



Program for
Global Learners
at OKAYAMA University
JAPAN



Application Guide for 2027

Admission for the Discovery Program for Global Learners



2027 April and October Intake (PERIOD 1)

Application period: October 5, 2026 – October 15, 2026

2027 October Intake only (PERIOD 2)

Application period: December 21, 2026 – January 8, 2027

The official application guide is the English version.

The Japanese version is a complementary document whose expressions may differ slightly from the English version.

Discovery Program for Global Learners

Program Overview

The Discovery Program for Global Learners provides an educational environment that nourishes students' academic curiosity and growth by emphasizing collaborative learning among a diverse population of domestic and international students. By crossing established disciplinary boundaries and working together with people of different backgrounds, students cultivate the ability to play an active role in today's complex and intertwined world.

The program offers English medium 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.

Emphasizing on the interdisciplinary training before focusing on a specific disciplinary approach to conduct a senior project, we cultivate global talent with the following five skills:

- Praxis: Practical and critical thinking to innovate in a global environment
- Inquiry: Intellectual curiosity and methods to explore issues from diverse perspectives
- Communication: Multilingual communication for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration
- Disciplinary Training: Various and adaptable academic skills
- Global Understanding: Interdisciplinary insight rooted in a robust liberal arts education

Students with advanced Japanese proficiency (CEFR-equivalent level B2 or higher) and the prerequisite subject knowledge have the option of taking courses in Japanese, and even conduct their senior project in Japanese.

- For information on the CEFR standards for Japanese language proficiency, please refer to the following MEXT website:
https://www.nihongo-ews.mext.go.jp/information/framework_of_reference
- For reference information on the CEFR-equivalent levels of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), which is widely used as an indicator of Japanese language proficiency, please refer to the following JLPT website:
https://www.jlpt.jp/about/cefr_reference.html

Admission Policy

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

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



Home Page



University Guide



Program Guide

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*In this document, Admission for the Discovery Program for Global Learners will be referred to as *Discovery Admission*.

Important Notice

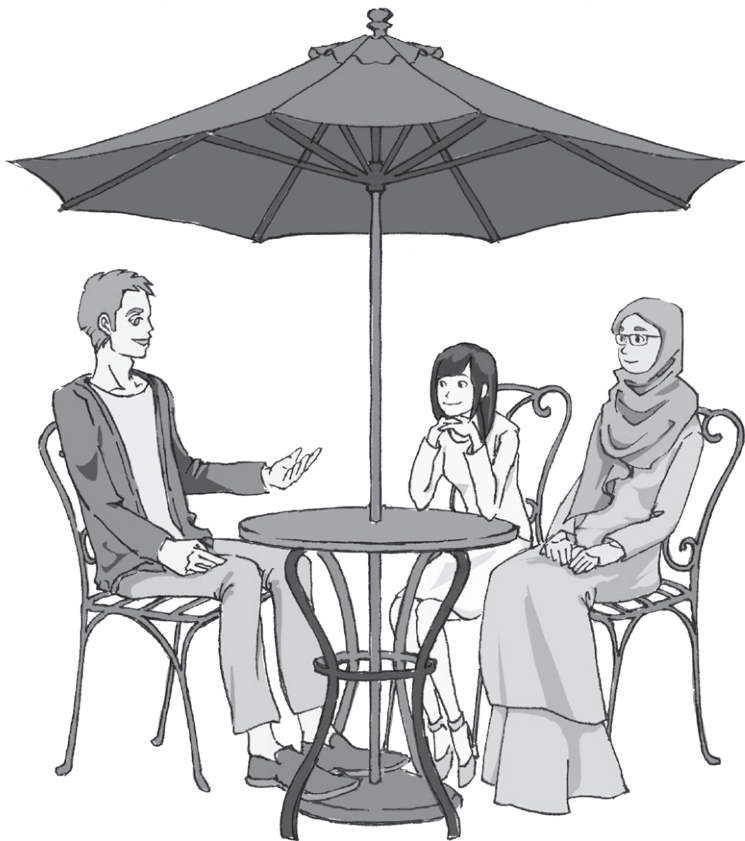
All important information concerning the entrance exam, including announcements related to disasters or infectious diseases is posted on our website:

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

Number of seats available for 2027 Admission

April 2027 Intake*	October 2027 Intake	
25 students	Application Period 1	15 students
—	Application Period 2	20 students

*Japanese language proficiency is not required for Discovery Admission. However, for April Intake, the orientation after enrollment will be conducted in Japanese. Therefore, students entering in April are expected to have a working proficiency in Japanese.



