

Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus

Resilient Smart City Program (Doctoral Program)

Non-Scholarship

About the Program

The “Resilient Smart City Program” aims to enhance human resources to play an active role in cities’ resilience and environmental issues. The program provides high quality courses dealing with resilience against serious disasters including those which are intensified by climate change.

Since the admission is in October and all the courses and student advising are in English, the program provides an excellent opportunity for international students.

This is a call for application to a three-year Doctoral Course for the academic years 2026-2029.

Upon enrollment, candidates will each be assigned to an advisor who will direct their thesis research for three years in their designated field of specialization. The degree of Doctor of Engineering / Philosophy will be awarded in recognition of thesis research and course work including seminars, with a minimum of 12 credits hours.

Before deciding the field and the topic of research, applicants are encouraged and recommended to contact appropriate advisor(s) listed in the List of Faculty Members.

Guidelines for Application (Fall 2026)

1. Number of Students to be Admitted

A few students.

2. Qualifications Required for Applicants

- (1) Prospective applicants are advised to contact potential thesis advisors at the University of the Ryukyus for consultation on research themes and plans; applicants without an advisor’s prior approval may not receive full consideration during the admission screening.
- (2) Nationality: Open to applicants of all nationalities
- (3) Education: Applicants must satisfy any one of the following conditions as of **September 30, 2026**.
Applicants who have received a degree equivalent to a master’s degree.
Applicants who are eligible for enrollment in a doctoral course at a Japanese school.
- (4) Health: Applicants has no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant’s study in Japan.
- (5) Language proficiency: Applicants must pass or achieve scores in English language proficiency tests that correspond to B2 (ex. TOEFL iBT 72 / IELTS 5.5) or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of application.
*All four skills (Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking) must score at least CEFR B2 equivalent.
*The official score report must be of the test taken within 2 years from the final day of the application period.
* Medium of instruction will not be accepted.
- (6) Time limit for arrival in Japan: Applicants should arrive in Japan by September 30, 2026.

3. Application Deadline

17:00, February 6, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

4. Expenses *tax included *subject to change

- (1) Entrance Examination Fee: 30,000 JPY
- (2) Admission Fee: 282,000 JPY
- (3) Tuition Fee: A total of 535,800 JPY for one year

5. Selection and Admission

Applicants will be examined by the screening committee of the program based on their submitted documents and online interviews including a presentation. Only those who have a solid academic background, good research capabilities and a strong commitment to research will be contacted for online interviews. The online interview will be scheduled around March. Selection results will be announced on our website **in May**.

6. Enrollment Date

October 1, 2026.

7. Application Procedures

All the following documents should be sent via e-mail. Applications must be received by the Graduate School of Engineering and Science of the University of the Ryukyus by the deadline.

Application Documents

- (1) Completed Application Form (please use requisite form) ····· Form I-3, II-3, III
- (2) Health Certificate (certified by a public hospital within the past 6 months) ····· Form IV
- (3) Certificate of Graduation or Copy of Diploma (undergraduate and/or graduate) or Certified Letter from the Graduate School at which the applicant is currently enrolled stating the expected graduation date.
- (4) Official Academic Transcript (undergraduate and/or graduate) with the relevant English translations.

A GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) must be issued by the university authorities.

(A course credits ×3points)+(B course credits×3points)+(C course credits ×2 points)+(D course credits×1Point)

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{Total Credits Registered}}{\text{Total Credits Registered}}$$

Grading Scale

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|
| A | Excellent (90-100) | 3 Grade Points |
| B | Good (80-89) | 3 Grade Points |
| C | Average (70-79) | 2 Grade Points |
| D | Passing (60-69) | 1 Grade Point |
| F | Failure (0-59) | 0 Grade Point |

- (5) Copy of the applicant's passport.
- (6) Letter of Recommendation, addressed to the President of the University of the Ryukyus, by the dean or head of the university/institution.....Form V
- (7) Letter(s) of reference from those familiar with the applicant's research /academic capabilities.
- (8) Photograph or digital image (close-up portrait of face and shoulders, no headgear against a plain background), 4.5cm×3.5cm in size, taken within 6 months of the application date. It should also be attached to the application form (electronic data will be accepted).
- (9) Official English proficiency test score report at least CEFR level B2.
*All four skills (Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking) must score at least CEFR B2 equivalent.
*The Official Score Report must be of the test taken within 2 years from the final day of the application period.
- (10) Abstract of the master's thesis or project.
- (11) List of publication.....Form VI
- (12) Documents of Financial Proof.
(ex.) Certificate of scholarship or Certificate of bank balance.
- (13) Those currently employed must submit a certificate or document from their employer stating approval for the applicant to attend the University of the Ryukyus in the event of program acceptance.
- (14) Receipt of the Entrance Examination Fee: 30,000 JPY. *Tax included
The entrance examination fee should be paid by one of the following methods by February 6, 2026. Please refer to the following for payment details. All fees associated with payments must be paid by the applicants.

I. International Payment (Recommended)

Convera GlobalPay: <https://students.convera.com/ryukyuacjp>

*Please notify us by email if you wish to pay by Convera GlobalPay.

E-mail: kggakmu@acs.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

II. Bank Remittance

Bank Name: Bank of the Ryukyus (Bank Code No.0187)

Branch: Ginowan (Bank Code No. 512)

Swift Code: RYUBJPJZ

Account Number: 428711

Name of Account Holder: KOKURITSUDAIGAKUHOUJIN RYUKYUDAIGAKU

Account Holder's Address: 1 Senbaru, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213, Japan

Bank Address: 1-5-3 Ginowan, Ginowan-shi, Okinawa 901-2211, Japan

Bank Phone Number: +81-98-893-2231

Remarks:

- 1) All documents to be submitted should be written or typed in English on the requisite forms.
- 2) All documents are to be prepared in English. For those unable to complete the forms in English, separate English translations must be attached.
- 3) Letters of recommendation and references should indicate the English proficiency of applicants as excellent, good, or fair.
- 4) Information for documents (1), (2), (6) and (11) must be written on the forms provided. Only the original forms will be accepted.
- 5) Applications will not be accepted if any of the above documents are incomplete, incorrect or lacking supporting evidence. They will not be accepted if they arrive after the stipulated deadline.
- 6) All submitted documents will be retained and will not be returned to applicants.

8. Other Notes

- (1) Successful applicants are expected to study and understand the geography, climate, customs and habits of Okinawa as well as the general features and conditions of the University of the Ryukyus. It must be noted that English is not normally spoken among most people in Okinawa.
- (2) The Student Dormitory and the International House may be available for accommodation at reasonable cost if there are vacancies.
- (3) It is recommended that accepted students be well acquainted with the Japanese language, culture, and customs. Knowledge of the Japanese language is necessary in daily life.

9. Security Export Control

University of the Ryukyus performs the Security Export Control under the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA)" in order to prevent from obstructing the maintenance of international peace and security due to the education and research content that provide to overseas students.

Applicants might be requested to change the content of their desired education or research.

Correspondence

Email: kggakmu@acs.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

**Academic Affairs Unit (Faculty of Engineering)
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