2027 (Spring/Fall Enrolment)

Application Procedures and Guidelines for the International Course in Primatology and Wildlife Research, Division of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University

Center for International Collaboration and Advanced Studies in Primate Science (CICASP)
Institute for the Evolutionary Origins of Human Behavior (EHUB)
Kyoto University
41-2, Kanrin, Inuyama, Aichi, 484-8506, Japan

And

International Collaboration Unit (ICU)
Wildlife Research Center (WRC)
Kyoto University
2-24 Tanaka-Sekiden-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8203, Japan

Tel: +81-568-63-0284
Email: cicasp_exam@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

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1. Program Description

The International Course in Primatology and Wildlife Research is a graduate program of Kyoto University that focuses on the study of non-human primates and other wild animals to understand evolutionary origins of human behaviors, promote their conservation, health and welfare, and to advance our understanding of wildlife and human nature. Graduate students enroll in either the MSc or DSc course with one of the existing sections at the Department of Primatology and Wildlife Research, Division of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University. Both degrees offered are research-focused, but master's students are also required to complete a set of courses and training programs provided by the Department of Primatology and Wildlife Research. Students who have successfully completed their master's degree typically progress to the DSc program. MSc students are required to take a series of classes in Primatology and Wildlife Science from April to July. Classes offered in English are sufficient for students to obtain the credits necessary to complete their master's degree. On the other hand, students may also take classes not taught in English, in which case slides and supplementary information in English are available from instructors.

This international course is managed jointly by the Center for International Collaboration and Advanced Studies in Primate Science (CICASP) of the Institute for the Evolutionary Origins of Human Behavior (EHUB), Kyoto University and the International Collaboration Unit (ICU) of the Wildlife Research Center (WRC), Kyoto University. Both CICASP and ICU are staffed by faculty members and administrators fluent in English. They will be able to help you with the entrance procedure and with your daily life in Japan.

These MSc and DSc programs are recommended for anyone wishing to study primatology and wildlife science.

Detailed and updated information can be found on the website:

https://cicasp.ehub.kyoto-u.ac.jp/

2. Eligibility

2.1 Annual Program Enrollment Limit:
Annual enrollment is limited to 5 students each for the MSc and DSc programs.

2.2 Eligibility
1) Non-Japanese citizens
   - Japanese citizens are eligible only if they satisfy special conditions. Contact us by the end of August for examination period 1 and by the end of March for examination period 2 (see Section 4) before starting the application process. The applicant's eligibility will be screened in advance.

2) Students who are able to pay the enrollment fee and tuition fees, as well as their living expenses in Japan. (See Section 7 for details of potential sources of support and scholarships.)
3) For the master's program: applicants must have completed or be expected to complete their bachelor's degree at a university by the end of March for enrollment in April, or by the end of September for enrollment in October. For the doctoral program: applicants must have completed or be expected to complete their master's degree at a university by the end of March for enrollment in April, or by the end of September for enrollment in October. Those who have completed or are expected to complete a 6-year program of higher education without obtaining a master's degree (e.g., in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, etc.) and wish to directly apply to a doctoral program must be screened for eligibility by the end of January for enrollment in the following October or by the end of May for enrollment in the following April, before starting the application process. If this condition applies to you, please make sure to contact us in time.
4) Applicants with fewer than 3 years of formal undergraduate education are not eligible. Please contact us to confirm your eligibility if you are not sure.

References:
- MEXT : Entrance Qualification for Master's Courses and Doctoral Courses (First Half)
- MEXT : Entrance Qualification for Doctoral Courses (Second Half)

3. Application Requirements

※Applicants may first contact a prospective supervisor from the list of faculty members at the Department of Primatology and Wildlife Research provided in Appendix 2.

-Pre-application review by the Admission Assistance Office (AAO)

Applicants should go through the AAO process prior to applying for the International Course in Primatology and Wildlife Research. For detailed procedures, please refer to the following link:
https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education-campus/education-and-admissions/graduate-degree-programs/how-to-apply/for-graduates-of-overseas-universities
The process may take a few days to months to complete, so please begin the process well in advance.

-Applicants for the MSc and DSc programs

Applicants should submit the documents and information below written in English. If any of the official documents are not written in English, English translations should be attached.
When making a correction to an already-issued official document, cross out words or sentences with a double line and write corrections above the cancelled contents. Note that general information required for the application (see Section 3.2) is to be completed via the online application system. All other documents (see Section 3.1-3.11) must be prepared in advance and uploaded via the online application system when requested.

3.1 Graduation (expected graduation) certificate

- Those who have graduated or are expected to graduate from a foreign university with with a bachelor's or master's degree must submit a certificate for prior verification.

3.2 General Information for Admission

- We require applicants to provide the general background information listed on the online application form.

3.3 Academic Transcript

- We require an official academic transcript (digital copy sufficient) prepared by the university you are currently attending, or from which you have graduated. Please also keep the original document as we may require it upon enrollment.
- Applicants who have graduated or are expected to graduate from the Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, do not need to submit this item.
- Research students currently enrolled in the Primatology and Wildlife Course, Division of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, who have already submitted an academic transcript also need to submit a photocopy.

3.4 Certification of English Proficiency

- We require certification of English proficiency such as TOEFL-iBT, TOEIC official score reports, Duolingo English Test or an IELTS test report form (TRF) taken within 5 years prior to the application deadline. Those who have taken the SAT, GRE, GSCE, or a comparable test* may submit these test scores instead. Applicants who have completed or expect to complete their previous university degrees at institutions at which English was the official language may be exempt from submitting further qualifications*.

  *Contact us to confirm eligibility or suitability.

3.5 Contact Details for Referees

- Applicants must arrange for two professional letters of recommendation to be submitted by referees on their behalf. One of the referees must be your supervisor or advisor at the university from which you graduated or are expecting to graduate. If that is not possible, you must send an email to cicasp_exam@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp with a letter explaining why.
  - ➢ The applicant must provide contact details for these referees via the online application system. Shortly after the application deadline, we will contact them to request the letter of recommendation to be directly emailed to us before your exam date. Thus, applicants do not submit the letters themselves.

  * Note that if the email address for the referees is entered incorrectly, we may not be able to contact them. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all information is entered correctly.
  * In addition, to ensure a timely response, applicants should contact their referees well in advance to inform them that a letter will be requested.

3.6 Letter of Support

- We require a letter of support from your prospective supervisor at Kyoto University, a faculty member from one of the eligible sections (see Appendix 2).
  - ➢ Letters of support should be supplied directly from the prospective supervisor by the application deadline. Applicants must ensure that the host agrees to support them and should request them to send a letter to the following email address: cicasp_exam@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp.

3.7 Statement of Research Interests

- A4-sized or letter-sized paper, 500-1000 words

3.8 Curriculum Vitae or Resume

- A4-sized or letter-sized paper

3.9 Receipt of Payment

- Enclose a copy of the payment certificate in your application.
  - ➢ Application fee: 30,000 yen
  - ➢ Refer to Appendix 1 for the payment method

  *Payment can be made as early as 4 weeks before the application deadline, but no earlier, and must be made before the application is submitted.
  **Please make sure to pay the application fee well in advance to avoid having your application declined on account of failed or delayed payment.

3.10 Confirmation of Identity

- Following your application, be prepared to send us a copy of the identifying page of your passport upon our request.

-Foreign applicants who live in Japan

3.11 Status of Residence

- Foreign applicants who have resident status in Japan are required to submit a copy of their resident card (front and back) after completing their online application and upon receiving instruction from CICASP.

- If you cannot provide a resident card, instead submit a copy of the visa page in your passport in addition to the photo page when requested.

-Applicants for the DSc program only

3.12 Master's thesis

- Submit a copy of your master's thesis or equivalent. Please also provide the following:

  (1) The Abstract [written in English]
  (2) A detailed summary of the contents in English consisting of about 2,000 to 2,500 words, excluding the Abstract
  (3) English translations of all Figures and Tables, including legends, and References in the detailed summary

  *Please contact us if you have not yet completed or submitted your master's thesis or equivalent project.

4. Application Procedures

- Before applying, applicants should contact a prospective supervisor from the list of faculty members at the Department of Primatology and Wildlife Research provided in Appendix 2.

- Applicants must submit all required documents via the online application system before the appropriate application deadline.

  - ➢ Online Application System URL:
    https://cicasp.ehub.kyoto-u.ac.jp/program/application

  - ➢ Submission deadlines (Japan Standard Time, UTC+09:00)

1) Period 1) September 30th, 2026, for an exam between November 2 ~ November 6, 2026

2) Period 2) April 30th, 2027, for an exam between June 1 ~ June 4, 2027

Period	(Start date of application acceptance) Submission deadlines	Enrollment periods	Examination week
1	(September 1, 2026 ~) September 30th, 2026	April 1, 2027 or October 1, 2027	November 2, 2026 ~November 6, 2026
2	(April 1, 2027 ~) April 30, 2027	October 1, 2027	June 1 ~ June 4, 2027

*Two additional days are reserved for entrance examinations under exceptional circumstances, if applicants or evaluation committee members are unavailable during the official exam week (for examination period 1), November 9 and 10, 2026, (for examination period 2), June 7 and 8, 2027.

