

**Application Guidelines for the 2026 Pre-screening for Master's Course
(For Specially Recommended International Students for 2027/2028 Enrollment)**

1. Deadline for Application

April 30th, 2026

2. Number of students to be recommended:

Please recommend **one or two** of the most suitable applicants from your university who meet our qualifications below.

3. Qualifications of applicants:

- (1) Those who do not hold Japanese nationality.
- (2) Those who are motivated to pursue his or her studies at the Division of Materials Science at NAIST and to complete the Master and Doctoral Program.
- (3) Those who have a **GPA score of at least 2.30 (out of maximum 3.00)** in his/her most recent academic transcript.
- (4) Those who are highly proficient in English communication, especially in a scientific field.
- (5) Those who are **recommended by the president or dean** of the following universities, and who are recognized for their excellence in academics, achievement, personality and character.
- (6) Regarding the bachelor's degree, applicants should meet one of the following conditions.
 - A: Those who have completed or will complete a 16-year curriculum of school education in foreign countries by September 30, 2027.
 - B: Those who were conferred or will be conferred the equivalent of a bachelor's degree by September 30, 2027 by completing the course that the years required for graduation are 3 years or more in the following university.

Kasetsart University, Thailand / Chulalongkorn University, Thailand / Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia / Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia / IPB University, Indonesia / Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia / Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines / University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines / Hanoi University of Science, VNU, Vietnam / Institute of Materials Science, Vietnam / Academy of Science and Technology, Vietnam / University of Science and Technology of Hanoi, Vietnam / University of Malaya, Malaysia / Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia / Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia

- C: Those who are recognized by NAIST through the Preliminary Evaluation for Suitability to have the academic ability equivalent or superior to the level of a bachelor's degree, and who will be 22 years of age or older by September 30, 2027. (See Note)

<<Note:>>

Applicants who wish to apply based on qualification (6)-C must first pass the Preliminary Evaluation of Applicant Suitability before formally applying for the Screening of International Students by Special Recommendation.

4. Required documents:

- ✓ CV (use NAIST format)
- ✓ Research Proposal (two A4 pages), covering:
 - The contents of your undergraduate study
 - The research field/project that you wish to work on at NAIST
- ✓ Transcripts of Bachelor Course School Records
- ✓ Document to Verify English Proficiency (e.g., TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) if available
- ✓ **5-minute** Presentation Video

5. How to apply:

Please send all required documents to the International Student Coordinator of DMS-NAIST (ms-kokusaijimu@ms.naist.jp) by email. Those documents should be sent as Microsoft Word or PDF files. Please make sure that the documents are submitted through a faculty member at applicants' university.

Please do not allow applicants to apply directly.

6. Selection procedures:

This program is primarily on-site only. If you cannot participate due to unavoidable circumstances, please consult with us in advance. The selection consists of steps below.

- (1) Contact Period with the laboratories : From March 23rd to April 30th, 2026
Before applying, please contact the laboratories you are interested in to find the two whose research match yours.
- (2) Document screening: Participants will be selected based on the documents submitted. Not all applicants will be successful. All applicants will receive the selection results by **the end of May, 2026** by e-mail from the International Student Coordinator of DMS-NAIST.
- (3) Onsite Internship: The internship program consists of a 2-days lab-stay in two laboratories, and interview test. This program will be held from **July 27th to August 1st, 2026**. NAIST will cover the travel fee. Based on performance during the lab stay and the interview test, participants' suitability for the Master program will be evaluated.
- (4) Interview test: During the internship, there will be an interview test by PIs. Students will be evaluated on their presentation, English proficiency, basic academic ability, enthusiasm, and potential as a researcher.
- (5) The result announcement: The results will be announced by **mid-September 2026**.
- (6) MEXT Embassy Recommendation: Participants who pass the interview test and are not selected for a scholarship for admission in 2027 are strongly encouraged to try for the MEXT Embassy Recommendation 2028.
If they are not successful, but have evidence of having applied for the MEXT Embassy Recommendation, they will be considered for a university recommendation slot for admission in 2028.

7. Selection schedule (Tentative):

2026	March to April	Study Abroad Fair (Information Session) on 3/23				
		Contact period with the laboratories from 3/23 to 4/30				
		Application deadline on 4/30				
	May	Document screening and Result announcement				
	July	Onsite Internship (7/22-8/1)				
September	Result announcement					
2027	February	For 2027 enrollment	For 2028 enrollment			
		Entrance Exam (Screening of Specially Recommended International Students)	Prepare for the MEXT Embassy recommendation			
	March-May		Application for MEXT scholarship (Apply via Japanese Embassy)			
	July		First screening by Embassy (document, paper test, interview test)			
	August		Result announcement			
			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Failed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Receive a letter of acceptance from NAIST</td> <td>Contact NAIST</td> </tr> </table>	Pass	Failed	Receive a letter of acceptance from NAIST
	Pass	Failed				
Receive a letter of acceptance from NAIST	Contact NAIST					
October	Enroll in NAIST					
December		2nd Selection by NAIST, based on the result of whole process.				
2028	January		Final result announcement from MEXT			
	February		Entrance Exam (Screening of Specially Recommended International Students)			
	October		Enroll in NAIST *			

*Even if the applicant failed the MEXT embassy recommendation, NAIST may consider to assign MEXT university recommendation to the participants of pre-screening program with higher grades

- Embassy of Japan in Thailand (https://www.th.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_th/index.html)
- Embassy of Japan in Indonesia (<https://www.id.emb-japan.go.jp/sch.html>)
- Embassy of Japan in the Philippines (http://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000193.html)
- Embassy of Japan in Malaysia (http://www.my.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/postgraduate.html)
- Embassy of Japan in Vietnam (https://www.vn.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_vi/index.html)

All application procedures for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho = MEXT) Scholarships are conducted through Japanese embassies, consulates in your countries, or institutions of higher education in Japan. If you require any further information regarding Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships, contact Japanese embassies, consulates in your countries. Application fee is not charged. Please be aware that organizations or individuals who charge application fees or deposits have no relation with the Japanese Government.

