

I Doctoral Program of the Future University Hakodate Graduate School: Outline of the Selection Process for International Students Applying to Enter in September 2026 or April 2027 (Schedule A)

1 Recruitment of students

For the Graduate School of Systems Information Science, with a specialization in systems information science

Entrance in April, 2027 A few international students will be accepted

Entrance in September, 2026 A few international students will be accepted

2 Application period and entrance examination dates (Schedule A)

Period of filing application for preliminary assessment of qualifications

May 25 (Mon.) - June 1 (Mon.), 2026

Application period June 15 (Mon.) – June 26 (Fri.), 2026

Entrance examination dates One day during July 29 (Wed.) – August 6 (Thu.), 2026

Announcement of qualified entrants August 20 (Thu.), 2026

3 Site of entrance examination

Online or Onsite (Future University Hakodate)

Note: Please refer to page 1 for the details.

II Application and selection process

1. Required qualifications of applicants

A person who can apply for special admission to the Graduate School as an international student must satisfy all of the following conditions (1) and (2):

- (1) The person must have a student visa for foreigners who study at universities in Japan, as specified in the Immigration-Control and Refugee-Recognition Act or must acquire this visa by the time of entrance to the university.
- (2) The person must satisfy any of the following criteria:
 - (a) The person who has a Master's degree or professional school credentials; or will receive a Master's degree or professional school credentials by March 31, 2027.
 - (b) The person who has received academic credentials from an overseas university equivalent to a Master's degree or professional school degree, or will receive academic credentials from an overseas university equivalent to a Master's degree or professional school degree by March 31, 2027.
 - (c) The person in Japan who has completed correspondence courses offered by a foreign university and has received academic credentials equivalent to a master's degree or professional school degree or will receive academic credentials equivalent to a Master's degree or professional school degree by March 31, 2027.
 - (d) The person in Japan who has completed a course of study containing the program of a foreign graduate school (separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology) at an educational institution that belongs to the school education system in the foreign country. Also, the person must have credentials of a Master's degree or academic credentials equivalent to a professional degree or will receive credentials of a Master's degree or academic credentials equivalent to a professional degree by March 31, 2027.
 - (e) The person who has completed a course of the United Nations University and has received academic credentials equivalent to a Master's degree or will receive academic credentials equivalent to a Master's degree by March 31, 2027.
 - (f) The person who has completed a curriculum at a foreign university with education facilities recognized by the above required qualifications stated in (d) or the United Nations University, passed examinations prescribed in Article 16-2 of Standards for Establishment of Universities (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education No. 28 of 1974) or will pass examinations by March 31, 2027, and recognized to have academic ability equivalent to a Master's degree by the Graduate School of Future University Hakodate (hereinafter referred to as "the person equivalent to have Master's degree).

- (g) Is designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (1988, Ministry of Education, Notification No. 118)

This refers to the following. First, it refers to ‘the person who has received a Bachelor’s degree, then undertaken research for two years or more at a university or at a research laboratory, and, through this/her research results is recognized by this university as having academic ability equivalent to a person holding a Master’s degree.’ Second, it refers to ‘the person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country’ or ‘the person who has completed a 16 year study program as part of the school education of a foreign country by completing Japanese correspondence courses offered by a school from this foreign country.’ This person should ‘then have undertaken research for two years or more at a university or at a research laboratory, and, through his/her research results, be recognized by this university as having academic ability equivalent to a person holding a Master’s degree.’

- (h) The person whom this Graduate school recognizes, through examination of his/her individual qualifications, as having academic ability equivalent to someone with a Master’s degree or professional school credentials, and who will be at least 24 years old by March 31, 2027.

* (h) applies to persons who do not have a Master’s degree.

Note 1: According to the Immigration Services Agency, it normally takes between one and three months to obtain a status of residence. At the Future University Hakodate, the procedure to obtain is started from the date of the announcement of successful entrants. If you wish to enroll in September 2026, you may not be able to come to Japan on the expected enrollment date due to insufficient processing time. If you have not already had a foreign student visa, please consider enrolling in April 2027.

(Ref.) Immigration Services Agency-Application for a certificate of eligibility
<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/16-1.html>

Note 2: Among the above, a person who wants to apply as qualified according to the condition in (2) (f), (g), or (h) must have his or her qualifications assessed in advance. For details, see II-3, ‘Preliminary assessment of applicant qualifications.’

Note 3: For persons entering the Graduate school in September 2026, please replace March 31, 2027 with September, 2026.

2. Preliminary assessment of applicant qualifications

Regarding the application qualification condition (2)(f), (g), or (h) above, persons in this category will have their qualifications assessed before they make a formal application. Persons in this category should attach the documents in (1) below to their application and make their application within the prescribed application period. At this point, it is not necessary to send payment for the fee for the entrance examination.

