

**Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
Admission Guidelines for
Doctoral Program in Medical Science for 2026 intake**

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The information in the guidelines is subject to change without notice.

Refer to the latest information available at

https://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/apply/exam/requirements_mmg/medicalscience_dc/

Message to Prospective Applicants for Doctoral Program in Medical Science

The purpose of this program is to foster world-leading researchers and educators in the medical sciences who can venture beyond the traditional medical education and research framework. The program brings together individuals with demonstrated academic achievements in the natural sciences and engineering, and trains them in the various aspects of medicine. The curriculum is therefore designed to provide both specialized medical knowledge and advanced communication skills. In addition, the program aims to develop individuals with high ethical standards and leadership skills who can guide the next generation of researchers.

We therefore welcome students who are enthusiastic to make significant contributions to the world of medical science. In the entrance examination, applicants are required to provide evidence of their English proficiency, and to present their prospective research plan during the interview so that their ability to plan, conduct and describe their research can be evaluated.

I Major and Enrollment Capacity

Medical Science: Very few

To learn more about Research Fields (laboratories) in our program, please refer to our web site of Graduate School of Medicine: <https://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/field/>

II Eligibility Requirements

An individual who possesses or will possess one of the following requirements by the end of March 2026 is eligible to apply;

1. an individual who holds a Japanese master's degree, or a Japanese degree of Master (Professional) or a Japanese degree of Juris Doctor (Professional) ; *
2. an individual who has completed a degree program outside of Japan which is equivalent to the master's program or the professional degree program of the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University (see item III);
3. an individual who has taken an international degree program in Japan through distance/online education which is conducted by a school outside of Japan, and completed a program that is equivalent to the master's degree program or the professional degree program of the Graduate School, Kyoto University (see item III);
4. an individual who has completed a postgraduate program in Japan which is conducted by a university outside of Japan which is positioned as a facility that has curricula of a postgraduate school under the education system in said country, and designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (hereafter "the MEXT")(limited to a program that is equivalent to the master's degree program or the professional degree program at the Graduate School of Kyoto University) (see item III);
5. an individual who has completed a program of the United Nations University (limited to the university defined in Act on Special Measures Incidental to Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University (Act 72 of 1976) Article 1, Section 2) and awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree;
6. an individual who completed an educational program outside of Japan, at an educational facility designated as in 4. or of United Nations University and passed a Qualifying Examination or equivalent assessment prescribed by the Article 16-2 of Graduate School Establishment Law (1974, Ministry of Education Directive No.28) and has been recognized by the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University as having academic ability equivalent or superior to those who possess a master's degree (Eligibility Screening is required; see item IV);
7. an individual who has been designated by the MEXT [Notification No. 118, Ministry of Education, September 1, 1989] (Eligibility Screening is required; see item IV);
 - 1) an individual who has graduated from a university, and engaged in a research for at least two years at a university or a research institute etc., and who is determined by a graduate school to have an academic ability equivalent or superior to that of a master's degree holder as a result of an achievement in the research;

- 2) an individual who has completed 16 years of school education outside of Japan or has taken class subjects in Japan through correspondence education which is offered by a foreign school and completed 16 years of school education defined outside of Japan, and engaged in a research for at least two years at a university or a research institute etc., and who is determined by a graduate school to have an academic ability equivalent or superior to that of a master's degree holder as a result of an achievement in the research;
8. an individual who is recognized by the Graduate School of Medicine of Kyoto University to have academic ability equivalent or superior to that of an individual who fulfills above Eligibility Requirement 1. as a result of the individual eligibility screening for admission and has reached the age of 24 by March 2026 (JST). (Eligibility Screening is required; see item IV).

* We do not accept applications from those who are expected to complete Master's program for Medical Science, the Graduate School of Medicine of Kyoto University, in March 2026. Instead, such students are required to complete the procedure for "continuing" to Doctoral Program in Medical Science for 2026. Notice for the required procedure will be provided through the Research Field (laboratory) which the students are currently affiliated to.

III Preliminary Eligibility Check (for those who have graduated from foreign university)

Graduates of foreign universities who wish to have their eligibility for application verified after application for AAO must apply for Preliminary Eligibility Check via email to the Office of Student Affairs at the Graduate School of Medicine by Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 5:00 pm (JST). Refer to the website for how to apply for Eligibility Check:

<https://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/apply/exam/>

IV Eligibility Screening (Applicants fulfilling under Eligibility Requirements 6,7 and 8)

1. Application Deadline for eligibility screening

An applicant fulfilling Eligibility Requirements 6, 7 or 8 is required to submit the following application documents for Eligibility Screening to the Office of Student Affairs by Friday, November 28, 2025, 5:00 pm (JST). (The documents must arrive by the above deadline).

When sending the documents by post, please write "Application for preliminary eligibility screening for the Doctoral Program in Medical Science at the Graduate School of Medicine for 2026" in red on the front side of an envelope, and send the documents by registered express mail. Application documents postmarked on or before Monday, November 24, 2025 (if mailed from within Japan), and that were sent by registered express mail will be accepted even if they arrive after the deadline.

Overseas applicants must send the documents by international delivery service like EMS with the mail tracking and documents must arrive by the aforementioned deadline.

2. Application documents should be submitted or mailed to:

Office of Student Affairs
Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
Yoshida Konoe-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan

3. Documents to submit for eligibility screening

(* indicates using of designated forms which must be downloaded from the website)

https://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/apply/exam/requirements_mmg/medicalscience_dc/

(1) Eligibility Requirement 6:

An individual who completed an educational program outside of Japan, at an educational facility designated as in Eligibility Requirement 4. or of United Nations University and passed a Qualifying Examination or equivalent assessment prescribed by the Article 16-2 of Graduate School Establishment Law (1974, Ministry of Education Directive No.28) and has been recognized by the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University as having academic ability equivalent or superior to those who possess a master's degree.

*	Application form for eligibility screening	Fill in your academic history since high school on the designated form.
*	Letter of recommendation for eligibility screening	The letter has to be prepared by the chairperson or a research advisor of a school/company in which you are/were enrolled (must be confidentially sealed).
	Certificate of final academic records	Certification of passing the Qualifying Examination or equivalent assessment and academic transcripts. (Original or Authorized copy only / must be written in English or Japanese)
	Documents which detail the final academic records	1) Documents which detail the examination procedure and qualifying criteria of the Qualifying Examination or equivalent assessment. 2) The curriculum details (course list and course outlines) of the program equivalent to master's program which applicant has completed.
	Education outline of all programs which the applicant has completed in secondary and higher education.	Documents which indicate the education outline of all programs which the applicant has completed in secondary and higher education.

(2) Eligibility Requirement 7:

An individual who is designated by the MEXT [Notification No. 118, Ministry of Education, September 1, 1989] (an individual who has been engaged with a research for at least two years after graduating from a university)

*	Application form for eligibility screening	Fill in your academic history since high school on the designated form.
*	Certificate of Employment Period	The certificate must be issued by the head of institution/company. In the case of a private company, the period when you are/were assigned to a research institute must be clearly written.
*	Letter of recommendation for Eligibility Screening	The letter has to be prepared by the chairperson or a research advisor of a program in which you are/were enrolled (must be confidentially sealed).
	Applicant's research history (CV)	Please describe your research activities at the institute you currently belong to (including a list of publications/achievements).
	Research performance records of your affiliated institute/company	Annual report of the institute, academic society bulletins, etc.
	Certificate of final academic records	Graduation (Completion) certificate and academic transcript. (Original or Authorized copy only / must be written in English or Japanese)

(3) Eligibility Requirement No. 8:

An individual who is recognized by the Graduate School of Medicine of Kyoto University as having academic ability equivalent or superior to that of an individual fulfilling Eligibility Requirement 1. as a result of the individual eligibility screening for admission and has reached the age of 24 by March 31, 2026..

*	Application Form for Eligibility Screening	Fill in your academic history since high school on the designated form.
*	Letter of recommendation for eligibility screening	The letter has to be prepared by the dean or a research advisor of a program in which you are/were enrolled (must be confidentially sealed).
	Applicant's research history (CV)	Please describe your research activities at the institute you currently belong to (including a list of publication/achievements).
	Certificate of final academic records	Graduation (Completion) certificate and academic transcript. (Original or Authorized copy only / must be written in English or Japanese)

4. Eligibility Screening

Applicants are evaluated by their research activities, list of publications/achievements and other information described in the submitted documents.

5. Screening Decisions

The decisions of the Eligibility Screening will be notified to applicants by email in the mid December, 2025.

V Application Procedures

Applicants must complete the online application, the online payment, and their application documents must arrive and be accepted during the application period below.

1. Online Application and Payment Period

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 - Thursday, December 25, 2025 by 5:00 pm (JST)

Go to the Online Application site from:

<https://kjs.gakusei.kyoto-u.ac.jp/2026doctoralmedicalscience>

("Link to the Online Application site" is available only during the application period.)

2. Application Submission Period

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - Thursday, December 25, 2025 by 5:00 pm (JST)

(Documents must arrive during the above period)

*Upload a photo file in the Personal Information section when registering online.

*Applicants must prepare a photo file (JPEG/JPG) of a single person taken within the last three months with no hat or head covering unless there is a religious or medical reason. No background.

*Size: 480 to 6000 pixels wide and 480 to 6000 pixels high

Images that have been manipulated with image editing software or photos that are ineligible, such as those in which the person is difficult to identify or the face is unevenly positioned, will not be accepted.

*International applicants who have not yet arrived in Japan must also upload a copy of their passport (the page with the face photo) (JPEG/JPG, PNG, GIF, PDF).

All the application documents must be enclosed to an envelope ("square No.2 size envelope (240mm x332mm) "or a similar size) as the submission envelope with the print out of the Address Sheet for Sending Application Documents (only if mailed from within Japan) from the website pasted on.

The reception hours at the office in the Graduate School of Medicine are:

9:00 am-12:00 pm, and 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

If you are sending your package of documents by domestic postal service in Japan, the documents must arrive by 5:00 pm on the day of the deadline.

Application documents should be sent to:

Office of Student Affairs, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University

Yoshida Konoe-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan 606-8501

TEL: +81-75-753-4306 FAX: +81-75-753-4405

Overseas applicants must send the documents by international delivery service like EMS with the mail tracking and documents must arrive by the **Thursday, December 25, 2025 by 5:00 pm (JST)**

3. Application Documents

Form 4 and 5 must be downloaded at the following website.

https://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/apply/exam/requirements_mmg/medicalseience_dc/

1	Application form	Print out the PDF file of application form after online application completion.
2	Official Transcript	The officially issued "letter of graduate certificate" and "academic transcript" from your graduate degree program must be prepared by the university you are currently attending or graduated from. (Photocopies without authorization of the issuers are NOT acceptable. They must be written in English or Japanese)
3	Graduation Certificate (or certificate of expected graduation)	<p>Applicants who have completed (or are expected to complete) the master's program/professional degree program at the Graduate School of Medicine of Kyoto University do not have to submit these items.</p> <p>Applicants fulfilling the Requirement 6, 7 or 8 do not need to submit these items in the application period.</p> <p>* If the university issue only digital certificate, submit the photocopy. If you cannot submit the original certificate because the university can issue only one original certificate, ask the university to issue certified photocopy of the original one and submit it to the Office of Student Affairs. If the university does not support to issue certified photocopy, let the Office of Student Affairs know before application.</p> <p>*Those who have changed their names after the graduation must attach the copy of official document which can see the change of old name to the new name.</p>
4	Research Outline or Progress Report	<p>Download the designated form from the website.</p> <p>Abstract your master's thesis and a future research protocol in approximately 1,500 characters in Japanese or 700 words in English in the Research Outline form. Applicants who fulfill Requirement 6, 7 or 8 are required to write about the progress of your research instead of the abstract of master's thesis in approximately 1,500 characters in Japanese or 700 words in English in the Progress Report form.</p>
5	Statement of Purpose	<p>Download the designated form from the website. Any extra sheet cannot be attached.</p>

