

Application Guidelines for the 2026 Pre-screening for Doctoral Program (For Specially Recommended International Students for 2027/2028 Enrollment)

1. Deadline for Application

24th September, 2026

2. Number of students to be recommended:

Please recommend **three or four** 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 wish to enroll in NAIST-DMS Doctoral Program.
- (3) Those who have a **GPA score of at least 2.30 (out of 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) In accordance with the above, candidates must meet one of the criteria below:

- A) Those who are registered as students, faculty members or researchers at the universities on the following list. Those who meet this requirement are required to keep the status until applying for our entrance examination (Screening of International Students by Special Recommendation).
- B) Those who have graduated from the following universities.

Kasetsart University, Thailand / Chulalongkorn University, Thailand / Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia / Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia / IPB University, Indonesia / Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia / Tianjin University of Technology, China / Liaoning University, China / 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 / Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Vietnam / University of Malaya, Malaysia / Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia / Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia / Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

- (7) Those who will receive a master's degree by the time of enrollment
- (8) Those who plan to enroll in NAIST with the scholarship conditions below:
 - A) MEXT scholarship applying through NAIST (**Under 35 years of age as on Apr 1 in the year of admission**) → 2027 enrollment
 - B) MEXT scholarship applying through Japanese Embassy (**Under 35 years of age as on Apr 1 in the year of admission**)* → 2028 enrollment
 - C) Other scholarship
 - D) Private expense (Enrollment fee: 282,000JPY / Tuition fee: 535,800JPY/year)*

*Students can apply for an exemption. The enrollment fee is not exempted in most of the cases, while the tuition fee is at least half exempted in most of the cases.

4. Required documents:

- ✓ CV (use NAIST format)
- ✓ Academic transcripts (academic record) of the Bachelor's and Master's programs
- ✓ Photocopy of a certified TOEIC score or equivalent (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) if available
- ✓ Research experience and background
 - * Any format is acceptable *Five A4-size pages max
- ✓ Research plan
 - *Any format is acceptable *Two A4-size pages
 - *Cover the following subject:
 - The research field/project that applicants want to work on at NAIST after the enrollment
- ✓ **5-minute** Presentation Video

5. How to apply:

Please send all required documents to the International Student Coordinator of DMS-NAIST (ms-kokusajimu@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 September 1st to 18th, 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 middle of October, 2026** by e-mail from the International Student Coordinator of DMS-NAIST.
- (3) Onsite Internship: The internship program consists of a 3-days lab-stay in two laboratories, and interview test. This program will be held from **November 24th to December 3rd, 2026**. NAIST will cover the travel fee. Based on performance during the lab stay and the interview test, participants' suitability for the Doctoral 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 **the end of December, 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 2027.
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	September	Study Abroad Fair (Information Session) on 9/1			
		Contact period with the laboratories from 9/1 to 18			
		Application deadline on 9/24			
	October	Document screening and Result announcement			
	November - December	Onsite Internship (11/24-12/3)			
Result announcement					
2027	January	For 2027 enrollment	For 2028 enrollment		
		Application for MEXT scholarship (Apply via NAIST)	Prepare for the MEXT Embassy recommendation		
	February	Entrance Exam (Screening of International Students by Special Recommendation)			
	March-May		Application for MEXT scholarship (Apply via Japanese Embassy)		
	July		First screening by Embassy (document, paper test, interview test)		
	August		Result announcement		
			Pass	Failed	
			Receive a letter of acceptance from NAIST	Contact NAIST	
	October	Enroll in NAIST		2nd Selection by NAIST, based on the result of whole process.	
	November				
	December			Pass	
2028	January		Final result announcement from MEXT	Application for MEXT (Apply via NAIST)	
	February		Entrance Exam (Screening of International Students by Special Recommendation)		
	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 (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 across **all four skills** (CEFER B2 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	
	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, MOF	
Device	Applied Quantum Physics Laboratory	Prof. Takayuki Yanagida
	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
	Keywords: Image sensors, photonic devices, artificial visual devices, implant devices, brain implant devices, fluorescence detection, CMOS integrated circuit design, RF electric-field imaging	
Chemistry	Thin Film Semiconductor Devices Laboratory	Assoc.Prof. Kosuke O. Hara
	Keywords: Solar cells, transistors, oxide semiconductors, silicide semiconductors, group-IV layered materials, vacuum process, solution process, virtual screening, first-principles calculations, device simulations	
	Functional Organic Chemistry	Prof. Naoki Aratani
	Keywords: Organic synthesis, functional organic materials, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, carbon nanomaterials, aromaticity, supramolecular chemistry, photochemistry, organic electronics	
	Functional Inorganic Materials Design	Prof. Tomoyo Goto
	Keywords: Ceramics, Functional inorganic materials, Crystal morphology, Nanomaterials, Liquid-phase synthesis, Environmental purification materials, Bioceramics	
Biomaterial	Functional Supramolecular Chemistry	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	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	
	Nanomaterials and Polymer Chemistry	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	
Data Science	Macromolecular Systems Design	Prof. Kazuma Yasuhara
	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	Prof. Mikiya Fujii
	Keywords: materials informatics, process informatics, high-throughput calculations, quantum chemistry, ab initio calculations, machine learning, deep learning, generative models for materials, photocatalysis, catalysis	