

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Application

International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies, Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

ATTENTION:

For your application, please carefully read the Application Guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. We only respond to those inquiries to which answers cannot be found in the guidelines and FAQ.

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Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Application [For 2025 Academic Year Enrolment]

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1. Eligibility

Q1-1. My university does not have a partnership agreement with Kyoto University. Can I still apply to the Programme?

A1-1. Yes.

Q1-2. Does this Programme allow students to enrol in April?

A1-2. No. The Academic Year of this Programme starts in October. Students have to enrol in the Programme starting from October.

Q1-3. Am I still eligible for the Doctoral Programme even though I did not complete my Master's degree at Kyoto University?

A1-3. Yes.

Q1-4. I have already received a Master's degree in economics or in another academic field. Do I have a chance to be admitted to the Doctoral Programme if I apply for the Master's Programme?

A1-4. No. If you go through the screening process for the Master's Programme, you can only be admitted as a Master's Programme student. If you wish to start your study as a doctoral student, please apply for the Doctoral Programme. Please check the application guidelines for the application schedule.

Q1-5. I have an embassy recommendation for a Japanese Government Scholarship. Can I be accepted to your Programme?

A1-5.

In principle, applicants who received an embassy recommendation should apply to the General Programme (whose academic year starts in April and whose medium of instruction is Japanese), and enrol initially as a research student. In order to become a research student, you are required to obtain a letter of acceptance from a prospective supervisor. For details, see the link below:

<https://www.econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/examguide/application/letter-of-acceptance>

<https://www.econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/examguide/faq/>

In the case that an applicant with an embassy recommendation wishes to be enrolled in the East Asia Programme (whose academic year starts in October and whose medium of instruction is English), the applicant is also required to go through the screening process of the East Asia Programme. Please bear in mind that the application procedure is different for the General Programme and the East Asia Programme. Also note that even if you become a research student of the Graduate School of Economics, or go through the screening process of the East Asia Programme, we cannot guarantee that you will be accepted to the programme.

The application submission period for the East Asia Programme is scheduled for November for the Master's Programme, and from April to mid-May for the Doctoral Programme.

Please direct any questions about the General Programme to the Student Affairs Office of the Faculty of Economics. Their email address is kyoumu@econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp.

Please note that Japanese ability is required of applicants to the General Programme.

Q1-6. Does the EA Programme have any minimum TOEFL AND IELTS score requirements?

A1-6. No, there is no minimum score. In the past, the minimum score for our successful applicants tended to be around 90-100 for TOEFL and 6.5-7.0 for IELTS.

Q1-7. I graduated from a Japanese university and a university outside of Japan on a double degree program. Do I still need to apply to the AAO?

A1-7. Even if you graduated from a Japanese university and a university outside of Japan, you still need to apply to the AAO. Applicants who have graduated solely from Japanese universities are not required to apply to the AAO.

2. Application Procedures

Q2-1. Can applicants suggest a faculty member from the Graduate School of Economics to be their academic supervisor?

A2-1. Applicants can search for a suitable prospective supervisor on the website below.

<https://www.econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp/kueac/programme/faculty-members/>

Please note, however, that for various reasons faculty members may not be available to be your supervisor; therefore, it is recommended that you consider more than one faculty member when looking for your prospective academic supervisor.

Q2-2. I have an intermediate [or higher] level of Japanese language ability. Is this an advantage in the screening process?

A2-3. Ultimately it depends on your research proposal and prospective supervisor. If, for example, an applicant's research proposal includes field research in Japan and/or the examination/analysis of documents in Japanese it may be advantageous, as this will make your research proposal sound more convincing and achievable. It is also true that some professors prefer to communicate with their students in Japanese. You can mention your Japanese language ability and how you intend to use or develop it to your preferred supervisor[s] when you contact them.

3. Application Documents

Q3-1. I received a bachelor's degree from a university that does not use English as its medium of instruction. Should I submit my GRE score?

A3-1. No. The GRE score is not required. Please submit your TOEFL or IELTS score.

Q3-2. I graduated from a university, but the university does not issue a certificate of graduation. What should I do?

A3-2. You can ask the university to put an official seal on the copy of your diploma.

Q3-3. I didn't/don't have an academic supervisor. Who could I ask to write a recommendation letter instead?

A3-3. For applicants without an academic supervisor, they should try to find a faculty

member from their current or past institution who can write a recommendation letter. If the applicant graduated from a university a long time ago and has difficulty in contacting former professors/instructors, we accept a letter of recommendation written by a non-academic person (e.g. a superior in their workplace). However, a letter from a non-academic referee is not regarded as highly when verifying the applicant's academic credentials compared to a letter from an academic referee.

Q3-4. I cannot submit an original hard copy of my degree certification because the university does not issue an original hard copy of the certification. Is it possible to submit a digital version instead?

A3-4. Yes. However, applicants need to request that the university from which they graduated sends the certification directly to GSE EA programme, Kyoto University, by email. You can prepare the request to your university through the Online Application System.

Q3-5. It might not be possible to submit a TOEFL score to GSE EA Programme, Kyoto University by the submission deadline, what should I do?

A3-5. In the case of TOEFL, if you have arranged for the score to be sent to us and we can confirm the score online then this is not a problem. In the case of IELTS, however, we cannot confirm the score online and thus cannot accept the application.

4. General Information about the East Asia Programme

Q4-1. Can I obtain only a Master's degree in 2 years and not to proceed to the Doctoral Programme?

A4-1. Yes.

Q4-2. Can I apply to both the Master's Programme of the EA Programme and the Graduate School of Economics as a Research Student?

Q4-2. Yes, it is possible to apply to both.

Q4-3. Does enrolment in the Master's Programme guarantee entry into the Doctoral Programme?

Q4-3. There is no guaranteed entry into the Doctoral Programme but the Master's Programme is closely connected to the Doctoral Programme. Students who successfully completed the Master's Programme with sufficient results are eligible to enrol in the Doctoral Programme.

Q4-4. What are the differences between the East Asia Programme and the General Programme at the Graduate School of Economics at Kyoto University?

A4-4. The Graduate School of Economics has a *General Programme*, which offers both Master's and PhD degrees, and an International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies (or, the *EA Programme*), which also includes both Master's and PhD degrees.

Basically, the academic year for the General Programme starts in April and the EA Programme starts in October. The medium of instruction for the General Programme is Japanese and for the EA Programme it is English.