

Application Procedures for Kumamoto University 2026 - 2027
Short-Term Exchange Program
(Postgraduate Students, Spring Semester 2026)

1. Application Procedure

【Step1】 Nomination and Matching with academic supervisor

Kumamoto University will match potential academic supervisors based on information about the applicant student's research field. To make the matching process easier, please search for a potential academic supervisor who belongs to Kumamoto University on the following website, "Research Map" in advance.

If we are unable to find information on a potential academic advisor, Kumamoto University will search for a potential academic advisor. [However, if there is no faculty member who agrees to accept you, we may decline your application to study abroad. Please understand in advance.](#)

Research Map (English ver.) >> <https://researchmap.jp/researchers?lang=en>

(1) Please submit following documents via e-mail through the person in charge of overseas study programs at your home university.

- A) Application Form for Kumamoto University STEP (For graduate students) *Fill out EXCEL file
- B) Detailed Research Schedule and Research Plan *free format
- C) Certificate of Enrollment issued by home university in Japanese or English
- D) A copy of Latest Academic Record as an official transcript from home university in Japanese or English
- E) A copy of language proficiency certificate in JPG, PNG or BMP format (TOEFL iBT, JLPT, etc.)
- F) ID photo data (40mm×30mm): ensure to place it on the application forms as well
- G) A copy of the first page of applicant's passport

*Check its expiry date and if there is less than a year left, please renew it prior to application.

(2) Submission Deadline

[Friday, October 24, 2025](#)

【Step2】 Submission of Additional Documents

Only eligible applicants who has been successfully matched with a prospective supervisor at Kumamoto University should proceed to this step.

Please prepare and submit required documents to person in charge of overseas study programs at your home university. Documents then should be sent to our International Student Office by your home university's personnel by deadline date. Please note that we do not accept documents submitted to Kumamoto University directly by applicants.

(1) Required Documents

- A) Letter of Recommendation from the academic supervisor in your university in Japanese or English

- B) Health Certificate (KU format) *It must be stamped by the official medical institution
- C) Application for Certificate of Eligibility *Fill out EXCEL file
- D) Certificate of financial support such as Bank balance certificate or income certificate

(2) Submission Deadline

Friday, November 14, 2025

[Where to submit]

E-mail: gji-ryugaku[at]jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp (please replace [at] with @)

2. Student Status at Kumamoto University

Generally, Kumamoto University accepts postgraduate students as “special research students (non-credits awarded.)” Only if credit awarded is really required by student’s home university, status as “special auditors (credits awarded)” will be considered.

The differences between these statuses are as follows;

(1) Special Research Student

Special research students mainly carry out their research projects in their supervisors’ laboratories.

They can attend lectures, seminars, and Japanese classes at their supervisors’ discretions; however, can obtain credits nor academic transcripts from Kumamoto University at the end of their designated study period.

(2) Special Auditor

Special auditors can attend lectures, seminars, and tutorials offered in their graduate school and obtain credits and academic transcripts; however, cannot attend undergraduate lectures.

They can also attend Japanese classes; however, can obtain credits nor academic transcripts for those Japanese classes.

Special auditors need considerably high Japanese language proficiency level because academic achievement is evaluated in the same way as Japanese students.

Note: Only “Special Research Student” status is available for Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences