Welcome to the University of Tsukuba

With over 140 years of history, three Nobel prizes and over 100 Olympic medals, the University of Tsukuba has a long and distinguished tradition of excellence. Located less than an hour from central Tokyo, at the heart of Tsukuba Science City—Japan’s premier science and technology research hub—the university offers a pleasant, green environment for staff and students to engage in cutting edge academic research and training.

In 1973, the university was relocated from Tokyo to Tsukuba, and re-established with the aim of being a global institution open to all—both within and outside Japan. We aim to develop integrative approaches to research and education, which allow our graduates to be active in solving future challenges. Our motto “IMAGINE THE FUTURE” encapsulates our hope for a better future, based on shikon risai (師魂理才) or the concept of human kindness, which helps bring people together, allowing them to solve problems rationally for mutual benefit.

In 2009, we were selected as a core university for internationalization as part of the government’s Global 30 program. More recently, in 2014, we were selected for the Top Global University Project, which aims to increase the number of elite Japanese universities ranked in the top 100 globally.

We feel there has never been a better time to be a student at our university, and we invite you to learn more about the university and the programs we offer in English.
Approximately 4 million people study abroad annually, with over 150,000 in Japan. There are many benefits to studying abroad—learning a new language, meeting new people and exploring new cultures, the perspective international study brings, and improved employability.

**Learn Japanese, earn a degree**

Many students interested in Japan feel they have to choose between indulging their passion with a degree in Japanese Studies, or a more conventional degree in another subject. With Tsukuba’s English degree programs, you can have the best of both worlds: learning Japanese while also gaining a degree in another subject.

Students who wish to work in Japan may enjoy a significant advantage by graduating from a well-respected Japanese university.

**Discover Japan**

Japan has a long and fascinating history, stretching back thousands of years. Discover peaceful temples and shrines, vibrant festivals, and the history of how Japan was unified by the sword. Tsukuba is around 2 hours from the historic capital, Kamakura, and an hour from world class museums, shopping, and nightlife, in the current capital, Tokyo.

Although Tsukuba is a modern place, it contains many traditional areas. For example, Tsukuba Mountain Shrine (pictured above) is one of the oldest working Shinto Shrines in Japan.

Tsukuba has excellent transportation links—less than 1 hour by direct bus from Narita airport, and just 45 minutes to central Tokyo. From Tokyo, students can easily travel anywhere in Japan. Meanwhile, students may also travel to SE Asia conveniently and at a reasonable price from any of the local airports.
See the world, develop as a person

Studying abroad gives you an unparalleled opportunity to live, work and explore a different culture. You will learn about the people, the culture, the history and language of one of the world’s most unique cultures.

Study abroad students frequently report that living overseas helped them become more self-confident, and more able to appreciate different perspectives and cultures, while also seeing the deep similarities between people.

Learning doesn’t just happen in the classroom; meeting people from different cultures and making friends from all over the world are also important parts of the university experience. Many students report overseas study as being a defining moment in their life, with the benefits continuing throughout their career.

World class academic environment

Since 1949, there have been 24 Japanese-born Nobel Prize winners, making Japan the most successful Asian academic power. The QS world university ranking lists Tsukuba as 219 globally, while the Times Higher Education Asian ranking places us 7th in Japan.

“Japan is a world apart – a cultural Galápagos where a unique civilization blossomed, and today thrives in delicious contrasts of traditional and modern. The Japanese spirit is strong, warm and incredibly welcoming.”

- Lonely Planet
The University of Tsukuba consistently ranks as one of Japan’s top 10 universities. As a research university, we focus both on cutting edge research as well as on training of the next generation of researchers and scientists. We believe in small class sizes and a teaching method which combines theory with practice; traditional lectures, report and essay writing, group exercises, lab classes, and residential field trips both within Japan and overseas all form a part of the curriculum.

In many ways, the social aspects of university life are as important as the academic ones. Tsukuba has over 250 clubs and societies and some of the best sports facilities and coaching in Japan. Since 1973, the University has sent over 70 athletes to the Olympics, competing in 87 events, and winning 21 medals. We have also produced numerous world champions in disciplines ranging from kendo to soccer. Our success in sports stems from our world-class instructors, many of whom are former Olympians themselves.

