

Guideline for Application for Admission in October 2026 to the Graduate School of Social System Studies (Ph.D. Program), The University of Kitakyushu

The Graduate School of Social System Studies was established in April 2002 as a three-year Ph.D. program for those applicants who have already received Master's degree or have equivalent qualifications. Its principal mission is to offer opportunities for internationally competitive Ph.D. program in Kitakyushu in the wide range of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary issues of our society which is getting increasingly globalized and localized at the same time. Since March 2005, 128 Ph.D. degrees in Social System Studies were awarded from this program.

The Graduate School of Social System Studies currently has only one department (senko), but it has three areas of specialization, namely, Urban Societies, Thought and Culture and East Asian Societies. In April 2005, a new course in International Development Policy was established in affiliation with the Asian Growth Research Institute, Kitakyushu (AGI) to provide opportunities for those who wish to specialize in the study of international development and policy formulation in East Asia. Students in this course can complete all the academic requirements in English.

The Graduate School of Social System Studies now accepts applications from international students for admission to the program in October 2026, leading to a Ph.D. in Social System Studies, as described below in this document.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Entrance Examinations Division, The University of Kitakyushu, 4-2-1 Kitagata, Kokura Minami-ku, Kitakyushu-City, Fukuoka, JAPAN, 802-8577.

c/o Professor Tsukasa Tajima

E-mail: tajima@kitakyu-u.ac.jp

Those applicants who are currently enrolled in on another graduate program at The University of Kitakyushu should inquire directly to the Entrance Examinations Division as there is a difference in the application procedure.

Table of contents

1. Number of students to be admitted
2. Qualifications required for application
3. Application procedure
4. Test Admission Card
5. Prior evaluation of the applicant's academic achievements
6. Screening procedure
7. Interviews
8. Announcements of the results
9. Registration
10. Payments
11. Course work requirements
12. Infection Prevention Measures for Entrance Examination
13. List of courses available in English in the academic year 2026-27 (tentative)
14. Program for International Development Policy specialization in affiliation with the AGI
15. Managing of Personal Information

1. Number of students to be admitted

The official annual quota of students to be admitted is 6. However, a small number of students to be admitted specially in October will not be included in this quota.

2. Qualifications required for application

Applicants must have or are expected to have one of the following qualifications, on or before September 30, 2026.

An area of specialization in 'International Development Policy' will require a minimum TOEFL score of 80 (internet-based test) (previous version) or 4 (internet-based test) (latest version) for admission.

* The previous TOEFL version test refers to results from examinations taken on or before 20 January 2026, whilst the latest TOEFL version test refers to results from examinations taken on or after 21 January 2026.

- 1) Master's (Shushi) degree, or Professional (Semmonshoku) degree.
- 2) Graduate degree from a university outside Japan, deemed equivalent to the Master's (Shushi) degree, or Professional (Semmonshoku) degree.
- 3) Graduate degree conferred by a university outside Japan by taking courses in Japan by means of distant learning, deemed equivalent to the Master's (Shushi) degree, or Professional (Semmonshoku) degree.
- 4) Two years of research experience after obtaining a Bachelor's degree or equivalent education of more than 16 years, deemed equivalent to a Master's or Professional level academic accomplishment; and
- 5) Academic accomplishment specially approved by the prior evaluation as equivalent to Master's degree or Professional degree of a candidate, 24 years or older.

Those who wish to apply under the items 4 and 5 are referred to Section 5 for detail.

3. Application procedure

1) Application method

a. Preparations

1. Preparing a computer, smartphone or similar device with an internet connection

You may apply using a computer located outside your home, such as at school. If you do not have the necessary equipment to apply online, please contact the Entrance Examinations Division of The University of Kitakyushu (093-964-4022) in advance.

2. Preparing a printer

You will need a printer capable of printing on A4 paper (either black and white or color is acceptable).

This is required for printing your Application Form, Address Label, Test Admission Card, etc.

3. Preparation of a valid email address

You will need an email address. Email addresses associated with smartphones, mobile phones or free email services are also acceptable.

We will send important notifications regarding the entrance examination (e.g. confirmation of application registration, payment of the entrance examination fee, etc.) to this address.

4. Confirming the method of payment for the entrance examination fee

Payment methods include convenience stores, credit cards, bank ATMs and online banking. Please access the 'Online Application' website to confirm the payment method.

5. Preparing the necessary documents

As it may take time to issue or prepare documents required for the application, such as certificates and photographs, please ensure you prepare these well in advance.