Admission eligibility requirements

Applicants must satisfy **both** of the following requirements and demonstrate a strong commitment to pursuing their studies in the Discovery Program for Global Learners at Okayama University.

1. Academic Qualifications

Applicants must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

<> refers to information regarding students enrolling in October.

1. Have graduated from a high school (including the upper secondary course of a secondary education school) or be expected to graduate by March 31 <September 30>, 2027.
2. Have completed the third year of a Japanese National Institute of Technology (KOSEN) or be expected to complete it by March 31 <September 30>, 2027.
3. Have completed 12 years of formal school education in a foreign country or be expected to complete it by March 31 <September 30>, 2027 or be otherwise recognized as having equivalent qualifications as designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (hereafter, MEXT). Completion of 12 years of formal school education refers to completion of the final year of a standard educational curriculum.
Applicants who have completed fewer than 12 years must also have completed an officially designated preparatory education program or training course.
4. Have completed or be expected to complete by March 31 <September 30>, 2027, a curriculum at an overseas educational institution that has been officially recognized by MEXT as equivalent to a Japanese high school program.
5. Have completed or be expected to complete by March 31 <September 30>, 2027, an upper secondary course at a specialized training college with a minimum program length of three years and meeting other criteria prescribed by and officially designated by MEXT.
6. Hold an internationally recognized university entrance qualification, such as the International Baccalaureate, Abitur, Baccalauréat, GCE A Levels, International A Levels, or the European Baccalaureate.
7. Have completed a 12-year educational program at an institution accredited by an internationally recognized accreditation body, including WASC, CIS, ACSI, NEASC, Cognia, or COBIS.
8. Have passed or be expected to pass by March 31 <September 30>, 2027, the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination conducted under the relevant Japanese regulations.
(This includes applicants who have passed the former University Entrance Qualification Examination prior to its discontinuation.)
9. Have been admitted to a university under Article 90, Paragraph 2 of the Japanese School Education Act, and have passed, or are expected to pass by March 31 <September 30>, 2027, the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Certification Examination.
10. Have been admitted to a university under Article 90, Paragraph 2 of the Japanese School Education Act and are deemed to possess academic ability appropriate for university-level education.
11. Have been recognized by Okayama University, through an individual admissions eligibility screening, as possessing academic ability equivalent to or exceeding that of a high school graduate, and will have reached 18 years of age by March 31 <September 30>, 2027.

2. Residency Status (for Non-Japanese Citizens)

Applicants who do not hold Japanese nationality must be eligible to obtain a status of residence under the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act that permits enrollment in a Japanese university.

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:

Application documents must reach our office by the deadline. Late submissions or incomplete applications will not be accepted.



Preliminary screening:

The Selection Committee reviews application documents and posts results of the preliminary screening on our website(<https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>). Successful applicants move on to the final screening.



Final screening:

Those who pass the preliminary screening have interviews online. See page 21 for interview guidelines.



Screening Results:

Results of final screening and pass rates posted online (<https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>). Accepted applicants are notified individually by post and are provided with detailed information on admission procedures.

Important dates

	April 2027 Intake	Application Period 1 October 2027 Intake	Application Period 2 October 2027 Intake
Application period	October 5, 2026 – October 15, 2026 (17:00 JST*)		December 21, 2026 – January 8, 2027 (17:00 JST*)
Results of preliminary screening announced	November 20, 2026 (10:00 JST*)		February 19, 2027(10:00 JST*)
Final screening**	December 5, 2026		March 6, 2027
Results of final screening announced	December 21, 2026 (10:00 JST*)		March 19, 2027(10:00 JST*)
Deadline to complete admission procedures***	January 29, 2027 (17:00 JST*)		April 30, 2027(17:00 JST*)

*JST: Japan Standard Time

**Regarding the “Final screening”, if the number of applicants exceeds a certain number, the interview will be held on two separate days (December 5 and 6, 2026, and March 5 and 6, 2027). Applicants should check interview dates and secure their two-day availability before applying.

