October 2023 MSc

International Program in Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS)

Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences

The University of Tokyo

Rules of Admission—MSc Program, Academic Year 2023-2024

Our educational and research missions:

The Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences aims to promote advanced education and research in the field of agricultural and life sciences and nurture highly specialized human resources that can tackle the diverse range of food and environmental issues in the world.

Students we seek:

- Having a will and basic capabilities to tackle the diverse issues surrounding food and the environment challenged by the agricultural and life sciences.
- Having a global perspective and being enthusiastic about acquiring advanced expertise and improving research capability.

Selection policy:

Below are the basic criteria for the selection,

- Having specialized knowledge in the field of his/her choice, as well as broad knowledge and sufficient English proficiency in the agricultural and life sciences in general,

- Having willingness and ability to work independently to acquire knowledge and discover problems.

Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, seeks MSc candidates for the School's International Program in Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS) for the Academic Year 2023-2024 (enrolling in October 2023) according to the following Rules of Admission.

1. Program Overview

The IPADS MSc program is the only Master's program that is taught entirely in English in the Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The program equips the students to be global leaders in the agricultural sector who have the capacity to identify and implement solutions to various agricultural, environmental, and resource management issues in developing countries. Students

engage in a truly interdisciplinary curriculum filled with cutting-edge research from all sub-disciplines covering agriculture, encompassing both natural and social sciences. As fully integrated members of the School's Department of Global Agricultural Sciences, IPADS students have numerous opportunities to participate in seminars and international symposia, and to work collaboratively with the faculty members and fellow students, including those from the School's other departments and graduate programs. Approximately eight students will be admitted for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for this program, the applicant must meet all the following criteria.

(1) Academic qualification

A Bachelor's degree or equivalent is required as of 30 September 2023. The admission automatically becomes void if a student who has applied prior to the conferment of a Bachelor's degree fails to attain it by 30 September 2023. In addition, applicants must have completed, as of 30 September 2023, a total of 16 or more years of education including higher education. Applicants with fewer years of education must demonstrate that they are able to obtain the bachelor's degree prior to enrollment to their IPADS.

(2) English language proficiency

A very high level of English language proficiency adequate to engage in world-class postgraduate study is required.

(3) Academic records and research plan

Applicants must possess an excellent academic record and a sound plan for their MSc research that suits the program's philosophy.

(4) Date of arrival

All newly admitted students must arrive in Tokyo by the designated date in September 2023. For those who cannot arrive in Tokyo by September 2023 must obtain a late arrival permission from IPADS Office. Permission will be granted only for special circumstances. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the admission offer.

Military employees, whether soldiers or civilians, are ineligible to apply.

3. Fees and Tuition

The following fees and tuition are payable.

(1) Examination fee (payable on being shortlisted): ¥10,000

(2) Enrollment fee (payable on admission): ¥282,000

(3) Tuition (payable annually): ¥535,800

These fees and tuition are correct as of October 2022 and subject to change based on revisions of university regulations.

4. Financial Support and Student Services

(1) The examination fee, enrollment fee, and tuition are waived for current recipients of the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho, hereafter MEXT) Scholarships on submission of a certificate showing their scholarship status.

(2) A limited number of full scholarships funded by the Japanese Government (hereafter MEXT Scholarships) may be available to outstanding applicants. These scholarships cover the examination fee, enrollment fee and tuition as well as living expenses. The examination fee should be paid by the MEXT Scholarship applicants at the time of application for IPADS and shall be refunded later on submission of a certificate showing their scholarship status. Selection will be conducted concurrently with selection for admission.

(3) The University offers the University of Tokyo Fellowship which is a scholarship to provide a grant to outstanding postgraduate international students who are privately funded to assist their academic pursuits at the University. A monthly grant during the standard period of their program is provided to a limited number of outstanding MSc and PhD students in IPADS. The selection will be conducted concurrently with selection for admission.

(4) The University also offers a tuition waiver program for other students who meet certain criteria. Students can apply to this program after the enrollment.

(5) For all other students, it is their own responsibility to secure funds for fees and tuition. While students, after enrollment, are eligible for internal and external scholarships, the University does not guarantee that all students are financially assisted.

(6) Student services, including housing information service and limited health services, are provided to all students.

5. Application Process

The selection will be carried out in two separate rounds (Round One and Two) as per the following

timetable. Applicants who apply for both rounds are considered in both, unless admitted through Round One.

	Round One	Round Two
Approximate number of students to be admitted	5	3
Deadline for online prescreening	24 October 2022 (Monday)	15 February 2023 (Wednesday)
Announcement of shortlisted candidates	by 21 November 2022 (Monday)	by 10 March 2023 (Friday)
Deadline for PDF application (shortlisted candidates only) * Original documents should be submitted during the designated period in September 2023 for admitted applicants.	14 December 2022 (Wednesday)	31 March 2023 (Friday)
Notification of the final result	by 7 February 2023 (Tuesday)	by 16 May 2023 (Tuesday)

Applicant from a developing country who concurrently applies for a scholarship scheme supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) should follow the application schedule published by the JICA office in his/her home country.

5A. Prescreening

Potential applicants must show their intention to apply by submitting online application form available on the program website by midnight (Japan Standard Time) of 24 October 2022 (for Round One) or 15 February 2023 (for Round Two). Following the prescreening, those who meet the eligibility criteria and are considered suitable for consideration for admission (shortlisted candidates) will be invited to submit the application documents listed below. This invitation is made online on the program website on or before 21 November 2022 (for Round One) or 10 March 2023 (for Round Two).

5B. Application

For shortlisted candidates to be officially considered for admission, electronic copies of the following documents must be received by the IPADS Office and examination fee must be paid not later than 14

December 2022 (for Round One) or 31 March 2023 (for Round Two). Documents already submitted during prescreening process are not required to submit again, however, any documents updated may be submitted by the deadline. The IPADS Office will not consider late application. Original documents of the following (2) and (3) should be physically submitted to the Graduate Student Section of the Graduate School during enrollment registration period in September 2023. **Note that if any discrepancies are found between the submitted electronic and original documents, the admission will be canceled at any time even after the enrollment.**

(1) Application form with a face photograph—This will be available on the program website to shortlisted candidates. A face photograph of the applicant—must be taken within 6 months of the submission deadline; 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm, upper body only, full face without a hat—should be attached electronically on the application form.

(2) Proof of a Bachelor's degree—Electronic copy of original document with the official seal of the institution such as a degree certificate. For an applicant who has not been awarded the degree at the time of application, an official certificate from the academic institution stating the expected date of completion needs to be submitted. In addition, applicants with less than 16 years of academic history including primary, secondary, and higher education need to submit a statement clearly explaining their academic history.

(3) Official transcripts—Electronic copy of original transcripts from all universities and colleges the applicant has previously attended, with the official seal of the institution. Transcripts must clearly demonstrate the marking system of the institution.

(4) Proof of English proficiency—Either a TOEFL Score Report or an IELTS Test Report Form. For TOEFL iBT and TOEFL PTB, applicants must arrange for the ETS (Educational Testing Service) to electronically forward the report to IPADS, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo (DI Code C351). TOEFL iBT (Special) Home Eddition is acceptable as well. Both normal test date score and "My Best Score" can be accepted as part of the application document. Scores of TOEFL Essentials can also be accepted as an alternative to above mentioned TOEFL scores. Scores of TOEFL ITP (Institutional Testing Program) are not accepted.

For IELTS, electronic copies of the score report indicating TRF (Test Report Form) number must be submitted. IELTS Indicator is also acceptable.

For both TOEFL and IELTS, only test reports sat on or after 1 January 2021 will be accepted.

Applicants who meet one of the following criteria are automatically exempt from submitting the English proficiency test score.

- have completed or are completing their Bachelor's program that is taught entirely in English in one of the following countries: *Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States of America;
- have been working for full-time in a professional or academic environment where English is used at least three of the past six years in one of the above countries (*).

For applicants who meet one of the following criteria, Duolingo English Test Scores is acceptable alternatively as proof of English proficiency.

- have completed or are completing their Bachelor's program in universities which are located in countries other than above countries (*) and indicated in the IAU World Higher Education Database (WHED) that English is the sole language of instruction.
- have worked for full-time in a professional or academic environment where English is solely used at least three of the past six years in countries other than above countries (*);

However, the School reserves the right to request further evidence of English proficiency from all applicants, regardless of their nationalities and education background including those who qualify for the English Test Exemption. Those who fail to submit their proof of English language proficiency according to the aforementioned rules will not be considered for further admission process.

(5) Research work conducted by the applicant—A Bachelor's thesis, Honor's thesis, or equivalent. A work in progress is acceptable for those who have not completed their Bachelor's degree at the time of application. If the work is written in a language other than English, an English summary must be attached. Those graduated or graduating from Bachelor's programs with no research component are required to submit essay assignment undertaken for a university course, original essays on agricultural development or any other academic report as a substitute of their thesis.

(6) Proof of citizenship—A document issued by an official authority such as a copy of passport ID page, a citizenship certificate or certified copy of family registration. If the document is in a language other than English or Japanese, an English translation must be attached.

(7) Two letters of recommendation (by those nominated by the applicant at the online application)—These should be written by university academics who were nominated at the prescreening and are familiar with the applicant's academic achievement, such as supervisors for the fourth-year thesis. Letters may be in either English or Japanese. They must be electronically scanned form (eg. PDF) with original hand-written signature and be directly sent by the referees from their official e-mail account given by the institution that they belong, to the IPADS Office. **No application will be processed without letters of recommendation.**

(8) Proof of examination fee payment—The details regarding the examination fee will be notified at the time of shortlisting.

Submitted documents will not be returned. The examination fee is non-refundable.

5C. Selection, interviews, and notification of results

(1) Selection is based on all application documents submitted to the IPADS Office by the abovementioned deadline.

(2) An interview may be conducted via videolink for a limited number of applicants. Applicants will be notified in advance if this is the case.

(3) The final result will be notified to all shortlisted applicants by 7 February 2023 (for Round One) or16 May 2023 (for Round Two).

6. Legal notices

(1) The enrollment fee is not refundable once the student enrolment procedure has been completed.

(2) The University of Tokyo uses the applicants' personal information for student selection, result notifications, and enrollment. Personal information of the enrolled students may also be used for the purposes of student administration (registration and progress management), students services (health care, recruitment support, tuition exemption, scholarship selection, library membership, and others), and the collection of the tuition.

(3) The selection results may be used for future improvement of both the admission procedures and education programs at the University of Tokyo.

(4) If any of the submitted documents is found to be falsified, the admission may be cancelled even after the enrollment.

(5) The University of Tokyo has established the "The University of Tokyo Security Export Control Regulations" in accordance with Japan's "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act", and rigorously screens potential international students on the basis of these regulations.
Please be aware that international applicants who fall under any of the conditions set out in said regulations may not receive permission to enroll at the university or may have their research activities restricted.
Details can be obtained from the following website:
Office of Export Control

https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/adm/export-control/ja/rule.html (Japanese only)

(6) Those with disabilities who need special assistance during exams and study should contact the IPADS Office as soon as possible, by October 24, 2022 for Round One applicants and no later than, February 15, 2023 for Round Two applicants.

7. Enquiries

The IPADS Office
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