

Special Master's Program
on Sustainable Food Production and Management
KAGAWA UNIVERSITY 2027

(International student)

The Graduate School of Agriculture of Kagawa University (Special Master's Course)

Application Guide

1. Program Objectives

Food security and environmental preservation are becoming increasingly important due to soaring food prices and climate change. This course has been designed to develop talented researchers with the expertise and skills to improve food self-sufficiency, protect the environment, and ensure food safety while fostering professional communication skills in Japanese and English, and business skills to work with Japanese companies.

2. Academic Plan

- (1) The Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management is a master's degree program. After completion of all the requirements for this two-year program, candidates will be awarded a master's degree from Kagawa University. Candidates will be required to acquire designated credits from the special course curriculum and achieve a passing score on the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level N2 or demonstrate a corresponding level of Japanese language ability and will be required to achieve a passing score on Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level B2 or demonstrate a corresponding level of English language ability.
- (2) Most of the classes, research instruction and guidance are conducted in Japanese.

3. Field of Study

Applicants should refer to the List of Academic Staff and Research Specialization in this application guide and select three advisors in order of preference, from first to third.

4. Division and Number of Students

Division	Number of Students
Applied Biological and Rare Sugar Sciences	Not fixed

5. Period of Acceptance and Name of the Course

- ◆ From October 2027 to September 2029 (two years)
- ◆ Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management, Graduate School of Agriculture

6. Qualifications/Entrance Requirements

- (1) Qualifications: Applicants must have graduated from a university faculty or department in an agricultural science-related field (such as agriculture, food science, bioscience, chemistry, plant science, bioenvironmental science, agricultural economics, etc.) or be expected to graduate from a university faculty or department in the same field by September 2027. Or those with an equivalent qualification.

Below is a list of the main universities that have enrolled in this special course in the past

Brazil	State University of Londrina
China	The University of Hong Kong, Zhejiang Gongshang University, Nanjing Agricultural University, China Agricultural University
Indonesia	IPB University, Diponegoro University, Hasanuddin University, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Semarang State University
Philippines	University of Santo Tomas, Ateneo de Manila University
Taiwan	National Chiayi University
Thailand	Assumption University, Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang
United Mexican States	University of Guadalajara
United States	University of California, Davis
Viet Nam	Can Tho University, Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology
Sri Lanka	University of Peradeniya

(2) Eligibility:

- 1) Be a university graduate or be expected to graduate by September 30, 2027, have completed 16 years of formal education, and be recommended by the dean of their faculty and be able to submit a certificate of Japanese Language Proficiency corresponding to JLPT N4 level or higher. Must submit a certificate by July 15, 2027, or
- 2) Have been conferred a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree by completing a course of at least three years of study at a foreign university or a school equivalent to a foreign university that have been approved by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan.

(3) Nationality:

Non-Japanese

- (4) Age: Applicants must be under 35 years old as of April 1, 2027 (Born on or after April 2, 1992).

- (5) Health: Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to study at graduate school.

(6) Language:

- 1) Applicants must be able to communicate well in English.
- 2) Applicants must learn Japanese and English languages before coming to Japan. A level of Japanese language proficiency corresponding to JLPT Level N4* or higher is required. Also, English language proficiency corresponding to CEFR Level B1** or higher is required.

*Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level N4 - The ability to understand basic Japanese.

Reading - One is able to read and understand passages on familiar daily topics written using basic vocabulary and kanji.

Listening - One is able to listen to and generally understand conversations encountered in daily life provided that they are spoken slowly.

****Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level B1 –** Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

Please refer to the following website:

【Japanese language】 <https://www.jlpt.jp/e/about/levelsummary.html>

【English language】

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>

To be eligible to be awarded a master's degree from Kagawa University, students must achieve a passing score on JLPT Level N2 or demonstrate a corresponding level of Japanese language ability. Students must submit a certificate proves CEFR Level B2 or demonstrate a corresponding level of English language ability. Students should study Japanese and English as follows. Those who are seeking assistance for a job-hunting from Kagawa university, are required to achieve a passing score on JLPT Level N3 or higher by September 2028.

Period	Japanese language level	English language level
January 2027 Submission of Application		You must communicate well in English.
By July 15, 2027 (Before coming to Japan) ※ To be admitted to the graduate school of agriculture, you must submit both Japanese and English certificate.	You must submit a certificate that proves JLPT Level N4 or higher, or a certificate for Japanese language studies and evidence of proficiency.	You must submit a certificate that proves CEFR Level B1 or higher, or a certificate for English language studies and evidence of proficiency. (e.g., TOEIC, IELTS etc)
The End of March 2028	A corresponding ability as JLPT Level N3 or higher.	
September 2029	A corresponding ability as JLPT Level N2 or higher.	A corresponding ability as CEFR Level B2 or higher.

