

The University of Osaka
Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences
Application Guidelines for Five-Year Doctoral Course
Third-Year Transfer in April 2026



This Application Guidelines is a translation from the original and shall not be regarded as official documentation. The English text has been provided merely as a reference. Please note that any official rules are based solely on the Japanese text.

Students Desired

1. Admission Policy

The Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences (hereinafter called “FBS”) is seeking individuals with a strong ambition to integrate cutting-edge experimental and theoretical research in life sciences, medicine, science, and engineering, aiming to pioneer new academic fields. We are looking for individuals with a strong commitment to learning and critical thinking, aiming to become leaders across diverse fields in the future, regardless of their academic background or past experiences.

2. Basic Policies for Student Selection

Applicants will be selected based on an oral examination on the master's thesis or alternative research paper, or on research in the desired field to be pursued in the Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences, along with an English proficiency assessment.

- The oral examination evaluates specialized knowledge, understanding, and related factors. It does not require the comprehensive quantity of knowledge typically required in general written exams.
- Please be aware that if your score does not meet the following criteria, your application will not be accepted.

The types of English proficiency tests	Score
TOEFL iBT	Total score: 62
TOEIC Listening & Reading Test	Total score: 600
IELTS Academic Module	Overall band score: 6

Overview of the Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences

1. Education Policy

Building on rapid advancements in fields such as genetic engineering, molecular cell biology, biophysics, and genomics, 20th-century life sciences have brought about a remarkable understanding of the material foundation of elements constituting living organisms, such as genes and proteins. However, we believe that life is not simply constituted by the aggregation of substances; rather, it should be understood as a system where these life elements are dynamically and organically integrated.

We perceive that elucidating how life elements are integrated and constructing life systems is a significant challenge in 21st-century life sciences. Our goal is to create new fields of study that should evolve as the forefront of future life sciences. To achieve this, we have established a new research framework by integrating disciplines from medicine, engineering, and the science. Through the integrated five-year doctoral program, we aim to cultivate individuals who will excel as advanced specialists and researchers spearheading cutting-edge studies in the forefront research environments of universities and research institutions. Additionally, we strive to nurture individuals who will emerge as leaders in broader fields in society.

2. Education Program

◆ Education in cutting-edge knowledge and technology

At FBS, we aim to create new fields through the integration of medicine, life sciences, engineering technology, and theory. Our staff, who play leading roles domestically and internationally, will impart

cutting-edge knowledge and technology. At the same time, we will provide education that aims to merge academic disciplines. Through such an educational system, we aim to nurture individuals capable of pioneering the next-generation leading field in life sciences on a global scale. These individuals will also be equipped to contribute the outcomes of life function research back to society.

◆ Education that embraces individuality

We welcome applicants not only from the University of Osaka but also from other universities, with backgrounds in the science departments such as medicine, dentistry, human sciences, psychology, engineering, engineering science, pharmaceutical sciences, science, agriculture, etc. Additionally, we extend our scope to include individuals from humanities and social sciences departments who possess aptitude and a clear sense of purpose.

We provide foundational education in unexplored fields for students with diverse backgrounds. Additionally, we conduct education that allows students to leverage their previously acquired knowledge and skills (individuality) without wasting them.

◆ Broad education

The creation of new technologies and fields requires diverse experiences. Furthermore, in order to give back our achievements to society through diverse means, it is beneficial to engage in a wide range of experiences.

We offer education that goes beyond imparting cutting-edge knowledge and technology. Our approach includes experiential learning in diverse fields, instruction from industry experts, and education that addresses societal needs, including research experiences in corporate settings.

3. Standard period of study and Requirements for Completion

◆ Standard period of study

The standard period of study is 3 years. It is not possible to exceed a total enrollment period of 5 years. The enrollment period does not include periods of leave of absence (maximum of 3 years).