- Contact us as soon as possible at cicasp_exam@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp if you have any problems using the online application system. **We are unable to respond to inquiries outside of our business hours on weekdays.**

- Applications will be accepted as early as 4 weeks before the application deadline, but no earlier.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.
- Contents of the application documents cannot be changed after submission.
- The application fee will be returned to the applicant under the following circumstances only (Contact the Graduate Student Section, General Affairs Section, Inuyama Campus).
  - If the applicant did not apply (application documents were not submitted, or application was declined without consideration), although the application fee was paid.
  - The applicant inadvertently made a double payment of the application fee.

- Simultaneous applications for this program to multiple divisions/departments are NOT allowed.

4.1 Government-Sponsored foreign students (MEXT)

- Government-Sponsored foreign students (i.e. those receiving the MEXT scholarship; see also **Section 7.2** below) are required to take the examination through CICASP/ICU, and must therefore submit an application during the application period. Please pay close attention to the following points:

1. Those who have passed the second screening by MEXT (excluding applicants for the MEXT scholarship extension and special extension) and have been placed at Kyoto University as MEXT Scholarship Students (Embassy Recommendation) are exempt from paying the entrance examination fee.
2. The entrance examination fee will be refunded in cases where the applicants are selected as MEXT scholarship students and pass the international entrance exam. Therefore, please inform us if you expect to receive the MEXT scholarship.
3. If neither of the above cases applies to you but you wish to enroll as a Japanese Government Scholarship student, please pay the entrance examination fee.

* Note that in the majority of cases, applicants with MEXT scholarships will fall in category 1 above. Please contact us if you are unsure of your status.

5. Selection Procedures

After the eligibility screening, applicants will be notified whether they can take the examination or not. Applicants for the MSc program will be selected following a comprehensive evaluation of: 1) the submitted documents; 2) their English qualifications; 3) the results of an online examination in general biological sciences; 4) an interview. Applicants for the DSc program will be selected on the basis of: 1) the submitted documents, including their master's thesis or equivalent (see Section 3.12); 2) their English qualifications; 3) a presentation based on their master's research and their responses to any questions following the presentation; and, 4) an interview.

5.1 Procedure of Examination

CICASP and ICU will conduct remote testing for both doctoral and master's course applicants via Zoom. Applicants are required to secure a private room with sufficient internet connection to allow clear, continuous communication during the examination sessions. Applicants for the DSc program who are already in Japan may choose to give their presentation and have the interview at the prospective supervisor's affiliation, subject to room availability. If necessary, we will provide further details about the procedure by mid-September 2026/May 2027 on our website. Master's applicants will be required to complete oral examinations for the general biology. Specific details about the examination content, as well as the testing procedures more generally, will be provided to each applicant once their application documents have been processed (normally within two weeks after the application deadline). Since it is impossible to control the testing environment when done remotely this way, we will use the honor system to ensure fair behavior from all applicants, and any acts of misconduct detected during the examination, e.g., photography and audio recording of the video call, use of on-screen or external devices to access information to support an applicant's responses, etc., will not be tolerated.

5.2 Entrance Examination Date

The examination(s) and the interview will be held on one to two days during the following periods: 1) November 2 – November 6 (or 9 or 10), 2026; or 2) June 1 -June 4 (or 7 or 8), 2027.

Those who prefer to be enrolled in April 2027 must take the examination in period 1), while those who wish to be enrolled in October 2027 may take the examination either in period 1) or period 2). Each candidate will be informed of the actual date(s) within this period of their examination after the application deadline has passed. Application and examination dates for subsequent enrollment periods will be roughly similar to periods 1) and 2), though specific date ranges will differ slightly.

5.3 Notification of Examination Results

The results of each examination in period 1) will be announced (to the applicant) by the middle of December 2026, and that of period 2) by the middle of July 2027. Examination results will be sent to each applicant individually via email. The results of each examination for the MEXT scholarship applicants in period 1) will be announced in early March 2027, and that of period 2) in early September 2027.

5.4 Enrollment Period

Applicants must declare their enrollment period at the time of application, either April 1 or October 1 in their year of enrollment.

5.5 International Examination Restrictions

Unsuccessful applicants cannot take the International examination a second time until one year (12 calendar months) has passed since their original application to the program. In addition, applicants considering attempting both the International entrance examination and the Kyoto University regular entrance examination must be aware that the International Course in Primatology and Wildlife Research restricts applicants from taking the International exam within the same 12-month period as other Kyoto University exams, i.e., at least 12 months must have passed since last taking a Kyoto University exam before the next International examination can be taken.

6. Admission Fee, Tuition and Admission Procedures

6.1 Admission fee and tuition

- Admission fee: 282,000 yen
- Tuition: 267,900 yen for the first semester (annual tuition; 535,800 yen)

*The amounts indicated above are tentative and may be revised in the future.
*If admission and tuition fees increase at or after the time of enrollment, the new amounts shall apply.

6.2 Admission Procedures

- Instructions for admission procedures will be sent to each successful applicant via email.
- Those who have decided not to enroll must immediately communicate with the administration office of the respective division/department.
- Enrollment procedures will be conducted twice a year, in early March and in late August.

7. Support and Scholarships

7.1 Housing

A student dormitory is available for those based at the Inuyama Campus, subject to room availability. The cost for an apartment is ca. 5,000 yen / month (Expenses for water, gas, and electricity are not included). Please note that these are shared accommodations with a maximum of two students per apartment. For information regarding housing options in Kyoto, see: https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education-campus/procedures/housing

7.2 Financial Support

- **Tuition exemption**:
  Graduate students who experience financial difficulties may be eligible for a full or half tuition waiver depending on academic performance. Since the exemption may be applied for by all degree-seeking students, the selection process is competitive.

- **Teaching and Research Assistantships:**
  There are several opportunities for teaching assistantships (TA) and/or research assistantships (RA). The condition for TA/RA may vary according to the university's situation each year. We aim to prioritize students in need of financial support for these positions.

- **Scholarships**:
  A limited number of scholarships are available for those wishing to study at Kyoto University. It should be noted, however, that the selection processes for the scholarships are very competitive, and in most cases, applicants are only accepted after entrance to the university. It is generally necessary, therefore, to have sufficient financial resources prior to entering Kyoto University. For information on scholarships, please visit the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) website:
  https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/planning/scholarships/about-scholarships/

  - **Japanese Government Scholarships for International Students**
    The Ministry of Environment, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students under their "Monbukagakusho" program. MEXT scholarships provide students with a full tuition waiver and a monthly stipend (MSc: 144,000 yen; DSc: 145,000 yen) for the duration of their graduate studies. See the following website for further details about this program: https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education-campus/procedures/scholarships/mext

- Note that MEXT scholars enrolled in the Department of Primatology and Wildlife Research are required to fulfill all entrance requirements for the International Course, including presentation of a master's thesis or equivalent (for those entering the doctoral degree program only), and an interview, all conducted in English; the only exception is the general biology exam, which is waived for MEXT scholars applying to the MSc program. Prospective applicants can contact us for more information about the MEXT program.
- See **Section 4.1** for more details on the application process for MEXT candidates.

➢ **Research Fellowships for Young Scientists**

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science provides research fellowships for students enrolled in doctoral programs at Japanese universities.
These fellowships have tenure of up to 3 years and provide a monthly stipend. More information can be found here: https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-pd/

- Note that students can apply for research fellowships before beginning their doctoral studies or during any year of their doctoral program. Contact us for further details about the application procedure and requirements.

➢ **Foreign Government Scholarships**

Foreign government scholarships are another scholarship option. For further information, please contact the appropriate agency in your country.

➢ **Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarships for Privately Financed Students**

Privately financed international students currently studying at a university in Japan are eligible to apply for an Honors Scholarship from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO). As of April 2026, graduate student awardees receive 48,000 yen per month. Information can be found on their website:
https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/scholarship_j/shoreihi/about.html
Please contact us for further details.

➢ **Scholarship from Private Foundations**

The application process for the scholarships from private foundations varies. Some can be made directly by the individual, and some must be made through the applicant's university. Please refer to the following link for more information:
https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education-campus/procedures/scholarships

* Currently, international students at the Inuyama Campus and WRC are being funded by Monbukagakusho Scholarships (both regular and Honors programs), JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists, as well as private foundations.

8. Security Export Control

In accordance with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, Kyoto University has established the Security Export Control Regulations of Kyoto University. Under the regulations, the university conducts rigorous screening regarding the export of goods and the provision of technology (including the hosting of individuals) prior to the admission of students. Please be aware that admission may be denied if a case falls under the scope of the regulations, or if a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is not issued, or the screening process is prolonged, even if the applicant has passed the entrance examination. Please note that even after enrollment, restrictions may be placed on the education or research guidance that a student can receive.

For detailed information on security export controls, please visit the following website.
https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/research-compliance-ethics/security-export-control

9. Handling of Personal Information

Personal information including, but not limited to, name, sex, date of birth, address, and academic performance evaluations provided by applicants is used only for 1) entrance examinations, 2) admission procedure, scholarship etc., and 3) preparation for accepting students.

Personal information provided in application documents may be provided to outside contractors for electronic data processing. In such cases, Kyoto University will complete a contract with said outside contractor to ensure that personal information is managed and protected properly, in accordance with the Private Information Protection Law.

10. Contact Information

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Institute for the Evolutionary Origins of Human Behavior
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2-24 Tanaka-Sekiden-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8203, Japan
Tel +81-75-286-9633
Fax +81-75-771-4394

e-mail: **cicasp_exam@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp (for application/exam-related inquiries) ; cicasp@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp (for other general inquiries)**