(7) Visa requirement: Upon acceptance, applicants will be required to acquire a “*ryuugaku* (Student) visa” prior to coming to Japan.

7. Screening before Application

Submit the following documents according to the procedures below on or before the deadline by email, as applicable, to the Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management Project Support Office (address below).

All forms must be type written in English or Japanese.

If the original documents are not written in English or Japanese, an English or Japanese translation must be attached.

[Stage 1, from August 10, 2026 to December 16, 2026]

Please submit the following documents by email until Friday, December 4, 2026 to Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management Project Support Office. (Email: gakumu-a@kagawa-u.ac.jp)

(1) Application for Admission

(2) Academic record (transcript) issued by the university authority (certified copy)

The record must specify academic credits and grades for their highest completed academic degree (i.e. 4 years for bachelor's degree; 2 years for master's degree). All the credits should indicate which academic year that were acquired. If the record does not indicate a grading system of their university, a certified copy of grading system must be attached.

All applicants will be selected based on the submitted documents and interviews focusing on motivation, Japanese and English language ability, and a comprehensive understanding of the Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management. The schedule of interview will be announced to all applicants individually by email.

(3) Graduation Diploma or Certificate of Expected Graduation issued by the university authority (certified copy)

(4) You must submit documentation proving the annual income of the previous fiscal year of their guarantor, such as certificate of income tax. Documentation showing the relationship between the applicant and guarantor is required.

(5) Photocopy of the applicant's passport

(6) Photocopy of a certificate of both Japanese and English Language Proficiency (If available)

All applicants will be notified the results by email on December 21, 2026.

No inquiries regarding the results will be answered.

[Stage 2, from January 4, 2027 to January 6, 2027]

Only applicants that have successfully passed Stage 1 will be invited to participate in Stage 2.

All applicants will be selected based on the submitted documents and interview focusing on the proposed research work, study plan for Japanese and English language, and level of language. The schedule of interview will be announced to all applicants individually by email.

All applicants will be notified the results by email on January 12, 2027.

No inquiries regarding the results will be answered.

8. Application Procedure

Submit the following original digital data files of the application documents by email by January 29, 2027 to Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management Project Support Office (email below).

All forms must type written in English or Japanese.

If any original documents are not written in English or Japanese, an English or Japanese translation must be attached.

[Procedure, from January 12, 2027 to January 29, 2027]

Documents	Remarks
(1) Application form	Use the prescribed form.
(2) Field of study and research plan	Use the prescribed form. All applicants are required to be in close contact with the prospective academic advisor of their choice, and the research proposal must be made in consultation with the prospective advisor.
(3) An abstract of the applicant's graduation thesis	Submit if the applicant has written thesis (A4, 2-3 pages.)
(4) Graduation Diploma issued by the university authority or an official form showing that the candidate is expected to graduate (Certified copy)	The document must specify graduation date or the expected date of graduation.
(5) Certificate of employment	If the applicant has employed. (Excluding internships and part-time employment).
(6) Academic record (Transcript) issued by the university authority	Official Transcript - copies will not be accepted.
(7) Certificate of citizenship issued by relevant authorities	Certified copy
(8) Certificate of Japanese Language JLPT Level N4 or higher, or a certificate for Japanese language studies and evidence of proficiency.	Photocopy Applicants must submit it by July 15, 2027. If you have already submitted a certificate of JLPT Level N4 or higher at the time of application, you do not need to submit it.
(9) Certificate of English Language CEFR Level B1 or higher, or a certificate for English language studies and evidence of proficiency.	Photocopy Applicants must submit it by July 15, 2027. If you have already submitted a certificate proves CEFR Level B2 or higher at the time of application, you do not need to submit it.
(10) Three 4.5×3.5cm photographs, hatless, showing the full face and upper torso, taken within 6 months of application.	The applicant's name and nationality written on the reverse side. One photograph should be pasted to the application form, as indicated.
(11) Pledge	Use the prescribed form.
(12) A dean's letter of recommendation	Recommendation letter from the dean of the current university or the latest university attended.
(13) Entrance examination fee: 30,000 yen (one-time fee)	Students must pay the Examination fee: 30,000 yen to the specified account by bank remittance.
(14) Other documents may be necessary; the Admission Committee will inform the applicants as required.	Follow the Admission Committee's instructions.

All applicants will be selected based on the submitted documents and the research program.
All successful candidates will be notified the result by EMS on February 12. (Date may change)

Agenda	Selection Procedure
August 10, 2026	Application Guide 2027 is available.
August 10, 2026 – December 4, 2026	Application period (email) for Preliminary selection (Stage1)
December 10, 2026 – December 16, 2026	Preliminary selection (Stage1)
December 21, 2026	Announcement of Preliminary selection results by email (Stage1)
January 4, 2027 – January 6, 2027	Preliminary selection (Stage2)
January 12, 2027	Announcement of Preliminary selection results by email (Stage2)
January 12, 2027- January 29, 2027	Consultation with prospective advisor about research proposal
January 12, 2027- January 29, 2027	Application period for Application for admission (email)
February 1, 2027- February 3, 2027	Final selection
February 12, 2027 (Date may change)	Announcement of Final selection results (EMS)

9. School Fees

Candidates are required to pay the entrance examination fee, the admission fee and the tuition fees.

Candidates can apply for an admission fee reduction and a tuition fee waiver. For details, please contact the Project Support Office.

- i) Entrance examination fee: 30,000yen (one-time fee)
- ii) Admission fee: 282,000 yen (one-time fee)
- iii) Tuition fee: 535,800 yen (per year for two years)

If the fees are changed during the period of enrollment, the new fees will apply.

10. Enrollment Date

October, 2027

11. Scholarship

The following Scholarships are available, but their availability are dependent on the candidates' individual situation (Contact the Project Support Office for details). Candidates will be informed about how to apply before or after enrollment at Kagawa University.

e.g. Scholarships from consortium companies,
Kagawa University International Exchange Foundation Scholarships,
Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students,
Scholarships from Private Foundations, etc.

12. Travel Expenses

Candidates are responsible for travel costs between their home country and the university.

13. Note

- (1) Incomplete documents, or documents arriving at Kagawa University after the deadline, will not be accepted.
- (2) All successful candidates are advised to learn as much as possible about Japanese culture, customs, climate and Kagawa University before leaving for Japan.
- (3) All successful candidates must be able to arrive in Japan by October 1, 2027.
- (4) Kagawa University is able to cooperate with the students by recommending appropriate accommodation facilities.

- (5) Kagawa University has established the "Security Export Control Regulations of Kagawa University" under the Security Export Control System based on the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA)", and conducts strict screening of export of goods, provision of technology, and human resource exchange when accepting foreign students. If you are subject to this regulation or to FEFTA, you may not be accepted or your research activities may be restricted.

Inquiries and mailing address

Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management Project Support Office

Graduate School of Agriculture, Kagawa University

2393 Ikenobe, Miki, Kita-gun, Kagawa 761-0795, JAPAN

Email: gakumu-a@kagawa-u.ac.jp

FAX: +81-87-891-3022

HP: https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/afs_network/?lang=en

List of Academic Staff and Research Specialization of Special Master's Program on Sustainable Food Production and Management

【Food Production】

Academic staff	Research Specialization	Keywords (HP)
MUTO Yukio	Agricultural Economics	Managerial resources, Managerial strengths, Constraints on farm management growth https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=muto-yukio
MATSUMOTO Yoshiki	Animal Science	Neuroscience, Intestinal villus, Microbiota, Trapping device, Red mite, Feeding environment and poultry health https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=matsumoto-yoshiki
MIZUTA Keisuke	Crop Science	Crop yield, Grain quality, Wheat, Nitrogen, Fertilizer, Lodging https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/research/keisuke-mizuta/
AOKI Shinsuke	Environmental Physics	Soil physics, Sensor, Green house gases, Ocean, Gas hydrate https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=aoki-shinsuke

【Horticultural Science】

Academic staff	Research Specialization	Keywords (HP)
OKUDA Nobuyuki	Vegetable Crop Science	Vegetable crops, Growth and development regulation, Raising of superior strain https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=okuda-nobuyuki
TAKAMURA Takejiro	Horticultural Breeding	Flower color, Flower pigment, inter-specific hybridization, polyploidy breeding https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=takamura-takejiro
BEPPU Kenji	Pomology	Peach, Plum, Cherry, Reproductive physiology, Breeding https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=beppu-kenji
KOSUGI Yusuke	Postharvest Horticulture	Postharvest quality, Flower longevity, Senescence, Ethylene (as a plant hormone), Gene expression https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=kosugi-yusuke
NARUMI Takako	Floriculture	Ornamental plant, Petal epidermal cell, Floral morphogenesis, flowering https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=narumi-takako
ENOKI Shinichi	Fruit Physiology	Molecular physiological studies on growth regulation and fruit quality in grapevine and other fruit trees, and their application to cultivation techniques https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/research/enoki-shinichi/

【Environmental and Ecological Science】

Academic staff	Research Specialization	Keywords (HP)
ICHIMI Kazuhiko	Coastal Marine Science	Coastal environment, Estuary, Tidal flat, Biological production https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=ichimi-kazuhiko
YAMAGUCHI Hitomi	Coastal Biogeochemistry	Coastal ecosystem, Marine microalgal ecology, Nutrient dynamics https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=yamaguchi-hitomi
YAMADA Yoshihiro	Water Environmental Science	Water resources, Material circulation, Ecosystem, Stable isotope https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=yamada-yoshihiro
KOBAYASHI Tsuyoshi	Plant Ecology	Life history and ecophysiology of plants, Structure and dynamics of plant population, Vegetation shift and ecosystem function https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=kobayashi-tsuyoshi
TOYOTA Ayu	Soil Ecology	Soil invertebrates, Litter decomposition, Soil organic matter, Millipedes, Ecosystem engineers, Soil nutrient availability https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=toyota-ayu