The university’s many successes originate in part from its philosophy as exemplified by our slogan “IMAGINE THE FUTURE.” Our slogan was inspired by our former President, Dr. Jigoro Kano, who is widely known as the founder of modern judo, and the first Asian member of the International Olympic Committee. Dr. Kano was a pioneering educator, committed to internationalization and the reformation of educational standards and practices.

We follow Dr. Kano in not just imagining the future but also through our actions working together to create it.
In 2014, the University of Tsukuba was chosen as one of 37 universities for the Top Global University Project, a high profile competitive government grant by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

This ten-year initiative aims to reinvent a core of elite Japanese universities to compete with higher education institutions around the world. Tsukuba was selected as one among 13 Type-A universities with a goal of being ranked in the top 100 globally, providing world-class education and research.

A major aim is to increase the number of foreign staff and students in the university—recruiting the best from around the world. Our goal is to increase the number of non-Japanese academic staff members from 1 in 20 currently to 1 in 5 by 2023. We also aim to increase the number of foreign students on campus from 2000 to 5200, or 1 in 3, by 2023.

The University of Tsukuba will pioneer the Campus-in-Campus (CiC) Initiative in collaboration with initially three, but expanding to 13 globally renowned overseas partner institutions. CiC will allow the University to share campuses and resources with its partners, allowing us to utilize research and educational resources without national or institutional barriers.

CiC is intended at enhancing the mobility of not just our own students, faculty members, and administrative staff but also that of our partners’, thereby allowing students access to a broader range of courses taught by the best instructors from around the world.

The main efforts in realizing the CiC Initiative include:

- Sharing classes and instructors through the Course Jukebox System.
- Sharing labs, research and educational units with world-class institutions outside Japan through joint appointment of researchers and staff.
- Collaboration with research institutions in Tsukuba Science City, and recruiting exceptional students from around the world.
- Concentration of resources in the hands of the President so as to expedite university reforms.

By implementing these measures, the University of Tsukuba will transform itself into a truly mobile, trans-border university respected for its world-class education and research by academic communities around the globe.

Our initial partners for CiC are the University of California, Irvine (USA), the University of Bordeaux (France), and the National Taiwan University (Taiwan).
University isn’t all about study. It is also a time to make friends, have new experiences, and learn more about yourself as a person. Our University has over 250 clubs and societies, ranging from rugby and judo to movie making, Japanese archery, and cultural societies.

We have several campus festivals throughout the year. The dormitory festival, Yadokari-sai, is held annually in May. Student clubs organize a large festival in the dormitory area, with bands, foods, comedy, and a party atmosphere. In November, we host Soho-sai—the main university festival. For three days, the center of the university is taken over by students, with the clubs selling a wide range of snacks, while you enjoy entertainment from around the world.

Furthermore, the city hosts many festivals and events throughout the year including an international festival in June, and the city festival—Matsuri Tsukuba in August.

There are also two Sports Days held annually to help promote a healthy lifestyle, where students can try out new sporting disciplines and other activities. As Japan’s top university for sports, our University has a broad range of high quality sports facilities, including a brand new central gymnasium which was completed in 2014.

**Tsukuba Model United Nations**

Model United Nations, or MUN, is a simulation of the real United Nations in which students learn to negotiate, debate, and be diplomatic while discussing real issues that affect today’s world.

Universities from around the world participate in these MUN conferences and the University of Tsukuba is no different. The Tsukuba Model United Nations group formed in 2013 and has participated in several conferences in the United States, notably one of the largest MUN conferences in Washington DC.

Our group, which consists of students from a wide range of countries and backgrounds, has grown in just a few years to become a symbol of Tsukuba’s unique international culture and is proof that people around the world can put aside their differences and come together to solve the world’s problems.
When considering where to apply for university, I was looking for a university in Japan, with the option of getting a degree where I could take classes taught in English. Being raised in Norway with a Norwegian father and Japanese mother, I thought that university would be a great opportunity for me to live in Japan, explore more of my cultural heritage and also improve my Japanese.

As I wanted to study international studies, the degree here at Tsukuba University perfectly fit my needs. In the School of Social and International Studies, I am able to study with other students from overseas, but at the same time have the chance to mingle with the Japanese students through activities and events.

In addition to classes offered for a specific degree, the university gives students the option of taking classes from other programs, outside their own School. This freedom gives me the opportunity to explore many fields of my interest. There are also compulsory classes such as languages, arts and sports, which students have to complete, giving a broad education. As my Japanese improves, I want to take classes offered in Japanese, which is also possible even for students in the English taught degree program.

