellent character, and for whom studying poses economic hardships, are eligible for the MEXT Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students (excludes those who underwent the 2nd Stage Screening in Japan, and those already living in Japan). Scholarship recipients will receive a monthly stipend of JPY 48,000 for half a year after they enroll.

Scholarship Award

| Recipients | | 1) Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship | 2) President Fellowship | 3) MEXT Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed Int'l Students |
|---|----------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
| Scholarship Details | | | | |
| Amount/Period (Living Stipend) | | JPY 119,000/mo. x 12mos. x 4 yrs. + economy air ticket to/from Japan | JPY 267,900/term x 4 yrs. | JPY 48,000/month x 6 (half a year after entering) |
| Examination Fee JPY 5,000 | Upon Enrolling | — | Refunded after enrollment | — |
| Entrance fee JPY 282,000 | Upon Enrolling | Not required (waived) | Refunded after enrollment | — |
| Yearly Tuition Fee: JPY 267,900 x 2 = JPY 535,800 | 1st–4th yrs. | Not required (waived) | Students can apply to have tuition fees fully or partially waived. | — |

Housing:

FGL undergraduate students are given preferential access to the University House Aobayama dormitory for their first two years. University House Aobayama rooms are inexpensive and furnished with desks and beds. Details will be given during the enrollment procedures.

* All dorm rooms in a unit are single rooms. Friends and family of residents cannot stay with them. The kitchens, showers, toilets, and laundry rooms are shared with other residents of the unit.

Dormitory fees (rent/maintenance/rental items) are approximately JPY 36,000/month. A deposit (JPY 30,000) is required upon moving in. You must pay these fees yourself. Residents are also be charged for utilities and living stipend, etc. each month.

* Smoking is prohibited everywhere in all dormitories.

* **University House details** can be found here: https://sup.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/housing/uh_en.html

From your third year, you will have to live in a private apartment. Rent is about JPY 30,000 -60,000 /month. You will also have to pay 1-3 months of rent as key money/deposit.

Q2. What is the President Fellowship system?

A. This is a unique scholarship system offered by Tohoku University to international students who possess outstanding qualities in terms of both academic abilities and character.

By providing this scholarship, the system aims to promote enrollment by international students, contribute to international diversity in the undergraduate curriculum, and foster leaders, both foreign and Japanese, who will be active on a global scale.

The amount of the President Fellowship is an equivalent to the entrance fee and tuition for four years, and provided at the end of a semester. If you are concerned about monthly living expenses, you should arrange to receive financial support from your home country (parent/guardian, government, etc.).

Q2. How do I apply for a scholarship?

A. When submitting your online application, just select "Yes" to the question "Would you prefer to apply for a scholarship(s)?" to apply. You will be notified of the scholarship screening outcome later.

Q4. How much are living expenses in Sendai?

A. Sendai is a relatively inexpensive city compared with other major cities in Japan. Each month you should budget about JPY 30,000 to 60,000 for rent, and an additional JPY 70,000 to 80,000 for other living expenses. If you are concerned about covering living expenses without relying on scholarships or part-time work, please arrange to get financial support from your home country (parent/guardian, government, etc.).

You can find useful information in Tohoku University Guidebook.

<https://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/download/>

6. Other Information**Q1. Where is Tohoku University located?**

A. Tohoku University is located in Sendai City about 1.5 hours by train (Tohoku Shinkansen) from Tokyo. Sendai boasts a lovely natural environment, and is considered one of the most pleasant and livable cities in Japan. Most of the campuses are situated near downtown Sendai.

For more information, please see here: https://sup.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/tips/index_en.html

Q2. Is there any information on private scholarships? How many international students at Tohoku University receive scholarships?

A. Information on private scholarships for international students can be found here: https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/admissions/financial_aid.html#Other

If you require a scholarship, please look for information yourself. Be aware that you may not be able to apply for all scholarships.

There are about 2,300 international students enrolled at Tohoku University. Their financial arrangements are summarized below. (FY 2022)

| | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| Japanese Government Scholarship Students (MEXT Scholarship) | | About 340 |
| Privately Financed Students | Students financed by the governments of their home countries | About 60 |
| | MEXT Honors Scholarship | About 80 |
| | Private scholarship | About 110 |
| | Other (self-financed) | About 1,500 |

Q3. Am I allowed to work part-time?

A. Yes, students may work part-time as long as it doesn't interfere with their studies. International students are allowed to work a maximum of 28 hours per week.

If you plan to engage in part-time work, you can apply for permission to do so when entering Japan. Or, you can apply for permission at the Sendai Immigration Bureau. However, the class schedule is extremely tight and it will take time to settle into your new life, so it will be difficult to do part-time work soon after you arrive in Sendai.

For more information, please see:

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/kanri/shyorui/09.html>

Q4. Can I participate in student clubs?

A. Yes, beyond academic study, Tohoku University conducts sports and cultural activities through the campus-wide Gakuyu-kai (Students' Friendship Association).

You can see a list of student clubs and circles at the website below. Many Tohoku University students participate in these activities.

https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/campus_life/club_societies.html