

Graduate School of Social Sciences

Application Guidelines for 2026 September Entry

Programs Overview

	Degree	Medium of Instruction	Number of Students to be Admitted	Page with Detailed Information
Master's Program	Master of Arts in Social Sciences	English	Approx. 10	p.9~11
Doctoral Program	Doctor of Philosophy in Social Sciences	English	Approx. 3	p.12~14

1. General Guidelines for All Programs

This chapter contains information common to all application categories. Please make sure to read it carefully.

1-1. Schedule (JST)

Application Period (including Screening fee payment)	Announcement of Documents Screening Results	Interview	Announcement of Interview Results
February 5 (Thu) 10:00AM – March 6 (Fri) 5:00PM, 2026	April 15 (Wed), 2026	April 25 (Sat) or 26 (Sun), 2026	May 18 (Mon), 2026

1-2. Choice of Research Supervision

- Please refer to the GSSS website (Research Fields: <https://www.waseda.jp/fsss/gsss/en/applicants/research-areas/>) and choose one of the research fields which are available in this academic year for instruction in English, and input your choice in the designated column of the online application form.
- Information regarding research supervision will be updated in mid-December. Please be sure to check the above URL again at that time.**
- Upon enrollment, students shall receive research supervision from the faculty member assigned at the time of admission. Students are not permitted to change their supervisor based on personal preference during their period of enrollment. If the assigned supervisor takes a sabbatical leave or under other unavoidable circumstances, temporary supervision may be provided by another faculty member designated by the graduate school.

1-3. Application Procedure

Step 1

Create a New Account for Online Application

Application documents must be submitted through the designated online application system, "The Admissions Office (hereinafter TAO)". Access the link below and create a new account to begin preparing your application. (The system will be accessible from the first day of the 'Application Period')

https://admissions-office.net/en/applicant/sign_up

- After creating your TAO account, please find "Waseda University, Graduate School of Social Sciences AO Admission for September 2026 Admission" from the "Decision Plan" menu.
- Follow the detailed instructions shown on the system and this Application Guidelines when filling out or uploading the materials.
- By creating your account on TAO, you agree to the "Terms of Use" and "Handling of Personal Information" designated by Samadhi Co.,Ltd., the service provider of TAO.
- Please complete application within the application period. Failure to complete submission will result in your documents not being screened.
- You do NOT need to create a "Profile" to apply. The GSSS office does not use this information.


The Admissions Office
Helping the choice of universities from the world

[Search schools](#)
[Admission Schemes](#)
[Profile](#)
[Applications](#)
[Favorites](#)
[Message](#)

Profile

About profile

- What you enter in the **Profile** can be reused for multiple applications. You won't have to re-enter the information.
- If you select English as a language for the application you are applying, you need to fill out the **Profile** in English.
- Some schools don't use the **Profile** and accept applications with their own form. In such cases, what you fill out in the **Profile** would not be reflected.

Step 2**Prepare Application Documents**

- Please download all necessary forms on the GSSS website and fill out the documents.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fsss/gsss/en/applicants/admission/>

- The required application documents vary depending on the type of applicant. Please refer to "2-2. Application Documents" for the Master's program and "3-2. Application Documents" for the Doctoral program to check which documents you need to submit.

Step 3**Screening Fee Payment**

Place of Residence at the time of Application	
Outside Japan	15,000 yen
Japan	30,000 yen

- You must pay the screening fee BEFORE submitting your application. Unpaid applications will not be accepted.
- The amount of the screening fee depends on where you reside at the time of application regardless of your nationality. In some cases, overseas residents may be asked to provide documentary proof of where they live.
- To pay by credit card or China Union Pay, visit <https://e-shiharai.net/ecard/> and complete the required steps. You must register before making the payment. On the "Category Selection" page, select the following:

First Selection	Graduate School of Social Sciences
Second Selection	September 2026 Admission
Third Selection	Master's Program / Doctoral Program
Fourth Selection	ENG-taught MA, (AO) Overseas Application, JPY 15,000 ENG-taught MA, (AO) Domestic Application, JPY 30,000 ENG-taught D Phil, (AO) Overseas Application, JPY 15,000 ENG-taught D Phil, (AO) Domestic Application, JPY 30,000

- The payment can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.
 - After completing the payment, print out the "Result" page or save it on PDF, and upload it on the online application system.
 - Be noted that all of the procedures including making a payment must be completed by the designated deadline.
 - The payment can be made with a credit card held in the name of a person other than the applicant. However, the applicant's information must be entered in the "Basic Information" page of the screening fee payment website.
 - As a general rule, application documents and screening fees are not returned. A full screening fee will be refunded if you fall into one of the categories below. If you fall into one of the categories, please contact the Graduate School of Social Sciences Office (E-mail: admissions-socs@list.waseda.jp).
- ① You paid the screening fee but failed to submit the required documents.
 - ② You paid the screening fee but submitted the application documents after the deadline.
 - ③ You paid the screening fee and submitted the application documents, but your application was rejected before screening due to the following reasons:
 - The submitted application materials are not complete enough to meet the application requirements.
 - You did not meet all eligibility criteria.
- If the payment of the screening fee was done by credit card, you are liable for all incurring fees when the payment is returned to you.

Waseda University Examination Fee Payment by Credit Card and Union Pay

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, you can pay anytime! Easy, Convenient and Simple!

You can pay the Examination Fee by using
Credit Card and Union Pay.



Web Application - Online Transaction

Access the site below

<https://e-shiharai.net/ecard/>



1. Top Page

Click "Examination Fee".

2. Terms of Use and Personal Information Management

Please read the Terms of use and Personal Information Management.
Click "Agree" button located in the lower part of this page if you agree with these terms.
Click "Not agree" button located in lower part of this page if you do not agree with these terms.

3. School Selection

Click "Waseda University".

4. School Information

Read the information carefully and click "Next".

5. Category Selection

Choose First to Fourth Selection and click "Add to Basket".

6. Basket Contents

Check the contents and if it is OK, click "Next".

7. Basic Information

Input the applicant's basic information.
Choose your credit card and click "Next".

Paying with Credit Card

Input Credit Card Number (15 or 16-digits),
expiration date and security code.

All of your application information is displayed.
Click "Confirm" to verify.

Click "Print this page" button and print out
"Result" page.

Paying with Union Pay

Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the card payment.

Please click the "Application Results" button in the upper
part of this site (e-shiharai.net).

Please write down the "Receipt Number" given when you
complete your application, and enter your
"Payment Method", "Receipt Number" and "Birth Date".
Please make sure your printer is ready.

Please print out the "Payment Inquiry - Inquiry result" page.

Application

[NOTICE/FAQ]

- During the payment periods and application periods specified in the application guidelines, you can make payment anytime. Please consult the application guidelines and complete payment in time for the application period.
- On the last date of the payment period, please complete the transaction by 11:00pm Japan time.
- It is possible to use a card which carries a name different from that of the applicant. However, please make sure that the information entered in the Basic Information page is the applicant's information.
- If you did not print out the "Result" page, you can display it later on the Application Result page. Please enter "Receipt Number" and "Birth Date" to redisplay.
- Please contact the credit card company if your card is not accepted.

■ Payment Commission

There is a fee for this payment transfer service, which applicants must pay in addition to the entrance exam fee.

Entrance exam fee	Payment Commission
~ 29,999 yen	565 yen
30,000 yen ~ 49,999 yen	1,005 yen
50,000 yen ~ 69,999 yen	1,446 yen
70,000 yen ~ 99,999 yen	1,833 yen
100,000 yen ~ 199,999 yen	2,074 yen
200,000 yen ~ 299,999 yen	2,618 yen
300,000 yen ~	4,400 yen

For questions or problems not mentioned here, please contact :

E-Service Support Center Tel : +81-3-5952-9052 (24 hours everyday)

Step 4**Upload Documents and Complete Application**

- Please click “Start my application”, input all necessary information, upload all the required documents on your TAO account and complete your application during the designated period. You can complete the application even if the letter of recommendation has not yet been submitted.
- Application documents can be accepted only through TAO. Applications sent by mail or brought into the GSSS office will NOT be accepted.
- Questions regarding the status of your application and the number of applicants will NOT be accepted.

Make sure to click “content confirmation” button and check all the sections have been completed. Click “Complete my application” to submit your application.

Make sure to confirm your application status has been changed from “Application in progress” to “Application completed”.

Step 5**Receiving the Application Number**

Once your documents are accepted, your application number will appear on the Examinee slip in TAO. If any documents are missing, the number will not be issued until all are submitted. Please follow the GSSS Office's instructions.

- Log into TAO (https://admissions-office.net/en/applicant/sign_in) and click Applications > click your application to GSSS.

- Click Show Examinee slip button to check your application number.
- Application number shall be issued any time after the application was confirmed to be completed. If you have not received the application number on TAO by April 8, 2026, please contact the GSSS Office immediately.

1-4. Examination Overview

- Screening is based on the evaluation of documents (comprehensive evaluation of all submitted documents) and an interview.
- The interview will be held on the date specified as "Interview" in section "1-1. Schedule (JST)".
- The interview date and time will be specified by the GSSS and cannot be changed under any circumstances. Therefore, please keep your schedule open for all designated dates.
- The interview will be conducted online.
- Applicants are responsible for preparing a suitable interview environment, securing a stable internet connection, and covering any related costs. If the applicant's environment is found to be inappropriate during the interview (e.g., excessive background noise, presence of others, or frequent internet disruptions), the interview will be canceled, and the applicant will be considered absent.
- You must present your examinee slip (printed from TAO) and a passport at the time of the interview.
- The interview will be recorded.

