



***Graduate School of Agricultural Science
Tohoku University***

TOHOKU
UNIVERSITY

**Food & Agriculture for Human Security
Program**

**STUDENT ADMISSION INFORMATION
For Spring 2026**

Period for application for;

**Master's Course: November 18-November 21, 2026,
Doctoral Course: November 18-November 21, 2026**

Date of examination for;

**Master's Course: January 20-January 21, 2026,
Doctoral Course: January 20-January 21, 2026**

Admission capacity for;

**Master's Course: a few,
Doctoral Course: a few.**

Place of examination:

Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University

Graduate School of Agricultural Science

STUDENT ADMISSION INFORMATION for Spring 2026

Food & Agriculture for Human Security Program International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security

I. Background and Objectives

Tohoku University started the International Joint Educational Program of Human Security in April 2005, based on mutual collaboration among four graduate schools comprising the Graduate School of Agricultural Science, of Medicine, of International Cultural Studies, and Environmental Studies. Graduate School of Agricultural Science intends to contribute to this program in the sector of food and agrarian issues.

Human society has long exploited natural resources while promoting social and economic development. This effort was accelerated particularly following the second world war. While many resulting societal and economic advances are evident, human security has been altered leading to new types of problems that are increasingly challenging to address in the current political, social, economic, and cultural global environment, particularly amid post-Cold War globalization. Poverty and socio-political unrest have instigated deterioration of human dignity, especially in developing countries.

With a major aiming to contribute to redeeming human dignity, the Food & Agriculture for Human Security Program focuses primarily on conducting research and educating graduate students on food security, rural development for poverty alleviation, sustainable agricultural development, and resource management.

Program Description

Food & Agriculture: Research and education comprise following issues; food security of both nationwide and household level, farming marketing and diversification of food consumption, food safety and nutrition, rural development, village governance and traditional rural society, sustainable agricultural development and resource management, role sharing between market and government for development, etc. The role of sharing between the market and government is regarded as the fundamental and strategic means for achieving development and food security.

Applicants for admission in Food & Agriculture for Human Security Program should be well versed in the fields of social science, economics in particular, and agricultural science. Additionally, it is required that applicants have the potential to exert leadership in activities that promote human security.

II. Curriculum and Degree

Those who are selected and admitted to this Food & Agriculture for Human Security Program will belong to International Post - Graduate Program in Human Security and will follow its curriculum.

Food & Agriculture for Human Security Program comprises Compulsory Subjects, Elective Subjects, and Seminar (including extra lectures) and Dissertation.

Students enrolled in this program are expected to take courses related to human security offered by other graduate schools, in addition to courses related to agricultural sciences.

Course Requirements

Master's Course (two-year course): more than 31 credits on (1) Compulsory Subjects, (2) Elective Subjects, (3) Seminars and Master thesis.

Doctoral Course (three-year course): more than 25 credits on (1) Compulsory Subjects, (2) Elective Subjects, and (3) Seminars and Doctoral thesis.

Thesis/Dissertation and Final Examination Requirements

Master/Doctoral degree candidates must complete an acceptable thesis/dissertation under the guidance of their supervisor. Candidates also must pass a final oral examination conducted with respect to their thesis/dissertation.

1. Degrees to be awarded

- (1) Master's course: Master of Agricultural Science
- (2) Doctoral course: Doctor of Philosophy (Agricultural Science)

2. Academic Calendar

The academic year consists of two semesters, the first semester from April and the second semester from October. The entrance date of the program will be either in April or October.

III. Admission

1. Qualifications for application

Any non-native English-speaking applicants for the Master's and Doctoral Course are required to submit an English qualification/exam score equivalent to B2 or higher in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) prior to the deadline (score from a test taken within 2 years prior to the application date, for the case of TOEFL® iBT score 72 or higher). Please note that a certificate indicating that an undergraduate or graduate program was conducted entirely in English will not be accepted as proof of English proficiency. A score of B2 or higher on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is required. **Native English speakers are requested to contact the Registration Office as early as possible before the application deadline.**

(1) Applicants for **the Master's Course** are required to satisfy one of the following qualifications:

- 1) Those who graduated from university or will graduate before enrollment.
- 2) Those who acquired a Bachelor's Degree according to Clause 4 of Article 104 in the School Education Law of Japan (Law 26 of 1947) or will acquire the Bachelor's Degree prior to enrollment.
- 3) Those who completed 16 years of formal education abroad or will accomplish prior to enrollment.