6	<p>A valid score of either of below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TOEFL-iBT - TOEIC® Listening and Reading Test 	<p>A valid English proficiency test score is required to submit. The score report must be obtained at the test date which was held within the 2 years prior to the application deadline date. Applicants are to submit either of listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TOEFL®-iBT Test: Test Taker Score Report (original, not photocopy) *The score report must be original one sent by the test institution to test taker, not copy of PDF score report. *On application for TOEFL, make sure to select the following option to issue the report: [Your Free Score Recipients > Search and Select Score Recipients > Score Reporting Preference for Yourself > Online score report and a paper copy mailed to you] * Adopt Test Date scores instead of My Best scores. * TOEFL-iBT Special Home Edition and TOEFL®ITP Test (Institutional Test Program) score are NOT acceptable. - TOEIC® Listening and Reading Test: a copy of the Digital Official Score Certificate *TOEIC®-IP Test (Institutional Program), TOEIC Speaking & Writing Tests, TOEIC Speaking Test and TOEIC Bridge Test are NOT acceptable. *If the applicant hasn't received the score report above by the application deadline but expected to receive it before the examination date, submit the hardcopy of the web score report with the letter that explains the reasons of the delay of submission. (In this case, TOEFL web score report must include 4 sections: Reading/Listening/Speaking/Writing). And the test score instructed above must be arrived at Office of Student Affairs, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University by the day before 5 p.m. of the examination date. In case the score report is not submitted by the deadline, applicant shall not be qualified and not be permitted to take the entrance examination. Applicant cannot re-submit the score for the reason of "change to the better score". *English mother tongue applicants also have to submit one of the above scores.
7	<p>Application fee Payment</p>	<p>Application fee: 30,000 yen [Those who is expected to complete master's or professional degree programs at Kyoto University need not pay application fee.]</p> <p>For applicants from the affected regions under the Disaster Relief Act whose head of household has been adversely affected by the disaster designated by university (http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/admissions/fees_exemption [written in Japanese]), the application fee may be waived. Ensure to submit a copy of Risai Shomeisho (Disaster Victim Certificate). For more information about the application, contact the Office of Student Affairs, the Graduate School of Medicine as soon as possible. (Deadline: Friday, December 12, 2025)</p> <p>Choose the payment method via the Online Application system from the followings: "Credit Card", "Convenient Store", "Financial Institution ATM", or "Internet Banking Overseas applicants must choose "Credit Card" payment.</p> <p>*It will cost you 650 JPY as a commission. *Application fee will not be returned once the application form has been processed.</p>
8	<p>Copy of Residence card</p>	<p>Only foreign applicants who have residence card international students have to submit a two-sided copy of a residence card.</p>
9	<p>MEXT Scholarship Certificate</p>	<p>If you are a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship student and enrolled in a school other than the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University at the time of application, submit the MEXT Scholarship Certificate. If you are in the process of selection as a MEXT Scholarship student at the time of application, submit the "Passing Certificate of the First Screening" etc.</p>

Notes:

- 1) The content of submitted application documents cannot be changed in principle.
- 2) An examination voucher must be color-printed after the online application system from 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Bring it on the day of the examination. Also, confirm the examination instructions (include examination schedule and venue) from the online application system at the same time.
- 3) For applicants who will be selected the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship or be awarded its extension scholarship in April 2026, the application fee will be reimbursed. The details will be announced at the enrollment procedures.
- 4) Submitted application documents will not be returned.

VI Evaluations

Applicants are evaluated comprehensively by performance on the entrance examinations (including the score of English proficiency test), the content of the research outline or progress report, statement of purpose, and the academic transcripts.

1. Examinations

Time and Date		Subjects	Place
Tuesday, January 20, 2026	10:00am – or 1:00pm–	Interview regarding the prospective research field (Including presentation of your master's thesis etc.)	Oral Exam Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University (Inside of Faculty of Medicine Campus)

*Presentations for the oral examination time is 10 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The presentations must be made on a computer provided by the Graduate School. Presentation materials must be prepared in PDF file (free format) and be uploaded to the designated folder by Sunday, January 18, 2026. Details will be provided after the application period.

VII Admission Decisions

At 11:00am (JST), Friday, February 13, 2026, the list of examination numbers of successful applicants is to be posted on the website of the Graduate School of Medicine.

(<https://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/apply/exam/>) (Japanese site)

Applicants must keep your examination voucher until the enrollment procedures are completed.

Notification of acceptance can be printed from the online application system.

VIII Enrollment Procedures

1. Admission Fee : 282,000 yen
2. Tuition for first semester: 267,900 yen (total annual tuition: 535,800 yen)
*The amounts indicated above are tentative and subject to change.
*If the above amounts are revised at or after the time of enrollment, the new amounts will be applied at the time of payment.
3. Information regarding the payment schedule for the admission fee, documents to be submitted and tuition exemption and others will be informed to you at the beginning of March.

IX Others

1. Applicants with physical disabilities who require special arrangements for taking the examination should contact Academic Affairs/Student Support Office at the earliest time before submitting their application.
2. Kyoto University is committed to protecting the individual privacy of applicants by restricting the use of all collected information as specified by Kyoto University Personal Information Protection Regulations. In accordance with these policies, the information on our application (personal information, exam score, financial support, and others) may be used by Kyoto University officials only for appropriate administrative purpose. (1.for admission exam, 2.for enrollment & scholarship procedures, 3.for preparation for enrollment)
3. The details of the entrance examination described at the admission guidelines for 2026 intake might be changed. If there is any change, it will be announced on the website of Graduate School of Medicine.

Revised in September, 2025

Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University

<http://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/>

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