

2009 Special Program on ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) for International Students Application Guide for Admission

I Contents of the Course

In the 21st century, the major problems faced by human beings are environmental problems. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. The Japanese government advocated ESD (Education for Sustainable Development), in order to actively promote initiatives for environmental issues around the world. Since March 2006, concrete activities have been taken by Japanese government in enforcing the ESD in Japan.

Okayama University, a well-integrated university of cutting-edge scientific technology and academic excellence, comprises of all the main elements required by the “Center of Excellence Program for the 21st Century” . With the slogan of “Harmonious coexistence of nature and humans” in general, and "Building up a new paradigm for the sustainable evolution of human society" in specific, Okayama University is committed to becoming a leading international environmental study center.

The Okayama region is one of 12 designated regions all over the world as RCE (Regional Center of Expertise for ESD), and it has become one of the leading areas for environmental study education in Japan. Okayama University has been approved of UNESCO Chair Program to promote ESD and train international environmental specialists. Okayama University has a strong track record as an international research and education center for environmental study by admitting a large number of international students through its Graduate School of Environmental Science and Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology. This was carried out under the programs of “Center of Excellence Program for the 21st Century” and “Initiatives for Attractive Education in Graduate Schools.”

The proposed program is designed for international student of the 3-years Doctor’ s course based on the ESD advocates by the United Nations with English as the medium of conduct. This will help to uplift the competitiveness of Japanese universities, as the universities in contributing to the international society indirectly by educating and training environmentalist especially from those developing countries.

Admission will be in October 2009. Instruction will be offered in English in order to reduce the burden of language.

II Number of Students to be admitted

School	Division	Number
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology	Frontier and Fundamental Sciences	8
	Industrial Innovation Sciences	
	Chemistry and Biochemistry	
	Bioscience	
Graduate School of Environmental Science	Social Engineering and Environmental Management	
	Biological and Human Environment	
	Sustainability of Resources	

III Eligibility to apply

<1>Has not obtained Japanese nationality.

<2>Obtains a student visa designated by the Law of Immigrations and Refugees or able to obtain a student visa after he/she has enrolled in the graduate school.

Must meet both conditions of <1> and <2>, as well as meeting one of the following conditions below.

- (1) Has obtained a master's degree (or professional degree) or is expected to do so September 30, 2009.
- (2) Has obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree at a foreign university or college, or is expected to do so by September 30, 2009.
- (3) Has attended the foreign correspondence course of education in Japan and has successfully obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree (or professional degree) or is expected to do so by September 30, 2009.
- (4) Is deemed by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to have obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree under the relevant foreign education system at a foreign university or college, or is expected to do so by September 30, 2009).
- (5) Is designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- (6) Is deemed by our Graduate School to have academic ability equal to or higher than a master's holder, based on the Review of eligibility for application. The candidate will be 24 years old or older as of October 1, 2009.

Note i) Students who will be completing the Master's Course of Okayama University's Graduate School in September 30, 2009 will have automatic qualifications to enter the Doctoral Course.

Ones, who meet the qualification above will have exemptions of entrance examination fee and admission fee.

ii) (2) refers to those who have completed a course which corresponds to a master's course in Japan, and whose period of school education is over 18 years. In the case of candidates whose period of school education is under 18 years, if he/she has engaged in research for a considerable period at a research institution such as a university (in Japan/foreign country), a joint use organization at a national university, or equivalent, as a research student or researcher, he/she is considered to be qualified for application.

iii) The handling of formal school education in the case of (3) is the same as ii) above.

iv) (5) refers to those who meet one of the following conditions, and have the experience of engaging in a research institution or university for more than 2 years after graduation from university, with published books, thesis, reports, patents or conference papers which are considered to be equivalent to or higher than a Master's thesis.

(A Review of Eligibility for Application in necessary. Please look at Section 2: Review of Eligibility for Application.)

1) Those who graduated from an undergraduate university course

2) Those who have completed 16 years of formal education in a foreign country (including completion of a foreign correspondence course of education in Japan.)

v) (6) refers to those who have passed the examination of academic ability (Written Examination, Oral Examination, and Interview) after the examination of documents in our graduate school as part of the Review of eligibility for application. However, if your academic ability can be confirmed from the submitted documents, we can omit the Written Examination. We will inform you of the date and place of examination.

(A Review of Eligibility for Application in necessary. Please look at Section 2: Review of Eligibility for Application.)

vi) Admission for applicants who are expected to complete a master's course by September 2009 but who fail to do so will be revoked.

IV Review of eligibility for application

For those who wish to apply in accordance with the eligibility conditions described in 1 (5) or 1 (6) above, a preliminary review of eligibility will be conducted. The following documents must be submitted to the Instruction Section of our Graduate School during the period below.

< **First period of recruitment** > May 8, 2009 (Fri)

< **Second period of recruitment** > June 5, 2009 (Fri)

Documents Required

(1) Form of Eligibility for Application :

Use the designated form provided by our Graduate School.

(2) Record of Academic Performance:

Use the designated form provided by our Graduate School. (For research results in fields related to your major, briefly describe the objective findings.)

For Academic Thesis, Publications, etc., please attach the original version or a copy. For Research Presentations, please attach a summary or outline.

(3) Certificate of Research Participation:

Use the designated form provided by our Graduate School. (Prepared by the institution to which the applicant is affiliated.)

(4) Academic transcript (Final educational background):

The transcript should be prepared by the head administrator of the last listed school.

(5) Diploma (Final educational background):

The diploma should be prepared by the head administrator of the last listed school.

(6) Licenses and other qualifications:

Copy of documents presumed to serve as useful references such as various licenses relating to the field of specialization. (Please use A4 size copy and attach brief explanations.)

Notes: In general, the documents described above should be in English language. (Attach English translation for languages other than English.)

V Application period

< **First period of recruitment** > June 5, 2009 (Fri)

< **Second period of recruitment** > July 8, 2009 (Wed)

VI Application procedures

(1) Applicants are requested to submit application documents listed in (3) below in one set to the following address shown in (2) before the submission deadline described in V above.

(2) Location of Application Procedures

Instruction Section,
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology,
Graduate School of Environmental Science,
Okayama University
3-1-1 Tsushima-naka, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530 Japan

- (3) Application documents
- i) Application form (Application for Admission, Curriculum Vitae)
 - ii) Diploma of graduated (graduating) university, completion (anticipated completion) certificate of graduating school
 - iii) Academic transcript of graduating university and graduate school
 - iv) Thesis
 - (i) Master's thesis or comparable research thesis (in English)
 - (ii) List of researches since completion of master's course and one or two representative thesis written during that time
 - v) Research planning sheet
 - vi) Certificate of English proficiency (TOEFL score, etc.)

If a TOEFL score is not available, please submit a certificate of English proficiency from your graduate school, etc.

You need not to submit this certificate if viii)(i)the letter of recommendation includes details about your English proficiency.
 - vii) Certificate of national family registry, municipal registry or citizenship
 - viii) Letters of recommendation addressed to the President of Okayama University
 - (i) One letter from the director of the affiliated laboratory or the head of the university department (President or Dean) 1 sheet
 - (ii) Recommendation letters by plurality of academic supervisors, etc. Each 1 sheet
 - ix) Photographs: 6 x 4 cm, upper body, front view, without headwear, taken within the last 6 months.

Please write your name and country on the back and attach to the application form in the designated place.
 - x) Entrance examination fee: 30,000 yen

When applying outside Japan:

Please pay the entrance examination fee, 30,000 yen (Japanese Yen), by transfer according to the following guidance and present a copy of the request for foreign remittance. When a remittance charge is required separately by the local bank, payment should be made at the bank counter in addition to the money amount shown above.

Type of remittance: Wire transfer

Payment method: Advance payment

Remittance charge by local bank: To be paid by the remitter

Amount to be remitted: 30,000 Yen

Purpose of remittance: Entrance examination fee

Remittee:

Remittee bank: THE CHUGOKU BANK, LTD. (Swift code: CHGKJPJZ)

Name of branch: HOUKAIIN BRANCH

Address of remittee bank: 2-5-22, Yamatocho, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-0808, Japan

Account number of recipient: 104-00-1797911

Name of recipient: OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

Address of recipient: 1-1-1, Tsushima-naka, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530, Japan

When applying from Japan:

Please pay the entrance examination fee at the bank counter of the financial institution (including Japan Post Bank or post office using "Entrance examination fee payment slip" and present "Entrance examination fee payment receipt". However, ATM utilization is not available. The remittance charge is necessary in addition to entrance examination fee.