1-5. Announcement of Result

- The result of the document screening will be announced on TAO on the date specified as "Announcement of Documents Screening Results" in section "1-1. Schedule (JST)".
- If you successfully pass the document screening, the GSSS Office will send you a notification regarding the interview by email.
- The result of the interview will be announced on TAO on the date specified as "Announcement of Interview Results" in section "1-1. Schedule (JST)".
- The GSSS office will also send the guidelines for the enrollment procedure to successful applicants by email specified on the "Applicant Information" section on TAO.

[How to check the admission results]

- Log in to TAO (https://admissions-office.net/en/applicant/sign_in) and click Applications > click your application to GSSS.
- Click Show my screening status button to check the result.
- Inquiries regarding the admission decision, requests for reconsideration of the decision will NOT be handled under any circumstances.

1-6. Enrollment Procedure Schedule

	Period of Paying Tuition and Fees	Period for Sending the Enrollment Documents
September 2026 Entry	May 18 (Mon) – June 5 (Fri), 2026	Middle of August 2026 (TBA)

- Successful applicants must take "Enrollment Procedures" by completing two steps within the designated period below. First step is to complete payment of the "Tuition and Fees", and second step is to submit documents required for enrollment.
- In case the applicants failed to complete the enrollment procedures within the designated period, the admission will be revoked regardless of any reason.
- **Successful applicants must submit the original documents or certified true copies of the uploaded certificates on TAO to the GSSS office as a part of enrollment procedures by postal mail. If the original documents submitted after acceptance differ from the uploaded digital copies, or if you are unable to submit original or certified documents, your acceptance to GSSS will be revoked. Therefore, please be sure to keep the original versions of the certificates uploaded on TAO until the enrollment procedures are taken.**
- Applicants who submitted a certificate of expected graduation to meet the eligibility requirements must submit official proof of graduation at the time of enrollment procedures. Please note that even if you pass the entrance examination, you will not be permitted to enroll if you fail to submit the required proof of qualification by the time of enrollment.
- **[For those who was accepted by multiple graduate schools]** If you have been accepted by one Waseda graduate school and have paid the registration (admission) fee, tuition and other fees to that school, and are later accepted by another Waseda graduate school that you prefer to attend, you can attend the preferred graduate school and request to have the amount you have already paid transferred to that school. However, this arrangement is possible only if the date of enrollment for both schools is same. For more information on the procedure, please refer to the enrollment procedures that will be sent to successful applicants.

1-7. Remarks

(1) Refunds of Fees

As a rule, once submitted or paid, application materials, admission fees, academic fees, and other fees (paid at the time of admission) shall not be refunded. However, if a student has to decline admission due to unavoidable circumstances, academic and other fees (paid at the time of admission) may be refunded. For details of the procedure, see the "Guide to Enrollment Procedures" which will be sent to successful applicants.

(2) Handling of Personal Information

Waseda University will use the personal information (address, name, date of birth, etc.) collected at the time of application to discharge duties relating to entrance examinations, announcement of successful applicants, enrollment procedures, and other related work. In doing so, the University will take necessary and appropriate measures to prevent the leakage, outflow, or unauthorized use of such information. The University may outsource all or part of the above-stated items. In such cases, the University will oblige, by contract or other means, the subcontracted entity or entities to perform necessary and appropriate management of the information. The University may inquire about the authenticity, etc., of documents, materials, theses, and information, etc., submitted to the University (hereafter "Submitted Documents") by providing them to the issuers, providers, theses review entities, etc. By submitting or providing the Submitted Documents to the University, the applicant agrees to the University's right to make such inquiries. Personal information that has been statistically processed, keeping individual identities confidential, will be used as material for surveys and research for the University's admission selection processes. For the sake of administering entrance exams in an efficient manner and carrying out enrollment procedures, Waseda University collects information regarding your sex on legal documents such as family register or passport. The information is collected only for reasonably justifiable purposes, and these cases are limited to a minimum.

For the sake of administering entrance examinations in an efficient manner and carrying out enrollment procedures, Waseda University collects information regarding your sex on legal documents such as family register or passport. The information is collected only for reasonably justifiable purposes, and these cases are limited to a minimum. If your sex is marked as neither male nor female on the legal documents, please contact at GSSS Office prior to application. The information does not affect the screening result.

