

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF THE RYUKYUS
Global-Okinawa Climate change & Ecosystems: Advanced Next-generation Sciences
(G-OCEANS) Program
(MASTER'S PROGRAM)

(MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP, Special Program Recommendation)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Global-Okinawa Climate change & Ecosystems: Advanced Next-generation Sciences (G-OCEANS) 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 Master of Science will be awarded in recognition of thesis research and course work including seminars with a minimum of 30 credit hours (thesis: 12, course work: 12, seminar: 6). 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 (October 2026)

1. Number of International Students for Admission

A total of 3 students, supported by the scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), will be accepted for enrollment under the Global-Okinawa Climate change & Ecosystems: Advanced Next-generation Sciences (G-OCEANS) Program in the Graduate School of Engineering and Science.

2. Qualifications and Conditions

- (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) Eligibility: International students with outstanding academic achievements of graduate school level who enter Japan as new students or those already staying in Japan.
* "International students with outstanding academic achievements" must have earned a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.30 or above in their degree (for those who are employed) or currently enrolled courses, and be able to maintain that GPA while receiving the scholarship.
Those who currently reside in Japan are also eligible for application as "domestic applicants". However, not more than 2 "domestic applicants" can be admitted to the program.
- (3) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are not eligible. However, persons with dual nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status).
- (4) Age Limit: Applicants must be under 35 years of age as of April 1, 2026, i.e. born after April 2, 1991.

- (5) Education: University graduates, who have completed 16 years of formal education outside of Japan, or those who have qualifications equivalent to university graduates.
- (6) Health: Applicants should be physically and mentally able to pursue study at university.
- (7) 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 bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree that meets the requirements for admission in master's course at a Japanese graduate school, with the medium of instruction in English.
- (8) Time Limit for Arrival in Japan: Applicants should arrive in Japan within two weeks before and after October 1, 2026.
- (9) Those who can guarantee their admission to the university if they are accepted.

[How to Calculate your GPA]

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

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{([\text{No. of 3 GP Credits}] \times 3 \text{ points}) + ([\text{No. of 2 GP Credits}] \times 2 \text{ points}) + ([\text{No. of 1 GP Credits}] \times 1 \text{ Point})}{\text{Total No. of Credits Earned}}$$

Types of scale	Grades				
On a 100-point scale (four-point scale)	-	100-80	79-70	69-60	59-0
On a 100-point scale (five-point scale)	100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	59-0
4-point (A-F) grading scale	-	A	B	C	F
5-point (S-F)grading scale	S	A	B	C	F
5 point (A-F) grading scale	A	B	C	D	F
Grade Point	3	3	2	1	0

[Definition of “domestic applicants”]

- ① Those who are staying in Japan with a medium- to long-term resident status at the time of application. Those who have their base of residence in Japan, not including tourists and short-term visitors who are staying in Japan for the purpose of taking entrance examinations, etc. It is irrelevant whether the applicant is residing in Japan from the time of after application to the start of scholarship payments.
- ② Applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application, but will come to Japan as a privately financed international students before the start of receiving scholarship payments.
 - If you are or will be in Japan as a privately financed international student, you must complete your program at the school you are enrolled or plan to enroll in before receiving scholarship payments.
 - Travel expenses will not be paid for domestic applicants, regardless of the reasons stated in ① and ②. If applicants return to their country of nationality after applying under condition ①, however, there are no exceptions if students return to Japan before scholarship payments begin.

Non-Eligibility: Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship.

- 1) Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship.
- 2) Those who do not arrive within the time limit will be subject to cancellation of their scholarships.
- 3) Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status).
- 4) Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2026.
- 5) Those who are planning to receive scholarship or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others after the start of the scholarship payment period.
- 6) Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status);
- 7) Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the university.
- 8) Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.
- 9) Applicants who failed to graduate by September 30, 2026, will be subject to cancellation of their scholarships and admission-

3. Scholarship and Expenses

- (1) A monthly stipend of 144,000* JPY for two years during Master's Program will be awarded. However, this may be suspended during periods of leave of absence or when a grantee remains off campus for prolonged periods without authorization.

*The monthly stipend mentioned above is the expected amount. It may change by the time of enrollment or while attending school.

- (2) Travel Expenses
 - 1) Onward Travel: an economy class air ticket, from the international airport closest to the grantee's home to New Tokyo International Airport (or another international airport if more economical), will be given.
 - 2) Return Travel: an economy class air ticket, from New Tokyo International Airport (or another international airport) to the closest international airport to the grantee's home, will be given to those who will be leaving after the scholarship period and before the expiry date designated by MEXT.

Remarks:

- 1) Domestic travels in the grantee's country and in Okinawa are the grantee's own expenses.
- 2) Fees for travel insurances of both onward and return trips should be paid by the grantee.
- 3) MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of domestic applicants.

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 17, 2025 deadline.

- (1) Completed Application Form (use the form supplied) • • • Form I-1, II-1, 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.
- (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) with the applicant's name and nationality written on the reverse side and to be 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.

Remarks:

- 1) The above documents should be typed in English on the supplied forms.
- 2) All documents should be prepared in English. For documents that 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 and will not be returned to applicants.
- 7) Those who apply for this MEXT scholarship should not apply for other scholarship programs at the same time, and vice versa.

5. Application Deadline

17:00, December 17, 2025 (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 6th and January 9th, 2026.
- (2) The results of selection by the screening committee and the graduate school committee will be announced to individuals after February 1st, 2026. The final decision by MEXT is expected to be announced to candidates through the University of the Ryukyus in July 2026.
- (3) The online interview will consist of a 5-minute presentation segment, which concerns the applicant's previous research achievements and future research plans in the G-OCEANS Program, and a Q&A segment from the interview committee.
- (4) Accepted candidates will be enrolled as full-time graduate students and they will be expected to accomplish course work and thesis research (Master of Science degree to be awarded) in two years, under supervision and instruction exclusively in English.

Remarks:

- 1) If an applicant is admitted as a MEXT scholarship student of the University of the Ryukyus and another university, MEXT will cancel the scholarship appointment for all universities.
- 2) Applicants selected by MEXT as a grantee must enroll in the program.
- 3) Those who apply for University of the Ryukyus are not allowed to apply for any other universities as the MEXT scholarship student.
- 4) Grantees will be enrolled as full-time graduate students and they will be expected to accomplish course work and thesis research (Master of Science degree to be awarded) in two years, under supervision and instruction exclusively in English.

7. Scholarship Conditions

An enrolled student will be subject to cancellation of his/her scholarship when:

- (1) A serious falsehood is found in the application documents (in this case, admission may be cancelled even after enrollment).
- (2) A student breaks the pledge declared to MEXT.
- (3) A student is subjected to disciplinary action or is judged by the Faculty of Science as not being able to continue his/her research in the program.

8. 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) The university dormitory may be available for accommodation at reasonable cost if there are vacancies.
- (3) The areas of research conducted by the faculty members and curricula of the program are outlined in the following section.
- (4) Grantees are expected to complete their Master's Program within two years. No extension of the term of scholarship will be available.
- (5) Those grantees who have completed their Master's Program can apply for admission to the Doctoral Program, but there is no guarantee to receive a MEXT scholarship.
- (6) Any inquiries regarding admission results should be directed to the prospective supervising professor with whom you have previously been in contact. The Academic Affairs Unit will not respond to questions concerning admission results.

9. 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 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