- 4) Those who completed 16 years of formal education overseas by taking the subjects in Japan through a correspondence course or will accomplish prior to enrollment.
 - 5) Those who completed 16 years of formal education overseas in an educational institution placed in Japan, which is designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan or will accomplish prior to enrollment.
 - 6) Those who have been conferred a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree upon completion of a curriculum that has a course term of three years or longer at a university or school (limited to schools whose overall educational and research activities have been evaluated by the relevant country's government or a government-approved individual, or are designated separately as having met this requirement by the Minister of Education) in a foreign country (including cases in which the student completed the curriculum by taking subjects conducted by said school via distance learning while the student resided in Japan, and cases in which the student has completed a curriculum at an educational facility that is positioned within that country's educational system as per the previous item).
 - 7) Those who have been designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (Notification No. 5 of the Ministry, 1953).
 - 8) Those who entered the graduate school of other universities and whose academic abilities were recognized by the eligibility screening of the GSAS Tohoku University according to Clause 2 of the Article 102 in the School Education Law.
 - 9) Those who are not younger than 22 years old and whose academic ability were recognized to be equal to the graduates of the university by the eligibility screening of the GSAS Tohoku University. The inquiry deadline for eligibility screening is **October 10, 2025**.
- (2) Applicants for **the Doctoral Course** are required to satisfy one of the following qualifications:
- 1) Those who acquired a Master's Degree or the Professional Degree, or will acquire them prior to enrollment.
 - 2) Those who acquired a Degree equal to the Master's Degree or the Professional Degree abroad, or will acquire them prior to enrollment.
 - 3) Those who acquired a Master's Degree or the Professional Degree abroad by taking the subjects in Japan through a correspondence course or will acquire them by the above-mentioned means prior to enrollment.
 - 4) Those who were awarded Master's Degree by an overseas formal education institution placed in Japan, which is designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, or will be awarded prior to enrollment.
 - 5) Those who were awarded a Master's Degree by the United Nations University established based on United Nations General Assembly Resolution dated December 11, 1972, as stipulated Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the Act on Special Measures Incidental to Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University (Act No. 72 of 1976), resulting in the conferral of a degree equivalent to a master's degree.
 - 6) Those who have completed an educational program at a foreign school, a designated academic institution as described in Item 4 above or United Nations University, have passed an examination or screening equivalent to those set forth in Article 16-2 of the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools

(Ministry of Education Ordinance No. 28 of 1974) and have been recognized as having scholastic ability that is at least equivalent to that of someone with a master's degree.

- 7) Those who have been designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan as follows:
 - i) Those who have been engaged in research activities at university or research institute more than 2 years after graduation and were recognized his/her academic ability to be equal to those who obtained a Master's Degree or the Professional Degree by the eligibility screening of the GSAS Tohoku University.
 - ii) Those who have been engaged in research activities at university or research institute more than 2 years after accomplishing the formal education of 16 years abroad, and were recognized his/her academic ability to be equal to those who obtained a Master's Degree or the Professional Degree by the eligibility screening of the GSAS Tohoku University.
 - 8) Those who are not younger than 24 years old and were recognized his/her academic ability to be equal to those who obtained Master's Degree or the Professional Degree by the eligibility screening of the GSAS Tohoku University.
- The inquiry deadline for eligibility screening is **October 10, 2025**.

2. Application and Required Documents

(1) Online application

Applicants for the Human Security and Food & Agriculture Program must submit the following documents in English by using the TAO (The Admission Office) system before the application deadline. The general flow of the application process is as follows.

①Confirmation of "STUDENT ADMISSION INFORMATION" and preparation of required documents.

- Please check the qualifications for application and required documents carefully in this application guideline.
- Please ask your university or college to issue certificates of graduation (or expected graduation), transcripts, and other certifying documents in advance.

②Paying the Examination fee of 30,000 Japanese yen.

- Please follow the instructions in (3) below to pay the examination fee. Commission will be charged (to be borne by the applicant).
- After examination fee payment, please upload a PDF or image file of the ATM statement or internet banking screen showing the account information, amount, transfer date, and name of the payee to the TAO application registration website.
- * Please note that only application registration or only examination fee payment doesn't complete the application.

③Application registration by using TAO.

- Please visit the TAO website, and make a user account. After that, please input the required information and upload the following required application documents.
<https://admissions-office.net/en/portal>
- * After registration, the contents cannot be changed by the applicant. When registering, please carefully read through the contents to avoid errors that might prevent successful submission of the application. The temporary saving function is available, so please use it for confirmation.

(2) Master's Course and Doctoral Course

The following required application documents **should be uploaded or input on TAO.**

- 1) Application Form (input on TAO)
- 2) Curriculum Vitae (input on TAO)
- 3) Personal Statement of Purpose (specified form)
- 4) ATM statement or internet banking screen showing the account information, amount, transfer date, and name of the payee
- 5) **Two** letters of recommendation (specified form)
At least one recommendation should be from a faculty member of the last institution applicant attended as a full-time student. Materials, such as reports and thesis, to evaluate applicant's academic work, intellectual ability and potential for accomplishing program are acceptable.
* Applicants who are employed at the time of admission must submit a letter of consent from their employer.
- 6) Official transcripts from each university attended.
- 7) Official certificates of graduation and degrees or expected ones issued by each university attended.
- 8) Permit for application from the university attended (only applicants for student transfer)
- 9) Official score of TOEFL® or TOEIC® or other qualification/exam equivalent to B2 or higher in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) taken within 2 years prior to the application date.
- 10) Copy of the ZAIRYU Card (在留カード) (both-side copy) (only for applicants currently residing in Japan)

***Regarding the application documents 6), 7), 8), and 9), all applicants are required to submit the original documents at the time of the enrollment procedure after passing the entrance examination.**

(3) How to pay the examination fee

① **Overseas residents**

Please be sure to pay the examination fee by credit card from the link "e-shiharai.net" so please contact the Registration Office on how to pay the examination fee. Registration Office will inform you of "e-shiharai.net".

Please save a screenshot of the page that shows your payment and submit the screenshot to the registration office as proof of payment.

② **Residents in Japan**

Please pay the examination fee to the following financial institution.

And please submit a copy of the document (bank transfer forms and receipts etc.). Payment by cash will not be accepted.

*Please input the applicant's name in Japanese Katakana characters for the section to input the remitter's information at the time of the remittance procedure.

- Paying to : (For residents in Japan)

銀行名 Name of the bank : 三菱 UFJ 銀行 Mitsubishi UFJ Bank

銀行コード Bank code : 0005

支店名 Name of the branch : わかたけ支店 Wakatake branch

支店コード Branch code : 809

預金種別 Account type : 普通 Regular

口座番号 Account number : 2259271

口座名義 Name of the account holder : ダイ)トウホクダ`イグク 国立大学法人東北大学

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3. Screening

The number of students to be admitted is not set but considered "a few". Successful applicants will be decided based on a review of all submitted documents, oral examination and language ability. The oral examination will last 60-80 minutes, to examine the applicants' English language ability and suitability for the program. Applicants will be provided with detailed information following the review period. The oral examination for international students living abroad will use the online video conference tools, such as Zoom or Google Meet.

Applicants who fall into the qualification of (1)6 of master's course are required to make inquiries to the Student Affairs Section, Faculty of Agriculture/Graduate School of Agricultural Science. The inquiry deadline for eligibility screening is **October 10, 2025**.

Applicants who fall into the qualification of (1)8) or (1)9) of Master's course or (2)7) or (2)8) of Doctoral course must satisfy the eligibility requirements before the screening. The inquiry deadline for eligibility screening is **October 10, 2025**.

4. Schedule and Procedure

Applicants must communicate directly with supervisors whom they desire prior to submitting application documents.

- (1) The deadline for the enrollment in **Spring 2026**:

Applications for Master's Course and Doctoral Course will be accepted **from November 18 to November 21, 2025**. Applications must be completed before the deadline.

- (2) Date of Interview:

From January 20 to January 21, 2026, for Master's Course and Doctoral Course

- (3) Place of Interview:

To be announced after application.

- (4) The Registration Office (postal address):

Graduate Student Affairs Section, Student Affairs Office, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University, 468-1 Aramaki Aza Aoba, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Japan, Post code: 980-8572

- (5) Please browse the following website to download the application form, access the campus map and other information about this program.

