2027 Academic Year

Tohoku University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Doctoral Program (3years)

Student Recruitment Guidelines

(Special Selection Procedures for International Students)
(April 2027 Enrollment)

Applicants who are expected to complete the doctoral program (2years) at the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences in March 2027 will be selected in accordance with the Program for Students Advancing from Master's Program of this Graduate School, which are specified separately.

* Starting with this entrance examination, the Internet application system will be introduced. Please refer to page 4 onward of this application guideline and the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences website of Tohoku University for details on how to apply online.

October 2026

Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Admission Policy

Characteristics Expected of Applicants to the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

For the doctoral course, we are looking for students who have a strong motivation to discover drugs and elucidate molecular mechanisms underlying diseases and contribute to society as future leaders in the field of drug discovery, in order to produce excellent researchers capable of driving cutting-edge research in drug discovery science or clinical pharmaceutical science independently.

Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Applicant Screening Methods

Doctoral course applicants are screened through the following examinations: transfer examination, special selection for adults, and special selection for foreign students. The emphasis in this entrance examinations is on whether the applicant is able and qualified to conduct research in line with our educational principles and goals.

Doctoral course

The transfer examination includes an external test to verify English language proficiency, a written test to assess advanced subject knowledge about pharmaceutical sciences, and an oral examination to evaluate research planning and research competency. In selection, a particular emphasis is placed on research competency.

The special selection for adults is for those who work, and will continue to work after admission, as engineers, teachers, researchers, and other occupations. It is based on an oral examination to evaluate advanced subject knowledge about pharmaceutical sciences, and research aptitude/planning/competency. In selection, a particular emphasis is placed on research competency.

The special selection for foreign students is for non-Japanese applicants and consists of an external test to verify English language proficiency, a written test to assess advanced subject knowledge about pharmaceutical sciences, and an oral examination to evaluate research aptitude/planning/competency. In selection, a particular emphasis is placed on research competency.

Successful candidates are advised to acquire the ability to apply subject knowledge and skills in the field of pharmaceutical sciences, particularly in their relevant area of expertise; advanced knowledge of discovery, proper drug use, and research based on such knowledge; and English language proficiency sufficient to play an active role internationally in their area of expertise, before admission.

1. Majors and Number of Students Admitted

The major subjects of study offered and the numbers of students we admit are shown below.

Major	Major Subjects (Fields)	Number of Students Recruited
Molecular Medical Science	Medicinal Chemistry, Organometallic Chemistry, Synthetic Chemistry, Heterocyclic Chemistry, Molecular Transformation, Natural Products Chemistry, Biointerface Chemistry, Bio-Structural Chemistry, Green Chemistry, Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry, Molecular Imaging Pharmaceutical Science	A select number of students
Life and Pharmaceutical Science	Pharmacology, Bio-Analytical Chemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, DDS Design and Drug Disposition, Health Chemistry, Biological Network Dynamics, Molecular Biology and Metabolism, Modomics Pharmacology, Molecular Genetics, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Oncology Pharmacy Practice and Science, Pharmacogenomics, Biomolecule and Pathophysiological Chemistry, Drug Evaluation and Regulatory Science	

Note 1:

Applicants must inquire in advance with the professor in their relevant field (major subject) about research plans and other details following admission (or inquire with an associate professor in their field in case the professor is absent). For Molecular Imaging Pharmaceutical Science, and Drug Evaluation and Regulatory Science, please contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Note 2:

Please refer to the Outline of Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences for research details and other information.

