

Constituent Universities, Research Institutions and Partner Universities

Constituent Universities

Faculty of Agriculture, Iwate University

18-8 Ueda 3-chome, Morioka 020-8550
<https://www.agr.iwate-u.ac.jp/>



Faculty of Agriculture and Life Science, Hirosaki University

3 Bunkyo-cho, Hirosaki 036-8561
<https://nature.hirosaki-u.ac.jp/>



Faculty of Agriculture, Yamagata University

1-23 Wakaba-machi, Tsuruoka 997-8555
<https://www.tr.yamagata-u.ac.jp/>



Faculty of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Fukushima University

1 Kanayagawa, Fukushima-city, 960-1296
<https://www.agri.fukushima-u.ac.jp/english/>



Partner Research Institutions

NARO Tohoku Agricultural Research Center National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO)

4 Akahira, Shimo-kuriyagawa, Morioka, Iwate 020-0198
<https://www.naro.go.jp/laboratory/tarc/index.html>



Iwate Biotechnology Research Center

22-174-4 Narita, Kitakami, Iwate 024-0003
<https://www.ibrc.or.jp/>



Aomori Prefectural Industrial Technology Research Center

82-9 Tanaka, Kuroishi, Aomori 036-0522
<https://www.aomori-itc.or.jp/>



Tohoku Professional University of Agriculture and Forestry

1366 Tsunozawa, Shinjo, Yamagata 996-0052
<https://tpuaf.ac.jp/university/>



Partner Universities

University of Saskatchewan (Canada)*

<https://www.usask.ca>
*Dual Ph.D. Program is conducted between the University of Saskatchewan and UGAS, Iwate University



Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University

<https://www.fafu.edu.cn/main.htm>



Faculty of Biological Science, Dhaka University (Bangladesh)

<https://www.du.ac.bd/faculty/FACBIO>



(as of January 2025)

Admission to UGAS, Iwate University

1 Find a supervisor of the division or specialty you wish to enter

On the UGAS website, complete information is available about the school, and professors qualified to supervise students. Please find a potential supervisor who can guide you as a Ph.D. candidate (students in the master's program should discuss with your current supervisor).

2 Contact professors

Once students decide the area of research they want to pursue, they must contact the potential supervisor and obtain more detailed information. Please refer to the email address on each professor's webpage.

3 Send an application and examination fees

Applications are open every year in July (for admission in October and in April) and in November (for admission in April). The entrance examination fee is ¥ 30,000 (applicants who were graduated from, or who are expected to graduate from a master's course at a constituent university within 3 years are exempted from the application fee).

4 Take entrance examination

The entrance examination is given twice, in February (for admission in April) and in September (for admission in October and in April). The entrance examination consists of a presentation of the student's master's thesis and research plan for the Ph.D. program. The decision for admission is based on the results of the oral presentation and an evaluation of other submitted documents.

5 Follow admission procedure

After passing the entrance examination, students must pay the registration and tuition fees and follow necessary procedures (applicants who were graduated from, or who are expected to graduate from, a master's course at a constituent university within 3 years are exempted from the registration fee). Entrance orientation is provided to students in April and October.

For more information,
please check the UGAS website.

<https://ugas.agr.iwate-u.ac.jp/>



Inquiry for admission



United Graduate School of Agricultural and Sciences,
Iwate University

Mailing Address / Application and other documents should be mailed or brought to:
Administration Office
The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences
Iwate University
18-8 Ueda 3-chome, Morioka, Iwate 020-8550, JAPAN
Phone : +81-19-621-6249
E-mail : rendai2@iwate-u.ac.jp



Guide for admission to the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Iwate University

Obtain your Ph.D. degree at the United Graduate
School of Agricultural Sciences, Iwate University



Admission to UGAS, Iwate University

The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Iwate University (UGAS-IU) offers a 3-year Ph.D. program. UGAS-IU comprises four constituent universities located in northern Japan : Hirosaki University, Iwate University, Yamagata University and Fukushima University.

Each of these constituent universities, each one with its own characteristics, and the education and research system have been arranged in order to create a graduate school that promotes state-of-the-art and interdisciplinary research in the field of agriculture. UGAS-IU was established in April 1990, and since then, 870 graduates (as of October 2024) have successfully completed the Ph.D. program.

At UGAS-IU, we have designed a comprehensive education curriculum that meets all students needs in order to provide an education worthy of the highest-level researchers and specialists who possess an international perspective. We hope you can join us.

Structure of UGAS-IU

UGAS-IU is comprised of three specialties and nine divisions.

Specialty	Division	Capacity of Enrollment
Bioproduction Science	Plant Production	(10)
	Animal Production	
	Biological Ecology Control	
Bioresources Science	Biomolecular Function	(9)
	Cellular Genomics	
	Food Science	
Regional Environment Creation	Regional Resources and Environmental Economics	(9)
	Agricultural and Environmental Engineering	
	Regional Resources and Environmental Management	

※More information concerning specialties and divisions is provided on the UGAS website.

