AY2027

Kumamoto University
Graduate School of Medical Sciences

(Doctoral Course)

Application Guidelines

（International students entrance examination）

Admission in April 2027

«Application for the 2nd Term »

Application Period	December 3, 2026 to December 9, 2026
Examination date	January 22, 2027
Announcement of Successful Applicants	February 26, 2027

Kumamoto University

Admission Policy of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University

The Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University was established to produce researchers, educators and highly specialized professionals who possess high-level medical and life-science knowledge and analytical skills.

○Admission Policy of the Doctoral Course in Medical Sciences

The Doctoral Course in Medical Sciences was established to foster researchers, educators and highly specialized professionals who possess a wide range of medical and life-science knowledge, profound analytical skills and international research competency in their expertise. The course also aims to foster experienced medical doctors with research-oriented, problem-solving skills. With these aims, the Course seeks applicants who meet the following criteria.

1. Those who have the enthusiasm and humanity to contribute to the future of medicine and life sciences in Japan and around the world, and who possess the ability to do so through education and research.

2. Those who wish to interact with people in Japan and other countries through research and develop world-leading research in the field of medicine and life sciences.

3. Those who have the enthusiasm and ability to engage in research in medicine and life sciences as a working adult.

4. Those who have achieved a high level of basic scholastic ability in fields other than medicine, and desire to engage in education and research related to medicine and life sciences, or to contribute to society.

5. Those who aim to become highly specialized professionals in the fields such as AIDS research, developmental biology and regenerative medicine, metabolic and circulatory informatics, and health and longevity medicine.

6. Those who conduct both cancer research and clinical oncology practice, and aim to become oncologists or certified physicians related to cancer care.

Features of the Curriculum

The education at graduate schools of medicine in Japan so far has aimed to nurture educators and researchers through medical research. In recent years, however, the research environment has changed, and lifestyle-related diseases have become a larger clinical concern than acute diseases. In addition, post-genome research has also been demanding from basic science to disease-related research.

In order to meet these trends, we set a second objective and principle for the Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Kumamoto University in order to educate “research-oriented medical professionals”. In accordance with the idea, we have developed new educational programs that enable students to acquire interdisciplinary and extensive medical knowledge and cutting-edge clinical skills, while cultivating a research-oriented mindset. At the same time, we have drastically revised our existing curriculum so that students can acquire not only extensive medical knowledge as well as advanced research skills through their tutorials.

We have also re-organized our four-major system into a single major system (Major of Medical Sciences). While the former four-major system categorized into basic, clinical and social medicine, the new system includes the joint supervision of research among multiple fields. The reform of the educational system and its programs are the most ambitious since the establishment of Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Kumamoto University in 1955. We are confident that our new programs are highly innovative in accordance with the national standards.

With these reforms, we will satisfy the need to foster research-oriented clinical doctors, as well as educators and researchers at an international level. With the enthusiastic support of young medical students from across Japan, we are committed to becoming one of the best institutions in terms of medicine, meeting the needs of the new era.

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Attached documents

① Entrance Application Form
② Photo Identity Slip, Admission Card, Address Label
③ Written Statement of Reasons for Application
④ Letter of Approval for Taking Entrance Examination
⑤ Sheet to Affix the Certificate of Payment of Examination Fee

【Contact for inquiries]

Student Affairs Office, Graduate School of Medical Sciences
Kumamoto University
1-1-1 Honjo, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto 860-8556, JAPAN
Phone: +81-(0)96-373-5029
Fax: +81-(0)96-373-5030
E-mail: iyg-igaku-3@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp
Hours for inquiry: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays

Number of Students for Admission: 78

Major: Medical Sciences

Field	Subject	Code	Field	Subject	Code
Basic Medicine	Anatomy	101	Surgery	Pediatric Surgery and Transplantation	405
	Histology	102		Neurosurgery	406
	Sensory and Cognitive Physiology	105		Orthopedics	407
	Molecular Physiology	106		Obstetrics and Gynecology	408
	Molecular and Medical Pharmacology	107		Urology	409
	Medical Biochemistry	108		Ophthalmology	410
	Molecular Genetics	109		Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	411
	Pathology and Experimental Medicine	111		Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	412
	Cell Pathology	115		Dermatology and Plastic Surgery	413
	Microbiology	116		Anesthesiology	414
	Immunology	117		International Medical Cooperation	415
	Molecular Brain Science	119	Institute of Molecular Embryology and Genetics	Kidney Development	503
	Lifelong Health Education	123		Brain Morphogenesis	504
	Medical Oncology and Translational Research	124		Cell Modulation	505
	Neuroscience for Metabolic Control	125		Cell Maintenance	506
	Comprehensive Medical Education	126		Cell Differentiation	507
	Psychiatry and Neuroscience	127		Stem Cell Biology	509
	Disease Prevention and Control	128		Medical Cell Biology	510
Environmental and Socio Medical Sciences	Public Health	201		Muscle Development and Regeneration	512
	Forensic Medicine	202		Trophoblast Research	514
	Bioethics	203	Joint Research Center for Human Retrovirus Infection	Infection and Hematopoiesis	603
	Clinical Ethics	204		Infection and Immunity	604
	Clinical Psychology	205		Molecular Virology & Genetics	606
	Regulatory Science	206		Virology and Pathology	607
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics	Respiratory Medicine	301		AIDS Therapeutics	608
	Cardiology	302		Vaccine	609
	Endocrinology and Metabolism	303		Human Molecular Immunology	610
	Nephrology	304	Institute of Resource Development and Analysis	Reproductive Engineering	701
	Gastroenterology and Hepatology	305		Disease Epigenetics	703
	Hematology, Rheumatology and Infectious Disease	306		Radioisotope and Tumor Pathobiology	704
	Neurology	307		Functional Genomics	705
	Pediatrics	308	International Research Center for Medical Sciences	Stem Cell Stress	801
	Diagnostic Medicine	309		Developmental Morphogenesis	803
	Diagnostic Radiology	310		Multi-dimensional Imaging	805
	Radiation Oncology	311		Proteostasis in Stem Cell	807
	Neuropsychiatry	312		Epigenetic Inheritance	810
	Disaster and Critical Care Medicine	313			
	General Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology	314			
	Health Care Science	315			
	Medical Information Sciences	316			
	Diagnostic Pathology	317			
	Advanced Cardiovascular Medicine	318			
	Physiological Function Assessment	319			
Surgery	Gastroenterological Surgery	401			
	Thoracic Surgery and Breast Surgery	402			
	Cardiovascular Surgery	403			

We also offer the Educational Courses of Advanced Research in Infectious Diseases and AIDS; Cancer Professional Training; Metabolism, Circulation and Related Informatics; Extension of Healthy Life Expectancy; and Advanced Stem Cell Biology Fields.

Please contact your prospective supervisor or the Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences (ivg-igaku-3@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp) for details in advance.

1. Qualifications for Application

Applicants should meet any of the following qualifications from (1) to (9).

(1) Those who have graduated from a university or are expected to graduate by March 2027 (completing a medical, dental, pharmacy (a 6-year course of study) or veterinary medicine course).

(2) Those who have been designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Notification No. 39 of the Ministry of Education, 1955) as either of the following:

① Graduates of the National Defense Medical College established under the Defense Agency Establishment Law (Law No.164, 1954).

② Those who have completed a master's course or a course prepared by a professional graduate school or are expected to receive a master's degree, and those who have enrolled for at least two years in a doctoral course which is not divided into two parts (first two years and second three years), and acquired at least 30 credits, received necessary research guidance (including those who meet the requirements of the Academic Degree Rule [Section 1, Article 6, Ordinance No. 9 of the Ministry of Education, 1953] before it was partially revised by the ordinance of the Ministry of Education [Ordinance No. 29, 1974]) and are regarded as having the academic ability equivalent or superior to that of a graduate of a medical, dental, veterinary or pharmaceutical science course (whose major purpose is to cultivate practical clinical skills) of a graduate school or of an advanced course of other school. (Refer to Note 1 below.)

③ Those who are university graduates (of other courses except medical, dental, veterinary and pharmaceutical science courses [whose major purpose is to cultivate practical clinical skills]) or have been engaged in research work for at least two years at a university or research institute after completing 16 years of school education abroad and are regarded as having the academic ability equivalent or superior to that of a university graduate of a medical, dental, veterinary or pharmaceutical science course (whose major purpose is to cultivate practical clinical skills) of a graduate school or of an advanced course of other school. (Refer to Note 1 below.)

④ Those who have taken a medical or dental course at a medical or dental department of a university established under the former School Education Act (Imperial Decree No. 388, 1918) and graduated from the said department.