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/diversity/en/support/sexual-minority/>

(3) Special Consideration for Entrance Examination/Enrollment

If you expect to require special care during the entrance examination or after entering the University owing to a disability or serious medical condition, etc., or if a serious injury or illness is expected to affect your ability to take the entrance examination, please contact the GSSS office before submitting your application. If you find yourself in such a situation after submitting your application, please contact us immediately.

(4) Notes when taking Waseda University Entrance Examination

Waseda University has established the following precautions to ensure that the entrance examination is conducted in a strict manner, and that all applicants may take the examination fairly and impartially. Please read these precautions carefully before taking the entrance examination, and approach the examination with the appropriate attitude of seriousness.

1. Any falsification, fabrication, plagiarism, modification, etc., of documents, materials, or information submitted to the University at the time of application may be considered misconduct.

2. The following acts constitute misconduct:

(1) Cheating (e.g., concealing or using cheat sheets, reference books, etc., during the examination, looking at other examinees' answer sheets, etc., seeking answers from other examinees, taking notes on one's body, objects, desk, etc. and referring to them.)

(2) Any action that benefits another examinee or other examinees, such as communicating the answers to a question, etc., during the examination.

(3) Holding or using mobile phones, etc., during the examination.

(4) Enabling any sounds (incoming calls, alarms, vibrating sounds, etc.) on mobile phones, etc., and watches during the examination.

(5) Behavior that disturbs other examinees in the examination room.

(6) Failure to follow the instructions of an examination supervisor, etc., at the examination site.

(7) Having any person other than the applicant herself/himself impersonate the applicant and take the examination.

(8) Any and all other acts that may impair the fairness of the examination.

3. If misconduct is suspected, the University may respond as follows. Failure to comply with these actions may be considered an admission of wrongdoing.

-An examination supervisor, etc., may give examinees a warning or inquire about the circumstances.

-The applicant may be requested to take the examination in a different seat or room.

-The University may inquire about the authenticity, etc., of documents, materials, theses, and information, etc. submitted to the University (hereafter "Submitted Documents") by providing them to the issuers, providers, theses review entities, etc. By submitting or providing the Submitted Documents to the University, the applicant agrees to the University's right to make such inquiries.

4. The following actions may be taken in the case of confirmed misconduct.

- The applicant will not be permitted to take any entrance examination of the University in the relevant academic year (screening fees will not be refunded).

- The results of all entrance examinations of the University for the relevant academic year shall be null and void.

If, after enrollment, a student is found to have committed misconduct, he/she may be subject to revocation of admission, in accordance with the University's rules and regulations.

In cases of misconduct that Waseda University find especially reprehensible, Waseda University may report to the police or contact the applicant's guardians, university etc.

(5) Accidents/incidents owing to force majeure

In the event of a natural disaster—such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.—fires, power outages, or other force majeure accidents or transportation disruptions, measures including delaying the start and end of the exam or postponing the exam, etc. may be taken. However, in such an event, the University will not be liable for any inconvenience, expense, or other personal damage incurred by examinees as a result of such measures.

(6) Integrity of Application Materials

Your essay, personal statement, research plan, etc. are a chance to explain yourself to the school and should be completed by yourself. Using generative AI to create these documents and presenting them as your own work may be considered as cheating and could affect the evaluation of your application.

Financial Aid

To enable students to concentrate on their studies free from economic concerns, over 250 scholarship programs are available at Waseda University, including about 100 financed by Waseda itself. Waseda ranks at the top of Japanese universities in terms of both the number of scholarship recipients and the total number of funds disbursed. All Waseda-funded scholarships are outright grants rather than loans.

Scholarships can be grouped roughly into two types: "pre-enrollment" and "post-enrollment." They differ in terms of criteria for eligibility (including nationality and resident status), application periods, and application process.

Pre-Enrollment Scholarships

Pre-enrollment scholarships* will be awarded to a limited number of applicants who received an excellent evaluation in the admission screening. Eligible recipients will be notified in June 2025. There is no need to submit a separate application.

*Pre-enrollment scholarships are 1) Reserved Scholarship for Successful International Examinees (500,000 yen per year for 2 years), 2) Partial Tuition-Waiver Scholarship (50% annual tuition deduction), and 3) MEXT Honors Scholarship or Gakushu Shoreihi (48,000 yen per month for half a year). Availability may be affected by the budget for the year.