The University of Tsukuba has a reputation for international diversity. Around 1 in 9 students come from a country other than Japan, and our goal is to increase that to 1 in 3 by 2023.

Our undergraduate programs in English attract students from all over the world. We currently have around 150 students in the program from over 40 countries—as shown on the map above.

Traditionally, Japanese universities have had strong links with our Asian neighbors, and Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) statistics show that Asian students represent over 90% of international students at Japanese universities. However, as a result of the availability of English-taught programs, we are attracting students from a broader range of countries. In our 2014 undergraduate intake, over 40% of students came from outside of Asia, with many students from North America and Europe.

**Studying at Tsukuba gives you a great opportunity to make friends from all over the world.**
Tsukuba City

Tsukuba is home to approximately 220,000 people, including over 7,000 non-Japanese residents. Located at the base of Mount Tsukuba, approximately 60km from central Tokyo, Tsukuba can be reached in only 45 minutes from Akihabara, while direct bus services link us to major local airports.

The Tsukuba Development Act was enacted in 1970 to develop the city as Japan’s premier science and technology research center. Tsukuba is based on other planned cities, and has wide streets, abundant greenery, and an international feel. The city is home to over 300 public and private research institutes, including 31 national centers, two universities, and over 20,000 researchers, making it one of the largest centers of research globally.

Although Tsukuba has a modern, international feel, there are many opportunities to experience Japanese culture throughout the year. Mt. Tsukuba is home to several onsen hot spring baths as well as the Tsukuba mountain shrine—one of the oldest working Shinto shrines in Japan. Annual events include Matsuri Tsukuba—the city festival held every August, Tsukuba marathon, and the “Tsukuba Challenge” — a competition in which home-made robots must navigate an obstacle course in the city center.

Tsukuba aims to be one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world, and has the goal of a 50% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2030. The city has a comprehensive plan to achieve that goal based on education, the development of low-carbon transportation, the development and utilization of renewable energy resources, the promotion of local produce, and over 48km of cycle paths, which connect residential areas with parks, shopping facilities, and cultural centers.
The education of future leaders is a core mission of our University. As an English program student, you will be taught by a mix of Japanese and foreign instructors. Professors at Tsukuba are research-active, giving students the opportunity to learn from world-class specialists.

Our class sizes are typically small, with first year classes commonly having around 40 course members. Smaller classes allow greater interaction between students and faculty, including individual feedback on coursework. In other universities, class sizes in the hundreds are not rare.

Lectures form the basis of degree programs globally, allowing the development of a strong theoretical base. At Tsukuba, we understand the importance of combining theory with practical learning, and students will also be able to join discussion classes, seminars, laboratory training, and domestic and international field trips.

Every student is allocated a faculty member as an academic advisor. Advisors are able to provide a broad range of support to students, ranging from writing recommendation letters for scholarships and tuition waivers, through to advising on academic and personal matters. In their final year, students will join a research group to complete a year-long research project. A faculty member will act as academic mentor during the project.

Our library contains over 2.5 million books, while our computer network—available in on-campus computer labs, as well as in every dorm room—provides a wide range of study resources.
Our Global Commons provides a wide range of services to international students. Center staff understand the unique needs of international students, and are dedicated to helping students enjoy a comfortable Tsukuba life. Services offered include pre-departure visa application assistance, university and library orientations, scholarship and tuition-waiver application support, Japanese language and cultural training, multilingual counselling, and a range of other services.

**On-Campus Accommodation**

On-campus accommodation is guaranteed for all incoming international students. Students can apply to live in university residence halls in subsequent years. Each room is furnished with a bed, desk and chair, and has wired internet access. Most rooms also have a sink, with shared bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry facilities. Residence fees start from just 14,000 yen per month.

**Comprehensive Welfare Facilities**

Bilingual counselling and consultation services are provided through three centers: Global Commons, the University Health Center, and the Student Plaza. Students can receive treatment for a wide variety of ailments at our on-campus University Health Center, where our bilingual medical staff provide treatment in either Japanese or English. Although we hope it will be unnecessary, the University Hospital can treat more serious injuries or diseases.

The University also has a wide range of on-campus facilities, including coffee shops, book stores, electronics stores, convenience stores, as well as restaurants and cafeterias, which provide a wide variety of food including vegetarian and Halal.

**Learning Japanese**

Learning another language is a great thing to do, and there’s no better place to do it than in a country where that language is spoken. Throughout your time at Tsukuba, you’ll have ample opportunities to learn the Japanese language and take cultural awareness classes.

If you’re already fluent in Japanese, you can study a wide range of courses taught in Japanese, or pick from a variety of other languages available—German, French, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, and Russian.

**Personal Tutors**

Each freshman will be paired with a senior student, or tutor. Tutors help freshmen with everyday life tasks, from registering at the city hall and opening a bank account to finding lecture halls and support services.

**Study Abroad**

International students can engage in study abroad for either a semester or a while year at one of our partner universities. With over 300 university partners around the world, you have a world of opportunities to broaden your view.
Japan has a reputation for being expensive; however, with the right planning, university in Japan can be an affordable option. Japanese universities do not differentiate between domestic and international tuition, meaning that tuition in Japan is low by international standards.

**Tuition and Entrance Fees**

Public universities in Japan are reasonably priced by global standards. All students are charged domestic tuition rates—¥535,800 per year (approximately US$5,400). However, our University waives the first semester tuition and the regular entrance fee—equivalent to half a year’s tuition—for first year undergraduate English-program students. In subsequent years, students from lower income backgrounds can apply for a tuition fee waiver of 33, 50 or 100%, primarily based upon financial need.

**Accommodation Fees**

The University has over 4,000 dormitory rooms available, with international students given first priority. Such rooms cost around ¥14,000 per month (US$140), and students can choose to stay in dormitories throughout their studies. Private, off-campus housing is also available, with a private apartment costing around ¥30,000 - 50,000 per month (US$300 - 500).

**Living Expenses**

Although Japan can be expensive, Tsukuba is a cost-effective place to live. As the city is built on flat land and is fairly compact, students can easily get around by bicycle. The university also has several second-hand shops around the campus where students can buy things for their room.

There are several dining facilities on campus, including bakeries, as well as several Japanese and Western restaurants, which provide high-quality, filling food. Furthermore, all our dormitories have cooking facilities, allowing students to cook basic meals.

**Scholarships**

Students with excellent academic records can apply for a scholarship to help cover the costs of their studies. The University’s “Tsukuba Scholarship” is available to a select number of high achieving students each year. The scholarship pays ¥60,000 (US$600) per month stipend. Students with good academic records, who are unsuccessful in receiving the Tsukuba Scholarship, can also apply for a wide range of other scholarships. Information about the range of scholarships can be found in the International Student Guidebook, available in the “Student support” section of our website. Currently, around 40% of students can receive some form of scholarship each year.

**Part-time Work**

International students can work up to 28 hours per week during term-time or 8 hours per day over university holidays while on a student visa. We do not recommended students work during their studies, particularly during their first year. Strong Japanese ability will be a distinct advantage for students seeking part-time employment.

**Home-Country Finance**

Students from select countries can receive financial aid from their home-country for study in Japan. Scandinavian students may be eligible for support from their home countries. US students can currently use GI Bill benefits at Tsukuba. If your country offers student finance to study overseas, please feel free to contact us, and we can explore the possibility of registering for such finance schemes.

*Figures are correct as of August 2016, assuming $1 = 100 yen. Subject to change without notice.*
Humanity faces an unprecedented range of challenges in the 21st century. From climate change to species loss, the emergence of new diseases, the need to feed a growing population, and the opportunities and challenges posed by advances in genetic technology. Along with these issues are challenges we face both in protecting our current environment and in remedying environments damaged by human activities, while improving the quality of life for the poorest people on our planet.

A thorough understanding of Earth’s living and non-living systems is needed to help us to develop robust solutions to these issues, with integrated, cross-disciplinary approaches at the forefront.

Our Interdisciplinary Program in Life and Environmental Sciences allows students to study a wide variety of subjects, selecting those courses which interest them the most and develop their own degree. The School of Life and Environmental Sciences is comprised of the Colleges of Biological Sciences, Agro-Biological Resource Sciences, and Geoscience, with each College offering a four-year undergraduate program taught entirely in English.
The College of Biological Sciences has over 60 academic staff and around 350 undergraduate students and combines cutting edge research and teaching to give students the opportunity to explore the living world at scales ranging from the molecule to the ecosystem. Our professors research topics ranging from genetic and molecular research, through plant and animal physiology, ecology, evolution, and biogeography in a range of environments, from the tropics to the poles. Pioneering research in the College includes work on algal biofuels, the genetics of brain development, evolutionary developmental biology, and parasitic plants. Our program has an emphasis on fundamental science, particularly in the plant sciences.

