

Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences

Yamagata University

Guidelines for April 2024 Applicants

May 2023

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## I . Admission policy

### 【Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences】

The Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences is aimed at nurturing talented people who can cope with multidimensional aspects and the high level of specialty of agricultural sciences with comprehensive judgment and a sense of balance. In addition, it aims to train highly specialized persons, from Japan and from overseas countries, who can respond to diversified and complex societal needs, and they will attain the practical ability to engage in creative projects, such as research, investigation, and exploitation. The Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences expects students to have the qualities described below.

#### ◆ Desired Qualities

The Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences desires a broad variety of students, from Japan and from overseas countries, who strive to increase their expertise in order to respond to diversified and complex societal needs for developing and deepening research in each specialty and interdisciplinary field.

### Master's Programs

#### 【Department of Agricultural Sciences】

The Department of Agricultural Sciences provides several programs for fostering practical abilities and superior research skills. One program focuses on agricultural management necessary for safe and sustainable production of agricultural and livestock products, as well as for acquiring the high-level knowledge required for research works, including regional revitalization. In another program, cutting-edge methods in biotechnology and other key fields are utilized for the development, modification, improvement, and effective usage of living organism resources, including animals, plants, and microorganisms. A further program offers specialist lectures and practical training in forestry and water and soil environmental sciences, while another involves development from regional and international perspectives that will enable humans to live in harmony with nature. Here, students work to solve various problems in local and international communities. To nurture researchers and engineers, who can take charge of unique scientific and technological developments that will contribute to social welfare and the progress of human society, and foster individuals, who can engage in creative business enterprises, detailed and directed education and research is performed on the axis of individual guidance by supervisors.

#### ◆ Desired Qualities

The Department of Agricultural Sciences requires students who exhibit the following qualities:

- Persons who understand the importance of local, regional, and international contributions and have a strong desire to make such contributions.
- Persons who want to further deepen their basic knowledge of food, agriculture, and environmental management through the efficient use of limited resources and the production of environmentally sustainable agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture products, while actively using the experiences they gain in fieldwork in this department.
- Persons who are interested in understanding the phenomena of life, biotechnology, and other sciences, as well as their applications and new technologies. These persons have a keen interest in developing and improving agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture resources using living organisms to clean the environment. Also, they seek to understand and apply product quality-maintenance technologies for foods and beverages, which can enhance health and quality of life.
- Persons who have concern for forests and rivers and wish to share with society the problem-solution processes and expertise they gain through their study and experiences in this department.

#### ◆ Basic Policy for Selecting Successful Applicants

All applicants are subject to a comprehensive screening process from multiple aspects. To identify those with the desired qualities, with selection being carried out according to the processes described below.

- (1) General Entrance Examination (A comprehensive selection process based on a written examination (specialized subject), an oral examination, and an academic transcript prepared by the institution the applicant has attended.)
- (2) Entrance Examination for Working Students (A comprehensive selection process based on a written examination (essay), an oral examination, and an academic transcript prepared by the institution the applicant has attended, a statement of purpose, research plan, and professional history submitted by the applicant.)
- (3) Entrance Examination for International Students (A comprehensive selection process based on a written examination (specialized subject), an oral examination, and documents submitted by the applicant.)
- (4) Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students (A comprehensive selection

- process based on documents submitted by the applicant.)
- (5) Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination (Selection process based on the result of an oral examination conducted after consideration of documents, such as an academic transcript prepared by the institution the applicant has attended, a letter of recommendation, statement of purpose, etc.)

## II . Enrollment Capacity

Students are selected to the Graduate School through the General Entrance Examination, Entrance Examination for Working Students, Entrance Examination for International Students, Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students, and Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination.

Department	Major	Enrollment Capacity
Agricultural Sciences	Bioproduction Science	38 students
	Bioresource Science	
	Bioenvironmental Science	

- Notes: 1. Enrollment Capacity is based on the total number of applicants for the General Entrance Examination, Entrance Examination for Working Students, Entrance Examination for International Students, Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students, and Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination.
2. A limited number of student will be admitted through the Entrance Examination Working Students, Entrance Examination for International Students, and Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students, and Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination.
3. If the Enrollment capacity limits are met by the first application, only a limited number of students will be admitted through the second application.

## III . Applicants with Special Needs Who Require Any Arrangements for Examinations or While on Campus

Applicants should talk to the person-in-charge of the Admission Office of the Faculty of Agriculture if special needs services are required for the exam or while on campus at this Graduate School by the dates mentioned below.

Rounds	Consultation Dates
First Examination	May 24, 2023
Second Examination	Oct.18, 2023

## IV. Admission Examination Schedule

### First Examination

General Entrance Examination Entrance Examination for Working Students Entrance Examination for International Students Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination	
Application Period	May. 29 - Jun. 2, 2023
	(Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students only) Jun. 27 - Jul. 3, 2023
Entrance Examination	Jul. 13, 2023
Notification of Results	Jul. 28, 2023
Enrollment Procedures	Aug. 21 - Aug. 24, 2023

### Second Examination

General Entrance Examination Entrance Examination for Working Students Entrance Examination for International Students Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students	
Application Period	Oct. 24 - Oct. 26, 2023
Entrance Examination	Dec. 7, 2023
Notification of Results	Dec. 27, 2023
Enrollment Procedures	Jan. 22 - Jan. 24, 2024

## V. Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

### 1. General Entrance Examination

Eligible applicants are those who meet one of the following requirements or are expected to meet it by the end of March, 2024.