Post-Enrollment Scholarships

Students wishing to apply for post-enrollment scholarships will need to fill in the appropriate scholarship registration form and submit it by the designated date. An overview of scholarship programs can also be found on the following websites:

Support for International Students, Center for International Education <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/life/aid>

Overall Scholarship Information, Waseda University Scholarship and Financial Assistance Section <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/scholarship/en/>

Research supervision and course work after enrollment

1. With permission of an academic supervisor, students enrolled in this program can take courses taught in Japanese offered by the Graduate School of Social Sciences. For this, a high level of Japanese language proficiency is required.
2. If an academic supervisor finds it useful for the student's research, taking courses from the English-based undergraduate degree program at the School of Social Sciences may also be allowed. In this case, credits from the undergraduate courses will not be counted toward the degree completion.
3. As a general rule, students enrolled in this program are required to submit their thesis in English. However, under exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the Faculty Committee, graduation thesis can be submitted in Japanese.

Screening Fee Waiver Program for Applicants from Specified Countries

Applicants who meet the conditions shown below (1. Eligibility) are eligible to have their screening fees waived.

1. Eligibility

The applicant must reside in one of the countries listed below AND hold nationality of one of those countries.

- The applicant's country of residence and nationality do not necessarily have to be the same.
- Applicants with dual nationality are only eligible if BOTH nationalities are included in the list of eligible countries.

2. Procedures

Along with the application documents, please submit the following documents in place of the proof of payment for the screening fee.

- 1) Form for Screening Fee Waiver (prescribed form)
- 2) Passport Copy (including all details of the applicant)
3. Notes

- 1) The screening fee waiver form will not be accepted if submitted after the application deadline under any circumstances.
- 2) Be careful not to pay the screening fee if you are claiming the waiver. The screening fee, once paid even by mistake or accident, will not be returned.
- 3) In the event that the applicant is found to be ineligible for the screening fee waiver program or has made a false claim, the screening fee waiver program will not be granted.

List of Eligible Countries:

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia

The above countries are classified as "Least Developed Countries" or "Low Income Countries which are not LDCs" in the list of ODA recipients as published by OECD/DAC. Last updated: May 2025

1-8. Tuition and Fees

Depending on the situation, the admission fee, tuition and other fees may be changed.

[Master's Program] (Japanese Yen)

		入学金/ Admission Fee	学費/ Tuition Fee (半期ごと/Per Semester)	学会費入会金 /Academic Society Enrollment Fee	学会費年会費 /Academic Society Membership Fee (半期ごと/Per Semester)	学生健康増進互 助会費/Health Promotion Mutual Aid Fee (半期ごと/Per Semester)	合計/Total
First Year	早稲田大学社会科学部（研究 科）卒業生/ Graduate from Waseda, School of Social Sciences	0	311,000	0	500	1,500	313,000
	早稲田大学卒業生（社会科学 部（研究科）以外）/ Graduate from Waseda, other schools	0	311,000	1,000	500	1,500	314,000
	他大学卒業生/ Graduate from other universities	300,000	311,000	1,000	500	1,500	614,000
Second Year	全学生共通/ Applicable to All Students	0	461,000	0	500	1,500	463,000

[Doctoral Program] (Japanese Yen)

		入学金/ Admission Fee	学費/ Tuition Fee (半期ごと/Per Semester)	学会費入会金 /Academic Society Enrollment Fee	学会費年会費 /Academic Society Membership Fee (半期ごと/Per Semester)	学生健康増進互 助会費/Health Promotion Mutual Aid Fee (半期ごと/Per Semester)	合計/Total
First Year	早稲田大学社会科学部（研究 科）卒業生/ Graduate from Waseda, School of Social Sciences	0	224,000	0	500	1,500	226,000
	早稲田大学卒業生（社会科学 部（研究科）以外）/ Graduate from Waseda, other schools	0	224,000	1,000	500	1,500	227,000
	他大学卒業生/ Graduate from other universities	200,000	224,000	1,000	500	1,500	427,000
Second/ Third Year	全学生共通/ Applicable to All Students	0	324,000	0	500	1,500	326,000

1-9. Inquires

Please send your inquiry using the contact form available via the QR code or the following URL:

<https://forms.office.com/r/C5HWj7wdFZ>



2. Master's Program

2-1. Applicant Qualifications

Applicants must fulfill one of the following requirements:

1. The applicant has graduated or is scheduled to graduate from a university by September 20, 2026.
2. The applicant has completed 16 years of standard school education overseas, or is scheduled to complete such education by September 20, 2026.
3. The applicant has been enrolled at a university for more than three years (or has completed 15 years of school education overseas, or is scheduled to complete such education by September 20, 2026) and has been recognized by Waseda University Graduate School of Social Sciences as having earned a specified number of credits with an excellent academic record.
4. The applicant has been recognized by Waseda University Graduate School of Social Sciences as possessing academic credentials superior to those of university graduates through an individual admission requirements screening process and is scheduled to reach 22 years of age by September 20, 2026.