2. Application Qualifications

The following may apply for the special selection procedure of international students. International students or those who have completed a course at a graduate school of a foreign university (excluding international students who are expected to complete a doctoral program (first two-year), master's program, or professional degree program [except for those of this graduate school] at a graduate school of Tohoku University) and fall under any of the categories listed below (including those for whom the conditions are expected to be applicable by the end of March 2027). **As a general rule, international students are initially admitted as Research Students, and after they have been part of the school for a certain period of time, they are eligible to apply for special selection. However, these stipulations do not apply for those who are currently enrolled in a master's program in Japan (in a science subject) or in specific cases recognized by this graduate school.**

(1) Those with a master's degree or a professional degree

(2) Those who have received a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree from the graduate school of a foreign university

(3) Those who have taken correspondence courses conducted by foreign universities in Japan and have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree

(4) Those who have completed a course at an educational facility positioned in the education system of a foreign country designated separately as foreign graduate school courses by Japan's Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree

(5) Those who have completed a course at the United Nations University and have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree

(6) Those who have completed a course at a foreign university, foreign educational facility with graduate courses, or the United Nations University, and who have passed the equivalent tests and examinations prescribed in Article 16-2 of the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools (Ministry of Education Ordinance No. 28, 1974) and have been recognized as having academic ability equal to or higher than a person with a master's degree

(7) Those designated by the Minister of Education as follows (Ministry of Education Notification No. 118, 1989):

a) Those who have graduated from a university and engaged in research for two or more years at a university, research institute, etc., and who this graduate school recognizes as having at least the same academic ability as a person with a master's degree or a professional degree based on the results of that research

b) Those who, after completing a 16-year course of school education overseas or after completing a 16-year course of foreign school education by taking correspondence courses conducted by foreign schools in Japan, have been engaged in research for two or more years at a university or research institute and who this graduate school recognizes as having at least the same academic ability as a person with a master's degree or a professional degree based on the results of that research

(8) Those who hold a master's degree or a professional degree through individual entrance examination at this graduate school or an equivalent qualification

Those who are recognized as having the academic qualifications specified above must be 24 years of age by the end of March 2027 in order to be eligible.

Note 1: The following persons are required to apply in accordance with this guideline: Those who are expected to complete the first two years of a doctoral course (excluding the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Tohoku University), a master's course or a professional degree course at the Graduate School of Tohoku University.

Note 2: Applicants with application qualification (6) should contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences by November 9,2026 for submissions.

Note 3: The decision about the applicants with application qualification (7) is made in advance; hence, these applicants will need to submit their Graduation Certificate and Certificate of Research Engagement and Summary of Research

to Date from among the required documents listed below in Section 3 (3) of the application. Please submit these documents by post to the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences by November 9, 2026.

The result will be notified to the person in question by around Wednesday, November 18 2026.