(3) Those who have completed, or are expected to complete by March 2027, 18 years of overseas school education. The most recent course completed must be in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine.

(4) Those who have completed, or are expected to complete by March 2027, 18 years of overseas school education (the most recent course completed must be in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine) by means of completing a correspondence study of the said country in Japan.

(5) Those who have completed, or are expected to complete by March 2027, the academic curriculum of a foreign university located in Japan and authorized by its home country as an educational institution (whose graduates are regarded as having completed 18 years of school education in their home country (the most recent course completed must be in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine)) and designated as such by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

(6) Those who have been awarded, or are expected to be awarded by March 2027, a degree equivalent to bachelor's degree by completing five years or longer curriculum (limited to curriculums in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine) at a university or school in a country other than Japan (limited to educational facilities whose general education/research activities have been accredited by a person authorized by the government of the foreign country or its related organizations, or facilities designated by the ministry as equivalent to the above-mentioned educational facilities) (including the completion of a correspondence course implemented by a foreign school while living in Japan, and the completion of a curriculum at an educational facility certified under the educational system of a foreign country and designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, and Technology).

(7) Those who are acknowledged as having academic ability equivalent or superior to that of a university graduate (limited to those in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy (six-year) or veterinary medicine) as a result of admission qualification screening conducted for individual applicants by the Graduate School, and are 24 years old or older as of March 31, 2027. (Refer to Note 1 below.)

(8) Those who have been enrolled in a university (majoring in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy (6-year course) or veterinary medicine only) for at least four years and are regarded as having earned credits designated by Kumamoto University with excellent grades. (Refer to Note 1 below.)

(9) Those who have completed 16 years of school education in a country other than Japan (The most recent course completed must be in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine, which also applies to other provisions in the paragraph), completed 16 years of a overseas school education by completing a correspondence

course while staying in Japan, or completed a curriculum at an educational facility in Japan certified under the educational system of a foreign country and designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan as having overseas education curriculums (only when applicants who are regarded as having completed 16 years of school education offered in the foreign country) and acquired the number of credits with outstanding academic performance specified by Kumamoto University. (Refer to Note 1 below.)

Note 1: Those who intend to apply under the qualification of (2)-②, ③, (7), (8), and (9) must undergo a preliminary qualification screening prior to the application. Contact the Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences for necessary documents. Please follow the procedures shown on P8 for the application for the preliminary qualification screening. (Except for the applicants who have completed a master's course or a course offered by a professional graduate school)

Note 2: Only foreign nationals can apply for the "International students entrance examination for admission in April 2027."

2. Application Procedure

（１）Application Period

From December 3, 2026 to December 9, 2026　No later than 5:00 p.m. Japan time

（２）How to Submit Documents for Application

Please write "Application Documents for Doctoral Course, Graduate School of Medical Sciences enclosed" in red on the front of an envelope and send it by registered express mail.

〔Mail to〕Admissions Division, Student Affairs Office, Kumamoto University
2-40-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto 860-8555, JAPAN

3. Documents to Submit

Documents	To be submitted by	Remarks
Entrance Application Form	All applicants Note 1	〔Designated form〕Please refer to 【Instructions for Completing Application Form (for Admission)】P12.
Photo Identity Slip, Admission Card for Entrance Exam, Address Label	All applicants	〔Designated form〕
Photo (1)	All applicants	Paste on the Photo Identity Slip a 4 cm h x 3 cm w photo which shows a frontal view of the applicant's upper half without any hat or head covering and has to be taken within the last three months.
Certificate of Completion	All applicants	Certificates that prove that the applicant has graduated from (completed) or is expected to graduate from (complete) a university, graduate school, etc. (Not required for those who have graduated from Kumamoto University School of Medicine and who have completed the master's course at the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University)
Certificate of Academic Records	All applicants	Certificate(s) that has been issued and sealed by the dean of the applicant's university (the head of the department or research course). (Not required for those who have graduated from Kumamoto University School of Medicine and who have completed the master's course at the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University)
Written Statement of Reasons for Application	All applicants	〔Designated form〕
Certificate of Bachelor's Degree	Applicants who meet Qualification for Application (6)	A certificate of (expected) bachelor's degree issued by the head of the university, and a certificate of the result of the evaluation of the university, from which the applicant has received the degree, issued by the evaluation organization(*) or the head of the university.
Letter of Approval for Taking the Entrance Examination	Applicants with a Job（at the time of application）	〔Designated form〕A letter of approval for the applicant to take the entrance examination prepared by the applicant's supervisor at work.