(1) Application documents

- i) Application for preliminary examination of qualifications
- ii) Curriculum vitae
- iii) Research plan (only for required qualifications (g) and (h))
- iv) Transcript of grades from last school attended
- v) A certificate of graduation or completion from the last school attended
- vi) A statement and summary of research results (only for required qualifications (g) and (h))
- vii) A document summarizing results achieved at work (only for required qualifications (g) and (h) and for persons applying who have full-time jobs)
- viii) Certificate to confirm you have passed or will pass the examinations prescribed in Article 16-2 of Standards for Establishment of Universities (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education No. 28 of 1974) or will pass examinations (only for required qualification (f))

*Document in any format is acceptable, but the President’s signature is required.

For points to keep in mind when filling out the various parts of the application, please see ‘4. Application Documents.’

(2) How to submit your application

Please submit your application as specified in ‘2. How to apply’ in ‘III Points to keep in mind in applying.’

(3) Announcement of results of application

An applicant will be informed in writing of the results of his or her application by June 16 (Mon.), 2026.

Consequently, by the last day of the application period, persons who have received permission should submit the documents from ‘4 Application Documents’ below that they have not yet submitted.

3. Application Documents

Application document	Documents you must submit		Points to keep in mind when completing your application
	Applicants under criteria (2)(a) to (e)	Applicants under criterion (2)(f) to (h)	
Application slip	✓	✓	Please fill in the required items in the prescribed form, and get confirmation from the professor whom you plan to have as an adviser. We will send your entrance examination slip and notification of whether you qualified for admission to your address on this form. Please fill in your guarantor in your home country and your guarantor in Japan. Attach a 4cm by 3cm, frontal ID photo taken within three months before your application. Attach the photo to the appropriate place on the application form. Do not wear a hat in the photo.
Curriculum vitae	✓	Preliminary application document	Please fill in the required items in the prescribed form.
Research plan	✓	Preliminary application document for (g) and (h)	Please use the designated form downloaded from the university's website; Do not change the format and font style/size. Figures and tables may be included, but must be in colors that will not be affected by black and white printing. It is allowed to insert figures and tables, and fonts in figures and tables should be the same as used in the main text. The research theme must be thoroughly discussed with the expected supervisor beforehand. In the case you cite other papers and documents, please insert the list of references at the end of the research plan. For each section, there is no limit on the number of characters, but a clear and comprehensive presentation is required. Please submit a one-page research plan.
Grade transcript from last school attended	✓	Preliminary application document for (g) and (h)	Please submit this document in a sealed envelope. It should have been issued within three months before your application. Where there are courses for transfer credits, submit a list of these courses along with your grade transcript at the university you are transferring from.
Certificate of graduation (or planned graduation) from last school attended	✓	Preliminary application document for (g) and (h)	Please submit this document in a sealed envelope. It should have been issued within three months before your application.
Research results and summary	✓	Preliminary application document for (g) and (h)	Any of the following achievements (1) to (4) are considered research results, and an applicant can submit more than one achievement. (1) Research paper (a paper presented at an academic conference, a graduation thesis at university or college, etc.) N.B.: For an academic conference paper, attach the abstract and certification of proving you to have attended the conference, (2) Research report (such as final result report of public project), (3) Document that binds design works etc. in files, (4) Software and/or hardware and its manuals developed by the applicant. Notes: -Please attach a summary for each achievement up to 2 pages of A4 paper in any format. -If the research result was obtained by an applicant and other collaborator(s), submit a document clearly stating the applicant's role and contribution, and approved and signed by co-authors and collaborators.
Recommendation letter (Principal, president, or faculty dean of last school attended)	✓	✓	Any format is acceptable.
Adviser's recommendation letter	✓	✓	Any format is acceptable.
Document describing work results	✓	Preliminary application document for (g) and (h)	Fill in the required items in the prescribed form. Only for applicant with a full-time job
Document verifying your payment of entrance examination fee	✓	✓	-
Copy of passport	✓	✓	Please submit a passport copy in which a photo of your face is recognizable.
Documents certifying level of proficiency in Japanese	Submit if available	Submit if available	-

TOEFL or TOEIC or IELTS score certification	Submit if available	Submit if available	Not necessary for applicants whose mother tongue is English
Application Slip for Preferred Interview Date	✓	✓	Please consult with your prospective supervisor regarding your preferred interview date and time before completing this.

Note: As necessary, documents other than the above may be required.

If you are unable to submit a part of documents due to unavoidable circumstances, please consult the Education Affairs Section of the administration bureau (edu@fun.ac.jp).

4. How entrants to the Graduate school are selected

Assessment of documents submitted, interviews

(* If necessary, instead of an interview, questions can be asked by using a telecommunication tool)

* In the interview, you will give a presentation for about 15 minutes on past work (research results) and your proposed research theme and plan.

5. Dates of entrance examination

The entrance examination will be held on one day during July 29 (Tue.) – August 6 (Wed.), 2026.

Regarding the interview, we will inform applicants later of the exact schedule.

III Points to keep in mind in applying

1. Pre-Consultation System

To avoid mismatches after enrollment, we require you that to confirm in advance that the prospective supervisor's research field does not significantly diverge from your own, to ascertain whether acceptance is possible, and to consult beforehand regarding your research plan. Applications for pre-consultation must be submitted by 20 days prior to the commencement date of the application period (or the application period for Preliminary assessment for applicant qualifications). For details, please refer to the following URL on our website.

URL: <https://www.fun.ac.jp/ja/admission-graduate-school/pre-consultation>

2. Entrance exam fee

30,000 yen

Please make a payment of the entrance examination fee into our designated account within the period June 15 - 26 so that the total amount we receive is ¥30,000. [Must arrive within the period]

***Be sure to follow the payment deadline: No later than June 27.**

Please deposit the fee into the following account. Transfer fees are payable by the sender.

Bank & Branch name: AOMORIMICHINOKUBANK, HAKODATE EIGYOBU

Account number: 952-2607311

Account name: kouritsudaigakuhoujinkouritsuahakodatemiraidaigaku kenteiryō
rijicho suzuki keiji

Note: Once the test fee has been paid, it cannot be refunded for any reason.

3. How to apply

Mail or directly submit the application documents to the university.

The documents must arrive by the final day of the application period.

Address to send the documents:

Education/Library Affairs Section

Education/Student Affairs Division

University Office

Future University Hakodate

116-2 Kamedanakano-cho

Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan 041-8655

Tel: 81-138-34-6421 (from overseas), 0138-34-6421 (within Japan)

If you bring your application to the university, please note that we only accept applications from 9 am to 5 pm on regular working days. The university office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, so we cannot accept applications brought in on these days.

4. Other

- (1) If any part of the application is missing, we cannot accept the application.
- (2) You cannot change the content of any documents after submission.
- (3) After the application documents are submitted and the entrance examination fee is transferred, they will not be returned to you. However, the fee may be refunded in the following cases.
 - a. The application has not been made (the application documents were not submitted or the application was not accepted) although the fee was transferred.
 - b. The fee has been transferred twice by mistake.
 - c. Other circumstances which the university deems necessary.In the case of either (a) or (b), the amount of money that is equivalent to the examination fee will be refunded by requesting a refund within two weeks from the last date of the application period. Please contact the education affairs section of the administration bureau when making a request.
- (4) If an applicant falsifies information on his or her application, the applicant's permission to study at the university will be revoked, even if the applicant has already entered the university.
- (5) When an applicant has a disability that requires special treatment or facilities on the entrance test or during the applicant's study at the university, the applicant should inform the university of this fact before applying.

IV Points to keep in mind regarding the test

- (1) For the interview, please go to the waiting room for the interview by the time designated for your interview and wait there until called for your interview.
- (2) Please turn off in advance any mobile phone or wearable devices you have before you enter the test room.
- (3) There is no place to buy lunch at the university on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, so please prepare and bring your own lunch. (There are no stores near the university that sell lunches or food.)
- (4) The university will not find lodging for you, so please independently locate accommodation.

V Announcement of successful entrants

1. Date of announcement of successful entrants August 20 (Thu.), 2026
2. How announcement of successful entrants will be made.

Successful applicants will be notified in writing by post.

VI Procedures for entering the university

1. Period for completing procedures to enter the university

August 20 (Thu.) to September 2 (Wed.), 2026

2. How to complete procedures for entering the university

Please follow the 'Guide to procedures for entering the university' that is included in the letter informing you that you have qualified to enter the university's Graduate school.

(1) Entrance fees

Please pay the entrance fee in accordance with the payment notice included in the letter informing you of your successful entrance. Please pay within the period for completion of entrance procedures. The current amounts for the entrance fee are the following. Please note that these amounts may change in 2027.

- (a) 226,000 yen for persons from the Oshima and Hiyama districts of Hokkaido
- (b) 310,000 yen for all other persons

(Note) Any applicant or any applicant with a equivalent to a parent registered continuously as a resident of any of the cities, towns, or villages below before or from April 1, 2026 will be considered a resident of Oshima or Hiyama District.

(The applicant should submit a copy of the certificate of residence for himself, herself, or the parent at the time of carrying out the university entrance procedures.)