- (1) A person who has graduated from a university.
- (2) A person who holds a bachelor's degree from National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education in Japan.
- (3) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country.
- (4) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country by taking a course equivalent to a course in Japan that is offered by a school in the said country.
- (5) A person who has completed a course offered by a foreign university at an educational institution in Japan that has been accredited in the education system of the said foreign country and separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (hereinafter referred to as MEXT Minister). This is limited to courses whose completion is considered equivalent to completing 16 years of school education in the said foreign country.
- (6) A person who holds a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree at a foreign university or school by completing a curriculum of 3 years or more. It completing a curriculum by taking a correspondence course in Japan that is offered by a school in the said country or to completing a curriculum at an educational institution in Japan, which has been accredited by the education system of the said foreign country and designated in Item (5) is also permitted. This is only applicable to foreign universities or schools whose education and research have been evaluated comprehensively the by certified by the government or responsible agency in the said foreign country or those that have been separately designated as equivalent ones by the MEXT Minister.
- (7) A person who has completed a specialized curriculum at a special training college that is separately designated by the MEXT Minister after designation by the said minister. This is only applicable to curriculums of 4 years or more that also satisfy the criteria separately designated by the MEXT Minister.
- (8) A person who has been designated by the MEXT Minister (q.v. Notification No. 5 from MEXT in 1953).
- (9) A person who had studied for 3 years or more in a university or completed 15 years of school education at a foreign country, with acquisition of the credits designated by Yamagata University and high marks recognized by our graduate school. The designated credits must account for more than approximately three quarters of the credits required for graduation from the said university or completion of the curriculum of school education at the foreign country.
- (10) A person who has completed 15 years of school education in the said foreign country by taking its correspondence course in Japan that is offered by a foreign school, with acquisition of the credits designated by Yamagata University and high marks recognized by our graduate school. The designated credits must account for more than approximately three quarters of the credits required for graduation from the said university or completion of the curriculum of school education at the said foreign country.
- (11) A person who has completed a course offered by a foreign university with high marks at an educational institution in Japan, which has been accredited by the education system of the said foreign country and separately designated by the MEXT Minister. The completion of course with high marks has to be recognized by our graduate school. This is only applicable to courses whose completion is deemed as completing 15 years of school education in the said foreign country.
- (12) A person aged 22 or above who has been recognized as having a level of academic ability equal to or higher than average university graduates by the Preliminary Eligibility Screening of our graduate school as explained below.

### 2. Entrance Examination for Working Students

A person who meets one of the following conditions, or a person who will meet the conditions by the end of March 2024 who has been working or had worked in places such as public agencies, companies, and educational institutes for more than two years; or who has been self-employed and has been engaging in agriculture and forestry work for more than two years as of April 1, 2024.

- (1) A person who has graduated from a university.
- (2) A person who holds a bachelor's degree from National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education in Japan.
- (3) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country.
- (4) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country by taking a course equivalent to a course in Japan that is offered by a school in the said country.
- (5) A person who has completed a course offered by a foreign university at an educational institution in Japan that has been accredited in the education system of the said foreign country and separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (hereinafter referred to as MEXT Minister). This is limited to courses whose completion is considered equivalent to completing 16 years of school education in the said foreign country.
- (6) A person who holds a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree at a foreign university or school by completing a curriculum of 3 years or more. It completing a curriculum by taking a correspondence course in Japan that is offered by a school in the said country or to completing a curriculum at an educational institution in Japan, which has been accredited by the education system of the said foreign country and designated in Item (5) is also permitted. This is only applicable to foreign universities or schools whose education and research have been evaluated comprehensively the by certified by the

government or a responsible agency in the said foreign country or those that have been separately designated as equivalent ones by the MEXT Minister.

- (7) A person who has completed a specialized curriculum at a special training college that is separately designated by the MEXT Minister after designation by the said minister. This is only applicable to curriculums of 4 years or more that also satisfy the criteria separately designated by the MEXT Minister.
- (8) A person who has been designated by the MEXT Minister (q.v. Notification No. 5 from MEXT in 1953).
- (9) A person will be aged 22 or above by March 31, 2023 who has been recognized as having a level of academic ability equal to or higher than average university graduates by the Preliminary Eligibility Screening of our graduate school as explained below.

#### Aims of Entrance Examination for Working Students

Due to the rapid progress of science and technology in recent years, the need for the reformation of the structure of society has been discussed, and a more urgent need for higher education than ever before has arisen. Additionally, as the trend toward lifelong education reaches its peak, universities must open their doors to the public as a part of society. Given this social demand, the aim of Working Students Admission is to make the School of Agriculture an active part of society by accepting students who are working for public agencies, companies, or educational institutes and would like to improve their skills, or who have experiences associated with food, life, and environment and would like to further explore their special fields further. The method of the examination differs from that of the General Entrance Examination.

### 3. Entrance Examination for International Students

Eligible applicants, who are not Japanese nationals and who are living in Japan at the time of application and examination, must meet or are expected to meet any of the following requirements by March 2024.

- (1) A person who has graduated from a Japanese university.
- (2) A person who holds a bachelor's degree from National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education in Japan.
- (3) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country.
- (4) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country by taking a course equivalent to a course in Japan that is offered by a school in the said country.
- (5) A person who has completed a specialized curriculum at a special training college that is separately designated by the MEXT Minister after designation by the said minister. This is only applicable to curriculums of 4 years or more that also satisfy the criteria separately designated by the MEXT Minister.
- (6) A person who has been designated by the MEXT Minister (q.v. Notification No. 5 from MEXT in 1953).
- (7) A person aged 22 or above who has been recognized as having a level of academic ability equal to or higher than average university graduates by the Preliminary Eligibility Screening of our graduate school as explained below.

### 4. Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students

Eligible applicants, who are not Japanese nationals and are not living in Japan must meet or are expected to meet any of the following requirements by March 2024.

- (1) A person who has graduated from a Japanese university.
- (2) A person who holds a bachelor's degree from National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education in Japan.
- (3) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country.
- (4) A person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country by taking a course equivalent to a course in Japan that is offered by a school in the said country.
- (5) A person who has completed a specialized curriculum at a special training college that is separately designated by the MEXT Minister after designation by the said minister. This is only applicable to curriculums of 4 years or more that also satisfy the criteria separately designated by the MEXT Minister.
- (6) A person who has been designated by the MEXT Minister (q.v. Notification No. 5 from MEXT in 1953).
- (7) A person aged 22 or above who has been recognized as having a level of academic ability equal to or higher than average university graduates by the Preliminary Eligibility Screening of our graduate school as explained below.