<https://www.agri.tohoku.ac.jp/en/international/apply/degreeprograms/>

5. Announcement to Successful Applicants and Enrollment Procedure

- (1) Screening results will be relayed to applicants on February 5, 2026 on TAO.
- (2) Admission documents will be sent to successful applicants by around the end of February ~ early March by TAO or email.
- (3) Fees for admission are as follows:
 - 1) Admission fee: 282,000 yen
 - 2) First Semester tuition: 267,900 yen (annual tuition: 535,800 yen)
 - a. Applicants may pay a lump sum for annual tuition, if desired. If the cost of tuition changes during the period of the applicant's enrollment, the new payment system will be applicable.
 - b. Information on exemptions for admission, tuition fees, or deferment of fees will be included in the admission packet.
 - 3) The final date for registration is April 1st, 2026.

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Graduate School of Agricultural Science

Name of Applicant: (_____)

1. Laboratory (Please select the laboratory which you wish to belong.)

* Please note that you can only apply for the Master's and Doctoral programs in the laboratories and programs marked with a "○".

☐ I have communicated with expected supervisors and got an agreement to accept me.

(* Please give ✓ to the above square.)

(* If you have not got an agreement, please be sure to contact the expected supervisors at first.)

Division	Department	Laboratory	✓	Master's Program	Doctoral Program
Agricultural Bioscience	Plant Science	Crop Science		○	○
		Horticultural Science		×	×
		Soil Science		○	○
		Plant Breeding and Genetics		×	×
		Plant Pathology		○	○
		Applied Entomology		×	×
		Environmental Plant Biotechnology		○	○
		Forest Ecology		×	○
	Animal Science	Animal Reproduction and Development		○	○
		Animal Nutrition		○	○
		Animal Breeding and Genetics		○	○
		Animal Physiology		○	○
		Animal Functional Morphology		○	○
		Animal Microbiology		○	○
		Animal Food Function		×	○
		Grassland-Animal Production and Ecology		×	○
		Sustainable Animal Environment		○	○

Division	Department	Laboratory	✓	Master's Program	Doctoral Program
Agricultural Bioscience	Marine Biosciences	Aquaculture Biology		○	○
		Fisheries Biology and Ecology		○	○
		Marine Plant Ecology		○	○
		Marine Biochemistry		○	○
		Biological Oceanography		○	○
		Fish Genetics		○	○
		International Marine Sciences		○	○
	Agricultural Economics	International Development Studies		○	○
		Farm Business Management and Rural Development		○	○
		Regional Resource Planning		○	○
		Environmental Economics		○	○
	Environmental Crop Science	Environmental Crop Science		×	×
	Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Science	Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Science		×	×
Agricultural Chemistry	Biochemistry	Plant Nutrition		×	×
		Molecular Biochemistry		×	×
		Enzymology		○	○
		Applied Microbiology		×	×
		Applied Bioorganic Chemistry		×	×
		Plant Cell Biochemistry		×	×
		Fungal Biotechnology		×	×
	Food and Natural Product Science	Food and Biomolecular Science		×	○
		Nutrition		×	○
		Bioorganic Chemistry of Natural Products		×	×
		Food Function Analysis		×	○
		Terahertz Optical and Food Engineering		×	×

2. Statement of Purpose

**Food & Agriculture for Human Security
International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security
Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University**

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

(To be filled out by a scientist familiar with applicant's aptitude. At least one should be from a faculty member of the last institution applicant attended as a full-time student.)

Name of Applicant	Family Name	First Name	Middle Name

I. How long and how well have you known the applicant and in what connection?

II. Please comment on the applicant's previous accomplishments, intellectual independence, capacity for analytical thinking, and state reasons for your supporting this application. (Please use another sheet, if necessary).

Date: _____ Signature: _____
Name: (_____)

Name of Institution and Position:

Contact Information (E-mail/ Telephone):

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International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security
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Name of Applicant	Family Name	First Name	Middle Name

I. How long and how well have you known the applicant and in what connection?

II. Please comment on the applicant's previous accomplishments, intellectual independence, capacity for analytical thinking, and state reasons for your supporting this application. (Please use another sheet, if necessary).

Date: _____ Signature: _____
Name: (_____)

Name of Institution and Position:

Contact Information (E-mail/ Telephone):