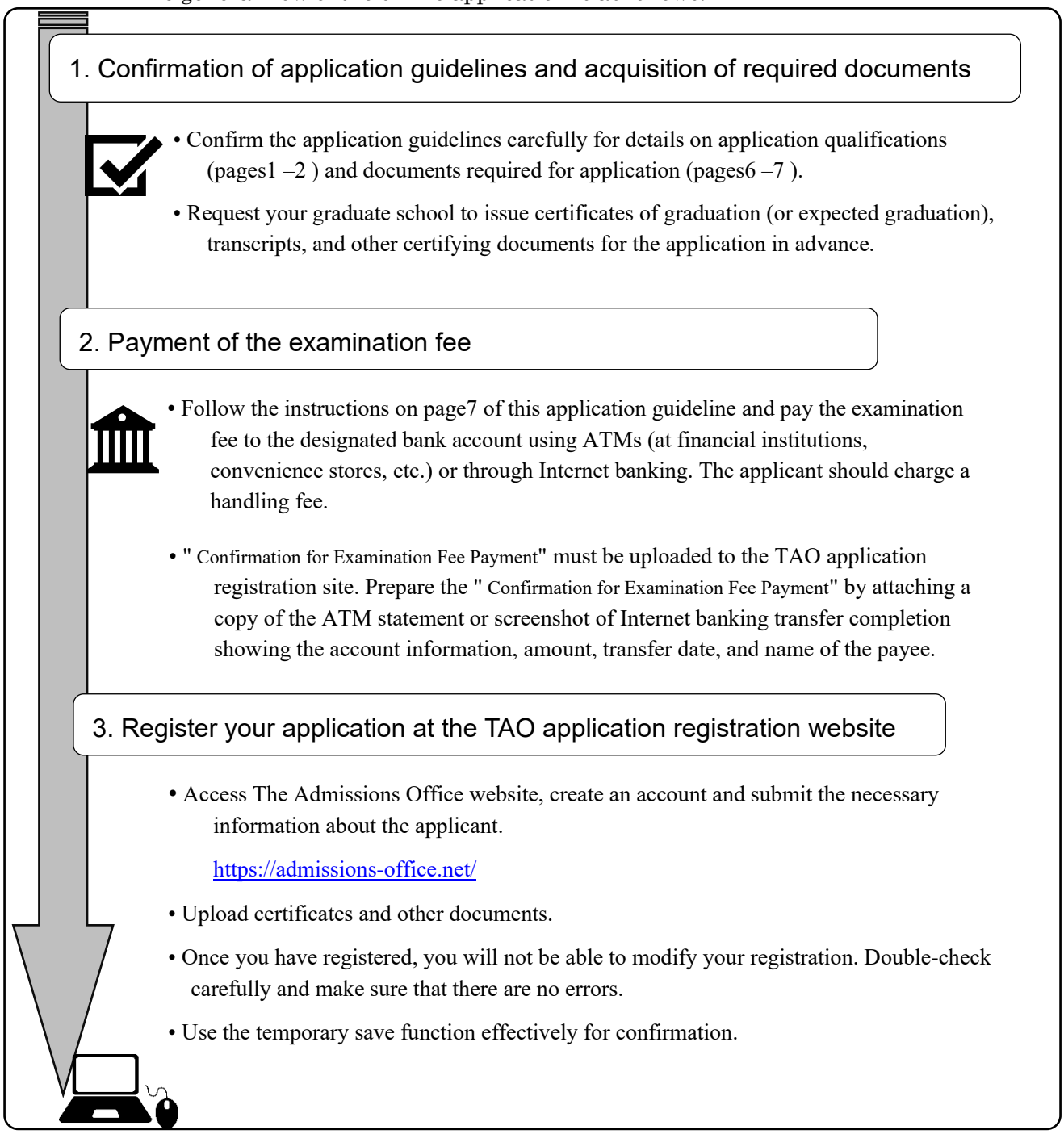
Note 4: Applicants with application qualification (8) will be subject to examination to qualify for admission and should contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences by November 9, 2026.

Note 5: If you require any additional consideration for health-related or other reasons in relation to taking exams or studying, please contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences by November 9 2026.

3. Online Application Procedure and Application Period

(1) Online Application Procedure

The general flow of the online application is as follows.



Note: The application procedure is completed by **both** payment of the examination fee (see 2 above) and registration of application information on the Internet (see 3 above). Please note that either one of these procedures only is insufficient to complete the application process.

(2) Application Period and Notes

Applicants must complete the application using the designated online application system, The Admissions Office (after this referred to as TAO), within the application period. Follow the instructions below.

i. Access the following URL and click "Account Registration" to create an account.
https://admissions-office.net/

ii. After creating an account, log in with your e-mail address and password from the URL above. Search for "Tohoku University/ Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences/ Doctoral Program (3years) " using the "Application Search" menu. Follow the instructions on TAO and the instructions below.

iii. The online application period is **from 10:00 on December 10 (Thu.), 2026, to 17:00 on December16 (Wed.), 2026 (Japan Standard Time).**

Note: Please complete your application by the deadline. Please note that your application will not be accepted if the above-mentioned input period has passed before you click the "Complete my application" button.

iv. Submit the required documents by uploading them to the application form.

Note 1: Applications that are lacking necessary documents, incomplete, or otherwise inadequate will not be acceptable.

Note 2: Making false or misleading statements on the application may result in the cancellation of admission status.

Note 3: After submission, declining an application and amendment to written information on the application documents cannot be allowed. The entrance examination fee is not refundable.

Note 4: Applicants who pass the examination and are admitted must submit original copies of their "Academic transcript" (not required for graduates of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Tohoku University).and the original TOEIC or TOEFL score sheet which were submitted in PDF file at the time of application (Graduates who studied natural or medical sciences do not need to submit).

Note 5: Applicants who applied with the application qualification (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) must also submit original copies of their "Master's degree certificate" and who applied with the application qualification (7) must also submit original copies of their "Graduation certificate and research engagement certificate".

Note 6: If there are any discrepancy between the documents uploaded to TAO and the originals submitted at the time of admission procedures, or if the originals of various certificates cannot be submitted, your admission to the Graduate School may be cancelled.

v. If your application is received without any deficiency, you will receive a notification to the e-mail address you have registered with TAO. Therefore, the applicant should check e-mails regularly.

vi. The examination admission card can be downloaded from TAO. You will be notified by the e-mail when the download is available.

(3) Required Application Documents

Application documents are as follows and the uploading items should be a clear and sharp image.

In principle, the certificates to be submitted should be in Japanese or English. In the case of certificates in other languages, a Japanese or English translation, corroborated by the issuer of each certificate, should be attached.

If it is not possible to handle certificates in the way listed above, contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

● Entry and registration of applicant's information via TAO

Name of Document	Remarks
Application form	Please fill in the necessary information via TAO.
Photo	Please upload the photo image via TAO. Photo image (height and width ratio of image should be 4:3) showing the upper half of the body, facing front without a hat/cap in front of a plain background, and taken within three months of the application. Acceptable data extension is png, jpg, or jpeg, and the data size should be less than 20MB.
Academic transcript	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. Issued by the principal of the graduate school from which the applicant graduated most recently. Note: Please submit the original at the time of admission procedures.
TOEFL® TEST or TOEIC® TEST score sheet (see note) 【Graduates who studied natural or medical sciences do not need to submit.】	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. The original copy of a TOEFL or TOEIC score sheet for a test that was taken within two years prior to the entrance examination date (tests taken on or after February 1 , 2025 , are valid). However, those who have graduated from science-related graduate schools are not required to submit this. Test results from the TOEFL iBT and the TOEIC open test are considered valid. We do not recognize the TOEFL ITP and TOEIC IP group exams. We also do not allow the substitution of the score sheet once it has been submitted. Note 1: Please submit the original at the time of admission procedures. Note 2: Graduates who studied natural or medical sciences don't need to upload the PDF file or to submit the original. Note 3: The DI code of the graduate school of Pharmaceutical Sciences is "C212" when sending the score sheet for TOEFL to ETS. Be aware that it takes about two months from sending to return. Note 4: In the graduate school of Pharmaceutical Sciences, only the "Test Date scores" is used as the application score in the TOEFL iBT test. (Do not use "My Best ™ scores") Note 5: The application code for TOEIC is "00015202" when using the public test score confirmation service. Note 6: Please submit your digital Official Score Certificate for the TOEIC test.
Master's degree certificate or expected graduation certificate	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. Only applicants with application qualifications (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) need to submit this. Note: Please submit the original at the time of admission procedures.
Graduation certificate and research engagement certificate (variable formats are permissible)	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. Only applicants with application qualification (7) need to submit a certificate of graduation issued by the head of their university (or undergraduate faculty) and a certification of research conducted for two or more years at a research institute recognized by the graduate school. Note: Please submit the original at the time of admission procedures.
Letter of prior approval from a professor in the applicant's desired field	Please upload the prescribed form of the Graduate School as a PDF file to TAO.