### 5. Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination

Applicants must meet the following criteria.

- (1) A person who is expected to graduate from university by March 2024.
- (2) A person who is expected to graduate from Yamagata University, Faculty of Agriculture, and is recommended by their supervisors.
- (3) A person who is expected to graduate from a university is recommended by the President of the University or the

Dean of the Faculty they studied in. The recommender must vouch for the applicant's eligibility.

- (4) A person who meets the eligibility criteria and can assure that they would be joining the university.

Recommendation standard

The recommended person whose credits for S and A scales must be over 80% of the total credits of the special subjects until the end of the third year (omit first decimal place). In addition, the credits of certified subjects must be excluded from total credits of the special subjects.

### Preliminary Eligibility Screening

An applicant who would like to apply under Eligibility Requirements with the following application qualifications, will be subject to a Preliminary Eligibility Screening Application in advance. Please ensure that you submit the Request of Preliminary Eligibility Screening, Preliminary Eligibility Screening Record (No. 1), the Preliminary Eligibility Screening Record (No. 2), a Graduate Certificate, and an Academic Transcript (from the last school from which the applicant graduated.) during the submission periods given below.

General Entrance Examination

: Eligibility Requirements for Applicants(9),(10),(11),(12)

Entrance Examination for Working Students

: Eligibility Requirements for Applicants(9)

Entrance Examination for International Students

: Eligibility Requirements for Applicants(7)

Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students

: Eligibility Requirements for Applicants(7)

Rounds	Submission Period	Notification of Screening Result
First Examination	May 22 - May 24, 2023 *All documents have to be delivered by May 24 if submitted by post.	May 26, 2023
Second Examination	Oct. 16 - Oct. 18, 2023 *All documents have to be delivered by Oct. 18 if submitted by post.	Oct. 20, 2023

## VI. Application Procedure

### 1. Application Documents

Application Documents	Notes to Prepare the Application Documents	General Entrance Examination	Entrance Examination for Working Students	Entrance Examination for International Students	Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students	Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination
Application Form for Admission Examination Resume Admission Ticket	Fill in the forms attached to the Guidelines with a ballpoint pen and submit them.	○	○	○	○	○
Examinee Photo ID	The applicants should face squarely to the front and remove any hats or caps. Head wrappings made of cloth, etc. are acceptable if the face is clearly visible. The photo must have been taken within three months prior to submission. It should be 4 cm x 3 cm and attached to the Photo ID document.	○	○	○	○	○
Certificate of Graduation or Certificate of Expected Graduation (Note1,Note2)	Applicants must submit a Certificate of Graduation from the graduated university or a Certificate of Expected Graduation.	○	○	○	○	○
Academic Transcript (Note2)	An Academic Transcript issued and prepared by the last school attended by the applicant.	○	○	○	○	○
Copy of Grades Notice	Please submit a copy of the score report of TOEIC®TEST , TOEIC®IP , English proficiency examinations which was conducted after April, 2021 or TOEFL® TEST grade report within the valid period of the score. If you cannot submit a copy of the grades notice at the time of application because you have not received the test grade notification by the deadline for submitting the application documents, please submit the reason book attached to this guideline instead and until the day before the test date. Please submit it to the place where you submit the application documents.	○	—	—	—	—
Copy of Proving Examination Fee Document (Note3)	Copy of Proving Examination Fee(30,000 yen) Document. Refer to the「3. Payment of examination fee」.	○	○	○	○	○

Application Documents	Notes to Prepare the Application Documents	General Entrance Examination	Entrance Examination for Working Students	Entrance Examination for International Students	Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students	Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination
Return Envelope	On an envelope sized 23.5 cm x 12 cm the applicant's name, address, and postal code should be written, and return postage worth 84 yen must be attached on the envelope (or stamps worth 344 yen if you wish to receive the envelope through express mail).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	—	<input type="radio"/>
Address Labels	The applicant's postal code, telephone number, address, and name should be written on each address label form attached to this Guidelines. Label ① is for the Acceptance Letter, and Labels ② is for additional procedures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Written consent for taking the Examination	If you wish to join our school while working for the office of a public agency, company, educational institute, and so on, you need to hand in a letter of written consent from the head of the department for which you work. (An applicant who is self-employed and who is working in the agriculture or forestry sectors are exceptions.) Any style or format is acceptable. Similarly, once you are admitted to the school, you need to hand in a letter of written consent for admission.	—	Applicable person only <input type="radio"/>	—	—	—
Statement of Reason for Applying	Use the form attached to the Guidelines, and complete it with a ballpoint pen. Write your reason for joining the master's program, to study motivation, and the purpose of your research.	—	<input type="radio"/>	—	—	<input type="radio"/>
Research Plan	Please describe the type of research or the research field that the applicant desires to study in our program in approximately 1,000 words. Any style or format is acceptable.	—	<input type="radio"/>	—	—	—
Professional History	Please describe your professional history in about 1,000 words. Any style or format is acceptable. In addition, please submit a copy of documents if you have research paper, technical report, patent, utility model, etc.	—	<input type="radio"/>	—	—	—
Registered of Resident, a Copy of Passport, Copy of Family Register, or Proof of Citizenship	Applicants who have registered as a resident must submit proof of residence. Applicants who have not registered as a resident must submit either a copy of their passport, proof of citizenship, or a copy of their family register.	—	—	<input type="radio"/>	—	—

Application Documents	Notes to Prepare the Application Documents	General Entrance Examination	Entrance Examination for Working Students	Entrance Examination for International Students	Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students	Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination
Letter of Recommendation (Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students)	Please submit the form attached to the Guidelines and complete the form virtually, such as using a word processor, or physically, filling a printed form with a pen. Graduation from a university should be recognized by the President of the University or the Dean of the Faculty. For students, who have already graduated, please submit a recommendation written by your supervisor.	—	—	—	○	—
Letter of Evaluation (Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students)	Please submit an evaluation document (character and academic achievement evaluations) from the faculty who will supervise you at the Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Yamagata University.	—	—	—	○	—
Letter of Recommendation (Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination)	Please submit the form attached to the Guidelines and complete the form virtually, such as using a word processor, or physically, filling a printed form with a pen. The recommendation letter (must be sealed) of applicants, who are expected to graduate from a Faculty of Agriculture, Yamagata university should be recognized by their supervisor. The recommendation letter (must be sealed) of applicants, who are expected to graduate from other than Yamagata University Faculty of Agriculture are those created by the president or dean of the university of origin.	—	—	—	—	○

(Note1) Applicants who have received a bachelor's degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation must submit a Degree Certificate.