The College has state-of-the-art facilities, sharing one of Japan’s foremost Gene Research Centers and two field centers—the Shimoda Marine Research Center and the Sugadaira Montane Research Center. Each winter students can learn about animal tracking, bird watching, and the adaptations animals have for cold conditions at the Sugadaira center, while our Shimoda Center provides intensive field courses where students learn practical skills in marine biology. In the final year, you will complete a year-long research project, supervised by a professor in the department. Example project titles include:

- Analysis of proteosome associated protein ECM29 in immunoproteosome function (Supervisor: T. Chiba)
- Carbon and nitrogen interactions between the parasitic plants *Phtheirospermum japonicum* / *Orobanche minor* and host *Trifolium pratense* (Supervisor: LJ Irving)
- Spermatogenesis in the Japanese spiny rock lobster (Supervisor: K. Inaba)
- Effect of ocean acidification on coastal plankton communities (Supervisor: T. Hama)

“I got many treasures here. I made so many friends from around the world, learned Japanese culture and language. I’m so glad that I came here and broadened my view of the world”

Kathy, Taiwan, Biological Sciences
The Earth is a unique planet with a history of 4.6 billion years and abundant water which forms the basis for life. As human population numbers continue to increase, managing our environment will become more important, with a comprehensive understanding of geoscience fundamental.

The College comprises two main fields of study: Geoenvironmental Sciences and Earth Evolution Sciences. Geoenvironmental Sciences explore the processes on the Earth’s surface, in the atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and the interactions between natural environments and human activities. Earth Evolution Sciences studies how the Earth’s materials, structures, processes and organisms have changed over time.

The College of Geoscience of the University of Tsukuba has 44 staff members. While comprehensive education is a strength of college, it is primarily known for its outstanding international research. Pioneering research includes: urban and rural spatial structure, human-environment system, Earth surface processes, hydrological cycle, air-sea-land interaction in the climate system, microfossils, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, subduction tectonics, earthquake science, geochronology, mechanism of mineral formation, mineral deposits and natural hazards.

I love so many aspects of my life in Tsukuba but my favourite were the field work and excursions this year. These field classes enabled me to gain first-hand experience of the topics that we discussed in the classroom. At Tsukuba, I took classes in subjects like Geomorphology, Stratigraphy, etc. Then I joined field classes held in Izu-Oshima islands in Japan, in the North Island of New Zealand, and also an informal field class in Ikawa, Japan. In these places, we saw real-life examples of earth flows, oxbow lakes, marine terraces and remnants of past volcanic eruptions in a rock outcrop.

In New Zealand, each of us did a presentation at different study sites and discussed how to manage the environmental risks for that location. One difficult aspect of geoscience is to visualize the spatial and temporal scales of landforms and processes, thus discussing them in the field has been very beneficial. Moreover, learning in the field – getting soaked in the rain, climbing steep slopes, etc., was an enjoyable and memorable experience. Our professors and my fellow students are very passionate about geoscience making it a very worthwhile and inspiring experience. After these field work activities, I have never looked the same way at landforms. Field work helped me gain a better understanding about geoscience and has deeply further increased my curiosity and interest in the subject and I am happy that the University of Tsukuba recognizes the importance of this. I consider these field experiences I have had as a big leap towards my dream of becoming a geoscientist.

Akiyo (Philippines)
3rd year, Geoscience
Agro-Biological Resource Sciences

Agro-Biological Resource Sciences encompasses a wide variety of subjects, particularly those regarding the relationship between humans and the environment. This includes sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, plant breeding, soil science, and bioresource engineering, as well as agricultural economics and ecosystem management. A comprehensive understanding of the management of agro-biological systems is key to humanity’s continued development.

The College of Agro-Biological Resource Sciences has approximately 120 professors and around 600 students. Our research includes biological sciences for agriculture, advanced life sciences, environmental engineering and socioeconomics. This multidisciplinary structure allows effective collaboration, and helps students develop an understanding of the multidimensional nature of global issues. The College uses a wide range of state-of-the-art facilities with one of Japan’s foremost gene research centers, the Alliance for Research on North Africa (ARENA), the Agricultural and Forestry Research Center, and the Terrestrial Environment Research Center.

Our program offers 4 main research areas;

- Biological Sciences for Agrobiology and Forestry
- Applied Biological Chemistry
- Environmental Engineering
- Economics and Sociology

Japan is one of the most popular countries for Taiwanese students to study abroad. Nevertheless, for those students who have not learned Japanese before, it could be a hard decision and challenge. For me, this decision to move was based on my appreciation for the cultural attitude of preservation that the Japanese have with regard to scientific endeavours.

As one of the first students in this English program, the beginning was not as smooth as I expected. But looking backward, I realized that “human progress has always been driven by a sense of adventure and unconventional thinking.” Thanks to people I met here, studying in Japan helped to broaden my horizons and make me understand who I am and where I come from. Through this program, I knew that I can build a network to connect people to the world and this experience enlightened me to step forward for another adventure and maximize my contribution to society.

Chi Yu (Taiwan)
4th year, Agrobiological Resource Sciences
Students must earn 124 credits to graduate, with each credit equivalent to one 10-lecture course. These courses are split between major-specific and general courses. English program students start in September with first year students taking foundational courses such as physics, chemistry, and biology, and general courses such as Japanese language and sports.

In years two and three the number of mandatory courses are minimized, with students choose from a wide range of major specific and elective courses. Our flexible structure allows students to sample from a wide variety of courses before choosing the direction they want to take for their final year research project. Approximately 1/3 of courses are from other Schools, helping develop a broad outlook.

Technical English courses in second and third year help students to develop core skills required for a scientific career. These include writing for specialist and non-specialist audiences, writing scientific reports and manuscripts, producing and defending conference posters and oral presentation training.

In the final year, students join a laboratory and complete a year-long research project. These research projects are specific to the student’s interests and will be supervised by an academic in their department.

Students demonstrating excellent academic progress may apply for early graduation, allowing them to graduate after 3.5 years.

**Career Prospects**

Graduates with a solid scientific training are in constant demand by a wide variety of industries. From government ministry officials, environmental monitoring and consultancy, food science research, or agricultural outreach, a wide variety of professions are available to graduates.

Over 80% of Life and Environmental Science English program graduates continue to graduate school to earn a Master’s or Ph.D. Our graduates have been accepted to a wide range of elite universities, including Oxford University (UK), Yale, UC Berkeley, UCLA , U. Michigan, New York University, George Washington University (USA), the National University of Singapore and the University of Tokyo (Japan).
Social sciences is a broad field, with the aim of developing an understanding of the factors which shape and drive human societies. Modern societies are increasingly complex, as technological advances have reduced the limitations of geography on interpersonal communications, business operations, and many other areas of human life. The invention of intercontinental travel, and later the internet have fundamentally changed societies over the span of less than 100 years. However, along with our broadened perspective of life and economic benefits of these technologies, they have also brought challenges such as the loss of indigenous cultures and languages.

Our Undergraduate Program in International Social Sciences aims to introduce students to both the history and development of social and economic systems within Japan and on the global scale, and also to provide students with the intellectual toolset required to understand contemporary social and political issues. Students are encouraged to study a diverse range of subjects to help them develop both breadth and depth of understanding.
The College of Social Sciences offers a broad integrated program, focusing on sociology, economics, political science, and law. Graduates will have a holistic view of the diversity of global societies and the factors driving the evolution of those societies. The major concentrates in four main areas: sociology, economics, law, and political science.

Sociology is the study of society, including human social interactions, and the institutions in which humans interact. The topic is broad covering areas such as crime, poverty, gender inequality, religion, and war, at scales ranging from the family to the nation. Sociologists seek to explain the factors controlling human societies by analyzing the behaviors of humans both individually and as groups.

Economics is the study of the processes which govern the production, distribution and consumption of resources. Economics is generally split into macroeconomics, which aims to understand the factors influencing national and global economies, and microeconomics, which focusses on the actions of individual people, companies, and organizations.

Law courses focus on how legislation and society have developed in tandem. For example, how legal systems have developed from the Roman Empire through to the present day, or how international human rights laws influence societies.

Political science is the study of political power and governance from the perspective of individuals, organizations, nations, and supra-national bodies (e.g., the UN). Our program includes both political theory, covering historical and contemporary thinking on political systems, and comparative political science, which aims to explore the implications of differing political systems by comparing various cultures, nations or states.

“I’d never met such a wide diversity of interesting people before coming to Tsukuba.”

Mark, Canada, College of Social Sciences
The College of International Studies offers two major programs: international relations, and international development.

**International relations** studies the major economic, political, social and cultural factors which govern the political relationships between countries. As well as national foreign policy, this includes the operations and governance of transnational companies, and non-governmental organizations. International relations considers how historical conditions, political ideologies, and economics intersect to give rise to the modern political situation.

**International development** explores the methods by which less-developed countries can be supported in their efforts to develop both economically and in the well-being of the population. Traditionally, economic development has been prioritized, although increases in healthcare access, education levels, gender equality, and political representation, and decreases in human rights violations can also represent targets for development agencies.

Within the program, students are encouraged to take a variety of courses both within the School of International and Social Studies, and from other departments in the University in order to develop a broad understanding of the various factors influencing human societies.

I think I’ve always been a rather restless person, which is probably the reason why I’m currently living halfway across the world from my home country, Norway. Before coming, I’d been considering studying in Japan for a while, and when I conveniently stumbled across the English-taught program at the University of Tsukuba, it just seemed like the perfect opportunity. The fact that the whole program is taught in English made it all even better, as this gave me a chance to learn a new language which is a passion of mine. Now that I think about it, it still seems surreal that I’m actually here. My first days here in Tsukuba, I took the time to explore the university campus and surrounding areas. Needless to say, I got lost a few times due to the size.

I love how the whole campus is surrounded by nature and how it’s so easy to get around by bike or bus. I was surprised that there were so few people here at first, thought that quickly changed once school started. Suddenly, everywhere I turned there were busy students and teachers rushing to their classes. Tsukuba can be both lively and calm at once, which I rather like, and if you ever find yourself in need of some extra excitement, Tokyo is only a 45 minute train ride away. So far I’ve really appreciated my time here in Tsukuba. I’ve met many different people and made some great friends from all across the world. I can’t wait to meet the new students joining us in the fall, and I hope they will enjoy their life here as much as I do. Japan is a country packed with unique people and interesting places, so there will be much to experience and discover.
Students must earn 124 credits to graduate with each credit equivalent to one 10-lecture course. These courses are split between major-specific and general courses. English program students start in September, with first year students taking foundational courses such as Contemporary World Politics, and Introductory Economics, as well as general courses such as Information Literacy, Japanese language, sports and multidisciplinary courses offered by other departments in the university.

In years two and three the number of mandatory courses are minimized, with students able to choose from a wide range of major specific and elective courses, such as Political Philosophy or Social Development. Our flexible structure allows students to sample from a wide variety of courses before choosing the direction they want to take for their final year research project. Approximately 1/3 of your credits will be from other Schools in the university, allowing you to develop breadth of academic experience.

In third year, students have the opportunity to join our internship program. In this, students can find a company, research institute or non-governmental organisation which is willing to host them as an intern. Students can then gain credits for successful completion.

In the final year, students complete a graduation thesis. These research projects are specific to the student’s interests and will be supervised by an academic staff member. Students demonstrating excellent academic progress may apply for early graduation, allowing them to graduate after 3.5 years.

**Career Prospects**

Most of our graduates continue their studies to earn a Master’s or Ph.D. Our graduates have entered Master’s programs at Japanese universities, such as Kyoto, Nagoya, and Tsukuba, and foreign universities, including Tallinn University, Estonia, the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA) or Western University, Canada.

One of our 2015 graduates is working to start their own company in Japan, while several others are either looking for employment in Japan, or have already been offered a position.

Bilingual graduates are in strong demand by Japanese companies and non-governmental organizations, and we expect our graduates to be strongly competitive for such positions.
Undergraduate Program in

Medical Science

Developments in medical technologies increase not only the length, but also the quality of human lives. Medical science comprises of a broad range of subjects including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, and neuroscience with the aim of understanding the development and progression of human diseases. Medical science is a rapidly developing field, with the genomics revolution transforming our understanding of the genetic basis for a wide variety of conditions.

This course has a strong practical training component, suited to people who see themselves pursuing a career in medical research. Research in the School of Medical Science focusses on the molecular basis for various diseases and disorders, and potential treatments such as stem cells.