***For April admission, if the number of candidates who have completed the enrollment process falls short of the enrollment capacity, we may offer additional admission to eligible candidates. For October admission, if the number of candidates who have completed the enrollment process for Application Period 1 falls short of the enrollment capacity, any vacant places will be added to the quota for Application Period 2 and filled through the selection process for that period. Furthermore, if the number of candidates who have completed the enrollment process for Application Period 2 falls short of the enrollment capacity, we may offer additional admission to eligible candidates.

How to apply

Application Deadlines

2027 April and October Intake (Period 1): October 15, 2026 (17:00 JST)

2027 October Intake (Period 2): January 8, 2027 (17:00 JST)

Step 1	Documents to be submitted by post 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. Late submissions or incomplete applications may 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.
- If an applicant engages in or attempts to engage in any misconduct or fails to follow the instructions of the Discovery staff, including interviewers, regarding their application or during the exam, they may be disqualified from the selection process and a police report may be filed. The following actions are considered as misconduct:
 - (a) Intentionally providing false information on the application system and submitting an application with a manipulated or edited photo or 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 interview.
 - (d) Using any equipment other than the one specified for use during the interview.
 - (e) Communicating with others during the interview.
 - (f) Any other act that may compromise the fairness of the exam or be considered misconduct by Okayama University.

Application checklist

*The following documents should be submitted to the Discovery Office by the application deadline. Please note that some documents must be submitted by post mail while others online.

Check	To submit by post
☐	Copy of graduation certificate 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.
☐	Reference form
☐	Standardized test results (OPTIONAL)

Check	To submit online
☐	Okayama University online application system
☐	Official English proficiency test scores *If you have received five years or more of your secondary education in English, submission is NOT required.
☐	Proof of Japanese proficiency (OPTIONAL)
☐	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 (forms) 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>Download the form available online for statement certifying expected graduation date.</i> <i>*Applicants who can submit the official Japanese school report prescribed by MEXT are not required to submit this document.</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) <i>*Applicants who can submit the official Japanese school report prescribed by MEXT are not required to submit this document.</i>	• 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	Reference form (REQUIRED) <i>Download the form available online.</i>	• Reference form 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 rating on your ability to think logically and critically, as well as on your initiative, consistency, patience, and emotional maturity, the referee is also encouraged to provide information on your academic performance and ability to succeed in a multi-cultural environment. • Reference form can be in either English or Japanese.

4	Standardized test results (OPTIONAL)	• Applicants who have taken standardized exams typically used for university admissions 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.
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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 inquiries 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



Okayama University online application system

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

In addition to submitting documents by post and online, please be ready to enter the following information on the online application system at the time of application:

- 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 school to your most recent education, including school names, locations, and dates attended
- List of other standardized tests taken (OPTIONAL)
- English and Japanese language proficiency test scores, including test dates and test scores
- Scholarship information
- Names of other universities you are applying to (OPTIONAL, your response will not affect your application).
- List of how you have learned about the Discovery Program for Global Learners

*Save a copy of the completed form for your records.

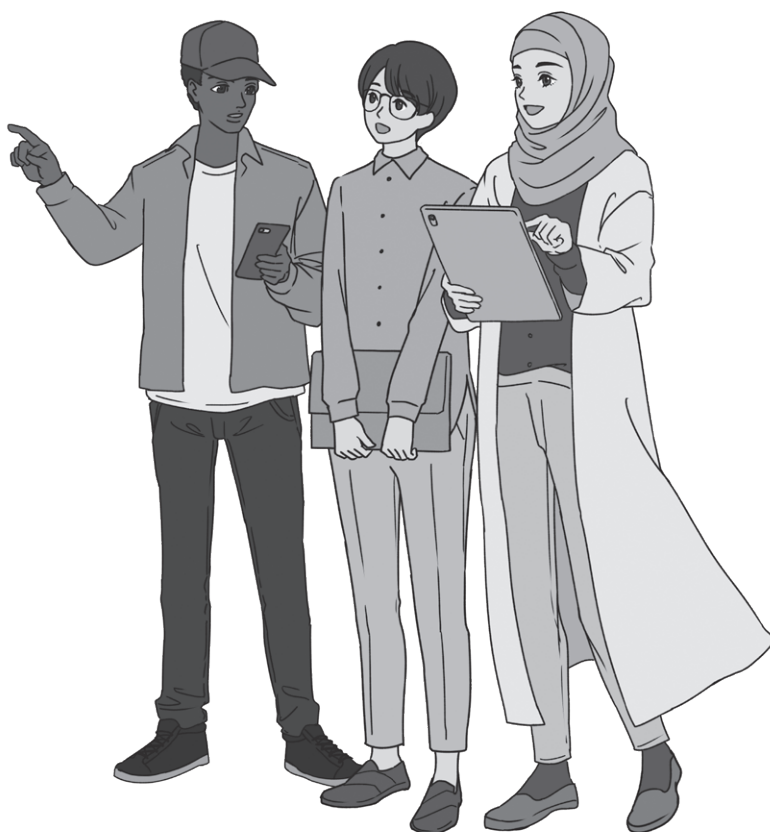


Application documents to submit online system

1	Official English proficiency test scores REQUIRED for applicants who have not received five years or more of their secondary education in English.	• Scores must be from exams taken after September 2024. 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. However, most instructions will be conducted in English, and CEFR-equivalent level B2 or higher is highly recommended. English ability is evaluated comprehensively through standardized test scores, personal statements, 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 CBT/IELTS/TEAP/TOEFL iBT/TOEIC Listening & Reading Test and TOEIC Speaking & Writing Tests/IB English Score (Predicted Scores included). Details are provided on pages 14-15.
2	Proof of Japanese proficiency (OPTIONAL)	• Applicants who have taken a Japanese language proficiency test (e.g., JLPT) are strongly encouraged to submit their scores as optional material. • Japanese language proficiency is not required for application. However, for April Intake, the orientation after enrollment will be conducted in Japanese, and a language proficiency (CEFR-equivalent level B2 or higher) is recommended. For information on the CEFR standards for Japanese language proficiency, please see page 2. Applicants who wish to take courses offered by other faculties after enrollment will be required to demonstrate Japanese language ability at the time of interview. • For details regarding Japanese language proficiency, please see page 27.
3	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 16-17.
4	ID photo (REQUIRED)	• Submit a 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. *Please do not edit or manipulate the photos.

5 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 can only be refunded under the following circumstances: incomplete and unaccepted applications, an erroneous double payment, or cases where applicants who are eligible for an application fee waiver as described below were unable to obtain the required supporting documents within the application period and therefore paid the application fee and completed the required application procedures.
- The deadline for requesting a refund is March 31, 2027.
- Application Fee Waiver
Okayama University provides an exemption from the application fee for undergraduate admissions and other entrance examinations in order to reduce the financial burden on applicants affected by disasters that were subject to the Disaster Relief Act on or after April 2025 and to help ensure their opportunities to pursue higher education. For details, please refer to the University's website:
<https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/tp/admission/menjo.html>



List of accepted English proficiency tests

Qualification/Certification	Notes
Cambridge English : C2 Proficiency C1 Advanced B2 First / B2 First for Schools B1 Preliminary / B1 Preliminary for Schools A2 Key / A2 Key for Schools	- Only scores within the range for which an official certificate is issued will be accepted. - Test results are accepted regardless of whether the applicant has passed or failed the examination.
EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency EIKEN: Grades 1 to 3 EIKEN S-CBT: Grades Pre-1 to 3 EIKEN S-Interview: Grades 1 to 3	- Pass/fail results of the test (grade) are not considered. - Score certificates must display the test scores for all 4 skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking) to be accepted.
GTEC (CBT type) GTEC (Test type)	GTEC (Assessment Type) and GTEC (Assessment Digital) are not accepted.
International English Language Testing System: IELTS (Academic Module)	IELTS (General Training Module) will not be accepted.
Test of English for Academic Purposes (TEAP) : TEAP (Four Skills)	TEAP (Two Skills) will not be accepted.
TOEFL iBT®	- Only scores based on the “Test Date” will be accepted (MyBest® scores are not accepted). - TOEFL iBT® Home Edition will not be accepted.
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 TOEIC® Institutional Program (IP Test) 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 online system (see page 12)” 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	Cambridge English (Note 1)	EIKEN (Note 2)	GTEC (CBT type) (Test type)	IELTS (Academic Module)	TEAP (4 skills)	TOEFL iBT®	TOEIC® L & R and S & W (Note 3)
CEFR-equivalent level							
C2	200-230			8.5-9.0		6 (114-120)	
C1	180-199	2600-3299	1350-1400	7.0-8.0	375-400	5-5.5 (95-113)	1845-1990
B2	160-179	2300-2599	1180-1349	5.5-6.5	309-374	4-4.5 (72-94)	1560-1840
B1	140-159	1950-2299	930-1179	4.0-5.0	225-308	3-3.5 (42-71)	1150-1555
A2	120-139	1700-1949	680-929		135-224		625-1145
A1	100-119	1400-1699	260-679				320-620

