Graduate School of Life Sciences
Tohoku University

Application Guidelines
Master’s Degree Program
April 2018 Enrollment

Special Screening for International Students

Graduate School of Life Sciences
Tohoku University
1-1 Katahira 2-chome, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577 Japan
Phone: +81-22-217-5706  Fax: +81-22-217-5704
http://www.lifesci.tohoku.ac.jp/
To Prospective Students:

The Tohoku University Graduate School of Life Sciences has as its goal the education and training of its students to become world-class researchers and engineers who will use their advanced knowledge and cutting-edge technology to make discoveries and breakthroughs in new areas of the life sciences. We aim to provide an environment where students learn how to apply the fundamental knowledge and technological skills acquired at the school for future innovative research or work as well as to instill a strong awareness of bioethics and environmental ethics. At this Graduate School, we have 106 openings for the 2018 academic year for highly qualified applicants with a strong desire to study the life sciences as well as the necessary academic ability to complete the course of study.

The screening process (entrance examination) for applicants is as follows:

1. Applicants who have an undergraduate degree in programs related to the life sciences (science [biology/chemistry], agriculture, pharmaceutical sciences, engineering [life sciences]) are expected to have a comprehensive knowledge of a specific field of biology or chemistry (such as organic chemistry, molecular biology, ecology, etc.) at the time of admission to the Graduate School of Life Sciences.

2. A special screening process is offered to applicants with degrees in fields unrelated to the life sciences such as mathematics, physics or engineering. These applicants will take a special test in their speciality (such as evaluation by oral examination) where they can use their expertise in the study of life sciences. After enrollment, they will be provided with a special curriculum tailored to their needs.

3. We have a generous admission policy and a special screening process for applicants who have graduated from an overseas university or have an experience working already been employed in the field of life sciences.

4. Since English is the most widely used language throughout the academic world, a strong basic knowledge of English is necessary for candidates in all fields of study.
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*For information on the laboratory name, group members and the research projects, please refer to the Graduate School of Life Sciences website. http://www.lifesci.tohoku.ac.jp/

## Attached documents

The following documents are required for admission:

1. Application for enrollment
2. Personal statement (Reason for applying)
3. Photo card, admission slip
4. Examination fee receipt, examination fee receipt stub
5. Address seal
### 1. Departments and Number of Students Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Laboratory</th>
<th>Number of students accepted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomolecular Sciences</td>
<td>Biomolecular Chemistry</td>
<td>Biostructural Chemistry</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Analytical Biogonic Chemistry</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bioactive Molecules</td>
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<td>Applied Iiological Molecular Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular Biosystems</td>
<td>Histogenetic Dynamics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Molecular and Cellular Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Molecular Cell Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plant Developmental Biology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical and Structural Biological</td>
<td>Design of Biomolecular Function</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td>Molecular Analysis of Biological</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Functions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
<td>Membrane Trafficking Mechanisms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>and Neurosciences</td>
<td>Brain Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plant Cell Wall Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developmental Dynamics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Organogenesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>Neurogenetics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Super-network Brain Physiology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Systems Neuroscience</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Neuroethology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental and Cell Biology</td>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marine Ecological Behavior</td>
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<td>Developmental Regulation</td>
<td>Cancer Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Germ Cell Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developmental Neurobiology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Experimental Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Life Sciences</td>
<td>Genetic Ecology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Microbial Genetics and Genomics</td>
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<td>Plant Reproductive Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Genomic Reproductive Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental Microbiology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Space and Adaptation Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecology and Evolutional Biology</td>
<td>Evolutionary Biology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plant Ecology</td>
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<td>Community Ecology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Functional Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant Evolutionary Biology</td>
<td>Plant Taxonomy and Phylogenetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Genomic Bioinformatics</td>
<td>Genome Structure and Function</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbial Evolution and Function</td>
<td>Microbial Evolution and Function Research</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Number of students accepted including those taking the general entrance examination: 106

Remarks: The underlined section is the laboratory supervised by cooperating faculty members.

Molecular Cell Biology and Nano-Biophysics in the Department of Biomolecular Sciences, Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience in the Department of Biology and Neurosciences are not accepting students for the 2018 academic year.

*The number of students to be admitted to this Graduate School includes those who take the “Self-recommendation Examination.”

