

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Application (Doctor)

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.

Updated in September, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Application [For 2027 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 enroll 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. Yes, the EA Programme accepts applications from embassy-recommended

candidates. There are two possible paths:

A. Obtain a Letter of Provisional Acceptance from your desired supervisor, and enrol as a research student, and then apply as a regular student.

B. If you do not receive a letter of acceptance, you can apply as a regular student.

For details, please see the link below.

[MEXT Scholarship](#)

[FAQ](#)

Please note that embassy-recommended applicants who have been accepted to the first round (and have received a letter of acceptance) and wish to enrol in the EA Programme must usually first enrol as a research student and then undergo the EA Programme selection process. The application procedures for the EA Programme and the General Program are different. Also, becoming a research student in the Graduate School of Economics does not guarantee acceptance into the Programme. The application period for the EA Programme is November for the Master's Program and early March for the Doctoral Program. Please check the website for details.

For inquiries regarding the General Program, please contact the Student Affairs Division of the Faculty of Economics below.

Email address: kyoumu@econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Q1-6. Does the EA Programme have any minimum TOEFL or 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 application](#)

Generally, applicants who have only graduated from Japanese universities do not need to apply to the AAO. However, applicants for doctoral programme must receive a response from their desired faculty member stating that they can be contacted through the AAO application.

Applicants can search for a suitable prospective supervisor on [Faculty & Staff Members](#).

2. Application Procedures

Q2-1. I have an intermediate [or higher] level of Japanese language ability. Is this an advantage in the screening process?

A2-1. Ultimately it depends on your research proposal and prospective supervisor. If, for example, an applicants' 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. During the final (second) interview, you will have the opportunity to tell your desired supervisor about your Japanese language skills and how you plan to utilize and develop them.

Q2-2. Can I directly contact the preferred faculty member?

A2-2. **No.** Please avoid contacting faculty member directly.

First, apply through the [AAO](#), and once you receive a response from the faculty member confirming that they are available to contact you. Next, please proceed to the online application for the Doctoral Programme.

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. For both TOEFL and IELTS, it is acceptable to have your scores sent to our university, provided we can verify them online. For further details, please refer to the application guidelines.

Q3-6. I can't press the "Completion" button on my online application.

A3-6. If the "Completion" button is not enabled after completing and uploading the required information, it may be that the requested recommendation letter has not yet been uploaded. Please remind your recommender to upload recommendation letter. If your recommender is having trouble uploading, please contact us at the EA Program Examination Committee.

Q3-7. Is one letter of recommendation sufficient?

A3-7. Yes. If you would like to request more than one letter of recommendation, that's fine, but one is usually sufficient.

4. General Information about the East Asia Programme

Q4-1. What is the difference between the East Asia Programme and the General Programme (Selection) at the Graduate School of Economics at Kyoto University?

A4-1. Both programmes lead to the same PhD in Economics.

★[EA Programme](#) (International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies) (October enrolment/ Japanese and English taught)

★[General Selection](#) (April and October enrolment/ Japanese and English taught)

5.Scholarships

Q5-1. How to apply the [MEXT scholarship](#) (University recommendation)?

A5-1. The MEXT scholarship (University recommendation) is not applied for by the applicant, but the university decides among the successful applicants.

For government scholarships (embassy recommendation), please contact the Japanese embassy in your country.

Q5-2 How to apply the [ADB-JSP](#)?

A5-2. ADB scholarships is not applied for by applicants themselves, but unfortunately, it is generally offered in master's programmes.

Q5-3 How to apply [AFLSP](#) (ASEAN Future leader scholarship)?

A5-3. It is only available to those who are accepted and enrolled at Kyoto University. unfortunately, it is offered in master's programmes.

Q5-4 Are there any other scholarships available at Kyoto University?

A5-4. Information on [other scholarships](#) at Kyoto University is available. Although it is highly competitive and not easy to be selected as a scholarship candidate, several students are awarded scholarships each