◆ Requirements for completion

To be conferred with a doctoral degree, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 3 years (within a maximum period of 5 years), accumulate 10 or more credits through the completion of required courses, receive necessary research guidance, and pass the final dissertation defense. Those who demonstrate outstanding research achievements may have the opportunity to obtain a doctoral degree at an earlier stage.

Application Guidelines

1. Number to Be Admitted

Field of Specialization	Field of Research	Enrollment Capacity
Frontier Biosciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanobiology • Biomolecular Networks • Integrated Biology • Organismal Biosystems • Neuroscience • Biophysical Dynamics • Biomedical Engineering 	A few

2. Application Criteria

Those who fulfill one of the following criteria may apply:

- (1) Those who hold a master's or professional degree in Japan (or are expected to obtain one by March 31, 2026).
- (2) Those who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's or professional degree overseas (or are expected to be awarded one by March 31, 2026).
- (3) Those who have taken courses through distance learning provided by an overseas school while in Japan and have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's or professional degree (or are expected to be awarded one by March 31, 2026).
- (4) Those who have completed a program at an educational institution in Japan that is recognized as part of an overseas graduate school program and designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's or professional degree (or are expected to be awarded one by March 31, 2026).
- (5) Those who have completed a program at the United Nations University and have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree (or are expected to be awarded one by March 31, 2026).
- (6) Those who have completed an educational program at an overseas school, an educational institution designated as mentioned in (4) above, or the United Nations University, passed an examination and evaluation equivalent to those stipulated in Article 16.2 of the Graduate School Establishment Criteria, and have been recognized as having academic ability equal to or higher than that of a master's degree holder (or are expected to be recognized by March 31, 2026).
- (7) Those designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (as per Ministry of Education Notification No. 118, dated September 1, 1989).
 - ① Those who have graduated from a university in Japan and have engaged in research at a university or research institute for at least two years (or are expected to do so by March 31, 2026) and have been recognized by FBS as having academic ability equal to or higher than that of a master's degree holder based on their research achievements.
 - ② Those who have completed 16 years of school education overseas or have completed 16 years of school education by taking distance learning courses offered by an overseas school while in Japan, and have engaged in research at a university or research institute for at least two years (or are expected to do so by March 31, 2026), and have been recognized by FBS as having academic ability equal to or higher than that of a master's degree holder based on their research achievements.
- (8) Those who have been recognized by FBS, through an individual Qualifying Review, as having academic ability equal to or higher than that of a master's or professional degree holder and will be at least 24 years old by March 31, 2026.


Note: Graduates of six-year programs in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine are handled under Application Criteria (8).

3. Qualifying Review

(1) Applicants under “2. Application Criteria, (7) or (8)” must pass a qualifying review before applying. Only those approved can proceed with the application.

Application Period	November 17 (Mon) – 21 (Fri), 2025 (JST)
How to Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send the application documents by simple registered mail (<i>kan-i-kakitome</i>).* • Use a <i>Kakugata</i> No. 2 envelope (33×24 cm). • Write "QR Application (3rd-year) Enclosed" on the front. • Ensure the documents arrive within the application period.
Mailing Address	<p>1-3 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan FBS Educational Affairs Section, Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences (Seimeikinou), The University of Osaka</p> <p><For those residing overseas> Submit your application materials via email. Contact us at the email address below before the above application period begins. seimei-daigakuin@office.osaka-u.ac.jp</p>
Result Announcement	<p>December 12, 2025 (Fri)</p> <p>* Results will be sent via express simple registered mail. For those residing overseas, results will be sent by email. Inquiries by phone, email, etc. are not accepted.</p>

(2) Application Materials for Qualifying Review

Required Documents	Instructions
Application Form for Qualifying Review	Fill out the provided forms.
Curriculum Vitae for Qualifying Review	
Record of Research Achievements	
Statement of Purpose	
Certificate of (Expected) Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates from the last school attended. • Sealed unless printed on anti-fraud paper. • <u>Original document in Japanese or English.</u> <p>* Submit certificates and transcripts from all universities/graduate schools you have graduated from or expect to graduate from.</p> <p>* If you transferred from another institution, include a transcript from that institution, even if you withdrew.</p>
Transcript	
Residents in Japan only Envelope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a <i>Nagagata</i> No. 3 envelope (23.5 × 12 cm). • Write your name, address, and postal code on the front. • Affix 760 yen in stamps for express simple registered mail. * This envelope will be used to send the results to applicants. 