*Number of students to be admitted through the second term
2. Eligibility Requirements
To be considered for the special screening for international students, applicants must not hold Japanese citizenship and must meet the conditions for one of the ten items listed below.

(1) Applicants who have graduated from a university; or are expected to graduate by March 2018.

(2) Applicants who have been awarded with a bachelor’s degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation; or are expected to be awarded with a bachelor’s degree by March 2018.

(3) Applicants who have completed a 16-year program of school education overseas; or are expected to complete by March 2018.

(4) Applicants who have completed a 16-year program of school education by taking classes via distance learning offered by an overseas school while in Japan; or are expected to complete by March 2018.

(5) Applicants in Japan who have completed a program at an overseas university (limited to those applicants who have completed a 16-year program of school education in the nation in question) at an educational facility that is positioned within that nation’s educational system and has been designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (hereafter, “Minister of Education”); or are expected to complete by March 2018.

(6) Students who have been conferred a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree upon completion of a curriculum that has a course term of three years or longer at a university or other school (limited to schools whose overall educational and research activities have been evaluated by the relevant country's government or a government-approved individual, or are designated separately as having met this requirement by the Minister of Education) in a foreign country (including cases in which the student completed the curriculum by taking subjects conducted by said school via distance learning while the student resided in Japan, and cases in which the student has completed a curriculum at an educational facility that is positioned within that country's educational system as per the previous item).

(7) Applicants who have completed a professional program (only programs with a course term of more than four years or that fulfill other criteria stipulated by the Minister of Education) at a special technical school after the date, stipulated by the Minister of Education, on which that school was designated separately by the Minister of Education; or are expected to complete by March 2018.

(8) Applicants who designated by the Minister of Education

(9) Applicants who have been enrolled at a university for three or more years by March 2018; applicants who have completed a 15-year program of school education overseas; applicants who have completed a 15-year program of school education by taking classes in Japan through distance learning offered by a school overseas; or applicants in Japan that have, while enrolled in an educational program in an overseas university (only those applicants who have completed a 15-year program of school education in the nation in question), completed a program, designated by the Minister of Education, at an educational facility that is positioned within that nation’s educational system. And applicants who have acquired outstanding results in the prescribed credits at this Graduate School.

(10) Applicants who have been enrolled in the graduate school of another university through early admission in accordance with the provisions of the School Education Act Article 102 item 2 who possess sufficient academic abilities to receive an education at this Graduate School.

(11) Applicants who, through individual entrance qualification screening, have been acknowledged to possess academic abilities either equal to or exceeding those of this Graduate School and who have reached the age of 22 years by March 2018.

Notes: 1. Applicants must contact the faculty member who is expected to be their adviser before applying for admission.

2. Applicants who meet the conditions for items (9), (10) or (11) in the “Eligibility Requirements” and pass the preliminary examination may apply for admission to the Graduate School of Life Sciences.

3. The condition in item (9) that states “students enrolled at a university for three or more years” does not apply to students who expect to graduate or have graduated.

Item (9) in the “Eligibility Requirements”
Cautionary note for students who meet the condition “enrolled at a university for three or more years” in
Item (9)

(1) Candidates must be in the top 5% of students of their faculty or department and should have completed the requisite courses for their field of study or their equivalent for admission to the Graduate School of Life Sciences and have passed the preliminary review for admission to the School.

Please submit (by registered mail) the following documents or bring them directly to the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Life Sciences.

a. Application for Preliminary Examination
(Please contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Life Sciences for an application form.)
b. Academic transcript from university in Japan (or a similar institution of higher learning abroad) for the first three years of study and a “Certificate of Student Status” or a “Certificate of Completion”
c. Any type of document showing the list of courses taken for the first three years of university in Japan (or a similar institution of higher learning abroad)
d. Self-addressed stamped envelope (about 23 cm x 12 cm, your name, address and postal code written and attached with ¥362 worth of stamps.)

(2) After successfully passing the screening process and being admitted to the Graduate School of Life Sciences, the “Notice of Acceptance” must be presented to currently enrolled university and application made to withdraw from the university by the end of March 2018. The “Notice of Withdrawal” form must be submitted together with documents for admission to this Graduate School.