(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 correspondence between each Cambridge English exam, the CEFR-equivalent level, and the score ranges for which a certificate is issued is as follows:

Cambridge English examinations	Certified Score Range	CEFR-equivalent 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 correspondence between each EIKEN test (grade), the CEFR-equivalent level, and the score ranges for which scores are calculated is as follows:

Grade of EIKEN	Score ranges	CEFR-equivalent 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) For TOEIC, the TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Tests scores should be multiplied by 2.5 and added together.

(Note 4) 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 offer 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.

Please submit all three of the following personal statements.

Part A	Statement of Interest	Part B	Topic of Interest	Part C	Extracurricular Activities
Part B: The format of the topic of interest differs depending on whether you have selected “Social Sciences & Humanities” as your primary choice or the “Sciences & Applied Sciences” field as your primary choice in “Desired Area(s) of Study” in online application system. Please prepare your submission according to your chosen field.					

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 or generative AI platforms, 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 in the designated space (one A4 sheet) 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? (see “Fields of study” (pp.18-19)) •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 Sciences & Humanities” as your primary choice in “Desired Area(s) of Study” in online application system)
Write a short essay of 450 to 500 words in the designated space (one A4 sheet) 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 “Sciences & Applied Sciences” as your primary choice in “Desired Area(s) of Study” in online application system)
Explain any two of the following topics in the designated space (one A4 sheet): • 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. • There are two types of waves: longitudinal waves and transverse waves. Explain the difference between these two types of waves. Are radio waves and light longitudinal or transverse waves? Please also describe a method for experimentally determining this. • 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. <i>Note: Set and specify the detailed conditions necessary to explain the problem. Also, explain other phenomena that occur by the same principle.</i>	
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 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. 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.

Subjects taught in English (introductory courses) and in Japanese (advanced courses)

