

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF THE RYUKYUS
Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program

(DOCTORAL PROGRAM)

(NON-SCHOLARSHIP)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program, which is organized jointly by the fields of Biosciences and Environmental Sciences, offers an opportunity for graduate study to students from abroad by instructing all courses in English.

Upon enrollment, candidates will be each assigned to an advisor who will direct their thesis research in the designated field of specialization. The degree of Doctor of Science/Philosophy will be awarded in recognition of thesis research and course work including seminars with a minimum of 12 credit hours. Some of the courses may include laboratory work and training.

Before deciding the field and the topic of research, applicants are encouraged and recommended to contact appropriate supervisor(s) listed in the Faculty Members.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION (April 2025)

1. Number of Students for Admission

A total of 3 students will be accepted for enrollment under the Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program in the Graduate School of Engineering and Science.

2. Qualifications Required for Applicants

- (1) Prospective applicants are advised to contact a potential thesis advisor at the University of the Ryukyus for consultation on research themes and plans; applicants without an advisor's prior approval may not receive full consideration during the admission screening.
- (2) Education: Applicants for the Graduate Program leading to a Doctoral Degree should have or be receiving a Master's Degree or an equivalent degree, as of September 30, 2025.
Those who have completed 16 years of formal education at an institution of education located in a foreign country, have engaged in research at a university, a research institution, a research institute of a private company, or other research and development facilities for more than two years, and have been deemed to possess academic skills that are equivalent to, or of a higher level than that of a person who has been conferred a Master's degree through the research performance, by the application qualification screening conducted by the Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus*.
- (3) Health: Applicants should be physically and mentally able to pursue study at university.
- (4) Language Proficiency: Applicants should be fluent in English and must meet any of the following requirements.
 - a) Applicants must have achieved scores in an English language proficiency test that correspond to B2 or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing skills by the time of application.
 - b) Applicants must have earned a master's degree or an equivalent degree that meets the requirements for admission in doctoral course at a Japanese graduate school, with the medium of instruction in English.

- (5) Time Limit for Arrival in Japan: Applicants should arrive in Japan by October 1, 2025.

*If you do not have a Master's Degree or an equivalent degree, you need to have the Application Qualification Screening. Please contact us to the e-mail address shown at the bottom of this guideline by December 10, 2024 with the following documents/information.

- 1) Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Publication list for books, papers, and thesis, with the reprint or copy of each publication

3. Expenses

- (1) Entrance Examination Fee: 30,000 JPY
- (2) Admission Fee: 282,000 JPY
- (3) Tuition Fee: A total of 535,800 JPY for one year, to be paid in October and April in two divided installments.

Remarks:

- 1) The University shall waive the collection of admission fees for privately financed international students who are enrolled in this program.
- 2) The University shall waive the payment of tuition for the top four scoring privately financed students who are enrolled in this program.
- 3) The University will also offer privately financed students partial exemption from tuition fees. The exemption will be granted to students with outstanding academic achievements who have extreme difficulty in paying tuition due to financial difficulties.

4. Application

All of the following documents should be sent via e-mail to and must be received by the Graduate School of Engineering and Science of the University of the Ryukyus before the December 22, 2024 deadline.

- (1) Completed Application Form (use the form supplied) . . . Form I-2, II-2, III
- (2) Health Certificate (by public hospital within the past 6 months) . . . Form IV
- (3) Certificate of Graduation or Diploma (undergraduate and/or graduate) or Certified Letter from the university at which the applicant is currently enrolled stating the expected graduation date.
- (4) Official Academic Transcript (undergraduate and/or graduate) from the university with their English translation.

A GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) must be issued by the university authorities.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{A \times 3 \text{ points} \times \text{course credits} + B \times 3 \text{ points} \times \text{course credits} + C \times 2 \text{ points} \times \text{course credits} + D \times 1 \text{ point} \times \text{course credits}}{\text{Total Credits Earned}}$$

Grading Scale

A	Excellent (90-100)	3 Points
B	Good (80-89)	3 Points
C	Average (70-79)	2 Points
D	Passing (60-69)	1 Point
F	Failure (0-59)	0 Points

- (5) Copy of an applicant's passport.
- (6) Letter of Recommendation, addressed to the president of the University of the Ryukyus, by the dean or the head of the university/institution. (Form V)
- (7) Letter(s) of Reference, addressed to the president of the University of the Ryukyus, by the major