Item (10) in the “Eligibility Requirements”
Cautionary note for applicants who meet the condition in Item (10) for “students who have enrolled in the graduate school of another university through early admission in accordance with the provisions of the School Education Act Article 102 item 2”

(1) Applicants who meet the condition for item (10) and are enrolled in the graduate school of another university through early admission and have passed the preliminary examination for the Graduate School of Life Sciences may apply for admission.

Please submit (by registered mail) the following documents or bring them directly to the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Life Sciences.

a. Application for Preliminary Examination
(Please contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Life Sciences for an application form.)
b. Transcript of currently enrolled university
c. Any type of document showing the list of courses taken or are taking at your currently enrolled graduate school and a “Certificate of Student Status.”
d. Self-addressed stamped envelope (about 23 cm x 12 cm, your name, address and postal code written and attached with ¥362 worth of stamps.)

(2) After successfully passing the screening process and being admitted to the Graduate School of Life Sciences, the “Notice of Acceptance” must be presented to currently enrolled graduate school and application made to withdraw from the graduate school by the end of March 2018. The “Notice of Withdrawal” form must be submitted together with documents for admission to the Graduate School.

Item (11) in the “Eligibility Requirements”
Cautionary note for applicants who meet the condition in Item (11) of not having graduated from a university

Applicants who meet the condition for item (10) of having graduated or completed a course at a junior college, technical college, special technical school or schools in the miscellaneous category and who have been acknowledged to possess academic abilities either equal to or exceeding those of university graduates and passed the individual preliminary examination for the Graduate School of Life Sciences may apply for admission.

Please submit (by registered mail) the following documents or bring them directly to the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Life Sciences.

a. Application for Preliminary Examination
(Please contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Life Sciences for an application form.)

b. Official transcript of the last school attended
c. Other documents as references (e.g. academic paper or article)
d. Self-addressed stamped envelope (about 23 cm x 12 cm, your name, address and postal code written and attached with ¥362 worth of stamps.)

Notes:
1. Period for acceptance of applications for the above preliminary examination
   First term: May 29 (Mon.), 2017 (deadline)
   Second term: September 15 (Fri.), 2017 (deadline)

2. Examination results will be mailed to applicants until the following date.
   First term: Around June 7 (Wed.), 2017
   Second term: Around September 27 (Wed.), 2017

3. Application Procedures

(1) Applications for the entrance examination
Applicants are strongly encouraged to fill in a second and third choice of field of study when applying to this Graduate School, since the number of openings may vary with each laboratory. Applicants must contact faculty members who are expected to be their supervisors in the respective fields of study to have an interview and discuss their research plans.
When submitting an application, the applicant must inform the prospective supervisor that he/she will take the entrance examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Documents</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Application for admission</td>
<td>Place a ✓ in the space (☐ Have already contacted a prospective adviser) for the department to which you are applying to indicate you have finished contacting a prospective adviser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Admission slip, photo card</td>
<td>Fill in the spaces excluding the space for your examinee ID number without detaching them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Official transcripts</td>
<td>Signed by the President of your university or the Dean of your faculty. For transcripts other than from a university, please submit an official transcript signed by the president of the institution.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4    | TOEFL®TEST or TOEIC®TEST Scores ※ | The Graduate School encourages applicants to take the TOEFL or TOEIC, although prior submission of their score is voluntary. (The way in which your score will be utilized is described in 4. Selection Process)
For those whose first language is not English, please submit your TOEFL or TOEIC scores for evaluation.
Target score
The following types of scores will be accepted:
TOEFL iBT, TOEFL PBT, TOEIC
TOEFL ITP or TOEIC IP group test scores will not be accepted.
Applicants should submit an original copy of their score with their application. TOEFL: Official Score Report TOEIC: Official Score Certificate |

Make a request to the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to send your TOEFL Official Score Report to Tohoku University so that it arrives no later than Friday, July 14, 2017. The Designated Institution (DI) Code when requesting the Official Score Report is B430 (Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University). Please be advised that it takes two months from the time a request is made to submit a TOEFL score report to the time it arrives at Tohoku University.
| 5 | Expectation of Graduation Certificate, etc. from a university, etc. in Japan | Submit the relevant document that applies to your situation.  
|   | a. Graduation Certificate or Expectation of Graduation Certificate  
|   | (Not required for students who expect to graduate from Tohoku University.)  
|   | b. Certificate of a Bachelor's Degree or Expectation of a Bachelor's Degree Certificate issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE) of Japan; or a Certificate of Application for a Bachelor's Degree to NIAD-UE issued by the junior or technical college the applicant last attended. |  
| 6 | Personal statement | On your "Personal statement" write your name and the name of the Laboratory you are applying to (as listed on p. 1) and write your reasons for applying.  
|   | If you are submitting a second or third choice, you may, in addition to writing the reasons for your first choice, write the reasons for your second and third choices on the same sheet.  
|   | We have no objection to your second or third choices being in the department unrelated to your first choice. |  
| 7 | Examination fee | Send ¥30,000 by postal remittance (do not fill in the space for the recipient.) Students receiving the Japanese Government Scholarship are exempted from the payment of examination fee. |  
| 8 | Examination fee receipt (and receipt stub) | Write your name without detaching them. Not required for students receiving the Japanese Government Scholarship. |  
| 9 | Examination permit | Only for those who are presently employed. Signed by the President of your company/organization (free format). |  
| 10 | Self-addressed stamped envelope to mail your admission slip | The envelope (about 23 cm x 12 cm) with your name, address and postal code written and attached with ¥362 worth of stamps. |  
| 11 | Expectation of Graduation Certificate, etc. from a university outside of Japan | Applicants who graduate, or expect to graduate, from a university outside of Japan should submit this certificate. Applicants who are accepted into the Graduate School of Life Sciences must submit an original copy of their graduation certificate at the time of enrollment. |  
| 12 | Certificate of Research Activities | Applicants who have completed a school education program of less than 16 years overseas and have graduated from a university there should submit this certificate. |  
| 13 | Certificate of Residence (showing visa status) | Must be submitted only by foreigners residing in Japan (those whose period of residence will exceed 90 days). |  
| 14 | Address seal | Fill in all eight space in your postal code, name and address where you can receive mail. |  

(2) Please submit the above (1) documents or bring them directly to the following address (3). Write "Master’s Degree Program Application enclosed" on the front of the envelope in red ink and send it as a registered mail.

(3) Period for acceptance of applications for the entrance examination

First term: From June 19 (Mon.), 2017 to July 14 (Fri), 2017 (deadline)
Office hours: 10:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

Second term: From October 16(Mon.), 2017 to October 27(Fri.), 2017 (deadline)
Office hours: 10:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

Submit to:
Educational Affairs Section, Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University
1-1 Katahira 2-chome, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577 Japan
Phone: +81-22-217-5706

Notes: 1. We cannot receive faulty applications.
2. You cannot change the application documents once submitted. The examination fee is not refundable.
3. After the period for acceptance of applications for the entrance examination has ended, applicants will receive their admission slip for the entrance examination, instructions regarding the examination and their receipt for the examination fee by mail.

4. Screening Process

First term

Applicants will be selected based on the written examination (essay examination) and oral examination, and applications for the entrance examination. For applicants whose first language is not English, your TOEFL or TOEIC scores will be used as a criteria in our admission decision.

1) Date, time, subjects and location of examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Essay Examination</td>
<td>Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University (Katahira Campus)</td>
<td>Not allowed to bring their dictionaries (including electronic dictionaries and translation machines).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Tue.), 2017</td>
<td>13:30-</td>
<td>Oral Examination</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Essay Examination
In the essay examination, applicants will be evaluated on their ability to think logically and express themselves on a selected topic (in Japanese or English).

3) Oral Examination
Applicants will be asked to make a ten-minute presentation of their studies (work) thus far and their future research goals (in Japanese or English) by using a computer or printed materials. We will inform applicants further information.

Note: Score conversion
The submitted TOEIC score will be converted into a TOEFL score using a common method, and this is then computed into a score for English. When two or more scores are submitted, the higher score will be adopted after conversion.