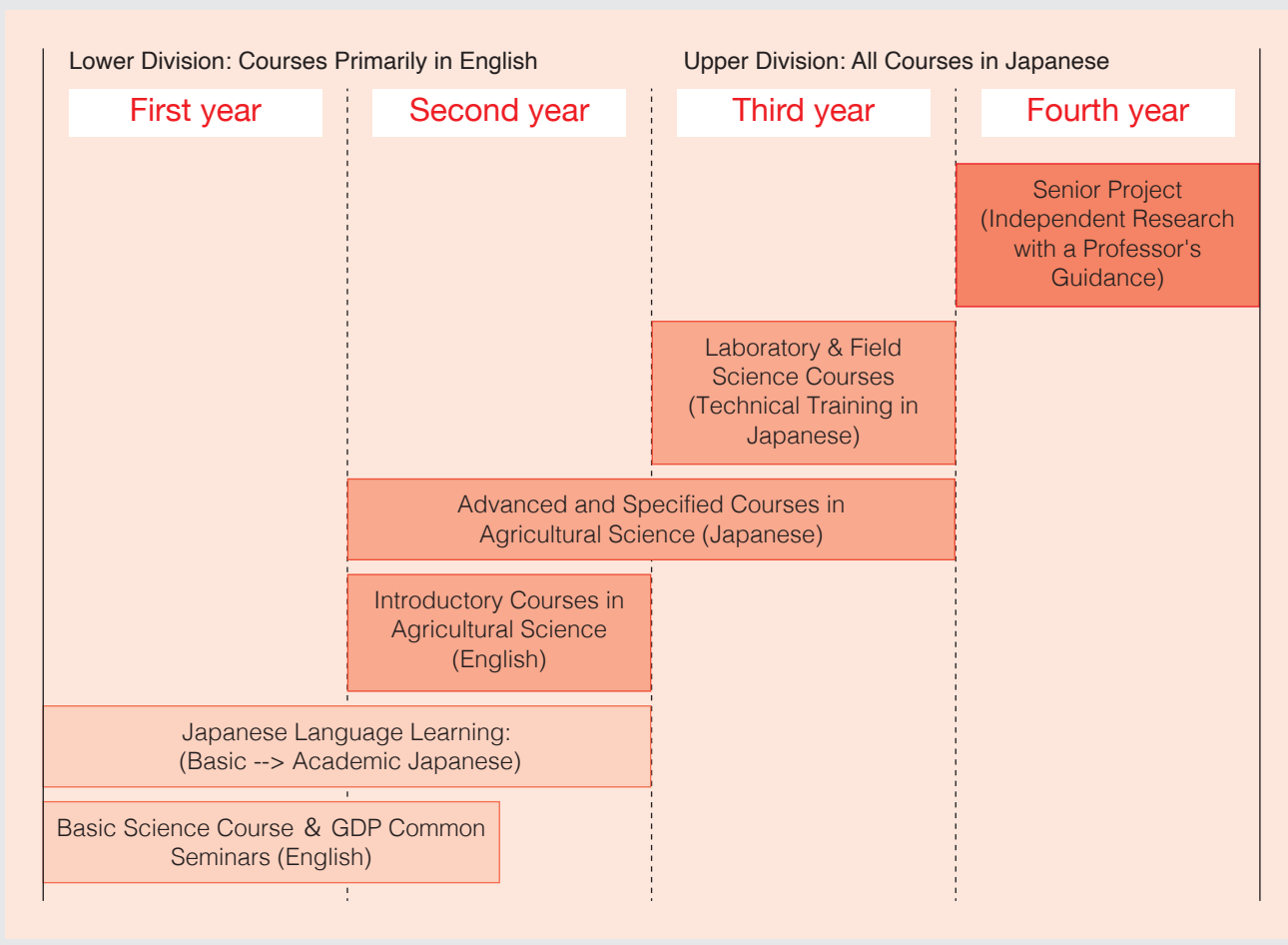
Transdisciplinary Sciences

To understand today's wide-ranging and interdisciplinary issues, including environmental problems, a scientific perspective is essential. In this field, students can learn the fundamentals of natural sciences and technology, including mathematics, and statistics, and science in English. By combining the knowledge they acquire with specialized courses offered in Japanese by other faculties within the university, students can further enhance their scientific knowledge and skills. In addition, by applying scientific analytical methods and integrating courses from other fields within the Discovery Program in English, students can deepen their interdisciplinary learning and research.

Agricultural Science

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:



Course Enrollment in Other Faculties

Students with advanced Japanese proficiency (CEFR-equivalent level B2 or higher) and have the will and ability to acquire the prerequisite knowledge required in their intended field of study. For information on the CEFR standards for Japanese language proficiency, please see page 2.

Please note that if you are interested in only taking courses from a specific faculty, we recommend that you apply directly to the faculty instead of the Discovery Program for Global Learners.

For details of the curriculum, please refer to the following website:

https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/about_discovery/

Senior Project in Affiliated Schools, Faculties, and Department*

In cooperation with the nine affiliated schools, faculties, and department at Okayama University, Discovery students can benefit from the campus wide interdisciplinary education. If approved by the affiliated school, faculty, or department, students may conduct their senior project under the guidance of the faculty members from those sections. Please note that all GDP students will receive Bachelor of Arts and Sciences upon successful completion of their undergraduate career (NOT Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of Economics, etc.). Furthermore, Discovery students are not eligible for the qualifications and licenses associated with designated schools, faculties, departments, including licenses in teaching, nursing, architecture, etc.

*GDP affiliated schools, faculties, and departments:

School of Letters, School of Education, Faculty of Law, School of Economics, School of Science, School of Engineering, School of Agriculture, School of Health Sciences (Medical School), and Department of Pharmaceutical Technology (School of Pharmaceutical Sciences).