6. Preparation of a No. 2 Rectangular Envelope (Kaku 2)

To submit your application materials, please prepare a commercially available No. 2 Rectangular Envelope (Kaku 2) (24cm × 33.2cm) in advance.

b. Application registration

Please complete the 'Application Registration' online.

Please access the 'Online Application' website to check the procedures for application registration and other matters.

c. Payment of the entrance examination fee

Please pay the entrance examination fee of 30,000 yen (plus a service charge of 900 yen). Please access the 'Online Application' website to check the payment procedure for the entrance examination fee.

d. Submission of application materials

Once you have completed your application registration and paid the entrance examination fee, please submit your application materials.

For details on how to submit your application materials, please refer to '2) Application periods, etc.'

*In case you have difficulty accessing the University’s website, please go directly to the “Online Application Website (<https://www.guide.52school.com/guidance/net-kitakyu-u/>)”.

2) Application periods, etc.

Application Registration and Entrance Examination Fee Payment Period (Online Registration, etc.)	General Selection (October Enrollment)	July 7, 2026 –July 21, 2026 by 16:00
Application Periods (Submission of Application Materials)	General Selection (October Enrollment)	July 14,2026–July 21, 2026 (must be received by this date)

a. Submission procedures of application materials

Please submit your application materials using the procedures described below. Please ensure that you submit your application within the ‘Application Period’. Please note that applications will not be accepted outside this period (including the application registration and entrance examination fee payment periods from July 7 to July 13, 2026 (October Enrollment).

***As a general rule, please submit your application by mail.**

1 By mail

Please affix the Address Label (see b. Application Materials; the same applies below) to the envelope containing the complete set of application materials and send it by Express Mail and Registered Mail to ensure it arrives within the above period. However, applications will be accepted even if they arrive after the above acceptance period, provided they bear a postmark from a post office (within Japan) dated no later than the day before the final day of the application acceptance period.

If submitting from outside Japan, please ensure you use EMS (Express Mail Service, International Speed Post). In this case, please allow sufficient time for delivery and ensure the application arrives within the application period.

*Mailing Address for Submissions: 4-2-1 Kitagata, Kokura Minami-ku, Kitakyushu-City, Fukuoka, JAPAN, 802-8577

Entrance Examinations Division, The University of Kitakyushu

2 Submitting in person

If you wish to submit your application in person at the University, please bring it to the Entrance Examinations Division (1st floor, Main Building, Kitagata Campus) as follows. Please affix the Address Label to the envelope containing the complete set of application materials and submit your application within the above acceptance period (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays).

*Reception hours: Weekdays 9:00–16:00 (excluding 12:15–13:15)

b. Application materials must include the items listed below:

Items	Notes
Application Form	Please print the Application Form after completing your online application.
Photograph Card	<p>After completing your online application, please print the Photograph Card, attach a photograph measuring 4cm (long) × 3cm (wide) to the designated area, and write your name on the back of the photograph. The photograph must be taken within the last three months prior to application, with upper body, no hat, no background and looking straight.</p> <p>*The photograph may be in color or black and white. *Please do not alter the photograph in any way.</p>
Address Label	Please print the Address Label after registering your online application. Affix the Address Label to a No. 2 square envelope (Kaku 2), check that all application materials are present, tick the box, and place them inside the envelope.
Certificate of Graduation from (or expected completion) a Master's program (Pre-Doctoral program or Professional Degree program)	Submit the official graduation certification (or official degree verification) of the Master's program; if you are still studying in the Master's program and expect to graduate, submit the official certificate of prospective graduation, instead.
Academic transcript for a Master's program (Pre-Doctoral program or Professional Degree program)	<p>Those who have already obtained Master's degree or are currently Master's program students and expect to graduate should submit an official academic transcript of the Master's program in a sealed envelope.</p> <p>Those who plan to apply based on the above qualifications 2-4) or 2-5) must submit the following documents, instead:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic transcripts of the highest academic achievement; 2. A list of publications, such as books, research reports, academic articles, equivalent to the Master's thesis; 3. No more than three articles from the above list; and 4. A descriptive summary of one of the above publications, closely related to the applicant's proposed research plan (within 1600 words). (Submit 4 copies of items 2, 3, and 4.) <p>In addition, enclose a copy of the notification of application qualification issued by us and sent to you in advance.</p>
Master's thesis and its summary	<p>Submit 4 copies of the applicant's Master's thesis and its summary in English (about 1600 words) or Japanese (4000characters).</p> <p>Master's degree holders without the Master's thesis can submit 4 copies of both an equivalent academic achievement and its summary, instead.</p>
Research proposal Form 1	Fill the supplied format.

Resident record officially stamped by the municipal administration(juminhyo)	Only for applicants residing in Japan. (Overseas applicant must submit a photo copy of his/her personal identification such as passport in lieu of the certificate.)
Proof of Japanese language proficiency	A document to show the applicant's proficiency in Japanese, if your native language is not Japanese. (except the applicants to the International Development Policy specialization, in which the language used is solely English)
Proof of TOEFL score	Submit a photo copy of TOEFL 'Test Taker Score Report'. (Only for applicants to the International Development Policy specialization)

- *If the names of the applicant are different from the ones on the certificates, official documents must be attached to prove the change.
- *For certificates written in a language other than Japanese or English, a Japanese or English translation must be attached.
- *Do not use Generative AI such as ChatGPT when preparing application documents.

c. Other matters for attention

- 1 Application is still not finished by online registration and payment of the entrance examination fee. After submitting the application materials within the application period, the application will be accepted.**
- 2 Once your application is accepted, no changes to the application materials will be permitted for any reason.
- 3 If a false statement is found in the documents, admission to the university will be revoked even if the applicant passed the entrance examination.
- 4 Applications will not be accepted if the documents are incomplete.
- 5 Application materials once officially received cannot be returned, except as noted in 6(a) below.
- 6 Once paid the entrance examination fee is non-refundable, except in the following cases. If you wish to request a refund of the entrance examination fee, please contact the Entrance Examinations Division by September 10, 2026.
 - (a) If the application is not accepted due to incomplete documents or other reasons
 - (b) If the required documents were not submitted
 - (c) If payment was accidentally made twice
- 7 Applicants who have taken the examination under the condition that they meet the application qualifications by September 30, 2026 but do not then meet the qualifications for applying, will have their admission revoked even if they have passed the entrance examination.
- 8 If you change your address after submitting your application, be sure to contact the Entrance Examinations Division.
- 9 If you are applying from outside Japan, be sure to contact the E-mail address below in advance.
E-mail: nyushi2@kitakyu-u.ac.jp
- 10 You must contact and get permission the professor you would like to have as your research supervisor before applying.**

4. Test Admission Card

1) Period during which the Test Admission Card can be printed

General Selection (October Enrollment)	August 17, 2026 – September 10, 2026
---	--------------------------------------

2) You can print your Test Admission Card from the 'Application Confirmation' screen on the online application website during the printable period. Please print it on A4 paper and fold it in half.

3) Please ensure you bring your printed Test Admission Card with you on the day of the examination.

4) Please do not write any notes or comments on the Test Admission Card. If any such writing is discovered, it may be regarded as cheating.

5) As the Test Admission Card is required for the enrolment procedure, please keep it in a safe place.

5. Prior evaluation of the applicant's academic achievements

1) Those who intend to apply without Master's level degree must contact Professor Tsukasa Tajima, Graduate School of Social System Studies and supply the materials listed below during the following periods:

For the October Enrollment, from June 22 to June 25, 2026.

- 1 Application form **Form 2**
- 2 Certificate of Graduation
- 3 Academic transcripts of the highest academic achievement
- 4 A list of publications, such as books, research reports, academic articles, equivalent to the Master's thesis;
- 5 No more than three articles from the above list; and
- 6 A descriptive summary of one of the above publications, closely related to the applicant's proposed research plan (within 1600 words).

2) Procedures of submission

***As a general rule, please submit your application by mail.**

1. By mail

Please mail the envelope containing the complete set of application materials and send it by Express Mail and Registered Mail to ensure it arrives within the above period. However, applications will be accepted even if they arrive after the above acceptance period, provided they bear a postmark from a post office (within Japan) dated no later than the day before the final day of the application acceptance period.

If submitting from outside Japan, please ensure you use EMS (Express Mail Service, International Speed Post). In this case, please allow sufficient time for delivery and ensure that your application arrives within the application period.

2. Submitting in person

If you wish to submit your application in person at the University, please bring it to the Entrance Examinations Division (1st floor, Main Building, Kitagata Campus). Please submit your application within the above acceptance period

(excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays).

Reception hours: Weekdays 9:00–16:00 (excluding 12:15–13:15)

*Mailing Address for Submissions: 4-2-1 Kitagata, Kokura Minami-ku,
Kitakyushu-City, Fukuoka, JAPAN, 802-8577

Entrance Examinations Division, The University of Kitakyushu

- 3) The result of the prior evaluation shall be sent to the applicant in mail before the application period opens. Those applicants judged to have sufficient qualification must submit other required documents and complete the application procedure in accordance with '3. Application procedure' before the stated deadline.

