



Program for
Global Learners
at OKAYAMA University
JAPAN



Application Guide for 2026

International Admissions



APPLICATION PERIOD 1:

October 6, 2025 – October 17, 2025
(For April or October 2026 admission)

APPLICATION PERIOD 2:

December 22, 2025 – January 13, 2026
(For October 2026 admission only)

Discovery Program for Global Learners

Program Overview

ENGLISH and JAPANESE

The Discovery Program for Global Learners is a four-year undergraduate program that can be completed entirely in English. Students with advanced Japanese proficiency and the prerequisite subject knowledge have the option of taking courses in Japanese and even conducting their senior project in Japanese. For those students whose native language is not Japanese, we encourage students to take the Intensive Japanese language courses offered at Okayama University to help students adapt to life in Okayama.

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The program offers courses from a wide range of disciplines, including social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. Its open curriculum allows students to develop a personalized study program that combines courses from different disciplines and fits their individual academic interests and future goals.

Admissions Policy

For the latest Admissions Policy, please refer to the following website.

https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/eng/prospective_students/Polocy_for_acceptance_Admitted_students.html



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Important Notice

All important information concerning the entrance exam including announcements related to disasters or infectious diseases is posted on our website.

<https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>

If an applicant commits or attempts to commit a fraudulent act or disobeys instructions from Discover staff, the applicant will be disqualified from the admissions selection process and a police report may be filed.

Number of seats available for 2026 Admissions

	April 2026 Admission	October 2026 Admission
Application Period 1	5 students	10 students
Application Period 2	not applicable	20 students

Admission eligibility requirements

1	Commitment to Okayama University	Applicants should have a strong desire to study in the Discovery Program for Global Learners at Okayama University and must be prepared to enroll in the program if they are accepted.
2	Students must satisfy ONE of the following requirements:	a) Complete a 12-year course of education as designated by the Ministry of Education in Japan or abroad prior to enrollment (students who have skipped grades are also eligible). b) Complete 11 years of education abroad, plus a Japanese university pre-session course designated by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan). c) Earn certification or test results equivalent to a 12-year course of education outside of Japan, and be 18 years of age or older prior to enrollment. d) Complete a curriculum of 11 years or more equivalent to a senior high school education outside of Japan, as designated by MEXT. Refer to the webpage for details. e) Earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Full Diploma) from the International Baccalaureate Organization. f) Earn an Abitur from the Federal Republic of Germany. g) Earn a Baccalaureate from the French Republic. h) Earn a GCE Advanced Level (GCEA) required for university matriculation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland or earn an International General Certificate of Secondary Education Advanced Level (IGCSE A Level). *At least one A Level exam must be passed (with a grade of E or higher). i) Earn a European Baccalaureate from the European Union Member States j) Complete 12 years of education in an internationally-certified program (WASC, CIS, ACSI, NEASC, Cognia, COBIS).
3	Advanced Japanese language proficiency (for April admission ONLY)	• April applicants must pass JLPT level 1 (N1) or demonstrate similar ability in order to understand instructions and participate in school activities such as orientation in Japanese. • Japanese language ability is NOT required for October admission.

4	Legal residence status in Japan (for applicants who do not have a Japanese passport or legal long-term residency)	Successful applicants must have a valid passport and obtain a suitable visa to study in Japan legally prior to enrollment. For information on student visas, see page 21.
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For questions regarding admission eligibility requirements, please contact the Discovery Office at admission_discovery@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp.

Applying to the Discovery Program

Selection process

Submission of application documents:

All applications and accompanying documents must reach our office by the deadline. Late submissions or incomplete applications will not be considered.



Preliminary screening:

The Selection Committee reviews application documents and posts results of the preliminary screening on our website. Successful applicants move on to the final screening.



Final screening:

Those who pass the preliminary screening have interviews online. See page 19 for interview guidelines.



Screening Results:

Results of final screening and pass rates posted online. Accepted applicants are notified individually by post and are provided with detailed information on admission procedures.

Important dates

	Application Period 1 April or October 2026 Admission	Application Period 2 October 2026 Admission only
Application period	October 6, 2025 – October 17, 2025 (17:00 JST*)	December 22, 2025 – January 13, 2026 (17:00 JST*)
Results of preliminary screening announced	November 21, 2025 (10:00 JST*)	February 20, 2026 (10:00 JST*)
Final screening**	December 6, 2025	March 7, 2026
Results of final screening announced	December 22, 2025 (10:00 JST*)	March 23, 2026 (10:00 JST*)
Deadline to complete admission procedures	January 30, 2026 (17:00 JST*)	April 30, 2026 (17:00 JST*)

*JST: Japan Standard Time

**Regarding the "Date of Final screening", if the number of applicants exceeds a certain number, the interview will be held on two separate days (December 6 and 7, 2025, and March 6 and 7, 2026). Applicants should check interview dates and confirm they will be available before applying.

How to apply

Application Deadlines

Application Period 1: October 17, 2025 (17:00 JST*)

Application Period 2: January 13, 2026 (17:00 JST*)

Step 1	All applications and accompanying documents must reach our office by the deadline. The necessary documents will be listed on the following pages.
Step 2	Enter the required information into the following online application system. https://e-apply.jp/ds/okayama-gdp/
Step 3	Pay the application fee and complete your application online by the deadline.

**The order of Step 1 and Step 2 may be reversed.*

Important notes for applicants

- Applications must arrive at our office by 17:00 (JST) on the last day of the application period. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required documents reach the Discovery Office by the deadline.
- Application documents will not be returned for any reason.
- Applications may be rejected at any time, including during or after admission or enrollment, if it is determined that the applicant has made a false statement on any part of the application.
- If a document with a former name is submitted, please attach a document stating both your former and current names, and the date of the name change.
- Applicants may reapply if not accepted after their first attempt by updating and revising their application documents. Please note that all documents must be resubmitted, and new application fees will apply.
- When an applicant engages in or attempts to engage in any misconduct or fails to follow the instructions of the interviewers regarding their application or during the exam, they may be disqualified from the selection process and a complaint may be filed with the police. The following actions are considered as misconduct:
 - (a) Intentionally providing false information on the Application Form and submitting an application with a photo of someone other than the applicant.
 - (b) Providing answers to other examinees or assisting in cheating.
 - (c) Using any items or materials other than those specified by Okayama University during the exam.
 - (d) Using any equipment other than the one specified for use during the interview.
 - (e) Communicating with others during the examination period.
 - (f) Any other act that may compromise the fairness of the exam or be considered misconduct by Okayama University.

