Fall 2026 Application Requirements for the Program for Exchange Students at International Exchange Center, Niigata University

April, 2026
International Exchange Center
Organization for Global Engagement, Niigata University

◆Aim

The Program for Exchange Students at International Exchange Center, Niigata University (NU) provides students from our partner institutions with opportunities to study various subjects at our university up to two semesters as a principle. Through this program, NU expects that exchange students will gain diverse knowledge and deepen their understanding of Japan, and that cooperation and partnership between partner institutions and NU will be further strengthened.
This program will be conducted in-person, meaning that students will obtain a student visa and will come to Japan to study.

【Important Note】Regarding Application Procedure of Graduate Students
Graduate Students who are interested in applying for the Program for Exchange Students should read the attached "Sheet 1" that shows procedures required of graduate students.

◆Eligibility for the Program for Exchange Students

An applicant must meet all of the following requirements.
(1) The applicant is currently enrolled as a degree-seeking student in a university with which Niigata University has concluded a student exchange agreement (hereinafter referred to as "partner university"). (In light of the principle of student exchange, students who will be enrolled in, and pay tuition fees to, partner university during their intended study period are eligible. Students who will have graduated from partner universities by the end of the Program at Niigata University are not eligible.)
(2) The applicant has good academic records which is equal to or more than 2.30 points by NU's designated calculation formula, has sufficient language proficiency in Japanese or English, and is recommended by NU's partner university.
(3) The applicant is physically and mentally in good health and is expected to complete the program successfully.
(4) The applicant will observe applicable laws and regulations during their participation in this Program as well as rules and instruction as an exchange student by agreements on student exchange with Niigata University.

◆Time and Term of Study

Exchange students study for either one or two semesters starting in October of 2026. Students who cannot study for a full semester are not eligible.

Choose either one of the terms below.	Arrival in Japan (Scheduled) *2
1 semester (October 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027) *1	Late September of 2026
2 semesters (October 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027)*1	

*1 Academic Schedule at NU
For Spring Semester, classes normally start in early April and end in early August.
For Fall Semester, classes normally start on October 1 and end in early February.
Students must attend all registered classes and take all exams of the semester in which they are enrolled. The academic calendar is posted at:
【Japanese】 https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/campus/life/schedule/calendar/
【English】 https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/study/life/calendar/
*2 Arrival in Japan
Students must follow instructions by NU regarding arrival dates in Japan except for unavoidable circumstances.

◆Exchange Students' Status and Tuition Fees at NU

The following table shows the student status and tuition fees for students who are accepted to the Program for Exchange Students at International Exchange Center. There will be no examination/admission fees for a "Special Auditing Student". The tuition is 14,800 yen per credit;

however, tuition fees will be waived for students who have been nominated by a partner university under a tuition waiver agreement with NU. Applicants should confirm with a coordinator at their home university in advance regarding tuition at NU.

Status at Home University	Purpose of Study at NU	Status at NU	Examination (screening) Fee	Admission Fee	Tuition
Enrolled as an undergraduate, degree-seeking student	Audit subjects (Obtain credits by passing subjects)	Special Auditing Student of International Exchange Center	Not charged	Not Charged	14,800 yen per credit （**waived for students under an applicable, inter-university agreement**）

◆Studying at Niigata University

Exchange students may select subjects in the areas (1) to (3) shown below.
Each subject sets eligibility requirements for auditing as well as a maximum capacity for enrollment, and adopts either manual selection/lottery or automatic lottery selection. Students will apply for subjects using the Student Web System via online, and will be enrolled with permission by an instructor in charge. Due to reasons including a maximum capacity, a lottery result, and eligibility requirements, students may not always be permitted to take subjects that they had wished to take. It is advisable to plan well ahead of time and inquire if need be.

Syllabi outlining objectives and other details of each subject can be found at the following website.
Search syllabus: http://syllabus.niigata-u.ac.jp/
Search Guide: https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/study/syllabus/

(1) Japanese Language Learning
Japanese language subjects are offered from pre-intermediate/intermediate to advanced level. Students who wish to take Japanese language subjects must see the "Guidance for Japanese Language Learning Subjects" in order to find out which subjects are available for them. The Guidance and further information for Japanese language learning subjects for the academic year of 2026 can be found at the following website from September 2026.
https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/study/japanese-language/

(2) Subjects taught in foreign languages (mainly in English)
Niigata University offers subjects taught in non-Japanese languages (mainly English).
Visit the following URL to see a list of such subjects offered for Academic Year 2026.
○ Spring Semester of AY2026
https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2026/03/classtime2026spring.pdf
○ Fall Semester of AY2026
A subject list is being prepared. Please refer to the list for the fall semester 2025.
https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/09/classtime2025fall.pdf

(3) Subjects offered for degree-seeking students
Subjects offered by undergraduate faculties for their degree-seeking students, most of which are taught in Japanese. To comprehend contents and instruction, to do well in assignments and examinations, and to receive a passing grade, students should have an advanced Japanese proficiency (equivalent of N2 or N1 level in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test). Exchange students who fulfill each subject's auditing requirements are allowed to apply, and will be able to enroll with permission by an instructor in charge. Students must check requirements and details of each subject by reading its syllabus.

