

2026 Requirements for Research Student Applicants Enrolling in a Doctor's Degree at the Graduate School of Applied Life Sciences at the Niigata University of Pharmacy and Medical and Life Sciences

Aims of Education and Research Activities

The Graduate School of Applied Life Sciences strives to foster sophisticated research capabilities in the fields of food science, agricultural science, environmental science, pharmaceutical science, medicine, healthcare and other life sciences with the aim of cultivating human resources capable of contributing to society as trusted professionals.

Admissions Policy

1. The type of student we are looking for:

The Graduate School is looking for students who possess the following disposition and motivation.

- Students with a strong desire and willingness to develop the ability to independently pursue research activities with an approach based on deep logical thinking
- Students with the motivation to use the knowledge, skills, research capabilities, and information communication skills to contribute to society in an instructive role
- Students with a desire to independently conduct research by collaborating with experts in different fields

2. Required knowledge and skills for enrollment

- Specialist knowledge of applied life sciences, and the ability to apply said knowledge
- Research design capabilities for setting issues to be addressed with the study of applied life sciences
- The linguistic and communicative abilities needed for learning expertise and communicating information

Research Fields Accepting Applications

Analytical Food Sciences, Functional Food Sciences, Food and Fermentation Technologies, Animal Cell Engineering, Plant Molecular Cytology, Applied Microbiology, Green Chemistry, Environmental Engineering, Molecular Science

* Please select a research laboratory from those included in the research fields above, and make note of this in your application form. (See "List of Research Topics"). When certifying your eligibility as applicant, make sure to also fill out the formal application qualification review form.) Make sure to obtain an informal agreement from the professor you wish to supervise your research before submitting an application, or consult with the Academic Affairs Office Section 1, Administration Department to appoint a supervisor.

Entrance Examination Schedule

Item	Schedule
Application deadline to certify your eligibility as applicant (Applicable persons only)	Friday, December 5, 2025 (at the latest)
Application period	Monday, January 26, 2026 to Friday, January 30, 2026 (at the latest)
Examination date	Monday, March 9, 2026
Announcement date of examination results	Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Deadline for enrollment procedures	Tuesday, March 24, 2026

[Inquiries on Entrance Examinations and Where to Submit Documents]

The Entrance Examination Section, Administration Department on the Niitsu Campus accepts application-related inquiries, and application form requests.

265-1 Higashijima, Akiha-ku, Niigata 956-8603

Phone: +81 250-25-5395 (Available from 9AM to 5PM, except for Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays)

E-mail:nyuushi@nupals.ac.jp

<Handling of Personal Information>

- The University follows all laws related to the protection of personal information, and assigns a personal information manager to handle all personal information submitted by applicants.
- Applicant personal information is shared within and used by the University for studies, investigations, research, analysis and so forth regarding entrance examination tasks, enrollment procedures and operations, screening methods, etc. Applicant personal information is also shared within and used by the University for academic affairs and student support activities.

<General Selection>

1 Available Student Slots 3 (including special selection for working professionals)

2 Applicant Requirements

Applicants must satisfy one of the following criteria to apply for admission:

- (1) Applicants who hold a master's degree, or expect to obtain a master's degree by March 2026
- (2) Applicants who have received, or expect to receive a degree equivalent to a master's degree by March 2026 overseas
- (3) Applicants who have at two or more years of research experience (as of April 1, 2026) at a university or research institution since graduating from university and, based on the results of said research, the Graduate School deems to possess academic abilities that are the equivalent of, or greater than, a person with a master's degree.
- (4) Applicants who, after 16 years of school education in an overseas country, have at two or more years of research experience (as of April 1, 2026) at a university or research institution since graduating from university and, based on the results of said research, the Graduate School deems to possess academic abilities that are the equivalent of, or greater than, a person with a master's degree.
- (5) Applicants recognized by the Graduate School as having an equivalent level, or higher level of academic ability as a person with a master's degree as a result of preliminary screening, and who will reach 24 years of age by March 31, 2025. Applicants with other enrollment qualifications as prescribed in the Graduate School of Pharmacy at the Niigata University of Pharmacy and Medical and Life Sciences Rules and Regulations

*** Notes for persons applying on the basis of applicant requirements (2) to (5)**

Applicant requirements will be verified and screened beforehand. Contact the office described in [Inquiries on Entrance Examinations and Where to Submit Documents] on page 1 by phone and follow the instructions provided. Applicants cannot submit an application without their applicant qualifications being verified and screened.

A summary on the verification and screening of applicant requirements is provided on page 6. Please read through this and follow the procedures described (note the submission deadline for verification and screening documents).

3 Application Period

Monday, January 26, 2026 to Friday, January 30, 2026 (at the latest)

4 Application Procedures

Applicants are requested to prepare the following application documents and either submit the documents directly within the abovementioned application period (9AM to 5PM, except for Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays), or send the documents by post.

