2026

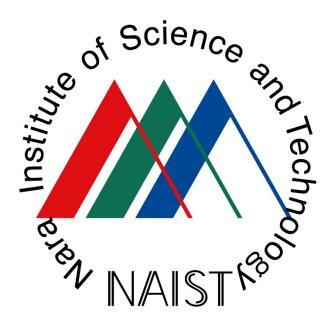## Admission Information and Application Guide

**(Screening of International Students by Special Recommendation
for Enrollment in the 2026 Spring and Fall Doctoral Course)**

Graduate School of Science and Technology

NARA INSTITUTE of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY (NAIST)

https://www.naist.jp/en/international_students/

Applicants for the doctoral course should contact the professor of the laboratory they wish to enter in advance so as to gain a thorough understanding of the fields of research available.

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NAIST Education Policy

● Objectives

As a graduate institution without undergraduate courses, NAIST promotes cutting-edge research and offers a sophisticated outcome-based education for each student so as to contribute to the advancement of science and technology and of society as a whole.

● Educational mission

NAIST was founded in October 1991 as a graduate institution which educates individuals who will contribute to the development of advanced science and technology. Research and education at NAIST cover the three core areas: information science, biological science and materials science.

In order to realize a suitable standard of living for people throughout the world in the 21st century, and indeed to secure our very survival, the coming generation of leading researchers must possess the highest scientific and technical competence, along with a clear grounding in professional ethics. At NAIST, we aim to cultivate such researchers and educators.

Therefore, in addition to the areas of information science, biological science and materials science, we actively encourage interdisciplinary research and provide educational training in the principles of ethics and intellectual property.

● Objectives for student development

Education and research in NAIST master's course cultivate sophisticated expertise and personal initiative to support society and the economy. The doctoral courses are designed to nurture students to become researchers and engineers with the drive to seek new frontiers in science and technology and to take on leading roles internationally.

● Educational policy

In addition to a specialized education, the wide-ranging curriculum cultivates ethical thinking, vision, theoretical thinking, comprehensive judgment and sharpened writing skills.

Educational programs to produce human resources who will pursue new interdisciplinary research fields are executed and those to produce human resources with a thorough, globally-focused understanding, which include collaborative programs with our overseas education and research partners, are offered.

Internal and external evaluations are implemented to continuously improve the quality of education, while enrichment of the education and research environments and the financial support for talented students are being promoted.

NAIST Admission Policy

◆ Prospective students

We are looking for students, researchers or engineers who have fundamental academic skills, a clear vision, a resolve toward the future and a strong interest and motivation for advanced science and technology regardless of their background. Especially, we actively accept applicants who have a strong interest in making the best use of their wide breadth of expertise to solve various problems facing society, and are aiming to be active in various fields of advanced science and technology.

◆ Basic admissions policy

In order to select outstanding persons with the above qualifications both domestically and abroad, we stress assessment of applicants' character and capability. There are various routes for admission, including examinations centered upon interviews as well as examinations based on recommendations.

1. Admission Capacity

Unit of Admissions	Admission Capacity	Field of Study
Science and Technology	Limited	information science
		biological science
		materials science

* Admission capacity includes students who will enter the Advanced Information Specialist Course.
  For more details, please check the following URL;
  https://www.naist.jp/en/international_students/prospective_students/admission_information/ais_course_e.html

2.Requirements for Application

Applicants who fulfill all of the following conditions can apply:
(1)　Those who do not hold Japanese nationality.
(2)　Those who are recommended by the president or dean of a university or research institution with which NAIST has concluded an Academic Exchange Agreement (see the URL below), and who are recognized for their excellence in academics, achievement, personality and character.
(URL: https://www.naist.jp/en/international_activities/international_partner_list.html)
In accordance with the above, candidates must meet one of the criteria below:
A: Those who are registered as students, faculty members or researchers at the universities or research institution on the list.
B: Those who have graduated from a university or research institution on the list.
(3)　Regarding the master's degree, applicants should meet one of the following conditions:
A: Those with a master's degree or the equivalent experience.
B: Those who will have received a master's degree or acquire the equivalent experience before planned enrollment.
C: Those who were engaged in research for at least 2 years at a university or a research institution, etc. after having completed a 16-year curriculum of school education abroad and who are thereby recognized to have an academic achievement equivalent or superior to a master's degree or a professional degree. (See Note)
D: Those who are recognized by NAIST through the Preliminary Evaluation for Suitability to have the academic ability equivalent or superior to the level of a master's or professional degree, and who will be 24 years of age or older by March 31, 2026*. (See Note)

Note: Applicants who wish to apply based on qualification (3)-C or (3)-D should follow the procedures given in item 11: Preliminary Evaluation of Applicant Suitability before taking the screening

*For Fall Admission these dates change to September 30, 2026.