Examination permit (variable formats are permissible)	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. Produced by the head of the applicant's institution. However, only those who are currently working and who will be enrolled while continuing to work should submit this.
Master's dissertation abstract (approximately 2,000 words)	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. Only applicants with application qualifications (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) need to submit this.
Summary of research to date	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. Only applicants with application qualification (7) need to submit this. Written in Japanese or English. If written in Japanese, it should be around 2,000 words, and if written in English it should be around 1,000 words.
Examination fee	1. By ATM and internet banking transaction Deposit Amount （金額）: JPY 30,000 Payment Period（納入期間）: strictly from December 10 to by December 16, 2026 Bank（銀行）: *Mitsubishi UFJ Ginko*（三菱 UFJ 銀行） Bank code（銀行コード）: 0005 Branch（支店）: *Wakatake-shiten*（わかたけ支店） Branch code（支店コード）: 809 Account type（預金種別）: *Futsuu*（普通） Account number（口座番号）: 2259201 Account holder（口座名義）: *kokuritsu daigaku houjin Tohokudaigaku*（国立大学法人東北大学） Account holder in katakana（カナ）: ﾀﾞｲ)ﾄｳﾎｸﾀﾞｲｶﾞｸ * Sender's name should be applicant's name in katakana. * Please burden bank transfer fee at the applicant's expense. 2. Japanese Government Scholarship students and those who apply for exemption from the application fee are not required to pay the fee. Please refer to the following website for information on the application fee exemption for victims of disasters such as typhoons and floods. https://www.pharm.tohoku.ac.jp/jukensei/annai-d/menjo/ 3. The above-mentioned bank account does not accept international remittances. Those living abroad can pay the fee by credit card. Please contact the Educational Affairs Section in advance to obtain further information.
Confirmation for Examination Fee Payment	After paying the fee by ATM or internet banking transaction, upload the payment receipt in PDF to TAO. * For Japanese Government Scholarship students, please submit the Certificate of Japanese Government Scholarship students (any form) issued by your current graduate school instead of the "Confirmation of Examination Fee Payment". * For those who wish to apply for exemption from the application fee, please submit the "Application for admission fee waiver"（「入学検定料免除申請書」） instead of the " Confirmation of Examination Fee Payment".
Copy of residency card	Please upload the PDF file to TAO. Only necessary for overseas residents of Japan. A residence qualification issued by the municipal mayor which specifies the period of stay.

Note: TOEFL, TOEFL iBT, TOEFL ITP and TOEIC are registered trademarks of Educational Testing Service (ETS).

4. Selection Procedure

(1) The selection of applicants will be on the basis of the combined results of an academic ability test, a research presentation (15 minutes), interview questions (5 minutes), and the application documents. Students from science-related graduate schools are exempt from the academic ability test and from submitting the original copy of a TOEFL or TOEIC score sheet as described in the application documents in Section 3 (3) above.

(2) The academic ability test will be conducted by "English proficiency test (based on the TOEFL or TOEIC score of the application documents)" and "Specialized subjects (writing)". Questions will be given in English with Japanese written alongside. Additionally, answers will be given in English or Japanese unless otherwise indicated in the question.

"Specialized subjects": Applicants should take the test for their desired major subject (field of study). (See Section 1: Table of Majors and Number of Students Recruited)

(3) Research presentations when selecting new students will be conducted using an LCD projector. Applicants should bring a computer with a file for the presentation (created with PowerPoint or a similar program) and give a presentation on their past research and future research plans.

(4) The dates and times for the academic ability test and the interviews are as follows:

Date	Time	Examination Content
January 29 (Friday)	10:00 – 11:30	Specialized subjects
	13:30 –	Research presentation and interview questions

(5) The test will be conducted at the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (6-3, Aoba, Aramaki, Aoba-ku Sendai, Miyagi).

5. Announcement of Successful Applicants

The results will be posted on our website (https://www.pharm.tohoku.ac.jp) **at 17:00 on Wednesday, February 17, 2027.**

Successful applicants will also be issued a letter of acceptance through TAO.

No inquiries regarding acceptance or rejection will be answered.

6. Admission Procedure

(1) Admission-Related Documents

It will be sent to successful applicants after the announcement of acceptance.(2) Necessary Expenses for Admission

Admission fee: 282,000 yen (proposed amount) (Payment period is noted on the enrollment documents.)

Tuition fee: Half-year, 267,900 yen (yearly amount 535,800 yen) (proposed amount)

Note 1: Tuition fees are automatically deducted from the specified account. Additionally, the amount of payment indicated above is a proposed amount; if the payment amount is revised, the new payment amount will be applied

starting from the time of the revision.

Note 2: We will inform successful applicants about their admission fee and tuition fee exemptions, deferred payments, etc. in the admission procedure documents.

Note 3: Successful applicants who meet Note 1 in the application qualifications section do not need to pay the admission fee (i.e., they are treated as though they are continuing students).