Application checklist

*The following necessary documents should be submitted to the Discovery Office by the application deadline.

Check	To submit by post
☐	Certificate of graduation or statement certifying expected graduation date For those who are currently in secondary school (high school): Please submit a statement certifying expected graduation date. For those who have already graduated from secondary school (high school): Please submit a certificate of graduation.
☐	Official transcripts For those who have graduated from secondary school (high school) and are currently attending tertiary institution (college or university): Please submit both your secondary school (high school) transcript and your tertiary institution (college or university) transcript.
☐	School profile *Please submit the school profile of your secondary school (high school).
☐	Letter of academic evaluation of your secondary school (high school)
☐	Letter of recommendation
☐	Standardized test results (where applicable)

Check	To submit online
☐	Official English proficiency test scores (where applicable) *If you have received education mostly in English within the last five years, submission is NOT required.
☐	Proof of Japanese proficiency (where applicable)
☐	Application form
☐	Personal statements (Part A: Statement of Interest, Part B: Topic of Interest, Part C: Extracurricular Activities)
☐	ID photo
☐	Application fee

Application documents to submit by post

All application documents are available online at

https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/prospective_students/admission/

1	Copy of graduation certificate or statement certifying expected graduation date (REQUIRED) <i>Use online form for statement certifying expected graduation date.</i>	• Applicants who have already graduated from secondary school should submit a photocopy of their graduation certificate. • Applicants who have not yet graduated will be required to submit a copy of their certificate after arriving on campus. • Certificates in languages other than English or Japanese should be accompanied by an English or Japanese translation.
2	Official transcripts (REQUIRED)	• If you have already graduated from secondary school, submit full transcripts of all courses taken in secondary school (most recent 2-3 years). • If you are still in secondary school, submit transcripts of all classes completed to date (most recent 2-3 years). • If you have attended more than one secondary school, submit transcripts from each school (most recent 2-3 years). • If you are currently in a tertiary or post-secondary educational institute, submit transcripts of all classes completed to date, as well as transcripts of courses taken in secondary school. • Transcripts may be photocopies, but they must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and signed across the flap by a school official. • Transcripts in languages other than English or Japanese must be accompanied by an English or Japanese translation.
3	School profile (REQUIRED) <i>Use online form.</i>	• Complete the online form, enclose in a sealed envelope and ensure that it is signed across the flap by a school official.
4	Letter of academic evaluation (REQUIRED) <i>Use online form.</i>	• The letter of academic evaluation must be written by someone at your secondary school such as a school principal, counselor, or teacher, even if the evaluator does not know or remember you well. Even if you are currently attending a tertiary institution, please ask someone at your secondary school to submit the letter of academic evaluation. • The evaluator should confirm your years of attendance and graduation date, and provide information about your academic performance while at the school. • The letter of academic evaluation must be in English or Japanese.

5	Letter of recommendation (REQUIRED) <i>Use online form.</i>	• The letter of recommendation should be written by someone who knows you well and has interacted directly with you in a supervisory position at school, work, or through extracurricular activities - a teacher, manager, boss, coach, or advisor. • In addition to commenting on your ability to work independently, think creatively, communicate effectively, and maintain motivation, the recommender should also provide information about your personal interests, abilities, and accomplishments. • The letter of recommendation must be in English or Japanese.
6	Standardized test results (OPTIONAL)	• Applicants who have taken standardized exams typically used for university admission in their country, such as the SAT or ACT, please submit photocopies of official results. • Applicants who have taken the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), please submit photocopies of official scores. • Applicants who have an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma may submit a photocopy of their diploma and an official certificate of their IB exam results, issued by the International Baccalaureate Office. • Applicants who have not yet received their IB Diploma may send official transcripts of IB predicted scores, endorsed by the principal or a guidance counselor at their school. Please note that once applicants are admitted, they will be asked to submit a photocopy of their IB Diploma and an official certificate of their IB exam results.

**If applicants are not able to take the JLPT as a result of unforeseeable circumstances, please contact the Discovery Office by email at least one month before the application period begins.*

Applicants outside of Japan should send documents via registered airmail such as Speed Post, DHL, FedEx, OCS, or EMS. Applicants in Japan should send documents via kakitome (書留).

For queries regarding information not included in this guide, please contact the Discovery Office:

Discovery Program for Global Learners, Okayama University 2-1-1 Tsushima-naka, Kita-ku, Okayama
700-8530 JAPAN

Email: admission_discovery@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp

Application documents to submit online

Go to https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/prospective_students/admission/

1	Official English proficiency test scores* REQUIRED for applicants who have not received their last five years of formal education in English.	- Scores must be from exams taken after September 2023. Unofficial score reports or photocopies are acceptable for the application process although applicants may have to submit the original certificates upon request. - The Discovery Program does not have minimum requirement scores. English ability is evaluated comprehensively through standardized test scores, writing samples, and interviews etc. - Applicants must submit scores from one or more of the following tests: Cambridge English/The EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency (実用英語技能検定)/GTEC Advanced or GTEC Basic or GTEC Core or GTEC CBT/IELTS/TEAP/TEAP CBT/TOEFL iBT/TOEIC Listening & Reading Test and TOEIC Speaking & Writing Tests, IB English Score (Predicted Scores included). Details are provided on pages 12-13.
2	Proof of Japanese proficiency* (for April admission ONLY)	- Applicants for April Admission must submit photocopies of the certificate of Japanese language proficiency (e.g., JLPT N1 score report) or documents demonstrating similar ability (e.g., Japanese teacher's language assessment report). Photocopies are acceptable for the application process although applicants may have to submit the original certificates upon request. - Applicants for October Admission who have taken the JLPT are encouraged to submit their scores as optional material.
3	Okayama University application form (REQUIRED)	- Save a copy of the completed form for your records. - Details about the required information for the online application form can be seen following this list or are included on page 11.
4	Personal statements (REQUIRED)	- Download the file (Microsoft Word or PDF). - Complete the personal statements in English. - For more information on the personal statements, see pages 14-15.
5	ID photo (REQUIRED)	- Submit a 4 cm long x 3 cm wide color photo taken within the last 3 months, showing a front view without head coverings (except for religious purposes) or sunglasses, above chest level, with a solid-color background. - The photo will be used to identify the applicant at the interview.