Score of English Test (TOEFL, TOEIC(L&R), or IELTS)	Applicants who wish their English ability to be evaluated based on the English test score	If applicants, who have earned the required score in an approved English test provided by an external organization, submit the score report, they will be exempted from taking the English test on the examination day. They may still take the TOEFL-ITP on the day on their request.
Entrance Examination Fee (Sheet to Affix the Certificate of Payment of Examination Fee)	All applicants	30,000 yen: Please pay the examination fee at the counter of a Japan Post Office or a bank using the payment slip. Attach your "Certificate of Payment of Examination Fee" to the "Sheet to Affix the Certificate of Payment of Examination Fee."
Return Envelope for Admission Ticket for Entrance Examination	All applicants ※For residents in Japan only	A regular envelop of 23.5 cm x 12 cm (Rectangle No. 3) with the applicant's zip code, address and name written and a 410-yen postal stamp affixed on it.
Copy of Residence Certificate or Residence Card (front and back sides)	International applicants only	International applicants who reside in Japan must submit a copy of their residence certificate indicating the period of stay and the status of residence issued by the chief of the relevant municipal office or a photocopy of their residence card (both front and back sides). ・Residence certificates of family members are not required. ・International applicants who do not reside in Japan at the time of application must submit a copy of their passport photo page.

(*) Certified evaluation and accreditation of the overall status of education/research activities of universities and other schools by the governments or related organizations shown below.

- United Kingdom: The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)
- The Netherlands: The Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)
- Finland: Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (FINHEEC)
- South Korea: Korean Council for University Education (KCUE)
- China: Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC)

If the applicant's home university is not certified by the above organization, the applicant should meet any of the Qualifications for Application other than (6). In that case, preliminary qualification screening may be required.

Notes:

1. International applicants must list all previous schooling in the personal history section of the Entrance Application Form.

2. If applicants wish to have their English ability evaluated based on the score of approved English proficiency examination, they must submit a copy of any one or more of the TOEFL-iBT (score should be 40 or higher), TOEFL-PBT ,TOEFL-ITP (433 or higher), TOEIC (L&R), TOEIC-IP (477 or higher), or IELTS (5 or higher), which should have been taken within two years before the entrance examination. Applicants are allowed to submit a latest score report (both original and copy) on the entrance examination day as well. When applicants submit more than one score report, or when they take the English test (TOEFL-ITP) on the day of the exam in addition to submitting a score report, the highest score will be referred for evaluation.
   TOEFL-ITP and TOEIC-IP scores are valid only when they are from the tests conducted at Kumamoto University.
   Applicants whose English test scores are close to the above minimum requirements are advised to take the TOEFL-ITP on the day of the entrance examination, as the results of the entrance examination will be evaluated on an overall criteria including English.

3. When required certificates are written in a language other than Japanese or English, they must be submitted along with a Japanese translation. (This requirement does not apply to Japanese Government Scholarship students.)

4. When the applicant's current name differs from those on the issued certificates due to a change of family name, etc., an official copy of part of the family register should be attached to the certificates.

5. Applicants should inform the Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences if they need their original transcripts or certificates of (expected) graduation returned later.

4. Payment of Entrance Examination Fee

(1) Entrance examination fee: 30,000 yen

(2) Period of payment: From November 26, 2026 to December 9, 2026

(3) Place and method of payment

① [For applicants residing in Japan]
Fill out the "Payment Slip for Entrance Examination Fee" attached in the booklet of Japanese guidelines and make the payment at the counter of a post office or bank.【Do not use an ATM (Automated Teller Machine.】

[For applicants from abroad]
Please contact the Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences (iyg-igaku-3@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp) by e-mail before the payment.
*Bank transfer fees are the responsibility of the applicant.

② Please make sure to affix the "Certificate of Payment" you have received at the post office or bank after making the payment on the "Sheet to affix the Certificate of Payment of Examination Fee" before submitting application documents.

(4) Remarks:

① Applications will be rejected if the entrance examination fee is not paid by the deadline or the "Certificate of Payment" is not affixed on the "Sheet to affix the Certificate of Payment of Examination Fee" as required.

