2026

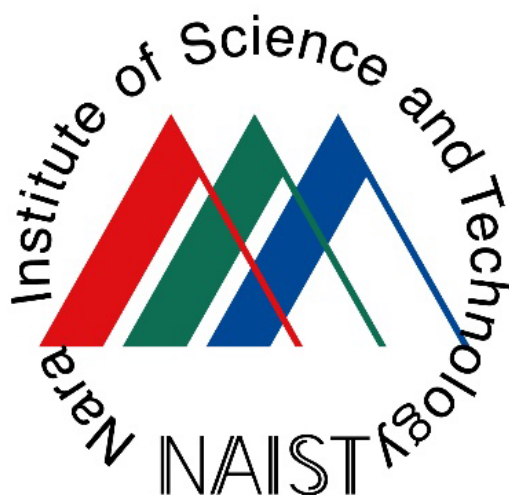## Admission Information and Application Guide

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

Graduate School of Science and Technology

NARA INSTITUTE of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY (NAIST)

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

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NAIST Education Policy

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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 in and motivation for advanced science and technology, regardless of their background or undergraduate major. Especially, we actively accept applicants who have the ability to reason logically and accurately express their thoughts, and those who are very inquisitive and have the ability to tackle challenges.

- **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 Admission	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 bachelor's degree, applicants should meet one of the following conditions.
A: Those who have completed or will complete a 16-year curriculum of school education in foreign countries by March 31, 2026*.
B: Those who was conferred or will be conferred the equivalent of a bachelor's degree by March 31, 2026* by completing the course that the years required for graduation are 3 years or more in foreign university or other foreign schools deemed eligible by the Minister of MEXT.
C: 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 bachelor's degree, and who will be 22 years of age or older by March 31, 2026*. (See Note)

Note: Applicants who wish to apply based on qualification (3)-C 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 Periods

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)72-5083/5084
　　/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	Must be issued by a university or other educational institution. Please upload the document in PDF format. Applicants who meet Requirement for Application (3)-C (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	Must be issued by a university 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 (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 document in PDF format. Must be in English.
Research Proposal	Please write a two-page paper on A4-size paper that covers the following topics: **"The contents of my undergraduate studies"** and **"The research field/project that I want to work on at NAIST."** (Any format is acceptable, however, please upload the document in PDF format.) It must be more than one page and no more than two pages for both topics together. Please upload the document in PDF format. [Important Notes] 1. Be sure to write your name on both pages. 2. Write on one side only in English. 3. You may include additional data (figures or charts) within the Research Proposal.
Letter of Provisional Acceptance	Use the form provided by NAIST. Must be issued by a professor of the field of study you are applying to. Must be in English or Japanese. Please upload the document in PDF format. *1: Applicants must contact the professor whose lab they wish to join and obtain his/her preliminary approval of acceptance at least one month prior to the first day of the application period. *2: Before requesting a Letter of Provisional Acceptance, applicants should decide on the laboratory they wish to join. Applicants must not request Letters of Provisional Acceptance from more than one professor simultaneously.
Document to Verify English Proficiency	Be sure to upload the English proficiency score you have registered on the Online Application System. If "Submission of document verifying English proficiency" is indicated as "Not required" in the Letter of Provisional Acceptance, the applicants need not submit this.

	*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. |

(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.

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

6. Important Application Notes

- ・ If the applicant has a physical disability and requires special assistance in taking examinations, screening, or 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 (p.1) must first pass the Preliminary Evaluation for Applicant Suitability before formally applying.

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 academic institution from which you graduated.
Copies of Relevant Certificates	Examples: Credentials, Certificates of proficiency tests or achievement tests, Certificate of English proficiency tests

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

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 :　_____

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2026 年 先端科学技術研究科 受入内諾書

2026 Letter of Provisional Acceptance

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年　　月　　日

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国　籍　(Nationality)（英語併記）

氏　名　(Full Name)（英語併記）　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　殿

　本学志願者として相応しい者であると判断し，入学者選抜試験合格のうえは当研究室への受入れを内諾します。

　After consideration of the documents received thus far, including your research plan, it has been determined that you meet the preliminary qualifications for acceptance as an applicant to the master's course at Nara Institute of Science and Technology. Provided that you pass the screening, you will be accepted as a master's course student at NAIST, in accordance with the details below.

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記(Details)

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1　受入課程(英語併記)　：博士前期課程　　先端科学技術研究科
Course of acceptance: Master's course of the Graduate school of Science and Technology

2　指導予定教員(英語併記)：所 属　先端科学技術研究科　役職：　　氏 名：
　　Prospective academic advisor：Graduate School of Science and Technology
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Title:　　　　　　　　Full name:

3　英語能力を証明する書類の提出　　　　　　　　　　　　　要・　不要
Submission of document verifying English proficiency　　　Required / Not required

4　その他留意事項　(Other items to note)

（注１）出願期間の１ヶ月前までに志望研究室の責任者に発行を依頼すること。
（注２）志望研究室の責任者から，この書類が返送されたらオンライン出願登録サイトにアップロードすること。
*You must ask the professor of the laboratory you wish to join to gain this letter at least one month prior to the first day of the application period.
**When you receive this Letter of Provisional Acceptance, you are required to upload it to the Online Application System.

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(NAIST での指導予定教員)
所　属：　　　　　　　　　研究室
役　職：
　　氏　名：　　　　　　　　　　　　印

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