3. Application Procedures

Enrollment period: 2026 Spring

Application Period
December 1 (Mon) – December 5 (Fri), 2025

Enrollment period: 2026 Fall

Screening Sessions	Application Period
1st Screening	February 2 (Mon) – February 6 (Fri), 2026
2nd Screening	June 1 (Mon) –June 5 (Fri), 2026

4.Online Application System Registration

Applicants must register their applications online.
＊Please complete the registration by the final day of the respective application period (Japan Standard Time).

Please register your application at the following URL.

https://e-apply.jp/ds/naist/

＊The term "Examination" will be used on the webpage in place of "Screening".

(1) Screening (Examination) fee

Screening (Examination) fee is 30,000 yen.

To complete registration, applicants must complete the payment of the screening (examination) fee.
Please choose one of the methods from ①～④ listed below, and pay the screening (examination) fee.
For more details, please refer to Payment method appearing on the Online Application System
(URL: https://e-apply.jp/ds/naist/public/payment).
Please note that applicants are responsible for paying any processing fee, etc.

① Payment via credit card
② Payment via internet banking
③ Payment at a convenience store
④ Payment via ATM

*Applicants living outside Japan can only pay the fee via credit card.
*Applicants who are unable to pay by any of the above payment methods (e.g., if living outside Japan and do not have a credit card) must consult with the Admissions Section of the Educational Affairs Division prior to applying. [Phone: +81(743)72-5083 Fax: +81(743)72-5014 E-mail: exam@ad.naist.jp]

Japanese government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship Students are exempt from the screening (examination) fee.
MEXT Scholarship Students enrolled at universities other than NAIST, must submit a certificate stating their status as MEXT Scholarship Students.

(2) Required documents

Applicants must upload the documents indicated below when registering on the Online Application System.
(https://e-apply.jp/ds/naist/) .

Required Documents	Remarks
Photograph	Please follow the Online Application System instructions and upload your photograph. Must be upper-body and full-faced without headwear (except for religious reasons).
Scanned copy of your passport (the page with your full name)/residence card (both sides)	Please follow the Online Application System instructions and upload either one. Please upload the document in PDF format. Those who do not have either must upload a copy of a government-issued photo ID. If written in a language other than English, please attach an English translation to the certificate.
Graduation Certificate/ Certificate of Expected Graduation for Master's Degree or Equivalent	Must be issued by a graduate school or other educational institution. Please upload the document in PDF format. Applicants who meet Requirement for Application (3)-C or (3)-D (p.1) need not submit this certificate. If written in a language other than English, please attach an English translation to the certificate. *If there is only a paper certificate, please submit PDF files created by scanning with multifunctional device or scanner, as photo data converted to PDF may lose clarity.
Transcript of Master's or Equivalent Courses	Must be issued by a graduate school or other educational institution. Please upload the document in PDF format. Those who have approved transfer credits must also submit a transcript from the previous school (university, junior college, etc.).

	Applicants who meet Requirement for Application (3)-C or (3)-D (p.1) need not submit a transcript.
	If written in a language other than English, please attach an English translation to the certificate.
	*If there is only a paper certificate, please submit PDF files created by scanning with multifunctional device or scanner, as photo data converted to PDF may lose clarity.
Employment Certificate	Only necessary for those who are employed as faculty members or researchers at the universities or research institution with which NAIST has concluded an Academic Exchange Agreement.
	Must be issued by a university or research institution.
	Please upload the document in PDF format.
	If written in a language other than English, please attach an English translation to the certificate.
	*If there is only a paper certificate, please submit PDF files created by scanning with multifunctional device or scanner, as photo data converted to PDF may lose clarity.
Letter of Recommendation	Use the form provided by NAIST (university/institution's official form is also acceptable if it contains the same information).
	Must be issued by the president or the dean, (If the title is different from these, include an explanation of the position or website where this position is listed in English.), or equivalent position of a university or research institution with which NAIST has concluded an Academic Exchange Agreement.
	Please upload the documents in PDF format.
	Must be in English.
Research Experience and Background	Any form is acceptable. Maximum: Five A4 pages.
	Please upload the document in PDF format.
	Please write in English.
	In addition, if you have any publications in English, please attach offprints.
Statement of Research Plan at NAIST	Any form is acceptable. Maximum: Two A4 pages.
	Please upload the document in PDF format.
	Please write in English.

●For applicants who apply for information science

Required Documents	Remarks
Document to Verify English Proficiency	Be sure to upload the English proficiency score you have registered on the Online Application System.
	*If there is only a paper certificate, please submit PDF files created by scanning with multifunctional device or scanner, as photo data converted to PDF may lose clarity.
	<Acceptable score / How to submit>
	➢ TOEIC
	Score type: Listening & Reading Test or Speaking & Writing Tests
	How to submit: Please upload PDF data of the certificate to the Online Application System.
	➢ TOEFL

| | Score type: TOEFL iBT / TOEFL ITP / TOEFL Essentials / TOEFL iBT Home Edition

How to submit: ①Please upload the PDF data of the Examinee Score Report or Test Taker Score (Score Report in the case of TOEFL ITP).

②Applicants can also send official score reports to NAIST via ETS. After completing procedures at ETS, the report will be sent to NAIST. The score will not be accepted if it does not arrive by the deadline. Since it takes several weeks to arrive at NAIST, please allow plenty of time to complete the procedures.

Code for sending TOEFL official score report
DI (Designated Institution) code: D234
Department code: 99

➢ Duolingo English Test
How to submit: Please upload the PDF data with which NAIST can check the score.

➢ IELTS
How to submit: Please upload the PDF data of the official score certificate. |
| | |

* For those candidates who wish to apply under Requirement for Application (3)-A or (3)- B (p.1) with equivalent experience and have passed an examination equivalent to the Qualifying Examination, being recognized as having the academic ability equal to or above that of a master's degree.

Required Documents	Remarks
Confirmation of Qualifying Examination	Any format is acceptable. Please upload the document in PDF format. （Sample Confirmation Letter） 　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Date/Month/Year To Whom This May Concern: On behalf of ［name of the applicant's university］, I hereby confirm that our student Mr./Ms. ［name of the applicant］ has passed our ［name of the examination］ and has been found to have the ability equivalent to or greater than that required for a master's degree. For your information, I am enclosing the following documentation concerning the examination. 【Example】 ・Examination Standards ・Documentation showing the correlation between successful examination and the requirements for a master's degree ・Documentation showing the correlation between the treatment of doctoral students who passed [name of examination] and those who entered [name of the applicant's university] with a master's degree from another institution

	President of [name of your university]
	[Signature]

(3) Others

・The status appearing on the Online Application System will be updated approximately 1 week after the respective application period. Please be sure to confirm that your status has changed to "Applied".

・If you pass the screening, you are required to submit the original hard copy of "Graduation certificate (degree certificate)" (in paper form) and "Transcript" (in paper form) in the enrollment procedures.

・If your home university does not issue paper certificates, digital certificates are accepted in the enrollment procedures on the condition that the following 1 and 2 are attached.

　1）URL of an online verification service that can verify the authenticity of the digital certificates

　2）URL of the issuer's official web page indicating that the issuer is using such an online verification service

5. Download Screening (Examination) Voucher

Please download the screening (Examination) Voucher from the Online Application System. An e-mail will be sent to the address registered in the Online Application System once the document is ready.

6. Important Application Notes

・　If the applicant has a physical disability and requires special assistance in taking examinations, screening, in following the standard academic program, please consult with the Admissions Section of the Educational Affairs Division at least three months prior to applying. Contact within three months of the application period is permitted, however, please understand we may not be able to accommodate your request. Please prepare a copy of a disability certificate and a doctor's certificate as you will be asked to submit these in due course.
　　[Phone: +81(743)72-5083/5084　　Fax: +81(743)72-5014　　E-mail: exam@ad.naist.jp]

・　In principle, if the application documents are incomplete, the application will not be accepted. Further changes to the submitted documents will not be accepted.

・　Applicants may be deemed to have committed a fraudulent act if they falsify, fabricate or plagiarize a document, materials or information included in their application. In such cases, any decisions made based upon the application and materials may be invalidated at a later date. If your entrance to NAIST is cancelled, your application, documents and screening (examination) fee may not be returned.

7. Screening Method

Applicants are evaluated according to a screening of application documents.

However, a speaking assessment may be conducted in addition if deemed necessary. In that case, you will be notified separately of the date and place of the speaking assessment.

8. Screening Results and Enrollment Procedures

Enrollment period: 2026 Spring

Results Announced	Enrollment Procedure
January 9 (Fri), 2026	Late February 2026

Enrollment period: 2026 Fall

Screening Sessions	Results Announced	Enrollment Procedure
1st Screening	February 20 (Fri), 2026	Late September 2026
2nd Screening	July 21 (Tue), 2026	

The screening results will be announced on the NAIST website (https://www.naist.jp/en/) from 10:00 am on the dates specified above. We will also notify applicants by e-mail.

9. Payments Required for Admission

    (1) Enrollment fee: 282,000 yen (Provisional)

    (2) Tuition fee: 267,900 yen per semester. (535,800 yen for the annual fee) (Provisional)

      If there is a change in fees, the new admission and tuition fees will apply to all students who will enter NAIST after the change.

10. Preliminary Evaluation of Applicant Suitability

    Those who wish to apply under Requirement for Application (3)-C or (3)-D (p.1) must first pass the Preliminary Evaluation for Suitability before formally applying. Only applicants who are thus recognized by NAIST as having the academic ability equivalent to or superior to the level of a master's or professional degree can apply for admission. If you seek the Preliminary Evaluation for Suitability, please prepare the following documents:

Application deadlines for the Preliminary Evaluation for Suitability **(Should be made no later than the following dates)**

Screening Sessions	Deadline
Screening for spring admission	November 7 (Fri), 2025
1st Screening for fall admission	January 9 (Fri), 2026
2nd Screening for fall admission	May 8 (Fri), 2026

Required documents

Required Documents	Remarks
Application Form for Qualification Screening	Use the form provided by NAIST. Please first contact the Admissions Section (exam@ad.naist.jp).
Certificate of Graduation of Last Academic Institution Attended	If not written in English, attach an English translation.
Transcript of Last Academic Institution Attended	Must be issued by the university or academic institution from which you graduated.
Research Achievement Report	Use the form provided by NAIST. Simply state your research achievements. (Not needed for those who apply under application provision (3)-D (p.1).)
Certificate of Research Activities	Use the form provided by NAIST. Must be written by your current university or research institute. (Not needed for those who apply under application provision (3)-D (p.1).)
Copies of Relevant Certificates	Examples: Research papers, Credentials, Certificates of proficiency tests or achievement tests, Certificates of English proficiency tests, acquired patents, software specifications developed

    The result of the preliminary evaluation will be sent by e-mail prior to the application period.

11. Security Export Control

    At NAIST, in order to ensure that international students' education and research activities do not obstruct the maintenance of international peace and security, export security control is conducted in accordance with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. Please understand that there may be cases where you may be asked to adjust or restrict educational and/or research contents.

    https://www.naist.jp/en/international_activities/security_export_control.html

12. Additional Information

・   Fees and documents once submitted may not be refunded/ returned for any reason.

・   In compliance with the Private Information Protection Law regarding private information owned by an Independent Administrative Legal Entity, all private information (including entries in required documents for application and screening results) are used only for the purpose of screening (follow-up check included), and are not used for any other purpose.

・   If you have any further questions regarding the application guide, please contact us at the following address.

Admissions Section, Educational Affairs Division
Nara Institute of Science and Technology
8916-5, Takayama, Ikoma, Nara 630-0192, Japan
Phone: +81(743)72-5083/5084   Fax: +81(743)72-5014
E-mail: exam@ad.naist.jp

Letter of Recommendation

for the Screening of Specially Recommended International Students

To the President of NAIST

Name of the student, faculty member or researcher recommended　:　_____

Reason for recommendation:
(Please state in English your reasons for recommending the above-mentioned person as a suitable candidate for the Screening of International Students by Special Recommendation of NAIST, describing his/her suitability with regards to personality and academic achievement. For a current (or graduated) student, please also include comments on academic achievement; for a faculty member or researcher please comment on research achievements.)

Date:　_____

Recommender's name:　_____

Title:　_____
(President or Dean)

Institution:　_____

Recommender's signature :　_____