An applicant who will be awarded a bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation should submit the documents mentioned below.

① Expected Graduation Certificate for the applicant who is expected to graduate from the non-degree course of a Technical College or Junior College.

② A Certificate prepared by the President (Dean) of a Junior College or Technical College that the applicant attended, stating that the application for an Academic Degree awarding has been (is being) made.

(Note2) Is not required for Japanese Government Scholarship Students and Foreign Government-Sponsored Students.

(Note3) Is not required if a decision for receiving the Japanese Government Scholarship after enrollment is made at the time of application.

## 2. Application Procedure

An applicant should bring all application documents to the office directly, or post them as registered post and express mail with "Graduate School Application Documents" written in red ink on the front of the envelope. They should reach the Admission Office by the deadline date. Before submitting the application documents, please consult with your desired professor about your area of study.

## 3. Payment of examination fee

Examination Fee	30,000 yen * Is not required if a decision for receiving the Japanese Government Scholarship after enrollment is made at the time of application.
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Payment Period	First Examination : May. 24 - Jun. 2, 2023 Second Examination: Oct. 18 - Oct. 26, 2023
Payment Procedure	(1) Please transfer the following from a financial institution window or ATM. Transfer by wire handling is from a financial institution window. (2) Please write number 261 and the applicant's name to client name when applicant transfer. Number 261 is identification number for Yamagata University. (3) Please burden bank transfer fee at your expense.
Transfer	Bank Name: THE YAMAGATA BANK LTD. Branch Name: HEAD OFFICE BRANCH Deposit Type: Ordinary deposit account Account Number: 59358 Account Holder: Yamagata University SWIFT CODE: YAMBJPJT

(1) Please submit a copy of document which prove transfer. It needs transfer date, transfer information, transfer name, and transfer amount without other personal information. Transfer reservation date should be included a copy of document if written. Applicants should not transfer with no document which prove transfer such as a mobile banking.

(2) The examination fee is non-refundable once it is paid, with the following exceptions:

- ① When the examination fee has been paid, but the application for admission has not been submitted (including cases when the application documents are not submitted, or when the application is rejected).
- ② If the entrance examination fees are mistakenly paid twice.

#### 4. Additional Information

- (1) No changes to the statements on the application documents are allowed after submission regardless of the applicant's reasons.
- (2) Even a successful applicant might be rejected if the statements on their submitted documents are not factually true.

## VII. Application Selection Method and Examination Details

### 1. General Entrance Examination

Application Selection Method and Examination Details	Application results are based on the entrance examinations results (specialized subjects and an oral examination) and the submitted academic transcripts. Fluency in a foreign language will be measured by specialized subjects and an oral examination as necessary.	
Specialized subjects	For the examination, one specialized subject, corresponding to the major on which you want to study, should be chosen in the above table.	
	Major: Bioproduction Science	Crop science, Crop breeding, Vegetable science, Pomology, Ornamental horticulture, Plant pathology, Agricultural ecology, Edaphology, Animal husbandry, Agricultural machinery, Sustainable Agricultural, Biomass resource science, Consumer behavior, Policies on food, agriculture and environment, Environmental accounting for food and agriculture, Sociology of food, agriculture and environment, Geography of food, agriculture and environment, Integrated food and agriculture science

	Major: Bioresource Science	Applied microbiology, Science for food design, Animal reproductive biology, Food microbiology, Bioresource chemistry, Molecular and cellular biochemistry, Food and nutritional science, Functional food science, Plant genetics and breeding, Plant genetic resource science, Plant nutrition /Soil science, Bioorganic chemistry, Postharvest physiology, Microbial resources
	Major: Bioenvironmental Science	Smart Forest , Forest policies, Forest sociology, Forest wildlife management, Forest influences , Forest products , Forest ecology , Landscape ecology , Conservation Ecology , Water environmental engineering , Community links, Farmland physics , Rural planning , Agricultural environment geoengineering, River environment engineering, Hydro-environment , Geotechnical Engineering , Environmental and sanitary engineering
Oral examination	An oral examination is conducted for each major.	
Date	First Examination Jul. 13, 2023	Specialized subjects 13:00~15:00 Oral examination 15:30~
	Second Examination Dec. 7, 2023	Specialized subjects 13:00~15:00 Oral examination 15:30~
Place	First Examination Second Examination	Faculty of Agriculture, Yamagata University

## 2. Entrance Examination for Working Students

Application Selection Method and Examination Details	The results of academic examinations (an essay and an oral examination) and application documents (the applicants academic transcript, the reasons for applying, and the applicants, research plan and professional history) will be evaluated during the selection process. With regard to academic examinations, an essay and an oral examination will be conducted.	
Essay examination	In the essay examination, questions will focus on fundamental knowledge of the field that the applicant is seeking to study, the ability to think theoretically, and the ability to communicate thoughts and ideas.	
Oral examination	An oral examination is conducted for each major.	
Date	First Examination Jul. 13, 2023	Essay 13:00~15:00 Oral examination 15:30~
	Second Examination Dec. 7, 2023	Essay 13:00~15:00 Oral examination 15:30~
Place	First Examination Second Examination	Faculty of Agriculture, Yamagata University