- professor and/or supervisor who has personal knowledge of the applicant.
- (8) Photograph (upper front figure without hat taken within 6 months, passport size 4.5cm × 3.5cm) fixed on the specified part of the application form (an electronic data will be accepted).
- (9) AN OFFICIAL TOEFL SCORE of 72 (Internet-based Test) or IELTS SCORE of 5.5 or above or an equivalent or higher score on an equivalent test for an applicant whose instructional language at the home institution is NOT English. An original or a certified copy of an official score report is required to be submitted. *The score report must be issued within 2 years.
A certificate indicating the medium of instruction is English issued by the university authority can be substituted for a TOEFL score for an applicant whose instructional language at the home institution is English.
- (10) Publication list (Form VI)
State author's name(s), publication year, title, name of journal (vol. and no.), name and address (city name) of publisher (if a book or chapter), and page numbers. *Attach documents that can confirm the title, author's name(s) etc. E.g. the first page of the PDF of the paper, etc.
- (11) Entrance Examination Fee: 30,000JPY should be paid by bank transfer before application deadline, December 20, 2024. Refer to the following payment information.

University Bank Account Information

(Domestic transfer)

Name of Bank: Bank of the Ryukyus (Bank code No. 0187)

Name of Branch: Ginowan Branch (Branch code No. 512)

SWIFT Code: RYUBJPJZ

Account Number: 428711

Name of Account Holder: KOKURITSUDAIGAKUHOJINRYUKYUDAIGAKU

Account Holder's Address: 1 Senbaru, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213, Japan

Bank Address: 1-5-3 Ginowan, Ginowan-shi, Okinawa 901-2211, Japan

Bank Phone Number: +81-98-893-2231

*Transfer fee will be charged separately.

*Please e-mail us to notify when you send a wire transfer.

E-mail: rggakmu@acs.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

*An additional 4,000JPY will be deducted from the amount of payment for the receiving bank fee if you send a wire transfer from outside Japan. Please pay all applicable bank transfer fees in addition to the examination fee. Ask your bank for details.

(International transfer)

If you are paying the examination fee from overseas, an easier payment option with your home currency is available via Convera GlobalPay. Follow the instruction and complete the payment from the link: <https://students.convera.com/ryukyuacjp>

For the details and guidance, please e-mail us in advance if you wish to choose this option.

E-mail: rggakmu@acs.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

Remarks:

- 1) The above documents should be written or typed in English on the supplied forms.
- 2) All documents should be prepared in English. For documents cannot be prepared in English, a separate English translation should be attached.
- 3) Letters of recommendation and reference should indicate English proficiency of the applicants as excellent, good, or fair.
- 4) The information for documents (1), (2), (6) and (10) must be written on the forms provided.
A health certificate of specified format provided by a public hospital can be substituted for the Form IV if all the corresponding items described in Form IV are included in the certificate.
- 5) Applications will not be accepted if any of the above documents are incomplete, incorrect, or lacking supporting evidence. They will not be accepted if they arrive after the deadline.
- 6) All submitted documents will be retained at school and will not be returned to applicants.

5. Application Deadline

17:00, December 22, 2024 (Japan Standard Time)

6. Selection and Admission

- (1) Applicants will be evaluated by the screening committee of the program based on their submitted documents and online interviews including a presentation. Only those who have a solid academic background and research capability will be contacted for online interviews. The online interview will be scheduled between January 7th and January 10th, 2025.
- (2) The results of selection by the screening committee and the graduate school committee will be announced to individuals after June 18th, 2024.
- (3) The online interview will consist of a 10-minute presentation segment, which concerns the applicant's previous research achievements and future research plans in the LA MER Program, and a Q&A segment from the interview committee.

7. Other Notes

- (1) Successful applicants are expected to study and understand the geography, climate customs and habits of Okinawa as well as the general features and conditions of the University of the Ryukyus.
- (2) Successful Japanese applicants are expected to actively collaborate with other LA MER international students on study and research.
- (3) The university dormitory may be available for accommodation at reasonable cost if there are vacancies.
- (4) The areas of research conducted by the faculty members and curricula of the program are outlined in the following section.

8. Security Export Control

The University of the Ryukyus adheres to the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA)" and thus conducts security export control in order to maintain international peace and security. Thus, research and education content of overseas students may be changed in certain cases to adhere to these regulations.

Correspondence

Applications must be sent via e-mail.

All the correspondence related to this application should be addressed to:

Academic Affairs Unit (Faculty of Science)
Graduate School of Engineering and Science
University of the Ryukyus
1 Senbaru
Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213
Japan

Phone: +81-98-895-8595

E-mail: rggakmu@acs.u-ryukyu.ac.jp