◆Academic Results and Credit Transfer

(1) An official academic transcript will be issued for subjects in which students have earned a passing grade. It will include subject names, results, and the number of credits earned. The issued Academic transcript will be mailed to the partner university by EMS.

(2) Based on the transcript issued by NU, students' home university will determine whether to accept transfer of the credits. Whether credits are transferred is subject to the decision of the students' home university. Students who want to complete their studies within the standard period of study are required to check the list of subjects and are strongly advised to consult both their home university and NU before applying for this program. Check each subject's syllabus for the number of credit it confers. Japanese language learning subjects offer one credit for approximately 15 class sessions.

(3) An academic transcript will be issued according to NU's official schedule. It cannot be issued earlier than these dates.

Month in which the program ends:	Academic transcript will be issued after:
February	April 1 of the same year
August	October 1 of the same year

◆Required Number of Class Sessions

By Japanese law, international students with a "student visa" are required to audit more than a total of 10 hours (600 minutes) of class sessions per week. Since each class session of NU is 90-minutes long, international students must ensure that they have a sufficient number of subjects that allows them to attend at least 7 class sessions per week.

◆Student Housing

Exchange students of International Exchange Center will study at Ikarashi Campus, and will be eligible to apply via online for an apartment room (single room) in the neighboring areas of Ikarashi campus before coming to Japan through a service called "Co-op Leased Apartments Supported by Niigata University." Students may select a room according to their preference, and a monthly rent will vary by rooms. Detailed application procedures will be announced after students are accepted to the program. Visit the following website for further information on "Co-op Leased Apartments Supported by NU."
https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/study/life/housing/

【NOTES】

※ Exchange students are not allowed to live in accommodation or apartment rooms other than those provided by "Co-op Leased Apartments Supported by NU."

※ Students will be responsible for paying initial fees, monthly rent, and utility fees.

※ Students are not allowed to live with another person. Please select the rooms for a single resident.

※ Students are not allowed to move (change the room) during the program.

※ Once a move-in application is approved, NU Co-op will start preparing a room. Should a student cancel a room after his/her application is approved, the cost of preparing a room must be borne by the student.

※ If you cancel the apartment even though you got an appointment on this site and came to Japan, you must pay 3-month of rent as the penalty.

※ If you move out for personal reasons within 90 days after moving into an apartment, even if you continue to be enrolled at Niigata University, you will be charged the difference between the rent you have already received and three months' rent as a penalty.

◆Expenses during Study in Japan

About 80,000 YEN will cost monthly for living (monthly rent, utilities, food, etc.) in addition to travel expenses to NU, as well as various initial expenses when moving into an apartment room. Visit the following website, see "Details of Living Expenses," and prepare a budget that is sufficient to finance your study and living in Japan.

○Study at NU > Non-Degree Programs (Exchange Student Program)
Details of Living Expenses https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/study/exchange/

◆Part-time Jobs

To participate in this program, students must prepare a sufficient budget to pay for expenses for studying in Japan. It is important that students are able to focus on studies and to live with peace of mind, having no serious concerns about money.

Having a part-time job is not recommended; however, if students wish to have one, there is a procedure to be followed. Some part-time jobs may accompany risks and danger which students may not be aware of at first hand. In order to protect international students from being involved in unwanted incidents or troubles, students are required to meet with the director of International Exchange Center, and go over job responsibilities and working conditions before being employed. Students should consult Office of Student Mobility when selecting a part-time job, or when changing a part-time job.
Note that "Permission to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted" which is issued by Immigration Services Agency of Japan will be needed in order to be employed as a part-time worker.

◆Further Information for the Program for Exchange Students
Information for the Program for Exchange Students is posted on the following website. Please check the page on a regular basis for future updates.
○Non-Degree Programs (Exchange Student Program)
https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/study/exchange/

◆Scholarship
By fulfilling the requirements and participating in the JASSO program, students can receive a monthly scholarship of 80,000 yen during their enrollment. Please refer to the past video below and fill in the application website or application form to indicate whether or not you wish to receive the scholarship. Students who wish to receive the scholarship will be sent a guidance video for applying for the JASSO scholarship once their enrollment at NU is confirmed. Please note that if there are too many applicants, we will select scholarship recipients.

Monthly Scholarship	: 80,000 yen (grant-type)
Scholarship Payment Period	: October 2026 -February 2027 or October 2026 -August 2027
Qualifications and requirements for eligible students (excerpt)	: 1. Students whose total monthly payment does not exceed 80,000 yen if they are receiving scholarships, etc. outside this system for participation in the program 2. Students should register for 10 credits per semester, including required subjects.