## 3. Entrance Examination for International Students

Application Selection Method and Examination Details	Successful applicants will be selected by evaluating the results of academic ability tests (Specialized Subjects and an Oral Examination) and the documents submitted by the applicants. The academic ability test will be a written examination and an oral examination on the specialized subject. The examination on the specialized subjects may be conducted in foreign languages.
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Specialized subjects	For the examination, one specialized subject, corresponding to the major on which you want to study, should be chosen in the above table.	
	Major: Bioproduction Science	Crop science, Crop breeding, Vegetable science, Pomology, Ornamental horticulture, Plant pathology, Agricultural ecology, Edaphology, Animal husbandry, Agricultural machinery, Sustainable Agricultural, Biomass resource science, Consumer behavior, Policies on food, agriculture and environment, Environmental accounting for food and agriculture, Sociology of food, agriculture and environment, Geography of food, agriculture and environment, Integrated food and agriculture science
	Major: Bioresource Science	Applied microbiology, Science for food design, Animal reproductive biology, Food microbiology, Bioresource chemistry, Molecular and cellular biochemistry, Food and nutritional science, Functional food science, Plant genetics and breeding, Plant genetic resource science, Plant nutrition /Soil science, Bioorganic chemistry, Postharvest physiology, Microbial resources
	Major: Bioenvironmental Science	Smart Forest , Forest policies, Forest sociology, Forest wildlife management, Forest influences , Forest products , Forest ecology , Landscape ecology , Conservation Ecology , Water environmental engineering , Community links, Farmland physics , Rural planning , Agricultural environment geoengineering, River environment engineering, Hydro-environment , Geotechnical Engineering , Environmental and sanitary engineering
Oral examination	An oral examination is conducted for each major.	
Date	First Examination Jul. 13, 2023	Specialized subjects 13:00~15:00 Oral examination 15:30~
	Second Examination Dec. 7, 2023	Specialized subjects 13:00~15:00 Oral examination 15:30~
Place	First Examination Second Examination	Faculty of Agriculture, Yamagata University

#### 4. Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination for International Students(First Examination, Second Examination)

Application Selection Method and Examination Details	Enrollment will determined comprehensively based on the documents submitted by applicants.
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#### 5. Recommendation-Based Entrance Examination(Only First Examination)

Application Selection Method and Examination Details	Applicants will be selected based on the results of the examination to test, scholastic ability (an oral examination) while referring to documents such as an Academic Transcript from the university from which the applicant graduated, a letter of recommendation, and a statement of the reason for applying to the master's program. In addition, an oral examination is conducted for major.	
Date	Jul. 13, 2023	Oral examination 15:30~
Place	Faculty of Agriculture, Yamagata University	

## VIII. Common Matters

### 1. Rules of the Examination

- (1) Examinees need to bring an examination admission ticket to the examination site and must be seated at the desk with their examination ticket number on it.
- (2) Examinees must arrive at the examination site 30 minutes before the examination start time. Examinees who arrive 20 minutes after the start of the examination will not be allowed to enter the examination room.
- (3) If examinees are late for the examination, they should ask a staff member for instructions.
- (4) Examinees are not allowed to use or borrow anything from other examinees in the examination room.
- (5) Electronic equipment such as mobile phones, smartphones, and wearable devices must be deactivated; and placed in a bag before entering the examination room after their alarms are turned off. If these items are not put away or if the examinee holds or touches them during the examination, it may be considered as cheating during the examination.
- (6) In case of an emergency including if the examinee feels sick during the examination, please contact the person-in-charge of the examination.
- (7) In case an examinee loses their examination admission ticket, they need to inform an Admission Office or person-in-charge of the examination about it immediately.
- (8) Examinees need to write their written examination ticket number and other information clearly on the distributed answering sheets as soon as an examination begins.
- (9) During the written examination, examinees can keep the following items on their desk: an examination admission ticket, pencils (mechanical pencils are also allowed), erasers, pencil sharpeners (except electronic and large sharpeners and knives), a watch (except ones with a dictionary, a calculator, and terminal functions; ones for which it is difficult to determine whether such functions are present; ones that make a ticking sound; kitchen timers; and large watches.), rulers, glasses, handkerchiefs, tissue paper (not including the bag or box in which they were packed), and eye drops. The use of scientific calculators may be permitted depending on the specialized subject.
- (10) Examinees are allowed to place only the items written above in section (9).
- (11) In case an examinee is deemed to have cheated, all of their answering sheets will be invalid.

### 2. Notification of Successful Applicants

Round	Date and Time of Notification for Successful Applicants
First Examination	Jul. 28, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
Second Examination	Dec. 27, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

The examination ticket numbers of successful applicants will also be posted on the website of the Faculty of Agriculture.

[Website] <https://www.tr.yamagata-u.ac.jp/>

We will not answer inquiries by phone or email regarding pass / fail.

The results for the examinations will be sent out to successful applicants on the day of notification of successful applicants.

### 3. Enrollment Procedures

(1) Enrollment Procedure Periods:

Category of Examination	Enrollment Procedure Periods
First Examination	Aug. 21– Aug. 24, 2023 *All documents have to be delivered by Aug. 24 if submitted by post.
Second Examination	Jan. 22– Jan. 24, 2024 *All documents have to be delivered by Jan. 24 if submitted by post.

Applications are accepted between 9:00 and 16:30.

(2) Enrollment Fee:

The enrollment fee of 282,000 yen should be paid during the Enrollment Procedure period.

However, the enrollment fee and tuition will be waived for those who have already been awarded the Japanese Government Scholarship for foreign students. The enrollment fee and tuition for Foreign Government-sponsored Students and Privately Financed Foreign Students will be the same as that for applicants of the General Admission process.

Note: Details such as the payment methods are provided in the Acceptance Letter.

For a successful applicant who has significant difficulties in paying the Enrollment Fee, an exemption from all or half of the fee for a grace period is available based on Application and Screening Procedures.

(3) Required Enrollment Documents:

Oath of enrollment, contact information, and a photo (4 cm height x 3 cm width) and other documents. Details are provided in the Acceptance Letter.