Registration and Tuition Fees

The following payments are required:

- Registration fee: ¥ 282,000
- Tuition fee: ¥ 267,900 per a semester (one year: ¥ 535,800)

※The price above is as of 2025 and it is subject to change. In case the tuition fee is changed while you are in school, you will need to pay the new tuition fee.

Unique Education Curriculum

We have prepared a unique and complete education curriculum. Our goal at UGAS-IU is to provide access to researchers and specialists with international experience and excellent communication skills.

General curriculum

Courses	Credits	Compulsory/Elective
Science Communication Camp	1	●
Advanced Course in each Specialty	1	●
Advanced Research in each Specialty	6	●
Special Lectures in Agricultural Science (English)	1	★
Special Lectures in Agricultural Science (Japanese)	1	
Science Communication in English	1	○
Research Internship	2	○
Communication for International Conferences	1	○
Tohoku Agricultural Seminars	1	○
Research Ability Improvement Seminars	1	○
Advanced Seminars in each Specialty	1	○/★※
Education and Research Guidance in each Specialty	1	○
Ethics and Research (English, Japanese)	0	●

●: Compulsory ★: Compulsory Elective Course (※ The student who wish Ph. D. in Gakujutsu need to take one or more courses from Advanced Seminars in XX (XX: Not same as student's as Major.) ○: Elective In order to complete the course, Ph.D. candidates must take 8 compulsory credits and 4 or more elective credits.

Note: Progress report meetings must be held in the first and second years for the Advanced Course credits.

Unique Courses

Science Communication Camp

Japanese and foreign students from all universities get together for three days in a lodging style environment where everyone has to do a presentation about their own research and receives advice about life as a Ph.D. student. In a separate workshop, we aim at improving students' perspective, communication and problem-solving abilities by exchanging ideas.

Special Lectures in Agricultural Science (English), (Japanese)

A number of lectures are given simultaneously at all United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences in Japan (18 Universities) using a modern lecture satellite system, in Japanese in June and in English in November. Every year, a broad variety and high quality of lectures are presented.

Science Communication in English

Students develop the basic English skills scientists need to acquire through lectures by the instructor and practical exercises by students. This is a popular lecture among students which provides an opportunity to learn science in English.

Research Internship

This internship is designed to provide our students with the opportunity to master problem-resolving skills, research creativity and communication skills by exchanging ideas and discussing their own studies with researchers and professors of other research institutions.

Besides universities and research centers in Japan, we support an overseas internship at University of Saskatchewan (Canada), which has a student exchange agreement with UGAS-IU.

System of Research Supervision and Pre-Requisites for Completion of the Ph.D. Program

At UGAS-IU, each student is assigned three supervisors (one main supervisor and two associate supervisors). One of the associate supervisors must belong to a different University from that of the student. Under this system, research supervision is not limited to the student's laboratory but has a broader perspective.

In order to obtain the Ph.D. degree at UGAS-IU, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- ① 3-year enrollment.
- ② Required credits (2 Compulsory credits and 4 Elective credits, not including those from advanced research).
- ③ One or more scientific papers on which the degree dissertation is based. The student must be the first author and the scientific paper must be peer-reviewed.
- ④ Mid-term presentation of the Ph.D. dissertation.
- ⑤ Open examination of the Ph.D. dissertation.
- ⑥ The professorate of the doctoral course decides if the applicant passes or fails.

(in case of outstanding research achievements, short-completion is possible and 3-year enrollment is not necessary).

※Credits from Advanced Research are recognized together with the acceptance of the Ph.D. degree.



Financial Support Systems

- **Financial assistance through Research Assistance (RA)**
The annual income for engagement as a Research Assistant (RA) ranges from ¥100,000 to ¥390,000. (There is an age restriction)
- **Various travel fee support options**
Travel fees are granted for Research Internships, Communication for International Conferences and Science Communication Camp.
- **Tuition fee exemption system**
The same tuition exemption system for undergraduate and master's students is applied to Ph.D. students.
- **Tuition waiver program for doctoral students (Kenkyu Suiko Kyoryokuin)**
Tuition fee payment will be reduced by half in one semester.
* RA students can not apply for this program.
- **UGAS- IU Student Research Grant Project**
UGAS will support successful students' (first and second year) individual research financially up to 300,000 yen per person for pursuing their research proposal.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Research Fellowship for Young Scientists

If your application for the JSPS research fellowship for young scientists is accepted, a monthly scholarship will be granted.
(DC1, DC2 are awarded the same amount per month, ¥ 200,000)
※This amount is as of April 2025 and subject to change.