6	Application fee (REQUIRED)	• Pay the application fee of ¥17,000 via credit card using the online application system. Payment can also be made using a credit card not registered under the applicant's name. • If payment by credit card is not possible, please contact the Discovery Office at admission_discovery@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp for other payment options. • The application fee cannot be waived and can only be refunded under the following circumstances: incomplete and unaccepted applications. The deadline for requesting a refund is March 31, 2027.
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Online application form

The required information is as follows:

- Name, current address, and phone number
- Emergency contact information
- Intended area(s) of study within the Discovery Program. See our website for more details:
https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/about_discovery/
- Full educational background from primary through secondary school, including school names, locations, and dates attended
- English language proficiency test scores (where applicable), including date and location of test, scores, and registration number
- List of other standardized tests taken (where applicable)
- Names of other universities you are applying to (where applicable, your response will not affect your application)



List of accepted English proficiency tests

Test Providers	Qualification/Certification	Notes
Cambridge University Press & Assessment	Cambridge English (C2 Proficiency) Cambridge English (C1 Advanced) Cambridge English (B2 First for Schools) Cambridge English (B2 First) Cambridge English (B1 Preliminary for Schools) Cambridge English (B1 Preliminary) Cambridge English (A2 Key for Schools) Cambridge English (A2 Key)	For Cambridge English Language Certificates, individual pass or fail results are not taken into consideration. It will only be valid if the score range for which the certificate is issued can be used to demonstrate their English proficiency.
Eiken Foundation of Japan	EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency EIKEN Grades: 1, Pre-1, 2, Pre-2 Plus, Pre-2, 3 - EIKEN S-Interview - EIKEN S-CBT	- Okayama University reviews the CSE scores for EIKEN tests (rather than the pass/fail grade). - Score certificates must display the test scores for all 4 skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking) to be accepted.
Benesse Corporation	GTEC (CBT) GTEC (Advanced) GTEC (Basic) GTEC (Core)	Only scores recorded on the GTEC 4-skill official score certificate are accepted.
IDP IELTS Australia British Council	International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Module	
Eiken Foundation of Japan	- Test of English for Academic Purposes (TEAP) - Test of English for Academic Purposes Computer Based Test (TEAP CBT)	
Educational Testing Service	TOEFL iBT® Test	- Please submit the “TOEFL iBT® Test Date” score, not the “My Best” score. - TOEFL iBT Home Edition is not accepted.
TOEIC	TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test and TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Tests	- Both the results of the TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test and the TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Tests must be submitted. - Results from the IP Test (group exam) are not accepted.

(Note 1) English language certifications or qualifications for tests that were taken at home are not accepted.

(Note 2) Please refer to “Application Documents to submit by post” to confirm the validity period of the scores of the English language certificates/qualifications accepted by Okayama University for admission to undergraduate courses, regardless of the validity period specified by the organizations that administer the tests.

(Note 3) Applicants who have taken English A or English B for IB Diploma qualification may submit your IB exam results (Predicted Scores included) instead of English proficiency test scores.

Accepted English proficiency tests and their CEFR equivalent levels

Type	CEFR Comparison					
	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Cambridge English (Note 1)	100-119	120-139	140-159	160-179	180-199	200-230
EIKEN Grade 1-3 (Note 2)	1400-1699	1700-1949	1950-2299	2300-2599	2600-3299	
GTEC CBT, Advanced, Basic, Core	260-679	680-929	930-1179	1180-1349	1350-1400	
IELTS (Note 3)			4.0-5.0	5.5-6.5	7.0-8.0	8.5-9.0
TEAP (4 skills)		135-224	225-308	309-374	375-400	
TEAP CBT (4 skills)		235-415	420-595	600-795	800	
TOEFL iBT® Tests			42-71	72-94	95-120	
TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test And TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Tests (Note 4)	320-620	625-1145	1150-1555	1560-1840	1845-1990	

(Note 1) Includes the following tests: C2 Proficiency, C1 Advanced, B2 First/B2 First for Schools, B1 Preliminary/B1 Preliminary for Schools, A2 Key/A2 Key for Schools
The corresponding CEFR levels for each Cambridge English exam and the equivalent score ranges for which the certificate is issued are as follows:

Cambridge English examinations	Score ranges	Corresponding CEFR levels
C2 Proficiency	180-230	C1, C2
C1 Advanced	160-210	B2, C1, C2
B2 First/B2 First for Schools	140-190	B1, B2, C1
B1 Preliminary/B1 Preliminary for Schools	120-170	A2, B1, B2
A2 Key/A2 Key for Schools	100-150	A1, A2, B1

(Note 2) Includes the following tests: EIKEN, EIKEN S-Interview, EIKEN S-CBT
The corresponding CEFR levels for the Practical English Proficiency Test (Eiken) and the equivalent score ranges for which the certificate is issued are as follows:

Grade of EIKEN	Score ranges	Corresponding CEFR levels
Eiken Grade 1	2,304-3,299	B2, C1
Eiken Grade Pre-1	1,980-2,599	B1, B2
Eiken Grade 2	1,728-2,299	A2, B1
Eiken Grade Pre-2 Plus	1,550-1,949	A1, A2
Eiken Grade Pre-2	1,400-1,949	A1, A2
Eiken Grade 3	1,400-1,699	A1