(4) Note:

Even an applicant who has completed the Enrollment Procedures can be rejected if they cannot meet the requirements for the application qualifications by March 31, 2024.

### 4. Tuition

Tuition should be paid after enrollment.

535,800 yen per year (267,900 yen per semester) (scheduled).

The payment method can be chosen from the following: once a year, twice a year, ten times a year, and ten times a year with additional payments.

Note: 1. The tuition total has not been finalized and is tentative.

2. In case the tuition is revised, the new tuition fee is applied at the time of revision.

3. Details such as the payment methods are provided in the Acceptance Letter.

For a student with excellent academic achievements who has financial difficulties in paying the tuition fee, an exemption from all or half of the fee is available for each semester based on Application and Screening Procedures.

### 5. Sundry Expenses

Additional expenses that an applicant needs to pay at enrollment are the premiums for Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research, the Supporters' Association fee etc. Details are provided in the Acceptance Letter.

### 6. Exceptional Measures in the Education Method

The exceptional measures in the education method designated in Article 14 of the Graduate School Establishment Standards will be applied if they are deemed necessary from the point of view of education and research. When such an occasion arises, students will be able to take courses according to the following:

① If needed, special evening classes (17:10–21:10) as well as regular daytime classes (8:50–17:05) will be offered.

Additionally, classes will be offered during summer and/or winter breaks.

② If you wish to take classes at specific times under the Exceptional Measures in the Education Method, please apply by indicating the subjects, times, and periods you wish to apply for, at the

beginning of the school year, with prior approval from your academic adviser to obtain permission from the professors in charge of the classes.

## 7. Course Term Extension System

The system allows students under certain circumstances, such as working students, to complete their courses of study by taking classes in a carefully planned way over a certain period, exceeding the regular course term of 2 years. For further information on applying or the tuition payment, please contact the person-in-charge at the Admission Office of the Faculty of Agriculture.

## 8. Method of disclosure and request for individual evaluations in the entrance examinations

Period for receiving disclosure requests	May 1 - 31, 2024 (postmark effective) Receiving hours are 9:00 to 16:30. (Saturdays and Sundays and public holidays are excluded).
Requester	Limited to the people taking the examinations (no proxies, agents, etc. accepted)
Method of request	The section in charge of the department for which you took the entrance examination will accept your request with documents ①~③ below by mail or in person. When requesting by mail, please write “Request for Disclosure of the Results of the Entrance Examination for Faculty of Agriculture” using red ink on the front of the envelope that you send to the faculty for which you took the examination. ① Document Requesting the Disclosure of the Results of the FY 2024 Yamagata University Examination to Select Students for Admission ※ Download the request form from the Yamagata University website after the middle of April 2024. ② Yamagata University examination voucher (copies not accepted) ※ If requested in person, it will be returned on the occasion of the request; if requested by mail, it will be enclosed together in the envelope and returned when the results are sent back. ③ Reply envelope (a Long No.3 (23.5cm×12cm) envelope on which stamps for a total of 404 yen are put and the postal code, address, and name of the requester are inscribed.
Means of disclosure	We will disclose your evaluation by mail (simplified registered mail) within two weeks from the day after your request is received.

## 9. Approval of Course Completion and Degree

We will approve completion of the course and grant a master’s degree in Agriculture for the students who have enrolled in this department for more than 2 years, acquired 30 or more credits including required subjects, and passed the master’s thesis screening and the final exam.

## **10. Enrollment to the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Iwate University (Doctoral Program)**

Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Yamagata University, does not have own doctoral program but has joint programs with Iwate University and Hirosaki University. The joint programs of three majors (Bioproduction Science, Bioresource Science, and Regional Environment Creation), nine specialties that ordinarily three years are offered at the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science (UGAS), Iwate University. UGAS students can study at one of the three member universities where their supervisors work.

Master's students at the Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Yamagata University, as well as graduates from the school in the last three years, do not have to pay entrance examination fee and enrollment fee for UGAS.

## **11. Regarding Security Trade Controls**

Yamagata University stipulates the Security Trade Control Guidelines for Yamagata University based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, etc., and manages the technology provided and goods exported from the university. In order to manage these exports, we may ask you to submit a declaration relating to the applicability of circumstances (designated types) that are strongly influenced by foreign governments and corporations. If the regulations apply, the university may need to apply for a permit from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and as a result, technology provisions may not be implemented swiftly. Furthermore, if the application to METI is denied from the stance of maintaining international peace and security, the university may not be able to provide the technology in question as a result.

## **12. Other Points**

### **About the enrollees of the entrance examination for working students**

In general, once the applicant has joined our school, they have to take classes and follow the curriculum provided, according to the registration rules of our school. For this reason, when the applicant starts school while having a job, your position in your place of employment (ex. in office or on leave) will depend on the regulations of your place of employment. Additionally, if you are joining our school while working, you need to submit a document confirming that you will be able to leave the office and focus on studying. Therefore, a letter of written consent to join school, or a certificate of a leave of absence from the head of your department is necessary during the enrollment procedure.

### **About the handling of personal information**

Personal information on submitted documents is used only for the following purposes. We will never disclose, provide, or consign the information to a third party except for those purposes.

- ① For entrance examination management
- ② For enrollment procedure management
- ③ For a statistical survey of enrolled students
- ④ For student management
- ⑤ For university management

## IX. Introduction : Master' s Program, Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences Yamagata University

### 1. Goals

The Master' s Program, Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences of Yamagata University aims to provide high-level academic

knowledge from a broad perspective, based on both the general and specialist education programs offered by the faculty, and to foster research capabilities in the majoring fields as well as advanced capabilities for related professions that require high-level expertise.

### 2. Department

Agricultural Sciences

### 3. Research areas, Name, Research fields, and Contents

Research areas	Name	Research fields	Contents
Bioproduction Science	NASUKAWA, Hisashi	Crop Science	Specializes in the conduct of education and research on sustainable production technologies and environmental adaptation technologies, mainly in the aspect of rice cultivation.
	HOSHINO, Tomoki	Crop Breeding	I am engaged in research on the genetic mechanism and diversity of the key traits of crops and application of molecular markers to crops.
	NABESHIMA, Tomoyuki	Vegetable Science	I am engaged in research on crop protection.
	IKEDA, Kazuo SHIBUYA, Tomoki	Pomology	We are engaged in high-level research/education in basic theories and cultivation technology to achieve high quality and high yield focusing on fruits, including apples, kaki fruits, as well as cherries and pears, which Yamagata is well-known for.
	OGASAWARA, Nobuyoshi	Ornamental Horticulture	I focus on education and research into the growth and environmental factors of perennial ornamental plants, the conservation and use of endemic ornamental plants, and propagation by tissue culture.
	HASE, Shu KOBAYASHI, Takashi	Plant Pathology	Aiming for sustainable pest control for crops, we are engaged in applied research into the mechanism to induce disease resistance in crops, biocontrol, and pest control using electrolyzed water. Additionally, we study disease evaluation by drone and AI and disease forecast by agricultural ICT.
	SATO, Satoru	Agricultural Ecology	Fuction of animals and ecosystem are and its use in human our society, such as "Ladybird beetles" and "Mud snails" in the environmental friendly agriculture, "Black soldier flies" in the food waste managements and its utilization as the animal protein, are recent topics of our study. Studies fields greatly varies from mountain villages in the tropic countries such as Indonesia to the local village in Tsuruoka.
	KAKUDA Ken-ichi SASAKI Yuka	Edaphology	Main objectives of Edaphology are to understand the relationship between crop and soil. Research goal is to increase crop productivity by proper management of soil without environmental loading.

Research areas	Name	Research fields	Contents
Bioproduction Science	URAKAWA, Shuji HORIGUCHI, Ken-ichi MATSUYAMA, Hiroki	Animal Husbandry	We focus on practical education in collaboration with local production sites, and educate through research such as cultivation and preparation of forage crops, livestock feeding and management, and evaluation of livestock products.
	KATAHIRA, Mitsuhiko	Agricultural Machinery	We engage in research on postharvest engineering of agricultural produce and labor-saving agricultural technology in paddy fields and outdoors fields.
	NAKATSUBO, Ayumi	Sustainable Agricultural	We are researching on sustainable agricultural production through the circulation of agriculture and food within the region, utilizing local resources.
	WATANABE, Masanori	Biomass Resource Science	I am developing a new refinery technology promoting the production of useful materials and energy from unused biomass consisting of agricultural and food waste. I am further researching on analyzing of microorganisms group structure to evaluate biomass conversion stability using microorganisms.
	Chen, Aofei	Consumer Behavior	Building on knowledge about the process and mechanism of decision making by the consumer, I am engaged in education and research on consumer problems about food, consumer behavior, the current situation of firms' marketing activity in response to it, and how it would develop.
	FUJISHINA, Tomoumi	Policies on Food, Agriculture, and Environment	Building on knowledge regarding food and agricultural policies, I am engaged in education and research into the background, the current situation, and future direction of food and agricultural policies.
	IEKUSHI, Tetsuo	Environmental Accounting for food and Agriculture	I am engaged in education and research to develop capacities to analyze and discuss strategies for farm management in response to a low carbon society from the viewpoint of farm accounting.
	HOKIMOTO, Toshiyuki	Sociology of Food, Agriculture, and Environment	I am engaged in education and research to develop the capacity to discuss the causes of various ongoing social problems from historical, economic, and sociological perspectives by learning about various social "problems" that the local community has experienced, with reference to their historical development.
	WATANABE, Rie	Geography of Food, Agriculture, and Environment	In my subject, you will learn what kind of relationships between people's life(especially Agriculture) and the natural environment, history, culture, society, and economy in the community area. Particularly, we use the geographical perspective focusing on the spatial aspect.
	GORYODA, Sayuri	Integrated Food and Agriculture Science	Our laboratory investigates how to solve social problems related to public health, food, and agriculture. We are working on social implementation research of food production, processing, social marketing, and eating behavior in collaboration with cross-functional industries.

Research areas	Name	Research fields	Contents
Bioresource Science	KAKU, Nobuo	Applied Microbiology	I am engaged in research on the analysis of physiological ecology and diversity of anaerobic microorganisms in various environments, the isolation and morphological, physiological biochemical and molecular phylogenetic analyses of novel anaerobic microorganisms, and the development of technologies for environmental conservation and remediation and resource/energy circularation using microbial functions.
	NAGAI, Takeshi	Science for Food Design	We examine the development of technology to develop new food products from ingredients and unused/low-use resources.
	KIMURA, Naoko	Animal Reproductive Biology	I am engaged in research on 1) the mechanism of development/differentiation of germ cells and embryos; 2) the development/application of reproductive engineering technology; 3) influences on reproductive functions of various environmental factors in mammals and poultry.
	KOSEKI, Takuya	Food Microbiology	Focusing on an industrial enzyme produced by <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , I am study on its enzymic characteristics, structural analysis, and its effective use through biochemical and molecular biological methods.
	SHIONO, Yoshihito	Bioresource Chemistry	I conduct bioorganic chemical research on a secondary metabolite and physiologically active substance produced by filamentous fungus. Further, I research on how to cultivate it and its isolated purification, methods to analyze a series of chemical structures, and the effective use of natural products.
	TOYOMASU, Tomonobu	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry	We use molecular and cellular biochemical methods to study the control mechanism of the maturation/gemination of embryos of higher plants with reference to the biosynthesis of plant hormones and their mechanism of action.
	KOBAYASHI, Sho	Food and Nutritional Science	I am engaged in research on the analysis of the regulation of gene expression of antioxidant enzymes and the metabolism of antioxidants regarding antioxidant defense systems against reactive oxygen species using biochemical and molecular biological techniques.
	KANO, Naomi	Functional Food Science	Focusing on the food function related to the maintenance and improvement of human health, I am researching the biological properties (e.g., anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer effect) of the non-nutritive compounds in food and their metabolites using the methods of biochemistry, molecular biology, cellular biology and analytical chemistry.
	SASANUMA, Tsuneo	Plant Genetics and Breeding	I am researching on the genetic mechanism and diversity of the key traits of cultivated crops, the application of findings to breeding the development of improved species/breeding parent and molecular markers, and evolution in plants focusing on cultivated crops and related wild species.
	EGASHIRA, Hiroaki	Plant Genetic Resource Science	Aiming at the conservation of endemic wild plants and crop resources, I am conducting research on their history, characteristics, traditional farming methods, and uses by combining literature survey/fieldwork and analytical methods.