When sending the application documents and other materials by post, use the registered post service (kani-kakitome), and clearly indicate "Graduate school application form enclosed" on the front of the envelope in red.

- (1) Place to submit application documents and other materials: Entrance Examination Section, Administration Department, Niitsu Campus
- (2) Please pay the official approval fee (¥22,000) using either of the prescribed methods below.
 - 1) Direct submissions: Purchase a certificate stamp from the Administration Department on the 2nd floor of Building A on the Niitsu Campus, and submit it together with your application documents.
 - 2) Postal money orders: Exchange the fee amount for a regular money order at a Japan Post Bank or post office savings counter, and submit it together with your application documents.
 - 3) Bank transfers: Transfer the fee amount to the following bank account. The applicant shall bear the cost of bank transfer service fees.
Submit a copy of the bank transfer receipt or the ATM statement together with your application documents.
The original copy acts as a receipt, so make sure to store it safely.
Daishi Hokuetsu Bank Main Branch (ordinary savings account) No2696604
Account Holder Name: Niigata Yakka Daigaku Ouyou Seimei Kagakubu

(3) Required Documents

- 1) Application form (University-prescribed format)
- 2) Photo form, examination admission slip, entrance examination fee payment form (University-prescribed format)
- 3) Certificate of completion (or expected completion) from previous school attended
- 4) Academic transcript from previous school attended
- 5) Abstract summarizing master's thesis, or research progress report (summary of primary research) (2,000 characters or less on A4 paper in a format of the applicant's choosing.) A research progress report (summary of primary research) need only be submitted by applicants with prior research experience)
- 6) Personal statement (A4 paper in a format of the applicant's choosing)
- 7) Recommendation by supervisor of master's thesis or from affiliated institute (optional, submit on A4 paper in a format of the applicant's choosing)
- 8) Two photos of applicant's face (4 cm x 3 cm in size, taken within three months prior to the application, with the applicant facing forward on a plain background, and without wearing a hat. Write your name on the reverse side of two copies of the same photo, and then affix it in the space provided on the application form and photo form)
- 9) Certificate of proof of payment of entrance examination fee
- 10) [For applicants intending to continue employment after enrollment] Approval from affiliated organization (University-prescribed format)
- 11) [For foreign applicants only] Copy of your residence card, alien registration card, or passport

* If your name at the time of application is different to the name provided on certification documents due to changing your surname, or for some other reason, please provide additional documents proving your identity (certificate of individual items entered in the family register, etc.).

5 Selection Process

Applicants are screened using examinations testing academic ability, interviews and application documents, and successful applicants are selected based on the results.

(1) Examination Date Monday, March 9 2026

(2) Venue: Niitsu Campus

(3) Exam Contents

Examinations testing academic ability

1) Technical English: Standard English-Japanese dictionaries only allowed (no electronic dictionaries). Applicants taking 2) Oral exam in English are exempt.

2) Oral exam: Give a presentation primarily focusing on an outline of your master's thesis or main research topics (only for applicants with a research history) in Japanese or English. Presentation 15 minutes, question and answer 15 minutes. Make sure to use PowerPoint slides.

Interview

* A detailed examination schedule and other details will be provided with the examination admission slip sent.

6 Announcement Date of Examination Results

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 1 PM

- The examinee number of successful applicants will be posted on the message board in front of the main entrance to the Niitsu Campus.
- A pass notification will be sent to successful applicants at the same time as this announcement.
- The University does not respond to inquiries via phone regarding application results.

7 Enrollment Procedures

Successful applicants must complete the enrollment procedures within the designated enrollment period by transferring the following payment amounts to a University-specified bank account, and submitting the designated enrollment documents to the University in the manner described in the "Enrollment Guidelines" sent with the pass notification.

Applicants will be notified of the designated enrollment documents in the "Enrollment Guidelines" sent with the pass notification.

(1) Enrollment Period: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 to Tuesday, March 24, 2026

(2) Enrollment-related fees: ¥553,620 (enrollment fee ¥200,000, 1st term tuition ¥185,000, facilities fee ¥165,000, service fees ¥3,620)

(3) Withdrawing from enrollment

School fees and service fees, with the exception of the enrollment fee, will be refunded provided that notice of your intention to withdraw from enrollment is provided (**no later than**) Friday, March 31, 2026 at 4 PM. In all other circumstances, only the service fees will be refunded. To withdraw your enrollment application, please send the Notice of Withdrawal from Enrollment (enclosed with the pass notification) by post (express delivery by registered post).

If it is uncertain whether a Notice of Withdrawal from Enrollment sent by the submission deadline described above has been submitted (received by the University), make sure to contact the Entrance Examination Section, Administration Department by 4 PM on the day of the abovementioned submission deadline at the latest. Refunds are only provided in the event said contact is made.

8 School Fees and Expenses

(1) School fees

1) Enrollment fee: ¥200,000 (Only required at time of enrollment. Graduates of the University, and students who have completed their master's program at the University Graduate School are exempt.)

2) Tuition: ¥370,000 annually (1st term: ¥185,000, 2nd term: ¥185,000)

3) Facilities fee: ¥330,000 annually (1st term: ¥165,000, 2nd term: ¥165,000; Graduates of the University, and students who have completed their master's program at the University Graduate School 1st term: ¥82,500, 2nd term: ¥82,500)

(2) Service fees ¥3,620 yen (Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research and other insurance premiums (three years))

9 Extended Course System

Students wishing to systematically complete the curriculum over a period of time beyond the standard completion period (three years), for work or other reasons, may be permitted to do so, if approved, as extended course students upon submitting a request. Extended course students may extend the length of the course to four or five years. When doing so, the annual tuition fee will be the total regular three-year tuition fee of ¥1,110,000 divided by the length of the extended course in years. For details, please inquire with the Academic Affairs Office Section 1, Administration Department at the Niitsu Campus.

10 Preliminary Consultation Services for Applicants with Disabilities, etc.

Applicants with an illness or physical disability, or persons wishing to request special considerations for completing the course of study, including for examinations and in the course of practical learning are asked to contact the contact point for "Inquiries on Entrance Examinations and Where to Submit Documents" on page 1 of these Guidelines before submitting their application. While the University may not be able to satisfy every request, please notify the University as far in advance as possible, regardless of whether you decide to submit an application, due to the time required to modify school facilities and for the University to address other concerns based on the content of your inquiry.

11 Other Matters

(1) Submitted documents and paid entrance examination fees will not be returned.

(2) If the documents submitted are found to contain false statements, the applicant's admission approval may be revoked.

<Special selection for working professionals>

1 Available Student Slots Several

2 Applicant Requirements

Applicants may submit an enrollment application if they fall under any of the following criteria, and have two or more years of working experience at a research institution, educational institution, or company (as of April 1, 2026), and intend to continue to do so after enrollment.

- (1) Applicants who hold a master's degree, or expect to obtain a master's degree by March 2026
- (2) Applicants who have received, or expect to receive a degree equivalent to a master's degree by March 2024 overseas
- (3) Applicants who have at two or more years of research experience (as of April 1, 2026) at a university or research institution since graduating from university and, based on the results of said research, the Graduate School deems to possess academic abilities that are the equivalent of, or greater than, a person with a master's degree.
- (4) Applicants who, after 16 years of school education in an overseas country, have at two or more years of research experience (as of April 1, 2026) at a university or research institution since graduating from university and, based on the results of said research, the Graduate School deems to possess academic abilities that are the equivalent of, or greater than, a person with a master's degree.
- (5) Applicants recognized by the Graduate School as having an equivalent level, or higher level of academic ability as a person with a master's degree as a result of preliminary screening, and who will reach 24 years of age by March 31, 2026. Applicants with other enrollment qualifications as prescribed in the Graduate School of Pharmacy at the Niigata University of Pharmacy and Medical and Life Sciences Rules and Regulations

* Notes for persons applying on the basis of applicant requirements (2) to (5)

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A summary on the verification and screening of applicant requirements is provided on page 6. Please read through this and follow the procedures described (note the submission deadline for verification and screening documents).

3 Application Period

Monday, January 26, 2026 to Friday, January 30, 2026 <at the latest>

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 - 3) Bank transfers: Transfer the fee amount to the following bank account. The applicant shall bear the cost of bank transfer service fees. Submit a copy of the bank transfer receipt or the ATM statement together with your application documents.

The original copy acts as a receipt, so make sure to store it safely.

Daishi Hokuetsu Bank Main Branch (ordinary savings account) No. 2696604

Account Holder Name: Niigata Yakka Daigaku Ouyou Seimei Kagakubu

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- 6) Personal statement (A4 paper in a format of the applicant's choosing)
- 7) Recommendation by affiliated institute (optional, submit on A4 paper in a format of the applicant's choosing)
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- 10) Proof of payment of entrance examination fee
- 11) [For foreign applicants only] Copy of your residence card, alien registration card, or passport

* If your name at the time of application is different to the name provided on certification documents due to changing your surname, or for some other reason, please provide additional documents proving your identity (certificate of individual items entered in the family register, etc.).

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11 Other Matters

(1) Submitted documents and paid entrance examination fees will not be returned.

(2) If the documents submitted are found to contain false statements, the applicant's admission approval may be revoked.

Verification and Screening of Applicant Qualifications

Applicants who fall under “2 Applicant Requirements (2) to (5)” must contact the University by phone to have their applicant qualifications verified and screen as described below. Note that applicants cannot submit an application without their applicant qualifications being verified and screened.

1 Documents for Submission

From the documents 1) to 9) below, submit those requested by the University based on your application qualifications.

- 1) Application qualification confirmation form (University-prescribed format)
- 2) Formal application qualification review form (University-prescribed format)
- 3) Graduation (completion) certificate from previous school attended
- 4) Academic transcript from previous school attended
- 5) Research record (University-prescribed format. Include details of authored works, dissertations, academic reports, scientific lectures, research reports, and patents, etc.)
- 6) Citations from dissertations and lectures, etc. (materials listed in (5))
- 7) Research progress reports (summary of primary research) (only submitted by applicants with prior research experience. Please provide details of past achievements and research performed at universities and research institutes after graduating from university. 2,000 characters or less on A4 paper in a format of the applicant's choosing)
- 8) Copy of your residence card, alien registration card, or passport (for foreign applicants only)
- 9) Return envelope (120 mm x 235 mm envelope including your name, address, and post code, and ¥360 in stamps.)

* If your name at the time of application is different to the name provided on certification documents due to changing your surname, or for some other reason, please provide additional documents proving your identity (certificate of individual items entered in the family register, etc.).

2 Submission Method

The documents for submission are to be submitted directly, or sent by post to the Entrance Examination Section, Administration Department (9AM to 4PM, except for Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays) within the following submission period.

When sending by post, use the registered post service (kani-kakitome), and clearly indicate “Graduate school application qualification documents enclosed” on the front of the envelope in red.

3 Submission deadline

Friday, December 5, 2025 at the latest

4 Notification of Verification and Screening Results for Application Qualification

You will be notified of the results of the verification and screening process for your application qualifications by post before the start of the application period.

Applicants recognized as having satisfied the application qualification requirements are asked to complete the application process.

In addition, any documents submitted as part of the application qualification verification and screening process do not need to be resubmitted in duplicate during the application process.

5 Application Mailing Address and Contact Point for Inquiries

Entrance Examination Section, Administration Department, Niitsu Campus

265-1 Higashijima, Akiha-ku, Niigata 956-8603

Phone: +81 250-25-5395 (Available from 9AM to 5PM, except for Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays)

E-mail: nyuushi@nupals.ac.jp

● List of Research Topics for a Doctor's Degree at the Graduate School of Applied Life Sciences at the Niigata University of Pharmacy and Medical and Life Sciences (Some details may be subject to change)

Research Fields (Name of Research Laboratory)	Supervising Professor		Research Overview
	Job Title/Degree	Name	
Analytical Food Sciences (Analytical Food Sciences)	Professor, Doctor of Pharmacy	Shinji Sato	We are involved in the development and functional assessment of functional foods used in the prevention of metabolic syndrome and other lifestyle diseases.
Functional Food Sciences (Functional Food Sciences)	Professor, Doctor (Agricultural Science)	Hitoshi Matsumoto	We conduct research into the efficacy of the raw materials in functional foods, and functional mechanisms of polyphenol, bifidus bacillus, oligosaccharide, and other functional foods.
Food and Fermentation Technologies (Food and Fermentation Technologies)	Professor, Doctor (Agricultural Science)	Toru Shigematsu	We study the application of high pressure and microbial functions aimed at establishing environmentally-friendly food processing technologies and environmental conservation technologies that strike a balance between safety and economic feasibility.
Animal Cell Engineering (Animal Cell Engineering)	Professor, Doctor (Science)	Shinichi Ichikawa	We conduct research into cell death caused by oxidative stress and other forms of cell stress. We study the physiological function of sphingolipids. We investigate neurological function through genetic modification. We research fatty liver suppressing activity.
Applied Microbiology (Applied Microbiology, Genetic Engineering)	Professor, Doctor (Agricultural Science)	Hiroaki Takaku	We conduct research on the production of high performance produce at low cost with a low energy consumption by modifying the function of matter production in microorganisms (smart cells) through the use of information science in the hope of solving issues related to the depletion of resources and global warming.
Green Chemistry (Environmental Organic Chemistry)	Professor, Doctor (Engineering)	Yutaka Nakamura	We conduct research into the efficient synthesis of natural physiologically active products derived from sugars and other renewable resources.
Environmental Engineering (Environmental Engineering)	Professor, Doctor (Engineering)	Tomohiro Kose	We study the development of methods for measuring chemical substances, and their application in the understanding of environmental dynamics. We research the development of cyclical use techniques for waste materials to contribute to the development of a sustainable society.
Molecular Science (Chemistry)	Professor, Doctor (Science)	Yoshifusa Arai	We conduct research into novel environmentally-friendly solid state reactions that do not rely on organic solvents, and useful materials found in plants and animals.