(Note 3) Includes the following tests: International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Module

(Note 4) For TOEIC, the TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Tests scores should be multiplied by 2.5 and added together

(Note 5) The CEFR equivalent levels for IB English A and English B exam results are below:

English B (Standard Level): (Exam results: CEFR equivalent levels) 6-7: B2, 3-5: B1

English B (Higher Level): (Exam results: CEFR equivalent levels) 7: C1, 5-6: B2, 2-4: B1

English A (Standard Level/Higher Level): (Exam results: CEFR equivalent levels) 6-7: C1-C2, 4-5: B2, 3: B1

Application documents to submit online

Personal statements

The personal statements offers a precious chance for you to convince the Selection Committee of your outstanding suitability for the Discovery Program. Thoroughly explore our website and additional materials to enrich your understanding of the program. Especially delve into the curriculum section, illustrating precisely how our curriculum resonates with your goals. Allocate ample time for reflection and meticulous structuring. Develop a clear and captivating personal statement. Polish it through multiple revisions to eliminate errors before submission. Your statement will be assessed on its content, quality, and clarity.

Personal statements:

Please submit the following 3 Personal statements.

Part A	Statement of Interest	Part B	Topic of Interest	Part C	Extracurricular Activities
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Part B: The format of the topic of interest differs depending on whether you have selected “Social Science & Humanities” as your first choice or the “Science & Applied Science” field as your first choice in “10. Desired Area(s) of Study” in online application form.

Complete all sections in English. Respond to all questions. Part A and Part B should be written in essay format. Although you may consult teachers, counselors, and friends, all final writing must be your own words. If we detect plagiarism, including material copied from websites, your application will not be considered any further. If you advance to the interview stage, you may be asked to answer questions or elaborate on your statement.

Part A	Statement of Interest
Write a short essay of 450 to 500 words answering all of the following questions and indicate the word count upon completion: • What is/are your current interest(s) and goal(s)? • What life experiences led you to your current interest(s) and goal(s)? • What is your proposed study plan (e.g., “Track”/“Cluster” of the Discovery Program) ? • How does your proposed course of study relate to your interest(s) and goal(s)?	
Part B	Topic of Interest (if you have selected “Social Science & Humanities” as your first choice in “10. Desired Area(s) of Study” in online application form)
Write a short essay of 450 to 500 words on the topic of your interest mentioned in Part A answering all of the following questions and indicate the word count upon completion: • What is the topic of your interest? How is it discussed in news, books, journals and other sources? Cite the sources of information you used in the essay (*You may use any citation style). • Why are you interested in this topic? How does this topic relate to your “areas of interest” of the Discovery Program? • What questions would you like to explore further on this topic once you enter the university?	

Part B

Topics of Interest (if you have selected “Science & Applied Science” as your first choice in “10. Desired Area(s) of Study” in online application form)

Explain any two of the following topics in one A4 sheet or within the specified frame:

- A 60-kg person stands on a scale inside an elevator. When the elevator starts to move upward, the reading on the scale increases uniformly from 60 kg to a maximum of 66 kg, then decreases uniformly to a minimum of 54 kg, and returns uniformly to 60 kg at the end. Draw the acceleration-time graph and indicate the maximum and minimum values of acceleration and the time that the speed reaches the maximum. Explain your results together with necessary equations and force diagrams.
- We live on the surface of the Earth surrounded by air. Devise a method to experimentally measure the density of the air near the Earth's surface and explain its principles involved.
- In the periodic table, elements are arranged in increasing atomic number into 7 horizontal rows called periods and 18 vertical columns called groups. Explain one of the physical properties that represent the repeating periodicity observed in the horizontal row of elements. Next, pick one of the 18 groups and describe the similarities shared by the group you chose.
- As an example of “symbiogenesis (endosymbiotic theory)”, mitochondria are believed to become symbiotic after aerobic bacteria were incorporated into them. Please briefly explain the characteristics of mitochondria that could be the basis for this theory, along with those of aerobic bacteria.
- In self-pollinating plants such as peas, crossing two pure lines results in F1 individuals. These F1 individuals all share the same genetic composition. When the F1 individuals are self-pollinated, the resulting F2 population exhibits a wide variety of genotypes due to different combinations of genes. Peas are estimated to have more than 40,000 genes, and if the genetic differences between the parents are large, an enormous variety of genotypes can appear in the F2 population. Explain the reason why such genetic diversity arises in the F2 generation.

Note: Set and specify the detailed conditions necessary to explain the problem. Also, explain other phenomena that occur by the same principle.

Part C**Extracurricular Activities**

List up to five extracurricular activities in descending chronological order with the most recent one first. Extracurricular activities may be events, committees, clubs, sports, conventions, communities, internships, jobs, study abroad, CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) activities, or volunteer work you have been involved in. Mention your assigned responsibilities and/or leadership roles. Mention any awards, qualifications, or certificates you may have earned.



Fields of study

Subjects taught in English

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The world we live in today faces diverse issues - poverty, unemployment, discrimination, environmental degradation, and many more. The Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cluster aims at working out sustainable and scalable solutions to persistent social issues.

Management

This module offers courses that introduce the tools and principles to improve and enhance management skills, expertise, and knowledge that facilitate career development.

Economics

This module provides students with a foundation in economics to prepare them to work for a business, government, or nonprofit organization. In addition to learning basic economic principles in microeconomics and macroeconomics, students explore poverty, inequality, and development from different perspectives.

Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship

This module provides students with opportunities to learn how to change society for the better as visionary leaders or social entrepreneurs. Students explore the social, political, and economic roles of nonprofits while learning professional and management skills through an interdisciplinary approach that utilizes hands-on group projects in collaboration with local nonprofits and practical step-by-step exercises.