Reference Video (JPN): Guidance for JASSO Scholarship Application for Spring 2026 Enrollment
https://youtu.be/IZwnfBF__9w

Reference Video (ENG): Guidance for JASSO Scholarship Application for Spring 2026 Enrollment
https://youtu.be/DQ2iWHqFiVs

◆Application Submission Period

Intended Study Period	Application Submission Period
Starting from October 2026	From May 1 (Fri.) to May 11 (Mon.), 2026 *JST

Items to be submitted:
Application forms are available for downloading at the following webpage. Application documents submitted will be used solely for the purpose of this exchange program.
https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/study/exchange/

English or Japanese translation must be attached to a document that is prepared in a language other than English or Japanese. Translations can be made by applicants themselves, provided they are typed (handwritten is not acceptable).

	Item prepared by Partner University	# of Copy	Notes
1	Letter of Recommendation (Form 1)	1	Please submit by email to: intl@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

	Items required of Applicant	# of Copy	Notes
1	Application Form for the Program for Exchange Students（only if application did not go through the designated application website.）	1	Online application using the designated website would complete application. If the website does not work due to a technical problem, all required documents including "Application Form" must be submitted by email.
2	Academic Transcript	1	Must be officially issued by the home university.
3	Certificate of the Applicant's Registration /Enrollment	1	Must be issued by the applicant's university within six month prior to the enrollment in Niigata University.
4	Photocopy of the Applicant's Passport	1	If the applicant does not have a passport, please notify Niigata University International Office.
5	Health Examination Certificate	1	Must be issued within six month prior to the enrollment in Niigata University. It should certify that the applicant is in good health and is capable of studying in Japan. A certificate in a different form will be accepted if it covers the same information on the sample form.
5'	TB Clearance Certificate (Only certain nationalities need to submit)	1	This is only required for Philippine, Nepalese and Vietnamese nationals when applying for a Certificate of Eligibility. Please refer to the URL below to obtain a TB Clearance Certificate. https://jpets.mhlw.go.jp/index.html
6	Application for a Certificate of Eligibility for Entry into Japan	1	DO NOT affix a photo on the application form. Niigata University will submit this application to the Japanese Immigration Bureau on behalf of the applicant so that the applicant will be able to obtain a student visa in a short time.
7	If the applicant will cover the expenses for his/her stay in Japan: 1. Applicant's Bank Balance Certificate or If a person other than the applicant will cover the expenses, all of the following documents 1- 4 by a supporter must be submitted: 1. Financial Support Statement 2. Bank Balance Certificate 3. Income Certificate 4. Employment Certificate	1 Or 1 1 1 1	These documents support the Application for a Certificate of Eligibility for Entry into Japan. **If a person other than the applicant will cover the expenses for the applicant's stay in Japan, ALL of the four documents by the supporter must be submitted.** Niigata University must confirm that the applicant has sufficient amount to cover living expenses in Japan. Therefore, applicant should submit a Bank Balance Certificate showing that their monthly average is 89,000 yen or more. If the applicant has any trouble in preparing required documents, please notify Niigata University International Office as soon as possible.
8	Photo (4cm×3cm) Photos must meet the specifications by Immigration Services Agency of Japan shown on its website: https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/photo_info_00002.html?hl=en	1	Image will be printed and trimmed at NU to meet the specification. Make sure that there is sufficient space above the head and around the upper body, and that its resolution is high enough to produce a clear photo.

◆How to Apply

An officer in charge of student exchange at partner universities should submit a Letter of Recommendation (Form 1) by email, enter information at the application website, and upload copies of required documents.

STEP 1: Submit a Letter of Recommendation (Form 1) by email to the following address:
Email Address intl@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

STEP 2: Register students at the website below, and upload copies of documents.
The website will open on May 1.

Application Website https://www.intl.niigata-u.ac.jp/exchange-a/

STEP 3: If submission via online fails to succeed, please send application documents to NU's Office of Student Mobility by email. Applicants should keep original documents until the time they arrive in Japan.
【Email Address】 intl@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

◆Notification of Admission

Notification of admission will be sent to the partner university about two months after the application deadline.

◆Admission Procedures

(1) On behalf of students who have been admitted, NU will submit their Application for Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for Entry into Japan to the Immigration Services Agency of Japan. Upon receiving of an electronic version of COE, NU Office of Student Mobility will forward them directly to exchange students by e-mail. After receiving the e-mail, students should apply for a visa at Japanese Embassy or Consulate in their country by submitting required documents including COE (electronic version), which will help expedite visa issuance. Since the examination has been completed by the Immigration Services Agency at the time of issuance of the COE, the visa issuance examination will be carried out quickly.

(2) After being admitted, students will receive instruction from NU regarding necessary preparation for entering Japan as well as application procedure for an apartment room by using the service "Co-op Leased Apartments Supported by Niigata University." Please follow instructions sent by NU.

(3) Please do not make flight reservation until you have been informed by Niigata University the recommended arrival dates to Niigata as well as the beginning of move-in dates to "Co-op Leased Apartments Supported by NU." It is recommended to make a reservation after knowing the schedule of visa issuance.

◆ About declining of admission

Admission may not be declined. Before applying for this program, please think carefully about your study plans at your home university.

◆Contact

International Student Section, Niigata University Office of Student Mobility
Email: intl@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp