

Information for application for admission in April 2026 to the Graduate School of Social System Studies, 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, 122 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 will accept applications for admission to the program in April 2026, leading to a Ph.D. in Social System Studies, as described below in this document.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Admission Office, 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 Admission Office as there is a difference in the application procedure.

Handling of Personal Information

Personal information in the possession of the University will be handled appropriately in accordance with the Personal Information Protection and Management Regulations of The University of Kitakyushu, and will not be used for any purpose other than those listed below, nor will it be provided to any third party.

1 Personal information such as applicant's name, date of birth, and contact information will be used for the selection of applicants, announcement of acceptance, admission procedures, research and study, and the performance of related tasks.

2 Personal information of successful applicants will be used to provide pre-admission guidance to those who have applied for admission, and to perform tasks related to teaching, student support, and tuition fee collection after admission.

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1. Number of students to be admitted

The official annual quota of students to be admitted in April 2026 is 6.

2. Qualifications required for application

Applicants must have or are expected to have one of the following qualifications, on or before March 31, 2026.

An area of specialization in 'International Development Policy' will require a minimum TOEFL score of 80 (internet-based test) or 550 (paper-based test) for admission.

- 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 4 for detail.

3. Application procedure

- 1) Applications are accepted from July 15 through July 22, 2025 for the summer screening and from January 28 through February 3, 2026 for the winter screening. The dates should be strictly observed.

2) Applications should be mailed as a registered mail to the Admission Office with a note 'Application to the Graduate School of Social System Studies' in red on the envelope or personally delivered to the Admission Office. Admission Office is open from 9:00 to 16:00 on weekdays excluding the lunch break.

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

3) Application materials must include the items listed below:

Items	Notes
Application form	Photo must be taken within 3 months, 3cm × 4cm in size, black-and-white or color.
Identification form	Fill the supplied format.
Return envelope	Self-addressed envelope of 23.5cm × 12cm in size with ¥110 stamp attached for domestic delivery.
Academic transcripts	<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). <p><u>(Submit 3 copies of items 2, 3, and 4.)</u></p> <p>In addition, enclose a copy of the notification of application qualification issued by us and sent to you in advance.</p>
Certificate of Graduation from a Master's 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 (or of enrollment verification), instead.
Master's thesis and its summary	<p>Three copies of the applicant's Master's thesis and its summary in English (about 1600 words) or Japanese (4000 characters).</p> <p>Master's degree holders without the Master's thesis can submit three copies of both an equivalent academic achievement and its summary, instead.</p>

Research proposal	Fill the supplied format.
Application Fee *Japanese YEN only	Remit 30,000 yen to the account specified below, and send a copy of Application of Remittance along with your application. Bank name:THE BANK OF FUKUOKA, LTD Bank code(Swift Code):FKBKJPJT Branch name:KITAKYUSHU MAIN OFFICE Bank account:2555161 Name of the account:THE UNIVERSITY OF KITAKYUSHU
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 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.

4) Other matters for attention

- 1 Applications will not be accepted if the documents are incomplete.
- 2 Documents once officially received cannot be replaced or altered under no circumstances. Likewise any fees received cannot be refunded 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 Applicants who have taken the examination under the condition that they meet the application qualifications by March 31, 2026 but do not then meet the qualifications for applying, will have their admission revoked even if they have passed the entrance examination.
- 5 If you change your address after submitting your application, be sure to contact the Admission Office.
- 6 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

- 7 You must contact and get permission the professor you would like to have as your research supervisor before applying.**

4. 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 summer screening, from June 23 through June 26, 2025.

For the winter screening, from January 5 through January 9, 2026.

- 1 Application form
 - 2 Academic transcripts of the highest academic achievement
 - 3 A list of publications, such as books, research reports, academic articles, equivalent to the Master's thesis;
 - 4 No more than three articles from the above list; and
 - 5 A descriptive summary of one of the above publications, closely related to the applicant's proposed research plan (within 1600 words).
- 2) The result of the prior evaluation shall be sent to the applicant in mail. Those applicants judged to have sufficient qualification must submit other materials before the stated deadline.

5. 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)

6. Interviews

- 1) Dates of interviews

For the summer screening, August 31, 2025.

For the winter screening, March 1, 2026.

- 2) Place of the interviews is to be described on the identification form to be mailed when the application is received. The location of the interview room will be posted at the main front entrance.
- 3) The campus can be reached by a three-minute walk, from Keibajo-mae station of the Kitakyushu monorail.
- 4) Late arrivals will not be accepted except for delays caused by public transportation. If you are late for the meeting time, you will not be able to take the examination.
- 5) 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.

6) 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.

7. Announcements of the results

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

For the summer screening, 10:00 am September 5, 2025.

For the winter screening, 10:00 am March 6, 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.

8. Registration

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

For the summer screening, from January 20 through January 23, 2026.

For the winter screening, from March 23 through March 26, 2026.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. List of courses available in English in the academic year 2026 (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 Analysis	C. Kishimoto,Ph.D. (Sussex) E.Dai,Ph.D.(Kyoto) K. Tamura,Ph.D. (Tsukuba)

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.