Applicants to this course must have completed 2 years of a degree in medical sciences or a related subject at a university outside of Japan, before applying for transfer admission. We expect most graduates to continue to Masters or PhD level, either at Tsukuba or another institution.
The University of Tsukuba School of Medicine and Medical Sciences is one of the top research institutes in Japan. Our undergraduate program in Medical Science provides a practically based program aimed at students aiming to become medical researchers.

The program accepts transfer students to third year from universities outside Japan who have a background in the medical or life sciences.

In the third year, students complete a broad range of compulsory courses, including Japanese language training, and receive lectures in English on a broad range of topics in the medical sciences. Approximately 30% of student’s time is spent in practical lab-training courses, taught alongside Japanese students. A few months after arrival, students will choose a research group for their final year project.

In fourth year, students spend around 80% of their time pursuing research in a lab group under the supervision of an academic staff member. Particular strengths in the department include cutting edge research in sleep medicine, immunology, and medical genetics.
Obtaining a Bachelor’s degree in Medical Science from one of Japan’s leading universities is an opportunity of a lifetime. This program enables us to choose three career paths after graduation. These include working as a licensed clinical laboratory scientist in a hospital in our home country, proceeding to medical school or doing medical research in world-renowned laboratories.

I chose this program because it gives a solid educational background for those who want to pursue a research career in the future. I was also attracted by a variety of subjects they offer in the department like medical genetics, immunology, infectious diseases of the 21st century, etc.

It can sometimes be very hard to study in our department and it requires a lot of time doing research work in the laboratory, so hard that it is said to be the busiest one at the University of Tsukuba. But in spite of all the difficulties, we students are very lucky to attend and listen to lectures of our professors who are also scientists and medical doctors, who perform ground-breaking scientific research, write medical books but at the same time are very friendly and approachable to us students.

As a fourth year student in Medical Science, I am currently doing my final year project in molecular parasitology. Our main research focus is on the gene expression and mechanism of mRNA (messenger RNA) in the human parasite *Trypanosoma*, a causative agent of sleeping sickness in the sub-Saharan Africa. By studying the gene expression of this parasite, we might be able to identify parasite specific processes that can be manipulated as targets for novel therapeutic interventions in the near future.
HOW TO APPLY

November—January

Download documents, pay the application fee, and register online at www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/apply

1) Application form
2) A copy of your transcript
3) A recommendation letter from a teacher
4) Information about your high school
5) A personal statement which describes your career goals and how studying at Tsukuba will help you achieve those goals
6) A financial plan which explains how you’ll pay your expenses
7) Students with English as a second language may also need to submit proof of English language proficiency (see website for details)

Information on how to write your personal statement and financial plan are available on our website. First year applicants must pass both first and second screening, while transfer applicants only need to pass the interview.

In the first screening we’ll evaluate your grades, personal statement, and financial plan. We look for applicants who demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment in their personal statement, and who have the academic background and financial security to achieve their goals. First screening results are announced in early February.

The second round screening takes place in late February and early March. This consists of a 15 - 20 minute interview by video-conferencing. In the interview, we’ll ask a range of general questions about your reasons for choosing to study in Japan, and at Tsukuba, and also some major-specific questions.

Please note that the application information contained in this brochure is provisional. Up-to-date information, including application guidelines and important dates is available at our website. www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/apply
UNDERGRADUATE
Life and Environmental Sciences
International Social Sciences
Medical Science

MASTER’S
Public Health Program
Medical Dual Masters Program
Materials Science and Engineering
Computational Science Program
Nano-Science Course
MBA Program in International Business
Library and Information Studies
Professional Training Program in International Agricultural Research
Master’s Program in Environmental Sciences
Bio-diplomacy Course
International Collaborative Environmental Program
International Collaborative Expert Education Program for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
Special program for Central Asian countries in International Relations and Public Policy
Special program for Central Asian countries in Education and Cultural Policy
Special program for Central Asian countries in Japanese Studies
Special program in International Relations
Economic and Public Policy Management

DOCTORATE
Arid Land Resource Science
International Bio-industrial Science
Doctoral Program in Sustainable Environmental Studies
International Collaborative Environmental Program
Doctoral Program in Medical Science
Ph.D. Program in Human Biology
Ph.D. Program in Empowerment Informatics