<IMPORTANT>

MEXT prioritizes applicants with high level English proficiency (CEFER B2 level or above)

Laboratory list

Please choose laboratories you are interested in and want to join at NAIST only from the list below, and write them on your CV (use NAIST format) in order of preference. For the further information about each lab, please access our homepage (<https://mswebs.naist.jp/en/laboratories/>)

2026 NAIST Division of Materials Science: Lab list

Physics	Bio-Process Engineering Laboratory	Prof. Yoichiroh Hosokawa
	Keywords: Applications of ultra-shot pulsed lasers, single cell manipulation technology, micro-fluidic devices, atomic force microscopy (AFM), laser-induced crystallization, mechanism investigation of laser-induced explosions acting on biological material	
	Solid-State Information Physics Laboratory	Prof. Tomohiro Matsushita
Device	Keywords: Photoelectron holography & spectroscopy, Electron diffraction, Scanning tunneling microscopy, Cathode luminescence, Dopant atomic structures, 3D shaped surfaces, Semiconductor electronic states, Magnetism	
	Quantum Photo-Science Laboratory	Prof. Hiroyuki Katsuki
	Keywords: Femtosecond lasers, nonlinear spectroscopy, coherent control, exciton polariton, vibrational polariton, two dimensional materials, coherent phonon manipulation, energy transfer	
	Applied Quantum Physics Laboratory	Prof. Takayuki Yanagida
Device	Keywords: Radiation-induced luminescence, scintillators, phosphors, thermoluminescence, afterglow, mechanoluminescence, optical physics, quantum energy conversion, radiation measurements, radiation detectors, quantum beams, X-rays, gamma-rays, neutrons, vacuum-ultraviolet light, near-infrared light, photoelectric conversion elements, image diagnostic equipment, security equipment, individual radiation exposure dosimeters, detectors for high-energy physics, synchrotron radiation	
	Organic Electronics Laboratory	Prof. Masakazu Nakamura
	Keywords: Flexible electronics, organic thin-film transistors, organic solar cells, flexible thermoelectric generators, polymer, carbon nanotube, scanning probe microscopy, development of novel characterization techniques	
	Photonic Device Science Laboratory	Prof. Kiyotaka Sasagawa
Device	Keywords: Image sensors, photonic devices, artificial visual devices, implant devices, brain implant devices, fluorescence detection, CMOS integrated circuit design, RF electric-field imaging	
	Thin Film Semiconductor Devices Laboratory	Assoc.Prof. Kosuke O. Hara
	Keywords: Solar cells, thin-film transistors, silicide semiconductors, oxide semiconductors, group-IV nanosheet, physical vapor deposition, solution combustion synthesis, virtual screening, density functional theory	
	Functional Organic Chemistry Laboratory	Prof. Naoki Aratani
Chemistry	Keywords: Functional organic materials, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, carbon nanomaterials, aromaticity, supramolecular chemistry, photochemistry, organic electronics	
	Functional Inorganic Materials Design Laboratory	Prof. Tomoyo Goto
Chemistry	Keywords: Ceramics, Functional inorganic materials, Crystal morphology, Nanomaterials, Liquid-phase synthesis, Environmental purification materials, Bioceramics	
	Functional Supramolecular Chemistry Laboratory	Prof. Shun Hirota
	Keywords: Supramolecule, protein, metalloprotein, pharmaceutical science, protein gel, hemoglobin gel, antibody, DDS, cancer treatment, AI-designed antibody, function control, enzymatic reaction, chemical modification, genetic mutation, analytical method, organic synthesis, computer-based protein design	
	Complex Molecular Systems Laboratory	Prof. Hironari Kamikubo
	Keywords: Complex molecular systems, protein science, biophysics, structural biology, protein design engineering, X-ray solution scattering, X-ray crystal structure analysis, neutron crystal structure analysis, low temperature spectroscopy, vibrational spectroscopy, fluorescence lifetime measurements, recombinant DNA technology, artificial proteins, structural proteins, protein transportation systems, nerve axon-elongation systems, optical information conversion systems, intermolecular interaction, intramolecular interaction, dynamic ordering analysis	
Biomaterial	Nanomaterials and Polymer Chemistry Laboratory	Prof. Hiroharu Ajiro
	Keywords: Molecular technology, Polymer synthesis, Polymerization control, Polymer-polymer interaction, High performance polymer, Functional polymer, Biomaterial, Medical polymer material, Environmentally friendly material, Energy related material	
	Macromolecular Systems Design	Prof. Kazuma Yasuhara
Biomaterial	Keywords: Macromolecular systems, Functional polymers, Biomacromolecules, Organic-inorganic hybrids, Artificial cells, Self-assembly, Interface chemistry, Emergent functions, Structure – activity relationships, Bio-inspired materials, Biomimetics, Automated synthesis, High-throughput experimentation, Data-driven molecular design	
	Materials Informatics Laboratory	Prof. Mikiya Fujii
Data Science	Keywords: materials informatics, process informatics, high-throughput calculations, quantum chemistry, ab initio calculations, machine learning, deep learning, generative models for materials, photocatalysis, catalysis	