12. 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

Application form for admission to the Graduate School of Social
System Studies, The University of Kitakyushu

(Spring screening for the academic year 2026)

Identification Number: _____ (to be left blank)

Name: _____ Sex: M F

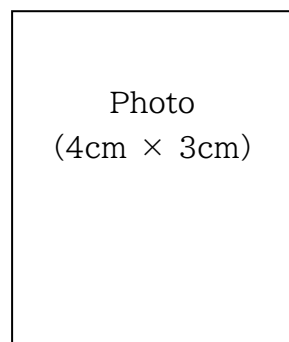
Date of Birth: _____

Age as of April 1, 2026: _____

Country of Origin: _____

Paste a recent photo of yourself here.

(4cm × 3cm):



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 (Paper-based TOEFL): _____

(internet-Based TOEFL): _____

Post-secondary Education:

Undergraduate: _____

Degree Type: _____ Completion date: _____

Postgraduate: _____

Degree Type: _____ Completion date: _____

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.)

Identification Number: _____ (to be left blank.)

Research Proposal for the Graduate School of Social System Studies

Name	Field of Specialization	Academic Advisor

1. Why do you want to study at the Graduate School of Social System Studies?
State your motivation in brief.
2. Your research proposal for the program at the Graduate School of Social System Studies.

Identification Form: This form should be carried with you to identify yourself at the interview. Fill in only the name section.

**2026 年度北九州市立大学大学院
社会システム研究科地域社会システム専攻(博士後期課程)**

一般選抜 夏期・冬期日程 入学試験受験票

受験番号	※記入不可
氏 名 (Name)	
試験日時 集合時間 試 験 場	_____年_____月_____日(日) _____時_____分 集合 北九州市立大学北方キャンパス本館

- ※ 氏名のみを記入し、その他の欄には記入しないでください。
- ※ この受験票は入学手続に必要です。試験終了後も大切に保管しておいてください。
- ※ 公共交通機関の遅延を除き、集合時間経過後の遅刻は認めません。
- ※ 出願後に住所の変更を行った場合は、必ず入学試験係へ連絡してください。
(緊急連絡先) 北九州市立大学 入試・研究支援課入学試験係 093-964-4022

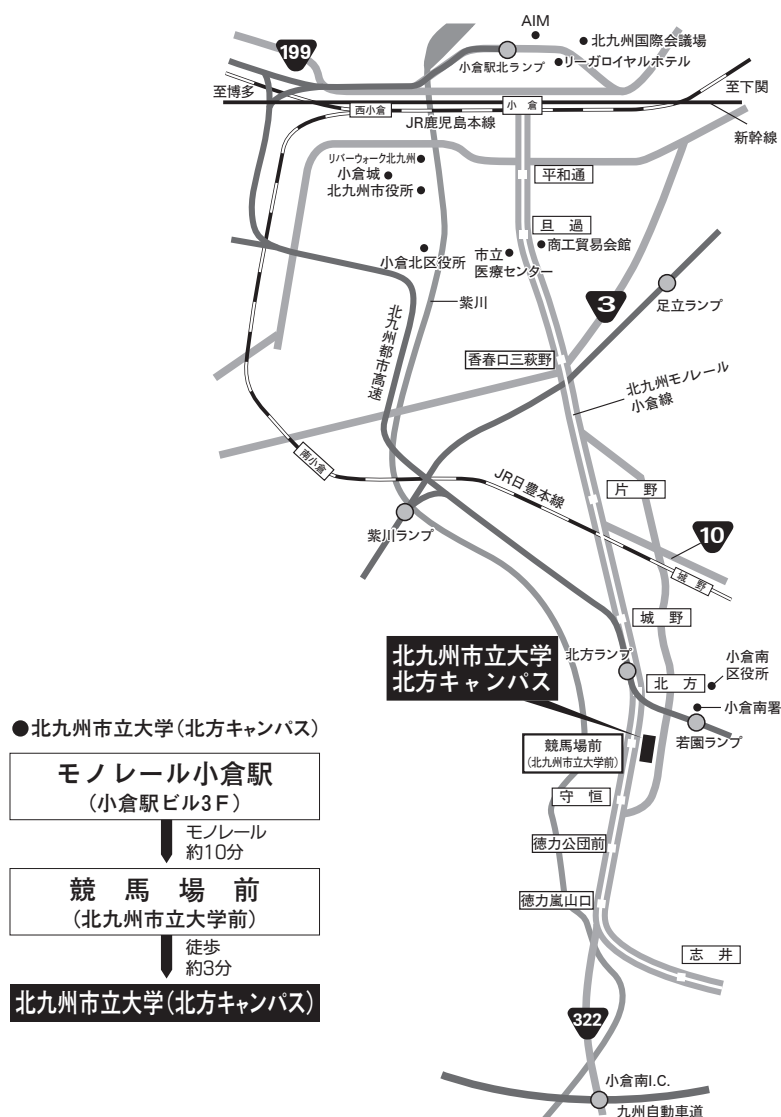
検定料
受領印

Fill in each form with your name and the address of where you wish to receive the result of the screening:

<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">〒 - 住所(Address) _____ _____</div> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;">氏名(Name) _____ 様</div>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">〒 - 住所(Address) _____ _____</div> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;">氏名(Name) _____ 様</div>
受験番号※ _____ ※記入不可	受験番号※ _____ ※記入不可

N.B. Any change of address should be immediately reported.

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

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