NOTE:

- Graduates from three-year specialized college (zhuanke) programs in China are not eligible to apply. However, those who have graduated from a four-year (benke) program after graduating from a three-year program, and completed 16 years of school education will be considered to be eligible.
- Prospective applicants who are unsure if they fulfill the requirements above, are asked to confirm their eligibility to the Graduate School of Social Sciences [Email: admissions-socs@list.waseda.jp] by no later than January 19, 2026.
- Regardless of having completed 16 years of school education overseas, if the education curriculum undertaken by the applicant is not regarded as equivalent to an undergraduate level course in a Japanese university, the application cannot be accepted.
- Faculty members of Waseda University, including Waseda University Junior/Senior High School, Waseda University Honjo Senior High School, and Art and Architecture School, are not allowed to enroll as students at the University. However, there are a few exceptions according to the University regulations. If you have any questions, please contact the GSSS office.
- If you submitted a certificate indicating that you are expected to meet the application requirements to enter Waseda University, you must submit an additional certificate indicating that you have indeed met the requirements prior to enrollment. You will not be permitted to enter Waseda University, even if you pass the screening, unless you submit the certificate confirming you have met the requirements.

2-2. Application Documents

1. All submitted documents will not be returned.
2. You may be deemed to have committed a dishonest act if you falsified, fabricated, plagiarized or modified a document, material, or information submitted in your application. In such a case, any decision taken regarding your application may later be invalidated, and the submitted application documents and screening fee will not be returned.

Required Documents		Remarks
①	Applicant Information	The GSSS Office may contact you by email or through TAO, so please check your email and TAO messages regularly.
	Color Photo	- A color photograph (4:3 aspect ratio) taken within the last three months prior to application. The photo must show the applicant from the chest up, facing forward, without a hat, with no background, and without a frame. - Any picture where the applicant is wearing sunglasses or a scarf will not be accepted. However, if you need to submit a photo wearing a hat or similar item for medical or religious reasons, please contact us in advance before applying. - Unclear photos or any photo where the applicant has a hairstyle that makes it difficult to identify him or her will not be accepted. - We do accept photos taken at an ID Photo Booth, but do not accept pictures taken with your own camera or smartphones. - As part of the enrollment procedure, you will be required to upload the same photo you submitted with your application. Therefore, please keep the file of the submitted photo until you complete the enrollment procedure.
	Passport	A digital copy of your passport (the page with your photo and all pages with personal information including your visa status) must be uploaded. Please ensure that your passport is not expired.
	Residence Card	- Non-Japanese nationals residing in Japan only - Copies of both sides
	Educational Background	List all institutions attended from the completion of secondary education, in chronological order.
②	Confirmation of Screening fee Payment	Please upload a digital copy of the receipt of your screening fee payment.
③	Research Field	Please refer to the following we page (https://www.waseda.jp/fsss/qsss/en/applicants/research-areas/) and select one desired research field. The professor in the selected research field will work with you as your academic supervisor.
	Research Plan [Designated Format]	Write your proposed topic of research, what you have previously studied on the topic, and your

		research plan after admission. The research plan should be approximately 1000-1500 words in length including title, references, notes, etc. It must be written in English.						
④	Certificate of Graduation	- Those who have not graduated yet at time of application but are supposed to graduate from a university before September 20, 2026 can submit a certificate of expected graduation prepared by their home university. If the home university does not have such a format for expected graduation, use the format on our website (https://www.waseda.jp/fsss/gsss/en/applicants/admission/) and ask the registrar's office / home department office to fill out and sign on the template form. - If applicants belong to a graduate program, they must submit the certificate of graduation from both undergraduate and graduate programs. Applicants who have graduated from a university or graduate school in China: Submit the Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate and the Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate, both issued by CHSI(https://www.chsi.com.cn/en/pvr). We will NOT accept a Graduation/Degree Certificate issued from a university. - Applicants who are expected to graduate from a university or graduate school in China must submit the Online Verification Report of Student Record issued by CHSI. - If the document is not possible to have Japanese or English certificates issued, applicants must translate the documents, have them notarized to certify that the translation is accurate, and submit the notarized documents with the original.						
⑤	Academic Transcripts	- All courses taken at the undergraduate level must be included in the academic transcript. Applicants who have completed a graduate program must include academic transcripts for both their undergraduate and graduate programs. Applicants who have graduated from a university or graduate school in China: Submit the Online Verification Report of China Higher Education Student's Academic Transcript issued by CHSI(https://www.chsi.com.cn/en/pvr). We will NOT accept a transcript issued from a university. - If the document is not possible to have Japanese or English certificates issued, applicants must translate the documents, have them notarized to certify that the translation is accurate, and submit the notarized documents with the original.						
⑥	Reason for Application [Designated Format]	State the reasons for applying to GSSS including what you have previously studied.						
⑦	Proof of language proficiency							
	TOEFL iBT/TOEIC(L&R)/IELTS(Academic) Score Report	- Examinations taken within two years of the application deadline are valid. - Upload a PDF or image of your test score to TAO. In addition, please have your score sent directly to the university following the instructions below. <table><tr><td>TOEFL iBT</td><td> - Arrange to have your score directly sent from ETS. Graduate School of Social Sciences, Waseda University Code: D183 - TOEFL iBT Home Edition and TOEFL ITP are not acceptable. "My Best Scores" is not acceptable. </td></tr><tr><td>TOEIC (L&R) * Only for applicants who have taken TOEIC in Japan</td><td> - Arrange to have your score directly sent from the testing organization using the following information. 申請コード : 00019711 団体名称 : 早稲田大学社会科学部研究科 - TOEIC IP is not acceptable. </td></tr><tr><td>IELTS (Academic)</td><td> - Scores must be sent directly from the test board electronically using the following information. - Institution: Waseda University - Department: Admissions Center - Address: 1-6-1, Nishi-waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169-8050 Japan, Admissions Center, Waseda University - Delivery Method: Electronic Score Delivery Delivery Method: - IELTS Indicator, IELTS Online, IELTS One Skill Retake are not acceptable. </td></tr></table> - If you took TOEIC outside Japan, you do not need to have your score sent directly to us. - Applicants who are native English speakers or who have obtained a degree from a higher education institution (university level or above) where English was the language of instruction are not required to submit a score report.	TOEFL iBT	- Arrange to have your score directly sent from ETS. Graduate School of Social Sciences, Waseda University Code: D183 - TOEFL iBT Home Edition and TOEFL ITP are not acceptable. "My Best Scores" is not acceptable.	TOEIC (L&R) * Only for applicants who have taken TOEIC in Japan	- Arrange to have your score directly sent from the testing organization using the following information. 申請コード : 00019711 団体名称 : 早稲田大学社会科学部研究科 - TOEIC IP is not acceptable.	IELTS (Academic)	- Scores must be sent directly from the test board electronically using the following information. - Institution: Waseda University - Department: Admissions Center - Address: 1-6-1, Nishi-waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169-8050 Japan, Admissions Center, Waseda University - Delivery Method: Electronic Score Delivery Delivery Method: - IELTS Indicator, IELTS Online, IELTS One Skill Retake are not acceptable.
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	Proof of proficiency in languages other than first language and English	If you possess a certificate demonstrating proficiency in a language other than your first language and English, please submit a copy of the certificate. If you do not have such a certificate, submission is not required.						

- ⑧ Letter of Recommendation [Designated Format]
- One recommendation letter must be submitted through TAO, using the designated online form. Make sure to work closely with your recommender in advance. You can send a request to your recommender before you complete other sections of your application forms.
 - Letter of Recommendation can be submitted in English or Japanese, and must be written by faculty member of the university you graduated from. Letter of recommendation from a language school, vocational school or employers etc. who are not faculty member of your university is NOT preferable.
 - Click "Letter of Recommendation" section in your application on TAO, and send a request to your recommender. When you send a request, make sure that the email address of the recommender is officially used for his/her occupation. Refrain from using a free email address provided by an internet service provider.
 - If the recommender has any problem in submitting the letter of recommendation, he/she can contact us directly at admissions-socs@list.waseda.jp
 - Ask your recommender to complete the designated online form by the application deadline. Share the instructions on the following URL with your recommender; [Instruction for the Recommender](#)
 - In some cases, the GSSS office may contact the recommender to verify the information on the form.
 - Any falsification of information will lead to the rejection of the application and other serious measures.
 - You can finalize your application before your recommender completes the letter, but please work closely with your recommender so that the letter is completed by the last day of the application period.

The screenshot shows the 'The Admissions Office' website. The 'Applications' tab is selected. Under 'Requirements from university', there are fields for 'Recommender/Requestee classification' (Faculty member of an institution from which the applicant was graduated from), 'Required number', and 'Maximum number of submissions'. Below this is the 'Request status' section, which includes a table with 'Completion status' and 'Open status' columns. The 'Completion status' column shows 'Submitted' and the 'Open status' column shows 'Opened'. A callout box points to these statuses with the text: 'Once your recommender opens your e-mail, "Open status" will change to **Opened**. The "Completion status" will change to **Submitted** once your recommender has completed and submitted the letter.'

3. Doctoral Program

3-1. Applicant Qualifications

Applicants must fulfill one of the following requirements:

1. The applicant is a holder of a Master's Degree, Professional Master's Degree, or Professional Doctorate Degree in Law, or the applicant is scheduled to acquire such degree by September 20, 2026.
2. The applicant is a holder of a Master's Degree, Professional Master's Degree, or an equivalent degree from an institution overseas, or the applicant is scheduled to acquire such degree by September 20, 2026.
3. The applicant has been recognized by Waseda University Graduate School of Social Sciences as possessing academic credentials superior to those possessed by holders of a Master's Degree, Professional Master's Degree, or Professional Doctorate Degree in Law through an individual admission requirements screening process and is scheduled to reach 24 years of age by September 20, 2026.

NOTE:

- Prospective applicants who are unsure if they fulfill the requirements above, are asked to confirm their eligibility to the Graduate School of Social Sciences [Email: admissions-socs@list.waseda.jp] by no later than January 19, 2026.
- Faculty members of Waseda University, including Waseda University Junior/Senior High School, Waseda University Honjo Senior High School, and Art and Architecture School, are not allowed to enroll as students at the University. However, there are a few exceptions according to the University regulations. If you have any questions, please contact the GSSS office.
- If you submitted a certificate indicating that you are expected to meet the application requirements to enter Waseda University, you must submit an additional certificate indicating that you have indeed met the requirements prior to enrollment. You will not be permitted to enter Waseda University, even if you pass the screening, unless you submit the certificate confirming you have met the requirements.

3-2. Application Documents

1. All submitted documents will not be returned.
2. You may be deemed to have committed a dishonest act if you falsified, fabricated, plagiarized or modified a document, material, or information submitted in your application. In such a case, any decision taken regarding your application may later be invalidated, and the submitted application documents and screening fee will not be returned.

Required Documents		Remarks
①	Applicant Information	• The GSSS Office may contact you by email or through TAO, so please check your email and TAO messages regularly.
	Color Photo	• A color photograph (4:3 aspect ratio) taken within the last three months prior to application. The photo must show the applicant from the chest up, facing forward, without a hat, with no background, and without a frame. • Any picture where the applicant is wearing sunglasses or a scarf will not be accepted. However, if you need to submit a photo wearing a hat or similar item for medical or religious reasons, please contact us in advance before applying. • Unclear photos or any photo where the applicant has a hairstyle that makes it difficult to identify him or her will not be accepted. • We do accept photos taken at an ID Photo Booth, but do not accept pictures taken with your own camera or smartphones. • As part of the enrollment procedure, you will be required to upload the same photo you submitted with your application. Therefore, please keep the file of the submitted photo until you complete the enrollment procedure.
	Passport	• A digital copy of your passport (the page with your photo and all pages with personal information including your visa status) must be uploaded. Please ensure that your passport is not expired.
	Residence Card	• Non-Japanese nationals residing in Japan only • Copies of both sides
	Educational Background	• List all institutions attended from the completion of secondary education, in chronological order.
②	Confirmation of Screening fee Payment	• Please upload a digital copy of the receipt of your screening fee payment.
③	Research Field	• Please refer to the following we page (https://www.waseda.jp/fsss/gsss/en/applicants/research-areas/) and select one desired research field. The professor in the selected research field will work with you as your academic supervisor.
	Research Plan [Designated Format]	• Write your proposed topic of research, what you have previously studied on the topic, and your research plan after admission. • The research plan should be approximately 3000-4000 words in length including title, references, notes, etc. It must be written in English.

④	Master's Thesis							
	Master's Thesis	- Only PDF format is accepted. - If you were enrolled in a professional school that did not require a master's thesis, please submit a paper that you consider your best work and that could serve as a substitute for a master's thesis.						
	Abstract of Master's Thesis	It should be approximately 4000-5000 words in length.						
⑤	Research Achievements other than Master's Thesis	If you have any achievements other than your master's thesis, please enter the relevant information and upload digital copies.						
⑥	Certificate of Graduation	- Those who have not graduated yet at time of application but are supposed to graduate from a university before September 20, 2026 can submit a certificate of expected graduation prepared by their home university. If the home university does not have such a format for expected graduation, use the format on our website (https://www.waseda.jp/fsss/gsss/en/applicants/admission/) and ask the registrar's office / home department office to fill out and sign on the template form. - If applicants belong to a graduate program, they must submit the certificate of graduation from both undergraduate and graduate programs. Applicants who have graduated from a university or graduate school in China: Submit the Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate and the Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate, both issued by CHSI(https://www.chsi.com.cn/en/pvr). We will NOT accept a Graduation/Degree Certificate issued from a university. - Applicants who are expected to graduate from a university or graduate school in China must submit the Online Verification Report of Student Record issued by CHSI. - If the document is not possible to have Japanese or English certificates issued, applicants must translate the documents, have them notarized to certify that the translation is accurate, and submit the notarized documents with the original.						
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