7. About the International Graduate Course in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

We have set up the International Graduate Course in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, which allows the doctoral program (3years) international students to obtain a degree through classes and research guidance in English. All international applicants admitted through the special selection procedure for international students will be assigned to this course.

See our website（https://www.pharm.tohoku.ac.jp/jukensei/annai-d/kokusai-d/） for details on the International Graduate Course in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

8. System for Long-Term Study

If students have special circumstances (for example, if you currently have a job, are pregnant, have childcare or nursing care-related needs), there is a system for long-term study that allows them to submit a study plan that exceeds the standard study period at the time of admission and, thus, allows them to complete the course. Those who wish to apply for this should contact the Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

9. Regarding the Handling of Personal Information

(1) The personal information held by the University will be strictly handled in compliance with the "Act on the Protection of Personal Information (Act No. 57 of 2003)" and other laws and regulations, and in accordance with the "Regulations on Protection of Personal Information at National University Corporation Tohoku University" and other related regulations of Tohoku University. We make every effort to protect personal information.

(2) Personal information such as examination results used for the selection of students is used for the following purposes.

- Selection of applicants, admission procedures, follow-up surveys, etc.
- Student support after admission (scholarship, tuition waiver, health care, etc.)
- Educational purposes such as academic guidance and tuition collection, etc.

Improvement of entrance examinations, survey and analysis of application trends, etc. For enrolled students, this includes analysis together with personal information after enrollment.

(3) Entrance examination and academic affairs-related work may be performed by contractors who have received a business consignment from the University (hereinafter referred to as "contractors"). When all or part of personal information is provided to a contractor for outsourcing, necessary measures will be taken to ensure

that the information is handled appropriately in accordance with the "Regulations on Protection of Personal Information at National University Corporation Tohoku University" and other related regulations of Tohoku University.

10. Educational Data Usage

Data, including personal information, that Tohoku University collects through its education/learning activities and stores on its information systems (hereafter, Educational Data) is analyzed with the latest analytical and A.I. technology and is considered vital to our implementation of evidence-based education.

Consequently, the university strives to use Educational Data effectively and appropriately in compliance with our "Statement on Educational Data Usage," "Policy on Educational Data Usage," and "Tohoku University's 8 Principles of Educational Data Acquisition."

After being admitted to the university, students' personal information, such as entrance exam scores etc., is merged with the university's Educational Data.

URL：https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/studentinfo/education/08/education0801/

11. Notes

(1) Please refer to our website (https://www.pharm.tohoku.ac.jp) for more details on this graduate school.

(2)Incomplete application documents may not be accepted. Once the application documents have been received, we cannot accept withdrawals, changes in information, or application fee refund requests.

(3) The reference address for entrance examinations is as follows:

Educational Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Tel: +81-22-795-6803 Fax: +81-22-795-6805)
6-3Aoba, Aramaki, Aoba-ku Sendai, 980-8578, Miyagi
E-mail: pharm-kyom@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

(4) Access to the entrance examination venue from Sendai Station:

Sendai City Subway, Tozai Line

Get off at Aobayama Station on the subway to Yagiyama Zoological Park and walk for 10 minutes from North Exit 1.

October 2026

Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tohoku University

6-3 Aoba, Aramaki, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8578

Tel: 022-795-6803

令和　　年　　月　　日

Letter of prior approval
from a professor in the applicant's desired field
事 前 確 認 書

東北大学大学院薬学研究科長　殿

分野名：＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

職・氏名：＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿ ㊞

下記の者の入学後の研究計画等について、事前に確認したことを報告します。

記

氏名＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

【検定料納付確認書】

Confirmation for Examination Fee Payment

Program 課　　程：	薬学研究科　　課程
Name 氏　　名：	

In the space provided below, please paste the information of the account to which you paid the examination fee, the amount, the date of transfer, and the name of the payee (e.g., a copy of the ATM statement or the completion screen of the Internet bank transfer), and convert it to a PDF file.

◂space for pasting ▸

If a copy of the completed transfer screen does not fit in the space provided, please write ″as shown in the attached sheet″ in the space provided and submit the confirmation of payment of the examination fee together with a PDF file of the screen copy.