6. Screening procedure

- 1) Screening is based on the applicant's Master's thesis (or equivalent material) and an interview.
- 2) Language skills may be tested during the interview.
- 3) Screening of the applicants without Master's degree can be considered based on the materials received in lieu of Master's thesis and an interview.
- 4) Japanese language proficiency is additionally considered for screening of overseas applicants.(except the applicants to the International Development Policy specialization)

7. Interviews

1) Date of interviews

For the General Selection (October Enrollment), August 30, 2026.

- 2) Please ensure you bring your printed Test Admission Card with you on the day of the examination. (Test Admission Card can be printed from August 17.)
- 3) Place of the interviews is Kitagata Campus, The University of Kitakyushu. Please check the meeting time in advance by accessing our website address listed on the Test Admission Card. The location of the interview waiting room will be posted at the main front entrance.
- 4) The campus can be reached by a three-minute walk, from Keibajo-mae station of the Kitakyushu monorail.
- 5) Late arrivals will not be accepted except for delays caused by regularly scheduled public transportation. If you are late for the meeting time, you will not be able to take the examination.
- 6) If you are late for the start of the examination due to a significant delay in regularly scheduled public transportation, the examination will be held during the scheduled examination time. In such cases, the time of boarding and arrival must be recorded in advance and reported to prove that the applicant used such public transportation.
- 7) Interview is to be based on the candidate's Masters' thesis or the equivalent for the purpose of evaluating the candidate's knowledge and preparedness to pursue Ph.D. level academic work.

8. Announcement of the results

1) The result of the screening is to be announced on:

Around 10:00 am September 4, 2026.

- 2) The assigned identification numbers of the accepted candidates are to be announced on the University website around 10:00 am. In addition, the certificate and the registration forms will be individually mailed to the successful candidates.

9. Registration

1) Accepted students must register their enrollment during the periods as described below:

From September 7 to September 10, 2026.

- 2) Details regarding the enrollment procedures will be provided when the “Notice of Acceptance” is sent.
- 3) You will need your Test Admission Card to complete the enrollment procedures. Please keep it in a safe place.
- 4) If you do not complete the enrollment procedures within the designated period, your admission will be considered declined. The enrollment period will not be extended under any circumstances.
- 5) Admission will be granted to those who complete the payment of the admission fee and submit all required documents within the designated period.
- 6) Once paid, the admission fee is non-refundable under any circumstances.

10. Payments

- 1) Enrollment fee:
 - a. ¥282,000 for Kitakyushu City residents
 - b. ¥423,000 for those coming from other cities
- 2) Student accident insurance: ¥2,600
- 3) Liability Insurance coupled with “Gakkensai”:¥1,020
- 4) Tuition ¥535,800 per annum (payable in 2 installments)

N.B

- a. The fees and /or the method of payment (as stated above) are subject to change without prior notice.
- b. In case of change in the method of payment, the student will be notified about the new schedule immediately.
- c. A resident in Kitakyushu City is:
 - the student applicant himself/herself or his/her spouse or relative up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity who paid his/her municipal tax for Kitakyushu city during the previous school year.
- d. To receive the Kitakyushu City resident Treatment, the following should be submitted by those mentioned in item 'c':
 1. certificate of municipal tax payments or tax-exempt certificate of Kitakyushu City
 2. residential certificate for Kitakyushu City issued by their respective ward office

OTHER pertinent details:

- (1) For the 2026 University enrollees who want to avail of the municipal tax payment certificates, he or she should have lived in Kitakyushu City by January 1, 2025.
- (2) A tax-exempt certificate instead of a municipal tax payment certificate will be issued to persons who were not obliged to pay his/her municipal tax.
- (3) One cannot avail of the Residential certificate from the Ward Office if he/she has not lived in Kitakyushu City upon payment of the enrollment fee.

11. Course work requirements

Although remote learning through the Internet is used in this program, attention should be given to the fact that the required course work CANNOT be completed solely on the Internet.