② The entrance examination fee is not refundable except in the following cases:
(a) When the applicant has paid the entrance examination fee but has not completed the application procedure (i.e., has not submitted the application documents or the application has not been accepted).
(b) When the entrance examination fee has been paid more than once in error.

③ Bank transfer fees for refunds are the responsibility of the applicant.

How to request a refund

Please prepare a letter of request for a refund in any form and mail it together with the "Certificate of Payment" promptly to the address below. The letter should indicate reasons for requesting a refund, your name (sign on the right of your name), name of the graduate school you have applied for, your current address, zip code, your contact telephone number, where you wish your refund to be deposited, such as a bank name, a bank branch name, an (ordinary) savings account number, and account holder's name. (Please write how the holder's name should be written in hiragana. When the applicant's name differs from the holder's name, please describe the account holder's relationship to the applicant as well.)

Mail to:
Finance Affairs Division, Administrative Office
Kumamoto University
2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City,
Kumamoto 860-8555, JAPAN
Phone: +81-(0)96-342-3176

5. Selection Method

Selection of successful applicants will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of the applicant's performance in the written examination, academic transcripts, reasons for application, etc.

(1) Exam Venue, Date/Time and Subjects

Date	Subjects	Time (JST)	Venue
January 22, 2027	English (TOEFL-ITP※) (Using a dictionary is not allowed.)	9:00-11:20 a.m.	School of Medicine, Kumamoto University
	Interview	1:00 p.m.-	

※TOEFL-ITP test is a testing program for institutions offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

【Notes】

1. The academic ability test composes of an English ability test (TOEFL-ITP) and an interview about your reasons for application and your research plan.
2. Dictionaries are not allowed in the English test.
3. For overseas applicants, the oral exam (interview) will be conducted online or on campus. Before applying, they should consult thoroughly with their prospective supervisor at the Graduate School of Medical Sciences regarding their application.

6. Announcement of Successful Applicants

The letter of acceptance will be sent to successful applicants by e-mail on **February 26, 2027**. The exam identification number of those applicants will be also posted on the website of Kumamoto University at around 11:00 a.m. (https://www.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/). Please be noted that the announcement on the website may delay due to the internet condition on the day. No telephone inquiries regarding the selection results are accepted.

7. Enrollment Procedure

◎Details about enrollment procedure will be sent by e-mail together with the letter of acceptance.

(1) Period and other details regarding the enrollment procedure
Information will be provided by e-mail together with the letter of acceptance.

(2) Failure to complete the enrollment procedure
If you fail to complete the enrollment process within the specified time frame, you will be deemed to have withdrawn from admission.

(3) Necessary fee for enrollment
Enrollment fee (Expected): 282,000 yen

(4) Documents to be submitted
①Pledge, ②Letter of Guarantor, ③a color photo (4 cm h x 3 cm w)

◎Tuition

Tuition is 297,300 yen per semester for a total of 594,600 yen per year. (See Note 2 below.)

(Notes) 1. Information regarding the payment method of the enrollment and tuition fees will be provided by e-mail together with the enrollment guidelines, as well as the guidelines for tuition exemption.
2. If the tuition fee is revised, the new tuition will be applied from the time of the revision.

8. Scholarship

[For Japanese students]

Students can apply for the scholarship of the Japan Student Services Organization for the First-class Scholarship or the Second-class Scholarship depending on the screening result.

[For international students]

Please refer to the following website. (https://ewww.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/en/prospective/fees/)
Students can also apply for scholarships offered by the local governments and private organizations.

9. Entrance Fee Exemption/Postponement and Tuition Fee Exemption

Those who meet the qualifications for entrance fee exemption/postponement and tuition fee exemption, if approved based on the screening of their applications, will be exempted from paying the full or half amount of the entrance fee or will be allowed to defer payment of the full of the entrance fee, and will be exempt from paying the full or half of the tuition fee.

Applicants who meet both the academic and household criteria will be selected within the University's budget, in order from those with the highest level of household financial need.

The academic criteria for the entrance and tuition fee exemption requires that the applicant's result of the entrance examination should be above the standard set by the graduate school to which he/she belongs. The academic criteria for the postponement of entrance fee payment requires that the applicant should have passed the entrance examination of his/her graduate school.

The entrance/tuition fee exemption will not be granted to those who do not meet the academic criteria above, even if they are in a situation of high household financial need.