【Biological Molecular Science】

Academic staff	Research Specialization	Keywords (HP)
SATO Masashi	Bioactive Natural Products Chemistry	Anti-aging, Anti-glycation, Rare sugars, C. elegans https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=sato-masashi
SUZUKI Toshisada	Bioresource Chemistry	Wood, Extractives, Bioactive substances, Biomass Chemistry https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=suzuki-toshisada
FURUMOTO Toshio	Functional Phytochemistry	Natural product chemistry, Plant, Chemical structure, Biosynthesis, Bioactivity https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=furumoto-toshio
YANAGITA Ryo C.	Chemical Biology	Natural product, Tumor promoter, Analog synthesis, Recent research https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=yanagita-ryo
HANAKI Yusuke	Organic and Bioregulation Chemistry	Natural product, Organic synthesis, Medicinal chemistry https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=hanaki-yusuke
KONG Lingbing	Rare Sugar Organic Chemistry	Sugars, Rare sugars, Organic chemistry, Sugar transporters https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=kon-rinpin
HARA Yasumasa	Natural Products Chemistry	Natural products, Plant, microorganism, Biological activity https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=hara-yasumasa

【Plant Science】

Academic staff	Research Specialization	Keywords (HP)
ICHIMURA Kazuya	Plant Functional Genomics and Plant Immunity	Plant immunity, Environmental stress, Signal transduction, Ralstonia solanacearum, Effector, Arabidopsis thaliana, Nicotiana benthamiana https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=ichimura-kazuya
GOMI Kenji	Plant Pathology	Jasmonate, Plant volatiles, Plant hormone, Rice https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=gomi-kenji
NOMURA Mika	Molecular Plant Nutrition	Symbiosis, Legume, Nodule, Nitrogen fixation https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=nomura-mika
KONISHI-SUGITA Sacko	Molecular Breeding in Plant	Rice, Seed shattering, Imaging, Breeding https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=sugita-sacko
MOCHIZUKI Susumu	Rare Sugar Molecular Biology	Rare sugars, Genetic functions, Plant biology, Microbiology, Plant-microbe interactions https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=motizuki-susumu

【Life Science and Biotechnology】

Academic staff	Research Specialization	Keywords (HP)
SUEYOSHI Noriyuki	Molecular and Cellular Biology	Protein kinase, Protein phosphatase, Zebrafish https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=sueyoshi-noriyuki
SUGIYAMA Yasunori	Animal Cell Biology	Signal transduction, Type 2 diabetes, Methodology https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=sugiyama-yasunori
TANAKA Naotaka	Applied Microbiology	Fission yeast, Golgi apparatus, Secretory pathway, Agmatine, Glycoprotein https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=tanaka-naotaka
TABUCHI Mitsuaki	Applied Molecular Cell Biology	Yeast cell biology, sphingolipid, Stress response, Pathogen effector https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/mtabuchi/English/index.html
WATANABE Akira	Microbial Biochemistry	Microorganism, Basidiomycetous mushroom, Enzyme, Protein, Gene, Autophagy https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=watanabe-akira
KATO Shiro	Rare Sugar Enzymology	Rare sugar, Microbial enzyme, Bacteria, Isomerase https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=kato-shirou
MATSUZAWA Tomohiko	Enzymology	Enzyme, Sugar, Fungi, Yeast, Metagenome https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=matsuzawa-tomohiko

【Food Science】

Academic staff	Research Specialization	Keywords (HP)
OGAWA Masahiro	Food Protein Functionalities	Olive, Rare sugar, Egg protein and polyphenol https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=ogawa-masahiro
TAKATA Goro	Applied Microbiology & Enzyme Chemistry	Sugar and sugar related enzyme, Rare sugar, Oligosaccharide https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=takata-goro
MORIMOTO Kenji	Applied Microbiology	Rare sugar, Enzyme, Separation of rare sugar https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=morimoto-kenji
YONEKURA Lina	Food Chemistry and Functionality	Digestion, Absorption, Bioactive compounds, Polyphenols, Carotenoids https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=yonekura%e3%80%80lina
YOSHIHARA Akihida	Applied Enzymology	Rare sugar, Microbe, Enzyme https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=yoshihara-akihida
ISHII Toya	Food Processing	emulsion, foam, gel, powder, microgel, oil body https://www.ag.kagawa-u.ac.jp/english/?research=ishi-toya