12. Infection Prevention Measures for Entrance Examination

Regarding “Infection Prevention Measures for Entrance Examinations” for the “2026 Academic Year Graduate School of Social System Studies, Doctoral Program, General Selection (October Enrollment) Entrance Examination” (to be held in the 2026 academic year), details will be posted on the university website (<https://www.kitakyu-u.ac.jp/>) as soon as they are finalized, in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

13. List of courses available in English in the academic year 2026-27 (tentative)

Area	Course	Faculty
Thought and Culture	Comparative Culture Second Language Acquisition	R.S.Williamson,Ph.D.(Kumamoto) J.Larson-Hall,Ph.D.(Pittsburgh)
East-Asian Societies	International Cooperation	T.Ohira,Ph.D.(Nagoya)
International Development Policy in affiliation with AGI	The industrial development of Taiwan International Migration and Economic Development Urban and Regional Development	C.Kishimoto,Ph.D. (Sussex) E.Dai,Ph.D.(Kyoto) X.Peng,Ph.D. (Kitakyushu)

Note:

- a. Inquiry should be made to confirm the latest faculty list.
- b. Refer to the special announcement for details of the International Development Policy special program below.
- c. More courses are available in Japanese. Refer to the Japanese document.

14. Program for International Development Policy specialization in affiliation with the AGI

- 1) An area of specialization in ‘International Development Policy’, where students can complete all study requirements in English. This specialization is offered in affiliation with the Asian Growth Research Institute, Kitakyushu(AGI). This program is a part of the efforts for The University of Kitakyushu to strengthen its research in the East Asian and foreign studies.
- 2) This course, offering a doctoral degree, aims at preparing students to attain the capability for working globally as a professional for research and/or policy formulation in the field of international development and regional administration in Asia.
- 3) Screening of candidates for this specialization takes place at the same time as in the other areas.
- 4) Students in this specialization should select one of the AGI professors as his/her academic advisor.
- 5) Inquiries for this specialization should be addressed to:
Professor Tsukasa Tajima, Doctoral Program Coordinator,
Graduate School of Social System Studies,
tajima@kitakyu-u.ac.jp
or
Dr. Erbiao Dai, Research Professor of AGI,
dai@agi.or.jp

15. Managing of Personal Information

The University of Kitakyushu will manage personal information provided to the University in connection with applications appropriately, in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Management Regulations of The University of Kitakyushu.

[Purpose of Use of Personal Information]

The personal information collected by the University will be used for the admissions selection process and for the following purposes.

(1) Personal information such as the applicant’s name, date of birth, contact information, and academic records will be used for student selection, announcement of admission results, enrollment procedures, research, and the performance of tasks incidental to these activities.

(2) Personal information of successful applicants will be used for tasks related to pre-enrollment guidance for incoming students, academic affairs after enrollment, student support, tuition collection, and other related matters.

[Outsourcing of Personal Data Managing]

The University may outsource some or all of its personal information managing operations to external parties within the scope of the purposes of use.

In such cases, the University will select contractors recognized as managing personal information appropriately, stipulate necessary measures to prevent leaks of personal information—such as proper management and confidentiality—in contracts or other agreements and ensure that appropriate management is implemented.

Prior Evaluation Form for Admission to the Graduate School of Social System Studies, The University of Kitakyushu

(Screening for Admission in October 2026)

Examinee No.: _____ (Do not fill in.)

Name: _____ Gender: M F

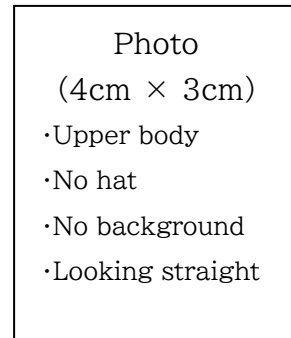
Birthday: _____

Age as of October 1, 2026: _____

Nationality: _____

Attach a recent photo of yourself here.

(4cm × 3cm):



Contact(Mailing Address) : _____

Home or Mobile Telephone Number: _____

E-mail : _____

Emergency contact : (Name) _____ (Phone Number) _____
(E-mail) _____

Work Address: _____

Work Telephone Number or Mobile: _____

English Proficiency (internet-Based TOEFL): _____

Post-secondary Education or Undergraduate: _____

Degree Type: _____ Completion date: _____

Postgraduate: _____

Degree Type: _____ Completion date: _____

Desired Field of Specialization : _____

I wish to study under: _____ (name of academic advisor)

Proposed Field of Study: _____ (short title)

Work Experiences: (list all your work/academic experience after obtaining Bachelor's degree.)

試験会場



お問い合わせ先

北九州市立大学 入試・研究支援課入学試験係

〒802-8577 北九州市小倉南区北方四丁目2番1号

TEL: 093-964-4022

E-mail: nyushi2@kitakyu-u.ac.jp

https://www.kitakyu-u.ac.jp/



北九州市立大学 公式マスコットキャラクター

きたきゅっち