Second term

Applicants will be selected based on the written examination (essay examination) and oral examination, and applications for the entrance examination. For applicants whose first language is not English, your TOEFL or TOEIC scores will be used as a criteria in our admission decision.
1) Date, time, subjects and location of examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 13 (Mon.), 2017</td>
<td>14:00-16:00</td>
<td>Essay Examination</td>
<td>Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University (Katahira Campus)</td>
<td>Not allowed to bring their dictionaries (including electronic dictionaries and translation machines).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14(Tue.), 2017</td>
<td>9:00-</td>
<td>Oral Examination</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2) Essay Examination
In the essay examination, applicants will be evaluated on their ability to think logically and express themselves on a selected topic (in Japanese or English).

3) Oral Examination
Applicants will be asked to make a ten-minute presentation of their studies (work) thus far and their future research goals (in Japanese or English) by using a computer or printed materials. We will inform applicants of further information.

Note: Score conversion
The submitted TOEIC score will be converted into a TOEFL score using a common method, and this is then computed into a score for English. When two or more scores are submitted, the higher score will be adopted after conversion.

5. Result of the Selection
The result of the selection will be posted on the bulletin board for the administration of the Graduate School of Life Sciences (Katahira Campus; 1-1 Katahira 2-chome, Aoba-ku, Sendai), and also put up on the Graduate School of Life Sciences website on the following date. http://www.lifesci.tohoku.ac.jp/

   First term: August 9(Wed.), 2017, at around 09:30
   Second term: November 22 (Wed.), 2017, at around 09:30

Notice of Acceptance will also be mailed to Result of the Selection on the above date. We cannot answer the result on the phone or via e-mail.

6. Date of Registration for Enrollment
April 1, 2018

7. Fees Necessary for Enrollment
Fees necessary for enrollment in this Graduate School are as follows:

- Entrance fee: ¥282,000 (estimated)
- Tuition (for first semester): ¥267,900 (estimated)

Notes: 1. The above fees are estimated amount. If entrance or tuition fee is revised when enrolling or while enrolled in this Graduate School, the revised fees will apply and be charged to you immediately.

2. We will send your Admission Form on the middle February 2017, and notify you of payment of entrance and tuition fees at the time of procedures for your admission to this Graduate School.

If you would like to apply for entrance fees waiver, tuition fee deferments, etc., please consult with the Financial Support Section, Student Services Division, Tohoku University. (No. 4 window, Education and Student Support Center, 1F, Administration Bldg., Kawauchi-Kita Campus; phone: 022-795-7816; hours: 8:30-17:15)

For more information on entrance fee waiver, tuition fee deferments, etc., please refer to the Tohoku University website. http://www2.he.tohoku.ac.jp/menjo/

8. Long Term Study Program
A long-term study program is available for applicants who are employed, etc.*

* 1. Applicants who are fulltime employees of a business or owner of a business
2. Applicants who need time off for the birth of a child, raising a child or taking care of a family member
3. Applicants who have other reasons that have been deemed proper for this Graduate School

They may submit a request to study on a program for a fixed period in excess of the standard course term of two years for the master’s degree program. Applicants can make a request for this special long-term study program based on the information given on admission documents. The period of study may not be extended beyond four years, but it is possible to request that the allowed period be shortened.

In principle, no special curriculum will be prepared for students in the long term study program. The annual tuition for students studying long term shall be the sum of the annual tuition amount stipulated in the previous item multiplied by the corresponding number of years (two years) in the standard course term, then divided by the number of years in the enrollment term.

Tuition fees for 2016 are as follows:

- Annual tuition for the standard two-year course of the program ￥535,800
- Annual tuition for the special three-year course of the program ￥357,200
- Annual tuition for the special four-year course of the program ￥267,900

If the tuition is revised when enrolling or while enrolled in this Graduate School, the revised tuition will apply and be charged to you immediately.

9. Handling of Personal Information

(1) Tohoku University handles personal information in strict compliance with regulations such as the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Incorporated Administrative Agencies” and the “National University Corporation Tohoku University-Policy on the Protection of Personal Information,” taking every precaution to protect personal information.

(2) Examination results and other personal information obtained in the application process will be used for selection of students for admission, enrollment procedures, follow-up surveys, student support after enrollment (e.g., scholarships, tuition waiver, health care), student guidance and other academic purposes, as well as in collection of tuition fees, etc.

(3) Applicants to the Tohoku University Graduate School of Life Sciences are understood to be in agreement with the content of the statement above.

10. Other

(1) Submitted application documents and examination fees cannot be returned.

(2) Applicants requiring special care during the examination procedures and subsequent schooling should request advice in advance by contacting the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Life Sciences.

First term: To May 29 (Mon.), 2017
Second term: To September 15(Fri.), 2017

(3) For information on application procedures, please contact us.

Educational Affairs Section, Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University
1-1 Katahira 2-chome, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577 Japan
(If you enter our postal code, you can omit our address.)
Phone: +81-22-217-5706 Fax: +81-22-217-5704
e-mail: lif-kyo@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

(4) If you request a copy of the application form, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope (about 33 cm x 24 cm) with your name, address and postal code written and attached with ￥205 worth of stamps to the above (3) contact address.

(5) For information on the entrance examination, etc., please refer to the Graduate School of Life Sciences website. http://www.lifesci.tohoku.ac.jp/

April 2017

Tohoku University Graduate School of Life Sciences
Outline of the Tohoku University Graduate School of Life Sciences

1. Reason for Establishment of the Graduate School of Life Sciences

The remarkable developments in the field of biotechnology in the latter half of the 20th century made possible major breakthroughs and discoveries in life phenomena at the molecular and genetic levels. Combined with the rapid progress being made in computer science, the evolution of technologies has led to new ways of analyzing changes in complex life phenomena and the surrounding environment. Thanks to the extraordinary technological advances made in recent years, research in life sciences is no longer limited to basic scientific research but has widened to include research that can be applied for medical treatment and diagnosis in the fields of medicine, dentistry, and pharmaceutical sciences to support the lives and health of humans, research on food supplies in the field of agriculture, and research in biotechnology and environmental engineering in the field of engineering. The 21st century is being called the “Century of Life Sciences”

At present, we are facing a myriad of new problems afflicting life phenomena. They include the effects of harmful materials on living organisms that were brought about by man's actions, environmental issues such as the global decrease in biological diversity, the problem of securing a safe food supply with unprecedented conditions such as the super aging of society and the issue of genetically altered food products, medical issues engendered by the advances made in cancer treatment and reproductive technology, and bioethical issues such as human cloning or brain death. In order to solve these problems, we need to integrate the different fields in life sciences that have been dealt with separately in the past and use a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach. We must also establish a moral perspective regarding the proper application in human society of the research results and technological advances made in the various fields of life sciences.

Thus, Tohoku University established the Graduate School of Life Sciences in 2001 to promote comprehensively education and research in life sciences through an integrated and comprehensive interdisciplinary approach. The Graduate School of Life Sciences is divided into three departments: the Department of Biomolecular Sciences, Department of Developmental Biology and Neurosciences, and Department of Environmental Life Sciences. The following approaches are used to educate our students and conduct research on issues related to life phenomena. (1) Educate and conduct research not from a short-term perspective for immediate improvement of people's lives but from a long-term outlook of maintaining the diversity of living organisms and the future of human beings based on a firm foundation of bioethics. (2) Conduct research and analysis from a broad and interdisciplinary approach that includes fields as diverse as molecular biology, cellular biology, organic chemistry, and individual and population ecology. (3) Use an integrated approach by applying logic, methodology and fundamental scientific principles in the fields of genetic technology, computer technology, natural science, agriculture, medicine, dentistry, pharmaceutical sciences, and engineering.

2. The Programs of the Graduate School of Life Sciences are the Master's Degree Program and Doctoral Degree Program.

If a student would like to complete the Doctoral Degree Program, he or she is required to be registered in the course for at least three years, and acquire at least eight credits of project experiment (B). For a student who submit a doctoral dissertation, after taking the required research guidance, and pass the review of the dissertation and the final examinations, he or she shall be awarded the Doctoral Degree.

For students who have made great achievements, the required minimum of time of study in the course may be shortened.

3. At the Graduate School of Life Sciences, our goal is to train and foster young researchers to obtain a high level of knowledge and research skills so that they become leading experts in each filed.

In the past, graduate school was mostly an extension of undergraduate study but at the Graduate School of Life Sciences, we are striving to become an independent entity with emphasis on graduate education and research in the life sciences and related fields. The unique feature of this Graduate School is its well-coordinated curriculum with core courses and “cooperating courses” taught by full-time teachers and cooperating teachers.