Oshima District:

Cities- Hakodate, Hokuto

Towns- Nanae, Matsumae, Fukushima, Shiriuchi, Kikonai, Shikabe, Mori, Yakumo, and Oshamambe

Hiyama District

Towns- Esashi, Kaminokuni, Assabu, Otobe, Okushiri, Imakane, and Setana

- (2) Fee for injury benefit insurance for student education and research, and fee for compensation insurance for student education and research. The current amounts are as follows, but they may change in 2027.
- (a) Student education and research injury benefit insurance fee 2,600yen (for three years)
 - (b) Student education and research compensation insurance fee 1,020yen (for three years)

3. Points to keep in mind in completing entrance procedures

- (1) Persons who do not complete the entrance procedures within the prescribed period will be refused entrance to the university
- (2) Please confirm that you submitted all the required documents. It will be unacceptable if any are missing, and you will be unable to complete entrance procedures.
- (3) Any required documents or items that arrive after the end of the period for completing entrance procedures will not be accepted.
- (4) **Once you have sent the entrance procedure documents and entrance examination fee to the university, we cannot return either of them to you for any reason.**

VII Other

1. Tuition

The current amount of tuition is the following, but this amount may change in 2027.

(a) Amount (annual) 535,800 yen

(b) Method of payment

Payment for your annual tuition will be divided evenly between the two semesters, with 267,900 yen being required for each semester. Please pay your tuition for the first semester by the end of April and your tuition for the second semester by the end of October.

2. Scholarships, tuition exemptions, and boarding houses and apartments

Regarding these, please contact the person in the university office's education/student affairs division who is in charge of student affairs section. (E-mail: stu@fun.ac.jp)

VIII Doctoral program faculty advisers and their research areas

Faculty Member		Research Areas
Professor	ISHIO Takashi	Software engineering, program analysis, software visualization
Professor	ITO Kiyohide	Biological psychology, psychology of visual disabilities, human interface, cognitive science
Professor	INAMURA Hiroshi	Mobile computing, system software for smart devices, mobile/sensor network and their security.
Professor	OKUNO Taku	Software engineering, web services technology
Professor	KATORI Yuichi	Brain-like AI, computational neuroscience, neural network, non-linear dynamics
Professor	KANO Takeshi	Mathematical modeling
Professor	KAWAGUCHI Satoshi	Statistical mechanics, nonlinear physics
Professor	KAWAGOE Toshiji	Experimental economics, game theory, artificial markets
Professor	SAITO Asaki	Nonlinear science
Professor	SAKURAZAWA Shigeru	Biophysics (movement of muscle protein, evolution and the origins of life, functional polymers, growth of protein crystals) man-machine interface
Professor	SATO Naoyuki	Brain science, computational neuroscience, bioinstrumentation
Professor	Jiang, Xiaohong	Wireless networks, optic networks, protection of networks, mission critical networks, defense of networks and detection of attacks on them
Professor	SHIRAISHI Yoh	Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), mobility, sensing, sensor network
Professor	SUZUKI Sho'ji	Mobile robot, vision system with large field of view, network base robot service
Professor	SUMI Kaoru	Affective Computing, Persuasive Technology, Human Agent Interaction, Metaverse, Interactive Digital Storytelling, Serious Games, Intelligent Systems, Artificial Intelligence
Professor	SUMI Yasuyuki	Human interface, communication, artificial intelligence, lifelog
Professor	TAKEGAWA Yoshinari	Human computer interaction, augmented human, educational technology, music information science, entertainment computing
Professor	TSUKADA Koji	Human computer interaction, ubiquitous computing, interactive device, augmented commodities, prototyping, invention
Professor	TERAI Asuka	Cognitive science, computational cognitive modeling, cognitive neuroscience
Professor	NAGASAKI Takeshi	Computer vision, wearable systems
Professor	NAKATA Takayuki	Music perception and cognition, neuroscience of interaction, neuroscience of music
Professor	NIIMI Ayahiko	Data mining, database, artificial intelligence
Professor	HANADA Mitsuhiko	Visual information processing, perceptual psychology, experimental psychology, psychological data analysis
Professor	Ian Frank	Artificial intelligence, game theory, explanation generation, entertainment systems, interaction

Faculty Member		Research Areas
Professor	MURAI Hajime	Text mining, digital humanities, bibliometrics, affective engineering, media informatics, artificial intelligence
Professor	YOSHINAGA Natsuhiko	Mathematical modelling for/by machine Learning, soft materials, nonlinear dynamics and nonequilibrium statistical physics of biological systems, modelling of pattern formation
Professor	WADA Masaaki	IoT, fisheries informatics, marine IT