Cultural Diversity and Communities

Anthropology, political science, and sociology offer us tools to understand beliefs and practices around the world, and question our own values. In this cluster, students learn how to examine mundane matters such as work and family life, as well as extraordinary situations such as disasters and displacements, and analyze them from various vantage points, incorporating ethnicity, gender, sexuality, identity, social networks, and structural inequality.

Japan and Beyond

Through critical analysis and dialogue, students gain insight into the lived experiences of marginalized communities and learn to recognize and challenge issues at the intersection of race, ethnicity, and gender. Feminist Ethnic Studies empowers students to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Migration and Communities

Migration opens doors to new encounters, opportunities, and risks. In this module, students learn why migrants and refugees leave their homes, and how migration affects their lives, communities of origin, and host societies.

Environment and Health

In this module, students explore how beliefs about health and environment in different cultures are rooted in different ideas about "humans," "personhood," and "nature."

Governance

Politics exists wherever people live together. Courses in this module explore how politics works in different communities, the reasons for these differences, and our own roles in politics.

Transdisciplinary Sciences

The environmental problems we face today increasingly require scientists to cross disciplinary boundaries and think across scales from local to global, and even to cosmic space. Knowledge and skills gained in environmental engineering, physical chemistry, solid state physics, and agricultural science are all necessary for pursuing a sustainable future of our planet.

Atmospheric, Astronomical and Biomedical Physical Chemistry

Many puzzles of the universe and many environmental or health problems can be tackled by understanding the processes of physical chemistry with molecular science. In particular, we use laser spectroscopy and quantum chemistry to study atmospheric molecules, interstellar molecules, and constituent molecules in human exhalation.

Magnetism

All substances are composed of particles with magnetic properties. The magnetic property of materials can be investigated with microwave spectroscopy, which may play a role in solving environmental problems.

Energy, Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry

Energy, environmental and sustainable chemistry focuses on new materials to tackle the challenges of renewable energy generation and recycling and develop sustainable methods to improve existing processes and make use of renewable resources. (Note: Students enrolling in 2023 or after may not be able to pursue certain research themes from this module for their senior project.)

Subjects taught in English and in Japanese (advanced courses)

Agricultural Science (English-Japanese hybrid program)

The agricultural science program offered by the Discovery Program for Global Learners (GDP) benefits from the vast educational and research resources available at the School of Agriculture. For the first two years of this program, GDP students study basic science and agricultural science courses in English while studying Japanese intensively. From the second year, students start taking agricultural science courses taught in Japanese at the School of Agriculture with the aid of a personalized academic Japanese training program. Students may also do independent studies with faculty members to supplement their studies. From the third year on, GDP students study together with School of Agriculture students. GDP students interested in this program with minimal or no Japanese proficiency at the time of admission are encouraged to study Japanese on their own before enrollment. Students with higher Japanese proficiency may take higher-level Japanese courses to further improve their language skills or select elective courses instead of Japanese.

Study Model:

First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year
Introductory Science Courses (in English)	Agricultural Science Courses (in English)	Advanced Laboratory in Agricultural Science	Senior Project Research and Seminars
GDP Common Courses	Elective Courses	Common	
Japanese Language Courses	Academic Japanese Training	Agricultural Science Courses (in Japanese)	
			Common

Subjects taught in Japanese

Schools and faculty outside the Discovery Program open to students with advanced Japanese proficiency

Students with advanced Japanese proficiency (level N2 Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or above at the time of enrollment) may be able to study in other schools and faculty at Okayama University if they have the prerequisite level of knowledge in their intended field of study.

- School of Letters
- School of Education
- Faculty of Law
- School of Economics
- School of Science
- Medical School (Faculty of Health Sciences only)
- School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Department of Pharmaceutical Technology only)
- School of Engineering
- School of Agriculture

For more details on the program curriculum, visit our website at https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/about_discovery/.

Japanese language courses at Okayama University

The Department of Japanese Language at Okayama University offers a variety of Japanese courses to help students develop their language skills. Courses range from level 1 (beginner) to level 7 (advanced). Students take a placement test during orientation to determine the most appropriate level and then select Japanese classes that suit their goals (e.g., integrated classes, skill-based classes, topic-based classes).

Academic Japanese courses are also available to Discovery students who take coursework in Japanese.

Example: Japanese courses offered in term 3 and term 4, 2025 (subject to change)

Term 3 and Term 4

Level		Integrated Classes (classes per week)	Skill-based and Topic-based Classes (classes per week)						
Elementary	1	Japanese 1 (8)		Reading and Writing 1 (4)					
	2	Japanese 2 (8)	Basic Kanji and Vocabulary (2)		Reading and Writing 2 (4)				
Intermediate	3	Japanese 3 (8)						Japanese through Films 1 (2)	Intermediate Grammar 1 (2)
	4	Japanese 4 (8)	Intermediate Kanji and Vocabulary (2)			Media Literacy 1 (2)	Extensive Reading 1 (2)		
	5	Japanese 5 (8)							
Advanced	6	Japanese 6 (8)							
	7		Applied Japanese (Reading B)(2)	Study of Okayama (2)				Japanese through Films 2 (2)	Intermediate Grammar 2 (2)
			Applied Japanese (Listening B)(2)				Extensive Reading 2 (2)		
			Applied Japanese (Writing A)(2)						
			Applied Japanese (Speaking A)(2)						

Interview guidelines

- The Discovery Program conducts interviews in English in lieu of a written entrance examination.
- Interviews will be conducted online via Teams or a similar application.
- Interviews will take approximately 20-30 minutes.
- Applicants may be asked questions about their interest in their proposed area(s) of study, and coursework taken to date to prepare for college-level study in these area(s). Please have one or two piece(s) of blank paper(s) and a pen or a pencil with you in case your interviewers ask you to draw diagrams during the interview.
- Applicants who wish to pursue their studies in other schools or faculties at Okayama University will be asked questions in Japanese about their intended field of study.
- The Admissions staff will conduct pre-interview checks via Teams a few days before the online interview to troubleshoot connection problems. Applicants will be informed of the date and time of their pre-interview check and interview time via email. Please print out your Applicant Card and note the date and time of the interview before participating in the Teams test.
- Applicants who do not complete the pre-interview check will not be allowed to participate in the interview.
- Applicants are expected to check their email regularly for updates throughout the application process, but particularly prior to the interview process. Failure to respond to emails in a timely manner may result in an applicant being dropped from the selection process.

Requesting a different interview time

- The Admissions staff makes every effort to ensure that candidates are assigned a reasonable interview time during daytime or early evening hours in their local time zone.
- We recognize that assigned times may sometimes require applicants to reschedule their regular daily activities. However, requests for time changes will be considered only in extreme cases such as illness, unavoidable emergencies, or other conflicts that would cause unreasonable inconvenience to the applicant.
- The Selection Committee will make the final determination on such requests, and may require documentation before granting approval.
- Applicants who wish to request a change in their pre-interview check or interview time should contact the Discovery Office promptly at admission_discovery@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp.



Accepting an offer of admission

A detailed admissions guide will be sent to successful applicants along with the announcement of application results.

Students who wish to accept their offer of admission must submit the following documents by post, ensuring they arrive by the deadlines listed below.

- Receipt for payment of admission fee (see page 21)
 - *If the admission fee is revised prior to admission, the new fee will apply.
- Photocopy of IB Diploma and official certificate of IB exam results (where applicable)
- Other documents as designated or requested by the university

Deadlines for receipt of all documents

Application Period 1	January 30, 2026 (17:00 JST*)
Application Period 2	April 30, 2026 (17:00 JST*)

- Please note that accepting an offer of admission requires paying the admission fee AND submitting all documents stated above by the relevant deadline.
- If an applicant fails to complete all admission procedures by the deadline, he or she will be considered to have declined the offer of admission.
- In rare cases, admission fee exemption or postponement may be granted. Details are provided in the admissions guide sent to successful applicants.
- Applicants who complete the admissions process but wish to decline admission later must first contact the Discovery Office by email, and then submit a letter of request to decline admission to the President of Okayama University by post. The letter must reach our office by March 31, 2026 for April admission, and by September 30, 2026 for October admission. The letter must include the following information:
 - application number
 - name of the program to which the applicant was accepted
 - date the letter was written
 - reason for declining admission
 - applicant's signature

*An applicant will be permitted to decline admission only after his/her request to decline is approved.

Disclosure of exam information

Entrance exam information will be posted online between May 1 and May 31, 2026. If you would like access to the information, please contact the Discovery Office.

Student visas

In order to study in Japan as an international student, foreign nationals must obtain a student visa. Students must possess a valid passport to begin the visa process. The university will contact students approximately two to three months prior to the start of their first term to provide information on how to begin the visa application process.

*Students who have a Japanese passport or foreign nationals whose current status of residence in Japan is either “Dependent” or “(Special) Permanent Resident” and who do not wish to change to a student visa need not apply for a student visa.

*The visa application schedule and travel restrictions are subject to change based on the Pandemic situation in Japan and students' home countries.

Fees

Admission Fee

- There is a one-time fee of ¥282,000 (2026 estimate) to be paid shortly after the offer of admission is made.
- The university does not offer scholarships to cover the admission fee.
- Students who have trouble meeting the deadline due to financial difficulty may apply for a postponement. If granted a postponement, the student is still responsible to cover the admission fee after arriving on campus.
- If the admission fee is revised prior to admission, the new fee will apply.

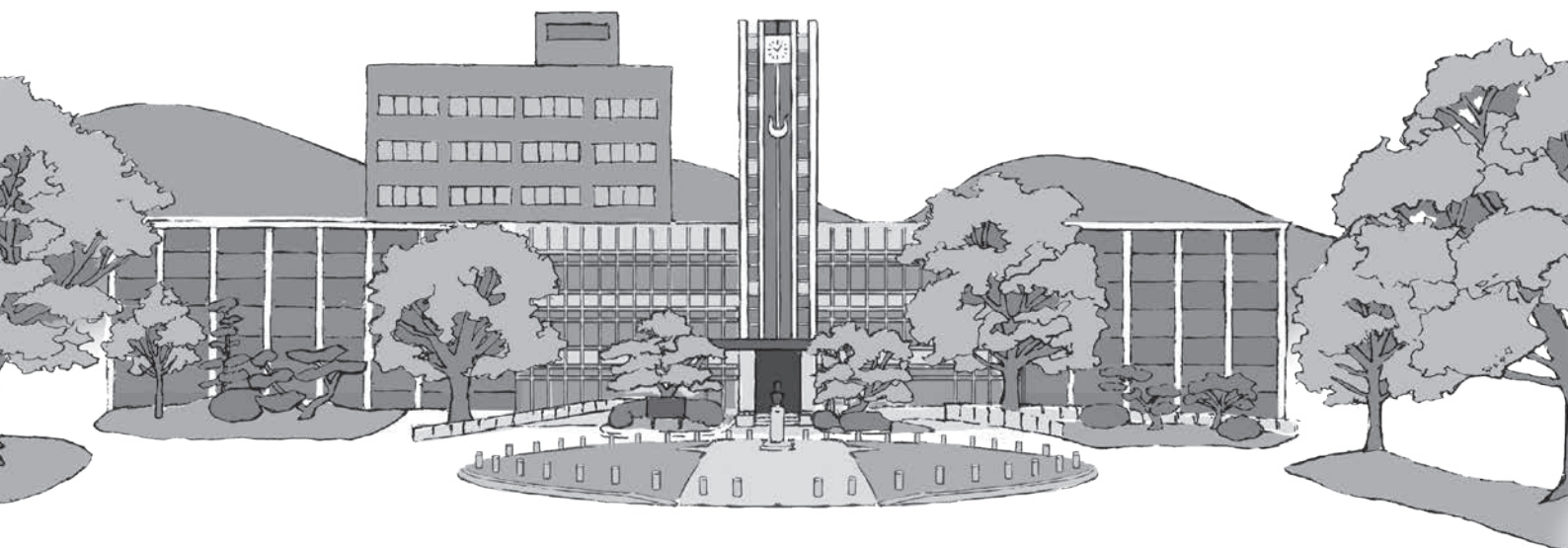
Tuition

- The annual tuition fee of ¥535,800 (2026 estimate) is paid in two installments of ¥267,900 (2026 estimate).
- The first tuition payment is not due until after arrival on campus.
- If the tuition fee is revised prior to admission or while the student is enrolled, the new fee will apply.

For more information about fees, visit the website below:

https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/eng/current_students/Tuition.html

It is important that new students arrive on campus prepared to cover all tuition fees and living expenses. Students are highly encouraged to apply for financial aid from government or private funding organizations.



Scholarships

For the latest scholarship information, please refer to the following website.

<https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>

Past Scholarship Awards

Japanese Government (MEXT) Full Scholarship for Students from ASEAN or African countries

- Six outstanding candidates from ASEAN or African countries who were successfully accepted through international admissions for October 2025 were nominated for a Japanese Government Full Scholarship for Student Priority Placement by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).
- This scholarship covers the following:
 - one-time admission fee
 - tuition fees
 - monthly living allowance (117,000 yen/month) for four years of study (with excellent academic standing) airfare to and from Japan (only at the beginning and the end of the 4-year undergraduate program).

*This 4-year full scholarship is dependent on excellent academic standing. Scholarship recipients' academic standing is re-evaluated each year to confirm continued eligibility.

Discovery Scholarships

- Full-tuition scholarships were awarded to outstanding applicants accepted through international admissions for April 2025/October 2025.
- Scholarship recipients are announced in conjunction with the announcement of application results.
- Applicants who apply via international admissions during the first application period have priority. If scholarships are not awarded during the first period, applicants who apply during the second period are considered.
- The scholarship may be renewed for up to four years provided the recipient maintains excellent academic standing.
- Eligibility and other details for October 2026 are subject to change. Details will be announced on our website in the future.

JASSO Scholarships

- JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) also offers scholarships for international students who are residing outside of Japan at the time of admission to a Japanese university.
- Okayama University applies for this scholarship on behalf of eligible students. Successful applicants receive a monthly stipend of ¥48,000 for the first twelve months after arrival for April admission, and for the first six months after arrival for October admission.

Other Scholarships for International Students

- Other scholarships and financial aid schemes which international students may apply for are listed on the website: <https://intl.okayama-u.ac.jp/support/scholarships/list/>

Scholarships for Students with Japanese citizenship or (special) permanent residency

- Students with Japanese citizenship or Japanese (special) permanent residency can view available scholarships and financial aid programs on the following website (in Japanese):
http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/tp/student/seikatu_a2.html

Partial or Full Exemption of Admission Fees/Tuition Fees

Partial or Full Exemption of Admission Fees/Tuition Fees (Students with Japanese citizenship or Japanese (special) permanent residency)

- In accordance with new laws regarding financial aid at tertiary institutions, students with Japanese citizenship or (special) permanent residency enrolling in the Discovery Program will be eligible to apply for financial aid (partial or full exemption of admission fees and tuition fees).
- For further details, please refer to the following websites:

Okayama University <https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/tp/student/syugakushien.html>

MEXT <https://www.mext.go.jp/kyufu/index.htm>

JASSO <https://www.jasso.go.jp/shogakukin/kyufu/index.html>

University policy on the use of personal information

Personal information provided in the application documents will be used only for the selection process, university administrative procedures, or as data for the purpose of evaluating and improving the university selection process and educational system. When personal information is used in a publication, it must be presented in such a manner that individuals cannot be identified. In addition to the selection process, personal information may be used for the following purposes:

- Information required by the University Students Affairs System, including the names, birth dates, and gender of successful applicants.
- Assessment results required to determine the academic qualifications of successful applicants who apply for admission fee exemption or postponement or tuition waivers.
- Information required by the University Management System to process university tuition fees and tuition waivers, including the names, birth dates, and gender of successful applicants.

Applicants with disabilities

Applicants with disabilities should submit documents explaining their individual circumstances by the deadlines below so that the university can make appropriate arrangements regarding accommodation for coursework, etc.

Deadline	Applicants for Application Period 1: September 12, 2025 Applicants for Application Period 2: November 14, 2025
Procedures	Complete the online Preliminary Consultation Form and submit it along with a doctor's note and a copy of your disability certificate (if issued). Download: https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/prospective_students/admission/
Submission	Email: admission_discovery@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp

Frequently asked questions (by topic)

International Admissions:

Is there any difference in the selection methods between the first and second periods of international admissions?

No. The selection methods for the first and second periods of international admissions are the same. However, if you wish to enroll in April, you must apply during the first period, however, you can apply during both the first and second periods for October enrollment.

Eligibility:

I am a Japanese citizen, but I am currently going to school in a foreign country. Can I apply through International Admissions?

Yes. International Admissions are open to applicants of all nationalities, including Japanese nationals.

Application Documents:

Is it okay to submit documents that need to be sent by mail first, and then submit documents that need to be submitted online afterward?

Yes. You can submit either set of documents first. There is no preference for the order of submission.

What is the difference between the Letter of Academic Evaluation and the Letter of Recommendation?

The Letter of Academic Evaluation must be written by someone at your secondary school such as a school principal, counselor, or teacher, even if the evaluator does not know or remember you well.

The Letter of Recommendation should be written by someone who knows you well and has interacted directly with you in a supervisory position at school, work, or through extracurricular activities – a teacher, manager, boss, coach, or advisor.

I am currently attending a Japanese language school/university. Can I submit the Letter of Academic Evaluation, the Letter of Recommendation, and School Profile prepared by someone from the Japanese language school/university?

Please have the Letter of Academic and School Profile prepared by someone from secondary school (high school), not from the Japanese language school/ university.

The Letter of Recommendation may be prepared by a person from the Japanese language school/ university.