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.

For more information, visit the website below:

<https://www.ipec.okayama-u.ac.jp/language/japanese/>

Interview guidelines

- The Discovery Program conducts interviews in English (and Japanese where applicable) in lieu of a written entrance examination.
- Interviews will be conducted online via Microsoft Teams (an online meeting tool) 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 or to write short passages 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 admission staff, including faculty members, 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 note the date and time of the interview and print out your Applicant Card to show during the pre-interview checks as well as interview via Teams.
- 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. Please notify the Discovery Office immediately if you decide to withdraw from the application/exam/admission process.

Allocation of points

Selection Stage	Document Screening	Individual Interview (including an oral examination)	TOTAL
Preliminary Screening	800	—	800
Final Screening	800*	1200	2000

(Note 1) Items marked with an asterisk (*) are included in the interview evaluation. Selection is conducted based on a comprehensive evaluation of the following:

application documents (including the personal statements, official transcript, and results of English proficiency tests) and an individual interview (including an oral examination).

(Note 2) Applicants who do not take the pre-interview checks and examination on the designated day will be regarded as having withdrawn from the selection process and will be disqualified.

Requesting a different interview time

- The Admissions staff makes every effort to ensure that candidates are assigned a reasonable interview time during day time or early evening hours in their local time zone.
- We recognize that assigned times may 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 admission 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 23)
*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

April 2027 Intake / Application Period 1 October 2027 Intake	January 29, 2027 (17:00 JST*)
Application Period 2 October 2027 Intake	April 30, 2027 (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 admission 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, 2027 for April admission, and by September 30, 2027 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 results

Entrance exam results will be posted online between May 6 and May 31, 2027. If you would like access to the information, please contact the Discovery Office.

Student visas

In order to study in Japan, an international student 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 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 conditions in Japan and students' home countries.

Fees

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 the governments or private funding organizations.

Admission fee

Amount	Notes
¥282,000 (expected)	The fee must be paid at the time of enrollment procedures (see page 22).

- If the admission fee is revised at the time of admission, the new fee will apply.
- 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. Even if granted a postponement, however, the student is still responsible to pay the admission fee after arriving on campus.

Tuition

Category	Amount	Notes
For Japanese Students and Others	Annual Tuition Fee : ¥642,960 (expected) (1st Semester : ¥321,480 (expected) 2nd Semester : ¥321,480 (expected))	① If the tuition fee is revised at the time of admission or during enrollment, the revised tuition fee will apply from the date of the revision. For further details, please visit the university website: https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/index.html
For International Students*	Annual Tuition Fee : ¥1,339,500 (expected) (1st Semester : ¥669,750 (expected) 2nd Semester : ¥669,750 (expected))	② The first tuition payment will be due after enrollment. Details regarding the payment method will be provided in the enrollment guide during the admission procedures.

*“International students” refers to those who reside in Japan with the status of residence of “Student” as stipulated in Appended Table I-4 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Cabinet Order No. 319 of 1951). Students whose status of residence is other than “Student” are included in the “Japanese students and others” category.

For all international students in the Discovery Program for Global Learners, tuition reductions will be provided to bring their tuition to the same level as Japanese students. In addition, only students with particularly outstanding academic performance will be eligible for planned full tuition waivers or scholarships. Please refer to the program website for further details.

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

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

Scholarships

Scholarships for international students

- Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship
- JASSO Scholarships
- Scholarships and Tuition reductions for GDP students
https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/prospective_students/s/
- Other Scholarships
<https://intl.okayama-u.ac.jp/support/scholarships/list/>

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

- Partial or Full Exemption of Admission Fees/Tuition Fees
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.html>
- JASSO <https://www.jasso.go.jp/shogakukin/kyufu/index.html>

Other

- Postponement for Enrollment Fee Payment
- Exemption from Enrollment Fee and Tuition Fee for students affected by a severe disaster
https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/tp/life/seikatu_a1.html
- Other Scholarships
http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/tp/student/seikatu_a2.html



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, and/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	April 2027 Intake / Application Period 1 October 2027 Intake: September 11, 2026 Application Period 2 October 2027 Intake: November 13, 2026
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)

Admission:

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.