Research areas	Name	Research fields	Contents
Bioresource Science	TAWARAYA, Keitaro CHENG, Weiguo	Plant Nutrition and Soil Science	We are studying plant tolerance to soil acidity and nutrient stress, functional analysis of arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis and its utilization, and C & N cycling in various plant-soil ecosystems with global warming and environmental problems.
	ABOSHI, Takako	Bioorganic Chemistry	We investigate the structure and use of valuable biologically active substances in wild plants, the chemical interactions between plants and insects.
	MURAYAMA, Hideki MIYAGI, Atsuko	Postharvest Physiology	We analyze the mechanism of change in the quality of postharvest agricultural produce, with reference to physiology and metabolic sciences, and we attempt to establish postharvest management methods for each agricultural produce based on findings.
	HATTORI, Satoshi	Microbial Resources	I am engaged in research on the evaluation of microbial diversity by means of molecular ecological techniques, the exploration and acquisition of uncultured microbial resources (Bacteria and Archaea) in various environments, and the analysis of the microbial metabolism.
Bioenvironmental Science	LOPEZ, Larry	Smart Forest	Forest are large and complex ecosystems that are difficult to understand with only traditional field surveys because of the limited area that can be covered or by satellite images because of the limited resolution to observe detailed characteristics of individual trees. Thus, in this laboratory we integrate multiple approaches by using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), image analysis of very high-resolution images (few cm pixels), Deep Learning and field surveys in order to design models that can automatically evaluate forest biogeochemical cycles and health conditions.
	OGAWA, Sanshiro	Forest Policies	I am engaged in the empirical/theoretical education/research on history/the current situation/future of forest/forestry, mountain communities, housing and environmental problems from social and scientific perspectives including economics, public policy, and social movement based on literature survey and fieldwork.
	HAYASHI, Masahide	Forest Sociology	We use sociology and economics to elucidate better forms of forest governance.
	ENARI, Hiroto	Forest Wildlife Management	Diverse wild mammals live in forests. This subject investigates interactions between wildlife and forest ecosystem including human activities to create sustainable wildlife management.
	KIKUCHI, Shun-ichi	Forest Influences	Forest is defined as the green infrastructure (GI) provides various public benefits. To conserve and restore GI, forest science research is conducted, especially focusing on the dynamic interactions between forest plant community and their habitat.
	ASHITANI, Tatsuya AISO, Haruna	Forest Products	Our laboratory conducts research on the analysis and utilization of forest resources using chemical and biological methods such as wood anatomy and chemical analysis.
	YOSHIMURA, Kenichi	Forest Ecology	Trees survive under the environmental stresses such as high/low temperature, shade, drought and disease. We reveal the mechanism of survival for trees, and explain the vegetation changes induced by environmental changes and disturbance.

Research areas	Name	Research fields	Contents
Bioenvironmental Science	SAITO, Masayuki	Landscape Ecology	To understand ecology from the spatial perspective.
	KOMINE, Hiroataka	Conservation Ecology	I'm mainly interested in interactions between human society and wildlife, especially conservation, evolution and eco-epidemiology.
	WATANABE, Toru	Water Environment Engineering	The topics of our current research include pollution of water environment and relevant physico-chemical and biological processes, evaluation of health risks caused by water/food pollution, and agricultural and aquacultural use of resources from municipal wastewater.
	KUWABARA, Yoshiki	Community Links	Community links deal with the link between community resources and local communities with a view to the revitalization of rural and mountainous communities and sustainable community resource management/use.
	HANAYAMA, Susumu	Farmland Physics	I am engaged in education/research on the flow of water/materials/energy in farmland and its control to develop/use environmentally harmonious farmland enabling sustainable food production.
	ISHIKAWA, Masaya	Rural Planning	I approach "the creation of sustainable farming and rural environment" from the perspective of land science in addition to "the creation of production environment enabling efficient plant production." Specifically, based on the methods for optimal land use planning, I will study projects for agricultural infrastructure generation technology developed to reduce environmental stress (water pollution/global warming/soil degradation) introduced by agricultural land use.
	ISHIKAWA, Masaya	Agricultural Environment Geoengineering	I have investigated the realization of environmentally harmonious farmland enabling sustainable growth in food production. I will study the mechanism of a new consolidated and managed farmland based on science of water/materials circulation in the farmland, in other words, the "soil/plants/air" system.
	WATANABE, Kazuya KAJIHARA, Akihiko	River Environment Engineering Hydro-environment	We aim to explore sustainable water use mainly in farming and the relationship with the surrounding environment and living organisms to realize better symbiosis. More concretely, students are expected to acquire specialized knowledge of irrigation and drainage, river environment, aquatic ecology, water quality, and environmental hydraulics, and engage in fieldwork in the University's research forest, farms, and places beyond Shonai Region.
	ZHANG, Haizhong	Geotechnical Engineering	My research is primarily focused on the dynamics of soil and geotechnical hazards induced by earthquakes. The objective is to develop reliable evaluation methods and prediction models that can accurately assess these hazards.
	NISHIYAMA, Masateru	Environmental and Sanitary Engineering	I am engaged in education/research on water environment, particularly, water quality which is indispensable for living things. To evaluate them, I am investigating contamination of microorganisms and chemical substance using molecular biological method and genetic analysis for bacteria, and taking measures to safe of human life.

(By the research area, not in particular order)