I attended two different high schools because I changed schools in the middle of the school year. For which school should I submit the evaluation form and School Profile?

Please submit the Letter of Academic Evaluation and School Profile from the school you attended for the longest period of time.

Should I submit SAT, ACT, EJU, or other standardized test scores?

If available, please submit your test scores as supplementary material. However, these standardized test scores are not required.

Can I have documents that need to be sealed, such as transcripts and School Profile, put in the same envelope and sealed?

Yes. You may place both documents in the same sealed envelope.

Frequently asked questions (continued)

Language Proficiency:

Is Japanese ability required?

For admission in April, applicants must have Japanese language proficiency equivalent to JLPT N1 or higher. Please see page 4 for application eligibility. For admission in October, no Japanese language proficiency is required at the time of application.

Is it necessary to submit English Language Proficiency Test scores for April enrollment?

Yes, you are required to submit the score of an English Language Proficiency Test even if you enroll in April. However, those who have received their education mostly in English for the last five years do not need to submit test scores.

Why is JLPT N1 or equivalent required for April admission?

For April admission, all guidance and other information will be provided in Japanese. In addition, most students enrolling in April are from Japan.

What are the minimum English Proficiency test scores necessary for admission?

There are no set minimum score requirements. English language proficiency test scores will be considered in conjunction with other application material, including short essays and an interview.

Is the Duolingo English Test score accepted as an English proficiency test?

No. The Duolingo English Test score is not accepted as an English proficiency test. Please refer to pages 12-13 for the list of accepted English proficiency tests.

Online Application:

There is an error message when completing the online application. What should I do?

Here are some tips:

1. Enter the information using a computer instead of a smartphone.
2. Try using different web browsers.
3. If you've bookmarked the input screen or have been logged in for an extended period, you might encounter difficulties inputting the information. In such cases:
 - Close all browsers.
 - Log in again.
 - Restart or change the computer.If the error persists despite these steps, please reach out to the Discovery Office for further assistance.

Payment of Application Fee:

I do not have my own credit card. Is there any other payment method?

Yes. You may pay the application fee by credit card in your guardian's name. Payment can also be made at convenience stores in Japan.

Frequently asked questions about Discovery Program

What kind of degree will I earn?

Students who complete the four-year program earn a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree. The diploma states that the recipient is a graduate of the Discovery Program, regardless of the department or faculty under which the student completes their senior project.

Who can apply?

The program welcomes applicants of all nationalities from both Japan and abroad. Current Discovery students include international students from around the globe, returnees to Japan, and graduates of high schools in Japan. The program accepts about 35 students through international admission, and 25 through domestic admission each year.

English is not my first language. Can I take classes to improve my English?

Yes, students who wish to improve their English proficiency may enroll in English classes offered through the Discovery Program or the Center for Liberal Arts and Language Education.

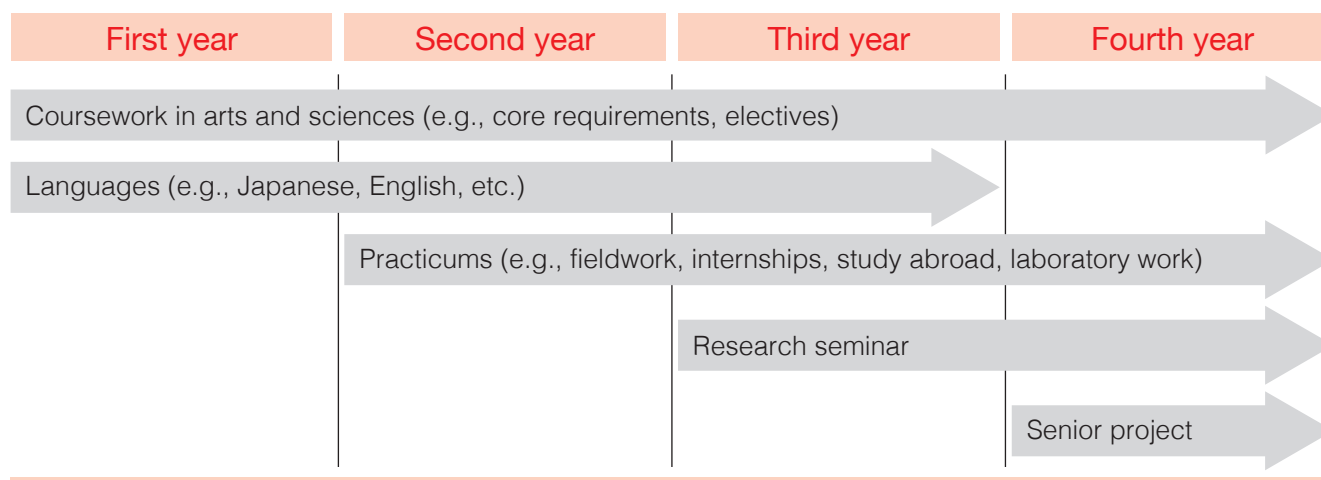
What is an interdisciplinary approach?

An interdisciplinary approach means students can cross traditional department boundaries by creating a personalized curriculum that reflects their interests and career goals. Students can combine courses from a range of disciplines.

What can I study?

All students work closely with an academic advisor to develop an individual study program leading to a senior project on a topic of their choice (see pages 16-18). Students must demonstrate both academic knowledge and strong critical thinking skills by gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information, practicing, and presenting their findings to their faculty and peers. A full list of courses offered by the Discovery Program is available on our website.

Your four-year schedule might look like this:



What kind of job can I find after graduation?

We have produced graduates who have gone on to various fields, including domestic and international graduate schools, the public sector including national government positions, media, manufacturing companies, IT business, finance, trading firms, and staffing agencies to name a few. For more details, please refer to our website, the Okayama University Guide, and the Discovery Program Guide.



Home Page



University Guide



Program Guide





University Mark

OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

DISCOVERY PROGRAM FOR GLOBAL LEARNERS

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Discovery Program for Global Learners

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