Is there any difference in the selection methods between the April Intake, Application Period 1 of the October Intake, and Application Period 2 of the October Intake?

No. The selection methods for the Discovery Admission are all the same. Applicants may apply for either the April Intake or Application Period 1 of the October Intake, and may also apply for Application Period 2 of the October Intake.

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 may submit either set of documents first. There is no preference for the order of submission.

I am currently attending a Japanese language school/university. Can I submit the reference form prepared by someone from the Japanese language school/university?

Yes, the reference form may be prepared by a person from the Japanese language school/university.

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

We encourage all applicants to submit the results of standardized test scores if available. However, submitting these standardized test scores are not mandatory.

Can I have documents that need to be sealed, such as transcripts, 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 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 because the main language of the Discovery Program is English. However, those who have received five years or more of their secondary education in English do not need to submit test scores.

Why is Japanese proficiency at CEFR-equivalent level B2 or higher recommended for April intake?

For April intake, all guidance and other information at the university level will be provided in Japanese. In order to start your university life smoothly, we require high level of Japanese proficiency.

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 14-15 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:

- Enter the information using a computer instead of a smartphone.
- Try using different web browsers.
- 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 through Flywire or at convenience stores in Japan.

Frequently asked questions (continued)

Curriculum:

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.

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 Language Education.

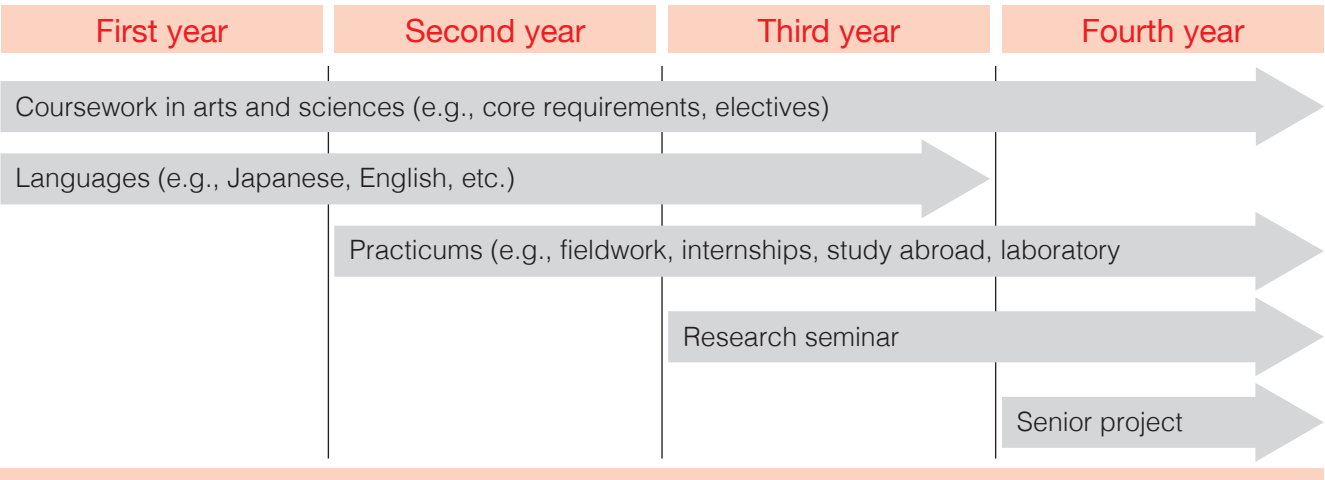
What is an interdisciplinary approach?

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?

A full list of courses offered by the Discovery Program is available on our website. 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 18-20). Students must demonstrate both academic rigor and strong critical thinking skills by gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information, practicing, and presenting their findings to faculty and peers.

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-level 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. Through the “Okayama International Student Career Support Program” (commonly known as “Oka-Career”), Okayama University supports international students from diverse backgrounds in their career development and integration into Japanese society.



Oka-Career



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<Notes>



University Mark

OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

DISCOVERY PROGRAM FOR GLOBAL LEARNERS

2-1-1 Tsushima-naka, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530 JAPAN
Email: admission_discovery@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp

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