Please contact the person in charge of the graduate school, Instruction Section, Okayama University to obtain an "Entrance examination fee payment slip".

Note 1: Please use a unified form (A4 size preferable) for all submitted and typewritten documents.

Note 2: Of application procedural documents, use the format designated by Okayama University for i), v) and viii).

Note 3: Documents will not be accepted when submitted documents are not perfectly completed or are not described perfectly or are overdue.

Note 4: Submitted documents will not be returned.

Note 5: Students who come to study abroad by Japanese Government scholarships have exemptions of entrance examination fee.

In general, please prepare the documents shown above in English. (Attach English translation for languages other than English.)

VII Selection

Okayama University will make selections based on the documents submitted by applicants.

VIII Announcement of results

< First period of recruitment > June 24, 2009 (Wed)

< Second period of recruitment > July 29, 2009 (Wed)

IX Tuition, etc. (Students who come to study abroad by Japanese Government scholarships have exemptions of admission fee and tuition fee.)

Admission fee 282,000 yen

Tuition fee 535,800 yen (per year)

If the tuition fee changes during the course of the student's study, the new tuition will be applied after implementation of the change. The amount of the tuition fee is subject to change.

X Information for Privately Financed International Students

- (1) For students whose academic record and income situation meets certain conditions, application for tuition and admission fee exemption may be made. In some cases half or all of these fees may be waived.
- (2) For students whose academic record and income situations meet certain conditions, application for scholarships may be made.

XI Notes

It is desirable for international students to study Japanese culture, customs, climate and universities before coming to Japan. Courses will primarily be conducted in English, but Japanese will be necessary for daily life, so it is desirable for students to obtain basic proficiency in Japanese in advance.

XII Others

- (1) Refund of entrance examination fee

An entrance examination fee that has already been remitted cannot be refunded for any reason. However, the restriction above is not applicable to the following cases [1] through [3].

- [1] The entrance examination fee is remitted, but application documents are not submitted.
- [2] The entrance examination fee is remitted, but the application is not accepted.
- [3] The entrance examination fee is remitted twice accidentally.

(2) Cancellation of admission

When contents of the description on the application documents, etc. include false statements or information, admission will be canceled in some cases, even after admission to the university.

(3) Handling of personal information

Application documents and personal information described and attached to these documents, and personal information of score of entrance examination are used purely for operations related to selection of enrolled students.

This personal information is also used as survey and research data for improvement of selection of enrolled students and graduate school education. However, when results of survey and studies are made public, due consideration is given so that individual information is unidentifiable.

Furthermore, the following personal information is also used for operations, systems, etc., other than selection of enrolled students.

- For enrolled students only, personal information including the name, date of birth, gender, application entitlement, research course entered, specialty, etc., are used in the educational affairs system of the university. Of enrolled students, those who filed the application of admission fee and tuition waiver, personal information of entrance examination score might be used for academic ability judgment processing.
- For successful applicants only, personal information of the name, date of birth, and gender is used for tuition credit management clerical systems and tuition waiver clerical systems.

For further information, please contact the following offices in writing or by e-mail:

- (1) For inquiries regarding applications, majors and supervising instructors of Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology and Graduate School of Environmental Science, please contact:

Instruction Section, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology,

Graduate School of Environmental Science, Okayama University

3-1-1 Tsushima-naka, kita-ku Okayama 700-8530 Japan

Fax: +81-86-251-8580

E-mail: agf8576@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp

Website:

Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology

http://www.gnst.okayama-u.ac.jp/site_e/index.html

Graduate School of Environmental Science

<http://ambiente.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/index.html>

- (2) For inquiries regarding scholarship and housing, please contact:

International Student Office, Academic Affairs Department, Okayama University

2-1-1 Tsushima-naka kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530 Japan

Fax: +81-86-252-5022

E-mail: dde7600@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp