

Fall 2026 Enrollment

**Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences
Application Guide for Admissions
(PhD Program)**

Special Selection for International Students

**(Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship
for Research on Mercury)**



Prefectural University of Kumamoto

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Admission Policy of Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences

1 Goals for Human Resources Development

● PhD Program

(1) Human Resources Development for Professions

Since the social demand for skilled professionals with advanced knowledge of environmental issues is quite strong, we aim to foster highly-specialized experts with specialized and academic knowledge of environmental symbiosis, with the goal of placing them in leadership positions.

(2) Fostering Researchers

We aim to foster knowledgeable professionals who can play active roles as educational researchers in environmental fields at universities and academia as a whole, or who can play active roles in leadership positions at public research institutions or corporate labs.

(3) Higher Education in Specialized Fields for Adults

By promoting open-door policies for adults, we aim to provide opportunities to reexamine adults' specialized fields from environmental points of view, and foster trained professionals who have wide and specialized knowledge of environmental symbiosis.

(4) Fostering Non-Japanese

Accepting adult students with master's degrees (or comparable academic ability) from overseas, we aim to foster trained professionals prepared for leadership positions who have learned basic principles, gained specialized knowledge, and mastered techniques of environmental symbiosis.

2 Human Resources Sought

● PhD Program

Based on the philosophy of the Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences, we seek postgraduates who, through the completion of a Master's Degree Program, have acquired basic academic ability, specialized knowledge, and presentation/language skills in their area of expertise, and also who show

aspirations to do further advanced research; or persons who have practical R&D (research and development) experience in fields related to environmental and symbiotic sciences.

3 Entrance Examination

We evaluate students' examination papers holistically by an achievement test (English, Specialized Subject), an interview, and screening of the documents (Research plan, etc.).

Entrance Examination Dates & Admission Quota
(Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on Mercury)

PhD Program

【Entrance Examination Dates】 (Japan Standard Time)

	Qualification Screening of Applicants	Application Period	Entrance Examination Date	Announcement of Examination Results	Enrollment Procedures
Fall Enrollment	From Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 10, 2026 * Results will be announced by Friday, April 24, 2026	From Thursday, May 7 to Friday, May 15, 2026 *Applicant screening results and an admission ticket will be sent by Friday, June 5, 2026	Saturday, July 4, 2026	Monday, July 13, 2026	From Monday, September 7 to Friday, September 11, 2026

【Admission Quota】

Fall Enrollment	2 students
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**PhD Program, Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences,
Prefectural University of Kumamoto (Fall 2026 Enrollment)
Special Selection for International Students
(Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship
for Research on Mercury)**

1 Admission Quota

Division of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences: 2 students

2 Qualification of Applicants

Those who wish to be admitted to the PhD Program must meet the conditions and one of the following qualifications.

- (1) Applicants who have a master's or professional degree, or are expected to be awarded one by September, 2026.
 - (2) Applicants who have a master's or professional degree from a school overseas, or are expected to be awarded one by September, 2026.
 - (3) Applicants who have a master's or professional degree by taking subjects in an overseas correspondence course in Japan, or are expected to be awarded one by September, 2026.
 - (4) Applicants who have a master's or professional degree, or are expected to be awarded one by September, 2026, after completing a program at an educational institution in Japan which is recognized by the overseas country as having a graduate program and which is deemed eligible by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
 - (5) Applicants who are designated eligible by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Ministry of Education Notification No. 118, 1989).
 - (6) Applicants who are recognized by the Graduate School of Environmental and Symbiotic Science as having academic aptitude equal to or higher than that of a master's or professional degree holder, as verified by individual Application qualification screening, and are at least 24 years of age.
- (Note) Qualification Screening are will be conducted prior to the application period for applicants who fall under conditions (5) or (6).

Screened applicants who have valid qualification results do not need to be screened again. Please refer to "Applying after Screening of Applicants" on page 7.

3 Application Conditions

- (1) Applicants must not have Japanese nationality. In addition, people with foreign nationality with permanent residence in Japan or foreign students studying advanced degrees in Japan are may not apply. See (2) for more details.
- (2) Applicants must have nationalities of the following countries and regions regarded as having mercury-related environmental issues.
 - a) Asia – People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, India, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Iraq, Mongolia, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand, Taiwan
 - b) Africa – Republic of Kenya, Republic of Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania
 - c) Europe – Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic
 - d) Latin America - Federative Republic of Brazil
 - e) Other countries or regions that the president accredits as advancing countries, developing countries, or regions which are regarded as requiring environmental measures on mercury.
- (3) Applicants should be age 35 or under as of April 1, 2026. However, applicants admitted by the president are excepted.
- (4) Applicants must be prepared to conduct research on mercury at the Collaborative Graduate School with a will to be involved with mercury measures in their home country or an international organization after graduation.
- (5) Applicants must have sufficient English proficiency to study and conduct research.
- (6) Applicants must not have a scholarship from the Japanese government, home countries' governments, or other private foundations.

4 Application Period

From Thursday, May 7 to Friday, May 15, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

Applications must arrive at our Academic Affairs and Entrance Examinations Division by 17:00 on Friday, May 15, 2026, in person or by mail. Applications which have not arrived by the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances. Applicants should submit them well in advance.

If application documents are brought in person, they will be accepted from 9:00 to 17:00 (except from 12:20 to 13:20). However, they will not be

accepted on Saturday and Sunday, national holiday even in the application period.

5 Application Procedures

(1) Application Method

Applicants must submit the documents described in (2) below in person or by mail. If application documents are sent by mail, they should be sent by registered express mail (EMS, DMC, etc).

(2) Application Documents

① Application for Admission	On the prescribed form by the Graduate School
② Admission Ticket and Photo Sheet	On the prescribed form by the Graduate School (The photo must have been taken within three months of applying, with a full-face view directly facing the camera without a hat against a plain background. Please write your full name on the back of the photo.)
③ Curriculum Vitae	On the form prescribed by the Graduate School
④ Research Plan	On the form prescribed by the Graduate School Summary indicating the research process such as master's thesis and research plan on mercury research * Please attach a detailed research plan.
⑤ Official Transcript (Sealed) ※Excluding those who apply based on one of the application qualifications listed in 2(5) and (6).	Official transcript issued by the last university or school (original copy only). * Please attach an English translation for transcripts issued in other languages.
⑥ Graduation Certificate or Expected Graduation Certificate ※Excluding those who apply based on one of the application qualifications listed in 2(5) and (6).	Certificate issued by the last university or school (original copy only). * Please attach an English translation for transcripts issued in other languages.

⑦ In case the name on the Graduation Certificate is different from the applicants' present name, please attach proof of change of name.	
⑧ Recommendation Letter	Recommendation Letter from a supervisor of the applicants graduate school (from the employer if employed at the time of application).
⑨ Confirmation Sheet on Preliminary Consultation	Summary of preliminary consultation with the prospective supervisor's signature
⑩ In principle, applicants who fall under condition (5) or (6) on page 4 and use current results of qualification screening need to submit: a copy of Approval Notice of Application Qualification; Official Transcript; and a Graduation Certificate or Expected Graduation Certificate. *Please refer to "Applying after Qualification Screening" below.	

Applying after Qualification Screening - Qualification of Applicants (5) or (6)-

- Submitting a certificate and an official transcript for applying
When applicants are deemed eligible for application after applying for qualification screening for the 2026 Entrance Examinations, Graduation Certificate and Official Transcript will be omitted from the list of required documents for the 2026 Entrance Examinations application only.
- Validity period for the result of Qualification Screening
The result of Qualification Screening certifying eligibility is valid for 5 years. When applying during the period of validity, please attach a copy of the "Approval Notification of Application Qualification".

(3) Place of Submission

Entrance Examination Section for Graduate School, Academic Affairs and
Entrance Examinations Division, Prefectural University of Kumamoto
3-1-100 Tsukide, Higashi-ku, Kumamoto, 862-8502, Japan

(4) Admission Ticket for Examination

An admission ticket for examination will be sent to applicants by mail or e-mail by Friday, June 5, 2026, regardless of whether the applicant brought the application documents in person or by mail.

Please contact the Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division (e-mail:nyusi@pu-kumamoto.ac.jp) if the admission ticket has not arrived by the day, or if you lost the ticket before the day of the entrance examination.

(5) Application Consideration

- ① Prescribed forms by the Graduate School in “5(2) Application Documents” on page 6 and “8(1) Documents to be Submitted” on page 11 are available for downloading from the university’s website. Please print the PDF on A4-sized white paper.

Website address <https://www.pu-kumamoto.ac.jp/nyusi/graduate/>

- ② **Applicants must contact the Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division first to get instructions. Then, applicants must contact prospective supervisors** on the list of instructors on the Application Guide for Admission or the university’s website before undertaking application procedures.

Entrance Examination Section for Graduate School, Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division, Prefectural University of Kumamoto
3-1-100 Tsukide, Higashi-ku, Kumamoto, 862-8502, Japan
E-mail nyusi@pu-kumamoto.ac.jp

Be sure to write the name of the supervisor in the “Desired supervisor” on the Application Form. The actual supervisor will be subject to change after enrollment.

- ③ If a false statement is found in the application documents, authorization of admission will be revoked.
- ④ Application documents are non-returnable under any circumstances.
- ⑤ Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

6 Selection Method

The selection of applicants will be based on the overall results of our written and oral examinations, interviews, and document screenings.

(1) Written Examination

English

(2) Oral Examination

The Oral Examination consists of a presentation focused on your master’s thesis (including the process) or the results of your other research followed by questions related to your presentation. (Your presentation must include the results of your past research and your research plan on mercury study for the Doctoral course.)

(3) Examination Date (Japan Standard Time)

Date	Subjects	Time	Point Allocation	Total
Saturday, July 4, 2026	Written Examination English	10:00 - 11:30	100	200
	Oral Examination (Including a research presentation)	13:00 -	100	

Note 1: Please assemble on the 1st floor lobby in our Administration Building by 9:30.

2: The Oral Examination schedule will be displayed on campus on the day.

3: Late arrivals up to 20 minutes will be admitted after the scheduled start of the Written Examination English.

(4) Place of Examination

Prefectural University of Kumamoto

3-1-100 Tsukide, Higashi-ku, Kumamoto, 862-8502, Japan

TEL:+81-96-321-6610

e-mail:nyusi@pu-kumamoto.ac.jp

(5) Details of Oral Examination

- ① A presentation focused on your master's thesis (including the process) or the results of your other research: 30 minutes
- ② Question-and-Answer session regarding the presentation (including questions related to your research field): 20 minutes
- ③ An LCD projector will be available for your presentation. the university will provide a Windows computer and a projector. Applicants are required to bring a USB memory device or CDs and PDF data. (There is no maximum limit for the number of presentation slides.) The projector provided by the university has HDMI (typeA, standard size) connection terminals.

(6) Evaluation Criteria

Written Examination English	Applicants will be evaluated according to their English abilities related to their specialized fields.
Oral Examination	Applicants will be evaluated according to their knowledge, consideration, motivation, and research accomplishments and abilities for the specialized fields after explaining the past research and the research plan.

(7) Acceptance Criteria

- ① Successful applicants will be those who scored more than approximately 60% of the total score.
- ② Applicants who have an excellent score in one of the subjects may be successful even though the total score falls short of the standards.

However, applicants who have results less than 30% will not be successful in the event of any of ① or ②.

7 To applicants who wish to take the oral examination using a video conferencing application through the internet

- (1) If there is at least one applicant who wishes to take the oral examination using video conferencing applications through the internet, the oral examination will be conducted online for all applicants. Applicants who wish to take the examination online must notify the office during the application period.
- (2) If the examination is to be conducted online, the office shall contact all applicants promptly after the end of the application period.
- (3) The English exam is conducted through an oral examination in English and applicants are evaluated according to their English abilities for the specialized fields.
- (4) The examination will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2026 and the detailed schedule will be set in consideration of the local time in the applicants' countries of residence. Late arrivals up to 20 minutes will be admitted after the scheduled start of the oral examination.

(5) Examination Date

Date	Subjects	Time	Point Allocation	Total
Saturday, July 4, 2026	Oral Examination (Including a research presentation)	50 minutes (Start time is announced separately)	100	200
	English (English abilities in Oral Examination)		100	

(6) Details of Oral Examination

- ① A presentation focused on your master's thesis (including the process) or the results of your other research: 30 minutes
- ② Question-and-Answer session regarding the presentation (including questions related to your research field): 20 minutes

- ③ Live video conference (Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, or other compatible with Microsoft Teams) through the internet is used.
 - ④ Applicants must submit your presentation data for oral presentation to the office by e-mail until one week before the examination day (Friday, June 26, 2026). The data will be used for the oral presentation.
- (7) For evaluation and acceptance criteria, see "6 Selection Method".

8 Screening of Applicants

For applicants who wish to apply for admission under Qualification of Applicant (5) or (6), a screening of applicants will be conducted.

(1) Documents to be Submitted

- ① Application for Screening of Applicants
(on the form prescribed by the Graduate School)
- ② Curriculum Vitae (on the form prescribed by the Graduate School)
- ③ Official Transcripts (issued by the last and present university or the school, including credit hours) *original copy only
- ④ Degree Certificate or Graduation Certificate (issued by the last university or the school)
- ⑤ Details of your Research, Education, Professional Experiences, Social Activities, etc. (on the form prescribed by the Graduate School).
Please submit the details of your Research, Education, Professional Experiences, Social Activities, etc. Also please submit separate prints (or copies) of your thesis or report if you have any.
- ⑥ Research Plan (on the form prescribed by the Graduate School)
A summary of your desired research (single spaced)
- ⑦ Copy of certificate to prove the name change * if applicable
Please attach a copy of the certificate if the name on the official transcript and the degree (graduation) certificate are different from the present one.

* Prescribed forms by the Graduate School in ①, ②, ⑤, and ⑥ are available for downloading from the university's website. Please print the PDF on A4-sized white paper.

Website address: <https://www.pu-kumamoto.ac.jp/nyusi/graduate/>

(2) Screening Method

Examination of submitted documents ((1) ①~⑦).

(3) Application Documents Period for Qualification Screening

From Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 10, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

(Note) Applications Documents must arrive at the Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division by 17:00 on Friday, April 10, 2026, in person or by mail.

If application documents are brought in person, they will be accepted from 9:00 to 17:00 (excluding from 12:20 to 13:20). Applications which have not arrived by the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Applicants should submit them well in advance.

If application documents are sent by mail, they should be sent by registered express mail (EMS, DMC, etc), with "Application Form for Qualification Screening, PhD Program, Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences (Fall Enrollment)" written in red on the envelope.

(Place of Submission)

Entrance Examination Section for Graduate School, Academic Affairs
and Entrance Examination Division, Prefectural University of
Kumamoto

3-1-100 Tsukide, Higashi-ku, Kumamoto, 862-8502, Japan

(4) Results of Qualification Screening

Results of qualification screening will be sent to applicants by Friday, April 24, 2026.

(Note) Please refer to page 7 when you apply for admission after the qualification screening.

9 Announcement of Examination Results

13:30 or later, Monday, July 13, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

The successful applicants' examinee numbers will be announced on our website (<https://www.pu-kumamoto.ac.jp/nyusi/graduate/>) and the results will also be-mailed only to successful applicants. A letter of acceptance is the formal notice from the university.

(Inquiries regarding the examination results will not be handled over the phone or e-mail.)

10 Enrollment Procedure

Successful applicants need to submit the required documents along with an acceptance letter, as well as the admission fee. The payment due date for the admission fee will be announced later.

The scholarship amount equivalent to the enrollment fee is supposed to be paid to the scholarship recipient as part of the Scholarship for Research on Mercury.

(1) Procedure Period

From Monday, September 7 to Friday, September 11, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

- *① Office hours are from 9:00 to 17:00. (excluding from 12:20 to 13:20)
- ② If enrollment documents are sent by mail, they must arrive by 17:00 on Friday, September 11, 2026.
- ③ Necessary documents for the enrollment procedure which have not arrived by the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances. Applicants should submit them well in advance.
- ④ Those who fail to complete the enrollment procedure by the deadline will be deemed to have declined the offer of enrollment.

(2) Place of Submission

Entrance Examination Section for Graduate School, Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division, Prefectural University of Kumamoto
3-1-100 Tsukide, Higashi-ku, Kumamoto, 862-8502, Japan

(3) Documents to be Submitted

Documents must be submitted in person or by mail, and if they are sent by mail, they should be sent by registered express mail (EMS, DMC, etc)

- ① Letter of pledge
(Pledge on Mercury Research should be submitted separately to Kumamoto Prefecture Government.)
- ② Fidelity guarantee

(4) Admission Fee (as of 2026)

¥414,000

The payment date for the admission fee will be announced later.

(Note) If you decide to withdraw your enrollment after completion of the enrollment procedure, please contact the Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division by Friday, September 11, 2026. You need to submit an Enrollment Withdrawal Form.

Admission fees are non-refundable under any circumstances except when the applicants have not completed the procedure.

11 Tuition Fee (as of 2026)

Annual tuition fee: ¥535,800 (to be paid in two installments)

The payment deadline for the tuition fee and others will be announced later.

(Note) The scholarship amount equivalent to the tuition fees is also supposed to be paid to the recipient of the Scholarship for Research on Mercury. If the tuition fee and the due date are revised during the

student's period of study, the revised tuition and the date will be applicable from the date of revision.

12 Disclosing Examination Results to Applicants

(1) Disclosed Information

Scores: Total scores in each examination subject

Ranking: The results and the ranking will be disclosed to applicants who did not pass the examination only when there are more than 10 applicants who did not pass.

Unsuccessful applicants will be ranked A (upper third), B (middle third), or C (lower third) according to the grades.

(2) Disclosure Period and Time

From Thursday, July 16 to Monday, August 17, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

Office hours are from 9:00 to 17:00 (excluding from 12:20 to 13:20).

Results are not available on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays.

(3) Disclosure Method and Place

Applicants who took the entrance examination should come to the Prefectural University of Kumamoto and request the disclosure of the examination results orally at the Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division. (Proxies are not allowed to request disclosure.)

Please bring your admission ticket as proof of identity.

13 Handling of Personal Information

Personal information submitted to the Prefectural University of Kumamoto in the form of applications and enrollment documents, and grades and results of entrance examinations, are properly managed in accordance with the relevant laws regarding the protection of personal information.

Personal information is used only for selecting applicants for admission, enrollment procedures, registration, student support, and surveys and research, and is not used for purposes other than the ones mentioned above Nor is it provided to third parties.

When applicants request disclosure of entrance examination results, they will be disclosed based on the relevant laws regarding the protection of personal information.

14 Other Information

Applicants with physical disabilities who therefore require special assistance during the exam and/or during the period of study should contact our Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division by Thursday, May 7, 2026.

15 Inquiries

Please contact the Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division by e-mail if you have any questions. Only e-mail is accepted.

Academic Affairs and Entrance Examination Division

Prefectural University of Kumamoto

E-mail: nyusi@pu-kumamoto.ac.jp

Outline of Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences (PhD Program)

1 Curriculum Configuration

Our Graduate School's curriculum is designed with three Special Seminars and one Special Research(doctoral thesis) to achieve our philosophy and Human Resources Development.