Students from households that are unable to pay the entrance and tuition fees due to the death of their financial provider or the damage to the student or their financial provider caused by a natural disaster within one year prior to enrollment will be exempted from paying the entrance fee and full or half of the tuition fee if their application for exemption is approved. (In the case of a half tuition exemption, the payment of the entrance fee can be postponed for a certain period of time.)

10. Application for the International House (For International Students Only)

Applicants who wish to accommodate in the International House after admitted must apply before the announcement of examination results as below. The permitted living period is up to a half year in principle. Please be noted that there may be no vacancy and that those who have not passed the entrance examination are not entitled for the accommodation.

(1) How to apply
Please see the following website.
https://ewww.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/en/prospective/accommodation/international_house/application/
(The information will be posted in early January for those who will enroll in April.)
The application should be submitted through the applicant's prospective supervisor (laboratory).

(2) Deadline for submission: **Late January, 2027**
※The deadline may be changed. Please check the guidelines in advance.

(3) Contact:
International Student Office
Kumamoto University
2-40-1 Kurokami, Chou-ku, Kumamoto City
Kumamoto 860-8555, JAPAN
Tel: +81-(0)96-342-2160
Fax: +81-(0)96-342-2130
E-mail: gji-ryugaku@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

11. Notes

(1) Revision of the content of the application documents and refund of the entrance examination fee are not acceptable once they are received.

(2) Applicants who have made false statements in the submitted documents will be disqualified for the entrance examination. Admission may be cancelled even after enrollment.

(3) If applicants do not receive the Admission Card for Entrance Examination by January 15, 2027, they should contact the Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences. The Admission Card must be brought to the entrance examination and must be kept until the results of the examination are notified.

(4) Submitted application documents will not be returned once they are accepted.

(5) Handicapped applicants who expect for extra consideration in attending the entrance examination and taking courses at the University should contact the Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences before November 27, 2026 for possible arrangements.

(6) Accommodation assistance for entrance examination is not available at the University.

(7) Applicants are not allowed to drive or park their vehicles on campus on the entrance examination day.

(8) If applicants are late for the entrance examination due to unavoidable circumstances, they are allowed to take the examination as long as they arrive within 20 minutes after the examination starts.

(9) Applicants who commit any dishonest acts during the examination will have their examination results invalidated. If discovered, the applicant will not be allowed to continue taking the examination.

- The items below must not be used during the examination.
  Rulers (including pencils, etc. that function as rulers), compasses, calculators, abacuses, graph paper, and other aids.
  Electronic devices such as mobile phones, smart phones, wearable devices (e.g., smart watches and smart glasses), tablets, electronic dictionaries, IC recorders, earphones, music players, etc.
  Wearing or holding these aids or electronic devices without putting them in a bag or the like may be considered cheating. (If applicants wish to use a hearing aid or other device during the examination due to illness, injury, disability, etc., they must apply for an examination arrangement.)
- Be sure to deactivate the alarm setting and turn off all electronic devices such as mobile phones before entering the examination room. Wearing or holding such devices during the examination may be considered as cheating.
- If applicants do anything that disturbs other examinees in the examination room, or if they do not follow the instructions of the exam supervisor, etc., they may be considered to be cheating.
- Any other behavior that may undermine the fairness of the examination may be considered cheating.

【Preliminary Qualification Screening】

Details of the application for the preliminary qualification screening are as follows:

(1) Documents to be submitted

For those who intend to apply with the Qualifications for Application (2)-②, ③ or (7) on Page 2:

①Application Form for Preliminary Qualification Screening [Designated form]
②Certificate of Completion from the school you attended
③Certificate of Academic Records from the school you attended
④Record of Achievements [Designated form]
⑤Certificate of Research Participation [Designated form]
⑥A return envelope (a regular envelope with a 410-yen postal stamp affixed)

For those with the Qualifications for Application (8) or (9) on Pages 2-3:

①Application Form for Preliminary Qualification Screening [Designated form]
②Certificate of Academic Records from the school you attended
③A return envelope (a regular envelope with a 410-yen postal stamp affixed)

(2) Submission period of application documents

From November 16 to November 24, 2026

When submitting your application documents by mail, please send it by registered express mail and write "Application Documents for Preliminary Qualification Screening for Graduate School of Medical Sciences (Doctoral Course) enclosed" in red on the front of the envelope. Should you bring in your documents in person, visit the Student Affairs Office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

〔Mail to〕 Student Affairs Office
Graduate School of Medical Sciences
Kumamoto University
1-1-1 Honjo, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City
Kumamoto 860-8556, JAPAN
Phone: +81-(0)96-373-5029, FAX: +81-(0)96-373-5030
Email: iyg-igaku-4@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

(3) Screening results

Your result will be informed to you by e-mail by **November 30, 2026.**

【Criteria for Academic Background/Research Period in Preliminary Qualification Screening】

For those who intend to apply with the Qualification for Application (7) on Page 2

Highest level of education	Research period after completing the highest level of education (Years of experience)
① Graduates of a junior college requiring two years of study	Four years or longer
② Graduates of a junior college requiring three years of study	Three years or longer
③ Graduates of a technical college (KOSEN)	Four years or longer
④ Graduates of a vocational course of a specialized training college requiring at least two years of study	Longer than the period of study at a university (six years) minus the period of study at the specialized training colleges offering the vocational course.
⑤ Graduates of Japanese branches of foreign universities, schools for foreign nationals, specialized training colleges (excluding vocational courses), miscellaneous schools, or other educational institutes in Japan or abroad	Longer than the minimum total period of study required for a university graduate (18 years) minus the minimum number of years of study required to graduate or complete the last school.
⑥ Those who have withdrawn from the above-mentioned schools ① to ⑤	Longer than the minimum total period of study required for a university graduate (18 years) minus the period of study up to the time of withdrawal from the last school.

(Notes) The research period (years of experience) can be a combination of the following periods:

1. Period of time the applicant attended a university or junior college as a research student
2. Period of time the applicant attended a specialized course of a junior college or a technical college (KOSEN)
3. Period of time the applicant was engaged in an educational or research position in an educational or research department of a university, junior college, government office, research institute, company, etc.
4. Other periods that are equivalent to the above 1 to 3.

【Personal Information】

All personally identifiable information collected by this Graduate School through the selection of graduate students will be used in the selection process as well as the following processes:

(1) Successful applicants' names will be used in processes related to enrollment.

(2) Names registered in the enrollment procedure will be used in processes related to education such as registration after enrollment.

(3) Names and addresses registered at the enrollment procedure and those of tuition fee defrayers will be used in processes related to administration of paid fees such as collection of tuition fees.

(4) Personal data collected through the selection of graduate students, such as the applicants' academic records, will be used in processes related to financial assistance such as selecting the beneficiaries of entrance fee/tuition exemption and scholarships.

(5) Statistically processed personal data not to be identified will be used in a survey/research on the selection of graduate students.

※ All personally identifiable information collected by this Graduate School will not be used by or provided to any third party without the applicants' consent for any purpose other than those listed above unless otherwise specified by law.

Enrollment Guide

Years of Study Required for Completion and Method of Taking Courses

1. Day and Evening Flex Course

In accordance with the special measures for education prescribed by the Article 14 of the Standards for Establishment of Graduate School, the University offers day/evening flex courses to working students, which enables them to attend classes and receive research guidance not only during the day but also at night.

Students can take classes scheduled in the 4th, 5th, and 6th periods on Monday through Friday on their convenience and can also use their days off from work, national holidays, summer and New Year's holidays, or their long leaves.

Students can receive guidance on the research topics in which they can utilize their achievements from work.

The computer network is also available to students when they receive research guidance for the preparation of their dissertation.

2. Long-Term Student

If students wish to complete the doctoral course in a longer period of time (up to eight years) than the normal period of study (four years) due to work commitments, they may apply for and be approved after an evaluation. Students who use this system are called "long-term students," and the total amount of tuition fees is the same as for students who complete the course in the normal term of study (four years). For more details regarding this system, please contact the Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences shown in the table of contents.

3. Degrees

（1）Students can earn either a doctoral degree in medicine or life sciences depending on their coursework and dissertation.

（2）The above-mentioned degree is awarded only to the students who have attended the Graduate School for four years or longer, acquired at least 30 credits, and passed dissertation evaluation and examination. Students who have accomplished excellent research achievements require at least three years of study.

4. Course Registration

Please refer to the courses and number of credits shown on the next page.

Compulsory subjects	12 credits or more
Elective compulsory subjects I	2 credits or more
Elective compulsory subjects II	8 credits or more
Elective subjects	8 credits or more
Total	30 credits or more

Course Subjects and Credits

Course Subjects	Credits	Course Subjects	Credits
Compulsory Subjects		Elective Subjects	
1. Subjects		(Choose at least eight credits from below)	
A1Research Ethics and Biomedical Ethics	2	B1 Pathophysiology and structural biochemistry of biomolecules	1
2. Research Conducting Program			
Practice I	10	B2 Cell Biology	2
		B3 Hematopoietic and Immune Systems	2
		B4 Infection and Immune Control	2
Elective Compulsory Subjects		B5 Human Brain Functional Science	2
(Choose one from below)		B6 Neuroscience	2
Course work		B7 Developmental and Regenerative Medicine	2
1) Medical Experiment Course	2	B8 Environmental and Sociomedical Sciences	2
2) Practicum on multidisciplinary cancer therapeutics, palliative care	2	B9 Medical Informatics, Emergency and Disaster Medicine	1
(Available to medical license holders, etc.)		C1 Current Theory of Medical Diagnosis	2
Elective Compulsory Subjects II		C2 Advanced Therapeutics	2
(Choose one from below)		C3 Metabolic & Circulatory Regulations	2
Research conducting program		C4 Reproductive & Developmental Medicine	2
1. Practice II	8	C5 Advances in Oncologic Medicine I	2
Clinical conducting subject		C6 The Forefront of Clinical Oncology II	2
2. Practice III	8	C7 Restorative Medicine	2
		C8 Cancer Therapeutics	2
		C9 Palliative Care	2
		C10 The Theory of Clinical Research	2
		C11Training of Biostatistics in Clinical Study	2
		C12 Overview of Clinical Study	2
		D1 Medicine and Life Science Seminar	2
		D2 Learning from Experienced Doctors	2
		D3 Medicine and Life Science Training	2
		D5 International Biomedical Research Seminars	2
		English (GSMS)	2

【Instructions for Completing Application Form (for Admission)】

1. Selection Category, etc.
   Selection Category: Circle the category No. that applies.
   Examinee's number: Please leave it blank.

2. Name
   Enter your name exactly as it appears on your passport.

3. Date of Birth, etc.
   Date of Birth: Enter your date of birth as an eight-digit number: 4 digits for the year, 2 digits for the month, and 2 digits for the day.
   E.g., 20020510 for May 10, 2002
   Age: Enter your actual age at the time of application.
   Nationality: Enter your nationality only if it is not Japanese.
   Gender: Circle the number that applies to your gender.

4. Former Student Number
   Former Student Number: Applicants who are expected to graduate from Kumamoto University School of Medicine or to complete the master's course or the first semester of the doctoral course at a Graduate School of Kumamoto University need to enter your current student number if you wish to enter the Graduate School of Medical Sciences immediately after the completion of your current course, including research students. Others do no need to fill it out.

5. Application Qualifications
   University, etc.: Circle the type of university that applies. (national, public, or private)
   If your qualification falls under the category of university, enter the name of the university, department and major you have graduated or are due to graduate from.
   If your qualification falls under the category of graduate school, enter the name of the graduate school, course and major you have graduated or are due to graduate from.
   If your qualification falls under the category other than university, describe your last school in as much detail as possible.
   Graduate or Prospective Graduate: Circle the number that applies.
   Year/Month of Graduation: Enter the year and month of your (expected) graduation date as a 6-digit number: 4 digits for the year and 2 digits for the month.
   E.g., 202703 for March 2027

6-1. Department of Choice
   Department of Choice: Enter your desired department.
   Code of Department of Choice: Enter the code of your desired department, referring to "Number of Students for Admission" on Page 1.

6-2. Course of Choice
   If you have decided which educational course you wish to belong to, enter the name of the course.

7. English examination
   Circle one of the numbers

8. Medical License
   For medical license holders, enter the date of registration as a medical practitioner and the registration number.

9. Interview
   International applicants only. Circle one of the languages.

10. Address
   Current Address: Enter your zip code, address and telephone number.
   Emergency Contact Details: Enter where to contact in the event of an emergency (telephone number of your office, cellular phone number, etc.)

11. Others
   Selection for Working People: Circle (1) if you will have a job, after admitted, in order to earn a constant income in the form of salary, wage, compensation, etc. (including those who are ex-employees retired from the above-mentioned work and those who are homemakers.) Circle (2) if not.
   International Student Category: If you are an international student, circle the number that applies.