Proof of 2+ Years of (Expected) Research Experience	Applicants under “2. Application criteria, (7)” must submit a certificate proving at least two years of research experience at a university or research institute.
---	--

4. Application Procedures

(1) How to Apply

Period for Application/ Exam Fee Payment	January 5 (Mon) – 9 (Fri), 2026, 4:00 PM (JST)
How to Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Send the application documents by simple registered mail (<i>kan-i-kakitome</i>).* · Use a <i>Kakugata</i> No. 2 envelope (33×24 cm). · Write "Application (3rd-year) Enclosed" on the front. · Ensure the documents arrive within the application period. · If submission in person is unavoidable, place all documents in a <i>Kakugata</i> No. 2 envelope (33×24 cm) and submit them to the office below during the application period, 9:00–11:00 AM or 1:00–4:00 PM.
Mailing Address	<p>1-3 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan FBS Educational Affairs Section, Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences (Seimeikinou), The University of Osaka <For those residing overseas> Submit your application materials via email. Contact us at the email address below before the above application period begins. seimei-daigakuin@office.osaka-u.ac.jp</p>

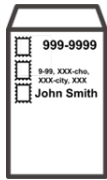
(2) Application Materials (“*” documents are not required for Qualifying Review passers.)

Submission of Transcripts and Certificates of (Expected) Completion:

- Submit the original documents in principle.
- If only electronic versions are issued and originals cannot be submitted, submit a printed copy.
- If your university issues only one original and it cannot be submitted, submit a "certified copy" authenticated by your university or a public organization.

Required Documents	Instructions
Application Form	Fill out the provided form.
Acceptance Letter from a prospective supervisor	Fill out the provided form. Obtain signature or seal from a prospective supervisor.
*Record of Research Achievements	Fill out the provided forms.
*Statement of Purpose	

*Transcripts from Undergraduate and Graduate Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates from the home universities. • Sealed unless printed on anti-fraud paper. • <u>Original document</u> in Japanese or English. * Submit transcripts from all universities/graduate schools you have graduated from or expect to graduate from. * If you transferred from another institution, include a transcript from that institution, even if you withdrew. * Those who have graduated from the National Institute of Technology (<i>Kosen</i>) should provide academic records for both the main curriculum (<i>Honka</i>) and the specialized curriculum (<i>Senkouka</i>).
*Certificate of (expected) Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate from the institution that meets the Application Criteria. • Sealed unless printed on anti-fraud paper. • <u>Original document</u> in Japanese or English. • <u>Those who graduated from an overseas university and lack a degree title on their certificate must provide a separate degree certificate.</u>
Master's Thesis, etc., and Its Abstract	<p>Submit one of the following (①–④) based on what you plan to present during the oral examination. (If ① is unavailable, submit ②; if ② is unavailable, submit ③; if ③ is unavailable, submit ④)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① One copy of the master's thesis (a photocopy is acceptable) and a separate one-page abstract. ② One copy of a paper equivalent to a master's thesis (a photocopy is acceptable) and a separate one-page abstract. ③ A summary of research progress (up to 1,600 words) and a separate one-page abstract. ④ A research proposal for the study you wish to pursue at FBS (about 1,600 words) and a separate one-page abstract. * If ① or ② is in a language other than Japanese or English, attach an English abstract of the paper (about 5 pages). * Use A4-sized paper for all documents.
Certificate of English Proficiency	<p><u>Submit the original certificate of one of the following ① to ③ from public tests taken after December 1, 2023.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Official Score Certificate of TOEIC Listening & Reading Test ② Test Taker Score Report of TOEFL iBT ③ Test Report Form of IELTS * For those who took the TOEIC Listening & Reading Test, submission of the “Digital Official Score Certificate” with a QR code, printed on A4 paper, is also acceptable. * <u>The following ④ to ⑥ are not accepted.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ④ TOEIC: TOEIC-IP, TOEIC Speaking & Writing Test, TOEIC Speaking Test, TOEIC Bridge Test ⑤ TOEFL : TOEFL-ITP, TOEFL iBT Home Edition ⑥ IELTS : General Training Module. * For those who are nationals of a country where English is the native language, or who have (or are expected to) graduate from a graduate school in such a country, the submission of a certificate of English proficiency may not be required. Those who meet the above conditions should contact us by November 21, 2025 (Fri).

Proof of Entrance Examination Fee Payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay the examination fee of 30,000 yen (plus a separate system fee) following the "<i>Payment Procedure for Examination Fees</i>" on our website. • Print the "<i>Proof of Entrance Examination Fee Payment</i>" from the Examination Fee Payment System after payment. <p>* The following individuals are exempt from the examination fee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those enrolling as MEXT scholarship students. - Those expected to complete a master's program at the University of Osaka in March 2026.
Examination Admission Card Examination Photo Card	Fill out the form and attach two identical upper-body photos (4 cm × 3 cm) taken within the last three months, facing forward, and without a hat (except for religious or medical reasons).
Residents in Japan only Shipping Label	Fill out the provided form.
Residents in Japan only Envelope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a <i>Nagagata</i> No. 3 envelope (23.5 × 12 cm). • Write your name, address, and postal code on the front. • Affix 410 yen in stamps for express mail. <p>* This envelope will be used to send the examination admission card to applicants.</p> 
Foreign Applicants only Residence Card (copy)	<p>Foreign applicants residing in Japan must submit a copy of the residence card (both sides).</p> <p>* Those who have been granted permanent residence in Japan by the Minister of Justice are not required to submit this.</p>
Foreign Applicants only Passport (copy)	Foreign applicants residing abroad should submit a copy of the page that contains their photo.
Foreign Applicants only MEXT Scholarship Recipient Certificate	Submit this if you are enrolling as an MEXT scholarship student.
Working Professionals only Research Plan for Working Professionals	Submit this if you are aiming to enroll while remaining employed. Fill out the provided form.

(3) Important Notes Regarding the Application

① Be sure to contact your prospective supervisor and obtain informal acceptance before applying.

The Doctoral Program at our graduate school is a five-year integrated program, and acceptance by a prospective supervisor is crucial. Therefore, before applying, applicants must contact their desired supervisor, obtain their acceptance, and submit a "Letter of Acceptance" along with their application. (Faculty members may retire or be transferred. Please confirm with your prospective supervisor whether they will be able to provide guidance throughout your entire enrollment period.)

Required Procedures for International Foreign University Graduates or Expected Graduates

Before contacting your prospective supervisor for the first time, you must apply through the Admissions Assistance Desk (AAD) using the URL below. (*This does not apply to those already enrolled at the University of Osaka as research students, etc.*) Applications submitted without going through the AAD will not be accepted.

The AAD is a system designed to help applicants make their first contact with a prospective supervisor.

By submitting an AAD application, your information will be efficiently forwarded to the supervisor. You will then receive a response indicating whether you are allowed to contact them. If you receive permission, please reach out to the prospective supervisor and obtain their informal acceptance.

* Indicate the date of your AAD application in your application form.

* It takes about three weeks to receive the contact permission results after submitting an AAD application. To ensure you meet the admission application deadline, please apply to the AAD well in advance. The AAD recommends submitting your application at least two months before the deadline.

Admissions Assistance Desk (AAD)

<https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/international/inbound/dragongate>

Email: aad@office.osaka-u.ac.jp

- ② If you wish to enroll while still employed, discuss your research plan with your prospective supervisor well in advance and submit a *"Research Plan for Working Professionals"*. Even for working professionals, completing their studies requires sufficient research time, just like regular students, and the doctoral dissertation must be based on research conducted in the laboratory of a faculty member who belongs to FBS. Please make sure to agree to these two points before applying. (You will be required to submit a *"Letter of Confirmation"* outlining these points during the enrollment procedures.)
- ③ If the name on the certificate differs from your current name due to marriage or other reasons, please attach official documentation proving the name change.
- ④ Some sections of the application forms are fillable forms using Acrobat Reader. Please download the latest version of Acrobat Reader. Additionally, fields such as name and address will be automatically reflected in other forms. If the text exceeds the space provided in the input form or does not display properly, please do not use the input form; instead, print out the form and fill it out by hand.
- ⑤ In principle, applications will not be accepted if there are any errors or missing information in the application documents or submitted materials.
- ⑥ After the application documents have been accepted, replacements or changes to the submitted information will not be allowed. Additionally, submitted application documents will not be returned. Furthermore, the examination fee is non-refundable except in the following cases.
 - In case the applicant did not submit the application documents or they were not accepted.
 - In case the applicant made a duplicate payment by mistake.
- ⑦ If you have a disability or other condition that requires special arrangements for the examination, please contact us by November 21, 2025 (Fri).

5. Selection Process

Successful applicants will be selected based on the oral examination described below and their application materials.

(1) Date and Time

Date	Time	Examination Subject
January 28, 2026 (Wed)	10:00 AM~ (subject to change)	Oral examination

(2) Examination Method

Duration	20 minutes in total (7 minutes for presentation, 13 minutes for Q&A)
Topic	<p>Give a presentation on one of the items (①-④) submitted under <i>"Master's Thesis, etc., and Its Abstract"</i> in "4. (2) Application Materials".</p> <p>* If you choose option ④, describe the research theme you wish to pursue at FBS. Your explanation should include the purpose, significance, experimental methods and their principles, potential applications, and societal impact. Additionally, describe experiments</p>

	you would like to conduct in the near future, including their method, significance, applications, and other relevant aspect. Be as specific as possible.
Method	Give a presentation using PowerPoint

(3) Venue

2F, BioSystems Bldg., Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences,
The University of Osaka
<https://www.fbs.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/general/access/>



For Those Residing Overseas

Those who are unable to attend the venue on the day of the exam can take the oral examination online using platforms such as Zoom. Those who wish to take the exam online should circle "Yes" at the bottom of the application form.

(4) Sending of the Examination Admission Card

The Examination Admission Card, Instructions for Applicants, and Examination Timetable will be sent to applicants in mid-January (by mail for those residing in Japan and by email for those residing overseas). If you have not received these materials by one week before the examination, please contact us.

6. Announcement of Successful Applicants

The examinee numbers of successful applicants will be posted on our website on February 13, 2026 (Fri), at 10:00 AM. Successful applicants will receive a Notification of Acceptance by mail (or by email if residing overseas). Information on the enrollment procedure will be posted on our website in mid-February 2026.

- * We do not accept inquiries about examination results via email, phone, or other means.
- * In case of system failures or other unavoidable issues, the website posting may be suspended or interrupted.
- * The website posting is for informational purposes only, and the Notification of Acceptance sent to successful applicants serves as the official confirmation of results.

7. Enrollment Fee and Tuition Fee

(1) Enrollment fee: 282,000 yen

(2) Tuition fee: 535,800 yen per year (267,900 yen per semester)

- * The fees are provisional. If the amounts change during enrollment, the revised amounts will apply from the time of the revision.
- * Those who complete the master's program or law school program at the University of Osaka in March 2026 and then continue their studies by enrolling in FBS will not be required to pay the enrollment fee.

8. Tuition Fee Exemption for International Honors Students

The University of Osaka offers the "Tuition Fee Exemption for International Honors Students" to strengthen research capabilities and encourage international student enrollment. This program is available to privately funded international students who demonstrate outstanding performance in the graduate school entrance examinations.

This entrance examination qualifies for the program. To be eligible, you must pass the entrance examination and be recognized as outstanding through the graduate school's selection process. If you wish to apply for this program, indicate your intention to apply by checking "Yes, I would like to apply" on the application form. Candidates selected for the program will be notified along with the Notification of Acceptance.

- * Recipients must hold a "Student" residence status when the exemption begins.
- * Students receiving tuition support from private foundations, MEXT scholarship students, and foreign government-sponsored students are not eligible

9. Disclosure of Entrance Examination Results

Individual examination results will be disclosed upon request from the examinee (proxies are not allowed). Only the total score will be disclosed; rankings will not be disclosed. If you do not receive your score report within one month after submitting the required documents, please contact us.

Request Period	February 25, 2026 (Wed) – March 4, 2026 (Wed)
How to Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send the application documents by acceptance-recorded mail (<i>tokutei-kiroku</i>).• Use a <i>Kakugata</i> No. 2 envelope (33×24 cm).• Write "Exam Results Disclosure Request Enclosed" on the front.• Ensure the documents arrive within the request period.
Mailing Address	1-3 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan FBS Educational Affairs Section, Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences (Seimeikinou), The University of Osaka
Required documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request form (入学試験個人成績開示依頼書) *Designated form only in Japanese. Downloadable from our website• Examination Admission Card• Envelope<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare a <i>Nagagata</i> No. 3 envelope (23.5 × 12 cm).- Write your name, address, and postal code on the front.- Affix 320 yen in stamps for acceptance-recorded mail.

10. Personal Information Protection Policy

- (1) Names, addresses, and other personal information provided through the application and enrollment procedure will be used in the screening (application and examination), announcement of the successful applicants, and enrollment procedures. For those enrolled in, personal information will also be used in academic-related matters (such as keeping academic and registration records), in student support matters (such as health care management, scholarship, career support, etc.), and in tuition fee management.
- (2) Personal data such as test scores, etc. are used for compiling and analyzing data about examination results, researching and studying methods for screening and supporting students (scholarship, etc.).
- (3) Personal information obtained through (1) and (2) can be also used for improving the screening process and education or for university administration (surveys and analyzing or project planning). However, the achievement will not be disclosed in a manner in which an individual can be distinguished.
- (4) When carrying out (1), (2), and (3) above, part of the procedure may be entrusted to third parties. In such a case, after concluding a contract with the third party to ensure that personal information is handled properly, we will provide the party with all or part of the personal information submitted to us.

11. Other

- (1) Applicants who provide false information regarding their background or eligibility in the application form may have their admission revoked even after being accepted.
- (2) Due to unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters or widespread outbreaks of infectious diseases, there may be changes to the implementation of entrance examinations. In the event of any changes, we will notify you through our website or when sending the Examination Admission Card. Depending on the situation, the entrance exams may be postponed. Please be sure to check the website for updates.
- (3) In the event of a postal rate revision, there is a possibility that the postage fees mentioned in this guideline may change. If there is any alteration in postage fees, it will be announced in the 'NEWS & TOPICS' section on our website. Please ensure to check in advance before proceeding with application procedures.
- (4) In accordance with Japan's "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act" (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), the University of Osaka has established the "The University of Osaka Security Export Control Regulations" and rigorously implements security export control for the export of goods and the transfer

of technology (including accepting foreigners).

Please be aware that applicants who fall under any of the conditions set out in the Act may not receive permission to enroll at the university or may have their education or research restricted after their enrollment. For more information, please refer to the following website.

https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/research/secur_exp/outline

- Contact-

Educational Affairs Section, Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences, The University of Osaka

1-3 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

E-mail: seimei-daigakuin@office.osaka-u.ac.jp

Reception hours: 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

(Excluding Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and year-end and New Year holidays.)