Special Seminar	Special Seminar on Ecology-Related Environmental Symbiosis	Students should take one course chosen from eight themes. They should learn research methods related to material moving states and interrelated influence in the ecosystem including water, geosphere, and atmosphere. They also should aim to understand the methods to maintain and manage sustainable and high biological productivity, biological diversity, and ecosystems. Also, students can choose research on mercury at the Collaborative Graduate School with National Institute for Minamata Disease.
	Special Seminar on Residence-Related Environmental Symbiosis	Students should take one course chosen from six themes. Thinking extensively about the people's act of living on the earth as "Residence", they should consider the meaning of the symbiotic residential environment with nature and society. They also should aim for acquiring specific methods to realize an environmental and symbiotic society.
	Special Seminar on Food and Health-Related Environmental Symbiosis	Students should take one course chosen from nine themes to acquire the specific methods. From an environmental and symbiotic viewpoint, students should understand the importance of food resources and various food and health environmental factors comprehensively, and aim to create a recycling society, working for people's health maintenance

		and disease prevention. Also, students can choose research on mercury at the Collaborative Graduate School with the National Institute for Minamata Disease.
Special Research	Students should choose a highly-specialized specific research project from the point of view of environmental & symbiotic science and complete a doctoral thesis through experimentations, surveys, analysis, and the like.	

2 Regular course term

3 years

3 Day/Evening Course System

With an increased need for new specialized knowledge and the increased expectation for high Recurrent Education among adults, we provide a day/evening course to accept adults. In particular, for the PhD program, Special Research (for adults, including Special Seminar) is conducted in principle at night (18:00-21:10).

List of Instructors for Special Seminar Scheduled for fiscal 2026

	Position	Name	Theme in Special Seminar※ ¹
Special Seminar on Ecology-Related Environmental Symbiosis	Professor	AGUSA, Tetsuro	Precise Measurement for Trace Chemicals
	Professor	ISHIBASHI, Yasuhiro	Environmental Resource Circulation
	Professor	ICHINOMIYA, Mutsuo	Marine Life Production
	Professor	KOBAYASHI, Jun	Management and Circulation of Environmental Substances
	Professor	ZHANG, Daizhou	Atmospheric Aerosols
	Professor	Jeffrey Morrow	Environmental Education/Ecotourism Course
	Associate Professor	KOMORITA, Tomohiro	Coastal Ecosystem
Special Seminar on Residence-Related Environmental Symbiosis	Professor	SHIBATA, Yu	Rural Planning
	Professor	TAKAHASHI, Hironobu	Spatial Design
	Professor	TSUJIHARA, Makihiko	Passive Environmental Conditioning
	Professor	LI, Li	Spatial Structure
	Associate Professor	CHEONG, Ilji	City Planning
Special Seminar on Food and Health-Related Environmental Symbiosis	Professor	SAKAMOTO, Tatsuaki	Nutrition Education Theory
	Professor	SHIMODA, Seiya	Clinical Manifestation Management
	Professor	SHIRATSUCHI, Hideki	Functional Food Analysis
	Professor	TOMOYORI, Hiroko	Nutrition Functions of Food
	Professor	MATSUSAKI, Hiromi	Applied Microbiology
	Associate Professor	ANAN, Yasumi	Food Resources Safety
	Associate Professor	NAKASHIMA, Nana	Food Service System

※¹ Please refer to pages 19-26 for the themes in Special Seminar.

Course Contents

Course Title	Contents
Special Seminar on Ecology-Related Environmental Symbiosis	<p>Students should take one course chosen from eight themes. They should learn research methods related to material moving states and interrelated influence in the ecosystem including water, geosphere, and atmosphere. They also should aim for understanding the methods to maintain and manage sustainable and high biological productivity, biological diversity, and ecosystems.</p> <p>Theme 1: Precise Measurement for Trace Chemicals 【Content】 The instructor lectures analytical technique of trace chemicals that are physicochemically and biologically changed in the environment and evaluation of effects on ecosystem by those chemicals. 【Instructor】 AGUSA, Tetsuro, Professor</p> <p>Theme 2: Environmental Resource Circulation 【Content】 As a point of low carbon and resource circulation, students should understand the recycling process of waste products and new energy manufacturing processes using biomass. 【Instructor】 ISHIBASHI, Yasuhiro, Professor</p> <p>Theme 3: Marine Life Production 【Content】 While understanding the structure and function of the lower trophic level ecosystem that supports the high fishery production in the ocean area around Japan, this course discusses how marine life resources should be used sustainably. 【Instructor】 ICHINOMIYA, Mutsuo, Professor</p> <p>Theme 4: Management and Circulation of Environmental Substances 【Content】 This course offers explanations for trace environmental pollutants—their existence, behaviors and toxicity impact assessment methods—in order to make students understand the health impact assessment for ecosystem and human beings as well as disposal methods and appropriate management/operation procedures of chemical substances. 【Instructor】 KOBAYASHI, Jun, Professor</p>

Course Title	Contents
<p>Special Seminar on Ecology-Related Environmental Symbiosis</p>	<p>Theme 5: Atmospheric Aerosols 【Content】 The instructor gives an outline of the latest survey data and methods of analysis on atmospheric pollutants. Students should understand the current situation of survey research on air quality problems based on observation examples. 【Instructor】 ZHANG, Daizhou, Professor</p> <p>Theme 6: Environmental Education/Ecotourism Course 【Content】 The course explores the development of English-language resources for environmental education, emphasizing ecotourism as a tool for regional development through experiential, hands-on activities. This course will also examine methods to incorporate ecotourism into rural development programs that will have a long-lasting and positive impact on rural populations, bringing together environmental learning, global communication, and activities that are inline with environmental sustainability. 【Instructor】 Jeffrey Morrow, Professor</p> <p>Theme 7: Coastal Ecosystem 【Content】 The instructor gives an outline of the marine environment & the ecological construction and function of coastal shallow sea areas including tidal flats, along with the concrete examples of Ariake Bay, Yatsushiro Bay, etc. Students should understand the theory and method of coastal ecosystem. 【Instructor】 KOMORITA, Tomohiro, Associate Professor</p>

Course Title	Contents
Special Seminar on Residence-Related Environmental Symbiosis	<p>Students should take one course chosen from six themes. Thinking extensively about the people’s act of living on the earth as “Residence”, they should consider the meaning of the symbiotic residential environment with nature and society. They also should aim for requiring specific methods to realize an environmental and symbiotic society.</p> <p>Theme 1: Rural Planning 【Content】 This course explores future directions of Japanese farming and fishing villages in the new era through understanding multifaceted functions and sustainable mechanism of farming/fishing/mountain village areas, learning from examples of Japan and abroad. 【Instructor】 SHIBATA, Yu, Professor</p> <p>Theme 2: Spatial Design 【Content】 Students should focus on sensuousness in spatial design, and learn knowledge on Japanese art which differ from western art from thought, culture, history and regionality, and consider future Japanese spatial design. 【Instructor】 TAKAHASHI, Hironobu, Professor</p> <p>Theme 3: Passive Environmental Conditioning 【Content】 Students consider the sustainable development & energy consumption and the relationships between human health & comfort from the perspective of residential environmental conditioning. 【Instructor】 TSUJIHARA, Makihiko, Professor</p> <p>Theme 4: Spatial Structure 【Content】 Students learn knowledge of spatial structure system, construction design, and evaluation of structural safety which is subject to external impact by natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons. 【Instructor】 LI, Li, Professor</p> <p>Theme 5: City Planning 【Content】 Students are involved in the practices on community, renovation, DIY, public space, social experiment, renovation of vacant houses, area management, sightseeing, circular economy, while aiming at developing sustainable</p>

	<p>communities. 【Instructor】 CHEONG, Ilji, Associate Professor</p>
<p>Special Seminar on Food and Health-Related Environmental Symbiosis</p>	<p>Students should take one course chosen from seven themes to acquire the specific methods. From a point of environmental and symbiotic view, students should understand the importance of food resources and various food and health environmental factors comprehensively, and strive to create a recycling society, working for people's health maintenance and disease prevention.</p> <p>Theme 1: Nutrition Education Theory 【Content】 Based on social and economic conditions, students understand people's eating behaviors from multiple perspectives and consider educational interventions and environmental improvements aimed at improving health and quality of life (QOL). 【Instructor】 SAKAMOTO, Tatsuaki, Professor</p> <p>Theme 2: Clinical Manifestation Management 【Content】 From the point of view of medicine, nutrition and pharmacy, students should understand origin and disease state of each disease such as diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome and endocrine disease. And student should examine and consider new prophylaxis, diagnosis and cure based on the newest knowledge on the disease state control. 【Instructor】 SHIMODA, Seiya, Professor</p> <p>Theme 3: Functional Food Analysis 【Content】 Students should understand the analysis and evaluation method of various food components on food function and consider the construction of a recycling society through the functional foods, the functional material, functional material, and high-quality food material invention which maintain and raise health. 【Instructor】 SHIRATSUCHI, Hideki, Professor</p> <p>Theme 4: Nutrition Functions of Food 【Content】 Explores and evaluates how food originated nutrients and functional ingredients have influence on the body, also examines the prevention and improvement of lifestyle-related disease. We will also study on the practical use of the system on "Function Claims" of food. 【Instructor】</p>

	TOMOYORI, Hiroko, Professor
Course Title	Contents
Special Seminar on Food and Health-Related Environmental Symbiosis	<p>Theme 5: Applied Microbiology 【Content】 From the point of view of applied microbiology, students should consider the establishment of a Sound Material-Cycle Society such as through the foods using microorganisms and the control of microorganisms involved in foods to maintain and improve the health, and the application of biomass resources and the synthesis of environmentally-friendly materials by biotechnology. 【Instructor】 MATSUSAKI, Hiromi, Professor</p> <p>Theme 6: Food Resources Safety 【Content】 Students should understand the food contamination and biological effects of chemicals derived from human activities or the natural environment, and consider the food safety and risk control methods based on scientific evidence. 【Instructor】 ANAN, Yasumi, Associate Professor</p> <p>Theme 7: Food Service System 【Content】 As the food environment changes, it is necessary to find ways to provide food service that is appropriate for humans and nature. This course explores sustainable food service system considering health issues at each life stage. 【Instructor】 NAKASHIMA, Nana, Associate Professor</p>

Course Title	Contents
Special Research	<p>Students should choose the specific research task specialized highly from the viewpoint of environmental symbiosis study, and write PhD thesis through experiments, investigations, and analysis.</p> <p>Research 1: Research on Marine Ecology and Environmental Conservation</p> <p>Research 2: Research on Resource Circulation and Energy Generation</p> <p>Research 3: Research on Behavior of Particles and Chemicals in Atmosphere and Water</p> <p>Research 4: Research on Environmental Education</p> <p>Research 5: Research on Safety of Architectural Construction</p> <p>Research 6: Research on Continuation of Urban and Rural Area</p> <p>Research 7: Research on Environment-Conscious Residential Environment</p> <p>Research 8: Research on Analysis and Evaluation of Food Safety, Preference and Functionality</p> <p>Research 9: Research on physiology, Biochemistry, and Management of Food and Health</p> <p>Research 10: Applied Microbiology Research on Food, Health, and Environment</p> <p>Research 11: Research on Clinical Medicine of Food and Health</p> <p>As for the Special Research, students can conduct research on mercury at the Collaborative Graduate School with the National Institute for Minamata Disease under the above research projects.</p>

Reference

Prefectural University of Kumamoto
International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on Mercury

Since the adopting of the “Minamata Convention on Mercury” , the Kumamoto Prefectural Government has decided to subsidize “support to foster mercury-specialized experts” to make advanced efforts in Japan and overseas for realization of a mercury-free environment.

In response to this, Prefectural University of Kumamoto has established a scholarship in 2014 sponsored by Kumamoto Prefecture to foster international researchers in the mercury research field. This scholarship is for our international students who will conduct specialized research on mercury at the Collaborative Graduate School with the Prefectural University of Kumamoto and the National Institute for Minamata Disease. The Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences, Prefectural University of Kumamoto is recruiting international students who conduct research on environmental pollution and health effects of mercury at the Collaborative Graduate School under the Scholarship for Research on Mercury. And the students are required to transmit the information on the mercury issues domestically and internationally.

1 Outline of the Scholarship in 2026

(1) Eligibility

Applicants who pass the entrance examination of the PhD Program, Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences, Prefectural University of Kumamoto (Fall 2026 Enrollment), Selection Method for Non-Japanese (Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on Mercury), enter the Prefectural University of Kumamoto, and conduct research on mercury at the Collaborative Graduate School with the National Institute for Minamata Disease.

(2) Number of Scholarship Recipients

Within the limits of the budget, no more than 2 students in (1) above as scholarship recipients

(3) Amount of Scholarship

①Admission Fee ¥414,000 ②Tuition ¥535,800 ③Living Expenses ¥150,000/month ④Travel Expenses up to ¥362,000 ⑤Transportation to/from Japan up to ¥300,000 (actual expenses)

Total: ¥3,411,800

(4) Duration of Scholarship

Regular course term

(5) Cancellation of Scholarship

The student is disqualified

- ① In the event of disciplinary action under the code of the Graduate School
- ② In the event of leaving school or being expelled
- ③ In the event of death
- ④ In the event that he/she displays inappropriate behavior such as abandonment of the research on mercury, and the Graduate School resolves the student is not appropriate as a scholarship student and the President has confirmed that resolution.

2 Selection of Applicants in 2026

(1) As for the Selection of Applicants in 2026, please refer to the Application Guide for Admission.

(2) Entrance Examination Dates

Qualification Screening of Applicants	Application Period	Entrance Examination	Announcement of Examination Results
From Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 10, 2026	From Thursday, May 7 to Friday, May 15, 2026	Saturday, July 4, 2026	Monday, July 13, 2026

(3) Admission Quota: 2 students

(4) Those who recommend the applicants and applicants themselves must contact their prospective supervisor before applying and explain adequately the contents their "Recommendation Letter" and "Research Plan".

(5) The final selection will be based on the overall results of our written examinations (English), oral examinations, interviews, and document screening.

3 Scholarship in 2026

(1) Determination of Scholarship Students

Applicants who pass the entrance examination of the Scholarship for Research on Mercury for Fall Enrollment and are admitted to enter the Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences will be chosen as scholarship recipients and a "Notice of Determination for Scholarship Recipient" will be delivered.

The scholarship amount equivalent to the items listed in (2), such as the entrance fee and tuition, is supposed to be paid to the recipient of the Scholarship for Research on Mercury. Therefore, the recipient can use them to pay their fees to Prefectural University of Kumamoto

(2) Amount of Scholarship

① Admission Fee ¥414,000 ② Tuition ¥535,800 ③ Living Expenses ¥150,000/month ④ Travel Expenses up to ¥362,000 ⑤ Transportation to/from Japan up to ¥300,000 (actual expenses)

Total: ¥3,411,800 (maximum)

In consideration of the second half of academic year 2024, the amount will be ¥2,063,000 (maximum).

(3) Payment of Scholarship

For the academic year 2026, the expense for transportation to Japan (actual expenses), Entrance Fee, Tuition (for fall semester), and living expenses (for 6 months) will be paid in October (*The payment will be by installments in April and October in and after 2027). As for the travel expenses, the cost calculated according to the rules governing travel expenses by Prefectural University of Kumamoto's will be paid monthly.

(4) Payment of Tuition

The Scholarship recipients should pay the tuition for the academic year 2026 by the prescribed way of the Office of Prefectural University of Kumamoto, by the prescribed date. In and after 2027, the payment dates of the tuition for fall enrollment students are 2 times, at the end of April and the end of October.

Do not cut

Photo Sheet Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences (PhD Program) 2026 Fall Enrollment	Selection Method	Special Selection for International Students (Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on Mercury)		
	Applicant No.	※		
	In Roman letters			
	Name			
	Date of Birth	Year Month Date	M	F
Desired Field of Study				
				<p style="text-align: center;">PHOTO</p> <p>4cm×3cm, within 3 months of applying, with a full-face view directly facing the camera, against a plain background and without a hat. Write full name on the back of a photo.</p>

(Note) Please do not fill in the column ※.

Do not cut

Admission Ticket Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences (PhD Program) 2026 Fall Enrollment	Selection Method	Special Selection for International Students (Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on Mercury)		
	Applicant's No.	※		
	In Roman letter			
	Name			
	Date of Birth	Year Month Date	M	F
Desired Study Field				

- (Note) 1 Please bring this ticket to the entrance examination and put it on the desk to show to proctors.
 2 Please do not fill in the area marked ※.
 3 In the "Desired Field of Study" area, please fill in your preference from 1 to 11 in the "Special Research" section of the Admission Guidelines (p. 24).

Do not cut

Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences
 (PhD Program) 2026 Fall Enrollment
 Special Selection for International Students
 (Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on
 Mercury)

Curriculum Vitae

In Roman letters		Applicant No.	※
Name in full in Native Language			
Registry Records (from elementary school)			
Educational Background	Year Month		
	Year Month		
	Year Month		
	Year Month		
	Year Month		
	Year Month		
	Year Month		
	Year Month		
Occupational Experience	From Year Month		
	To Year Month		
	From Year Month		
	To Year Month		
	From Year Month		
	To Year Month		
	From Year Month		
	To Year Month		
Research Achievements, Qualifications, and Rewards & Punishments			
Year Month			
Year Month			
Year Month			
Year Month			

- 【Note】** 1 Please do not fill in the column ※.
 2 Please write Occupational Experience, if you have any.
 3 Please write on another paper (A4 size) if you need more space.
 4 This form is available for downloading from the University's website.

Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences
(PhD Program) 2026 Fall Enrollment
Special Selection for International Students
(Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on Mercury)

Research Plan

1. Applicant's Name : _____

[Theme]

[Summary]

- ※1 Please write horizontally. You may write on computer typed or by hand.
- ※2 This form is available for downloading from the University's website.
- ※3 Please attach a detailed research plan.

PhD Program
【Fall Enrollment】

Application for Qualification Screening for Applicants

Year Month Day

Dean, Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences

(Applicant)

In Roman letters

Name

Date of Birth	Year Month Day (Age)
Contact Address	
PHONE	
CELL PHONE	
E-mail	

I would like to apply for individual Qualification Screening with a view to applying for the Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences (PhD Program) 2026 Fall Enrollment.

Name _____

Curriculum Vitae

	Educational Background (from Elementary School)
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
	Occupational Experience
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	
Year Month	

※ This form is available for downloading from the University's website.

Name _____

List of Achievements in Research, Education, Miscellaneous Duties, and Social Activities

Year	Month	Research (Conference Presentation, thesis, etc)
Year	Month	Education

※ This form is available for downloading from the University's website.

Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences (PhD Program) 2026 Fall Enrollment
<For Qualification Screening>

Name _____

Year	Month	Duties
Year	Month	Social Activities (NPO activities etc)
Year	Month	Others

※ This form is available for downloading from the University's website.

Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences
(PhD Program) 2026 Fall Enrollment
Special Selection for International Students
(Special Admission Quota for International Postgraduate Scholarship for Research on
Mercury)

Applicant's Name _____

Confirmation Sheet on Preliminary Consultation

Consultation Date	Year Month Date
Summary of Preliminary Consultation	
Desired Supervisor	I have received a preliminary consultation as above. _____ Signature

※1 Please attach a copy of the supervisor's e-mail or letter to prove that you have discussed your research plan with him or her.

※2 This form is available for downloading from the University's website.