Application Guidelines (April 2027 Enrollment) for the International Graduate Program for Excellence in Earth-Space Science (IGPEES), a World-leading Innovative Graduate Study (WINGS) Program

[For Prospective Students Entering the Doctoral Course in April 2027]

Educational and research goals of IGPEES

IGPEES is an international combined Master's/Doctoral program that aims to further develop the field of astrobiology by providing an interdisciplinary program that seamlessly connects the wide-range of research fields in earth-space science, from the birth of the universe to the origin of life. The objective of the program is to train excellent students who already have a strong basis in their specialized fields to play active roles internationally as Doctoral graduates. Through the program, the students will develop the following qualities in addition to their knowledge of earth-space science:

(1) Excellent research ability in a specialized field related to earth-space science
(2) Ability to independently create new research fields by combining different subject areas, and to carry out interdisciplinary research in such fields
(3) A global mindset and the communication skills needed to communicate with society and play an active role in the international community

In addition, to encourage the development of the above qualities, IGPEES aims to accept students from different backgrounds, including international students and students with full-time work experiences.

*For more details of the program, refer to the following IGPEES website:
https://www.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/IGPEES/

1. Application requirements

To apply for this program, **you must be a prospective student at the University of Tokyo planning to enroll in the Doctoral course** of any department in the Graduate School of Science, the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Graduate School of Engineering, the Department of Advanced Energy or the Department of Complexity Science and Engineering, both in the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, in **April, 2027**. You must also fulfill all of the requirements below (*1 and *2):

- You aim to acquire a PhD degree in earth-space science, in the broad sense of the term
- You fully understand the purpose of IGPEES, as well as the course requirements and other rules, and will cooperate with activities related to IGPEES
- You agree to apply for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, and should you be accepted, you also agree to stay in IGPEES (This requirement does not apply for students awarded Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarships)
- You are eager to gain experience abroad and to apply for external funding
- You understand and agree to the fact that your PhD diploma will bear a note saying that you have completed IGPEES

(*1) **Those who are expected to be granted a Master's degree by one of the above-listed departments by March 31, 2027 are not eligible to apply for IGPEES**, however, you may apply for the program if you have working experiences after completing the Master's course in one of the above-listed departments, and are planning to enroll in the Doctoral course of these departments in **April, 2027**.

(*2) Except for the Forefront Physics and Mathematics Program to Drive Transformation (FoPM), you may

not simultaneously apply for IGPEES and another WINGS program.

2. Selection method

Selection will be based on the prospective students' application documents (Application Form, Research Proposal, and Supervisor's Letter of Opinion), their scores in the graduate school entrance examination, and Qualifying Examination (QE) [oral defense on the research proposal]. QE are planned on **Friday, February 19, 2027.** The timetable and details will be announced by email by **Friday, February 5, 2027** (sent to the email address on your application form). If you have not received any notice by this date, please contact the WINGS Desk at the Academic Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Science (wings.s@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp).

3. Number of students to be admitted

Graduate School	Department	Number of students to be admitted
Graduate School of Science	Dept. of Physics	A few
Graduate School of Science	Dept. of Astronomy	
Graduate School of Science	Dept. of Earth and Planetary Science	
Graduate School of Science	Dept. of Chemistry	
Graduate School of Science	Dept. of Biological Sciences	
Graduate School of Engineering	Dept. of Aeronautics and Astronautics	
Graduate School of Frontier Sciences	Dept. of Advanced Energy	
Graduate School of Frontier Sciences	Dept. of Complexity Science and Engineering	

4. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures

(1) The Applicant ID of successful applicants will be sent to all applicants by email (sent to the email address on the application form) on **Monday, March 8, 2027** around 1 pm. You will receive an Applicant ID when you submit your application.

(2) Enrollment documents will be emailed to successful applicants with the selection results. Those who have been accepted must finish the necessary procedures (submitting the enrollment documents) by **Monday, March 15, 2027**.

5. Application procedures

(1) Application documents

a. Application Form

Fill out the form directly on the website indicated in (2).

b. Research Proposal

Fill out the form provided on the website indicated in (3), convert the file to a PDF, and upload the PDF file to the website in (2) as designated.

c. Supervisor's Letter of Opinion (*1)

Enter your supervisor’s name, affiliation, title, and email address on the website indicated in (2). As soon as you submit your application, an automated email asking them to fill out an online form will be sent to your supervisor at the email address that you entered. Your supervisor will then have to fill out the form directly on the designated website (*2 and *3).

(*1) The Letter of Opinion should be submitted by your prospective supervisor in the Doctoral course.
(*2) Note that it is not until you submit your application that the email asking your supervisor to fill out our form is sent to them.
(*3) Confirm that your supervisor has submitted the form during the application period. Your application will not be considered unless all of the necessary documents (including the supervisor's letter of opinion) are submitted by the deadline. An automated email will be sent to you once the supervisor submits the form online.

(2) Online application form:
https://apps.adm.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/WINGS/

(3) Download application documents from:
https://www.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/IGPEES/application.html

(4) Application period
Application Form and Research Proposal: From Tuesday, December 15, 2026 until 3pm on Wednesday, January 6, 2027 (JST). *Late submissions will not be accepted. (*1).
Supervisor's Letter of Opinion: From Tuesday, December 15, 2026 until 3pm on Friday, January 8, 2027 (JST).
*Late submissions will not be accepted.
(*1) Complete the application well in advance as the server may become busy just before the deadline.

6. Enrollment period

New IGPEES students will be enrolled in the program from **April 2027 to March 2030**.

The students will take their Final Examination (FE) in the summer of 2029, and those who pass the FE will qualify to complete the course. The FE will include the submission of a research proposal to be carried out after graduation and the oral defense of the proposal in terms of strength of the research, interdisciplinarity, internationality, problem identification ability, and problem-solving ability. The course will be completed if and when the students receive their PhD degrees. For those who submit their dissertations early, IGPEES will be completed at the time of the conferral of their degrees, provided that they have qualified to complete the course by that time.

7. Financial support

If desired, students may be appointed as *TAKUETSU* (Excellence) Research Assistants (TRAs) and be paid to engage in research related to earth-space science. The appointment will begin from April 1, 2027, and 180,000 yen will be paid per month (*1, *2, and *3). **Those who wish to be appointed as TRAs must fill out the designated column on the online application form indicated in 5. (2) to describe your research assignment as a TRA during the first academic year of enrollment (AY2027).**
Students who are accepted as JSPS Research Fellows or who receive Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarships or any scholarships from the University of Tokyo cannot be appointed as TRAs, but may apply for IGPEES.

(*1) TRAs are not allowed to work as Research Assistants, but are able to work as Teaching Assistants on campus.
(*2) Income tax will be deducted from your TRA salary every month. You must therefore make a year-end

adjustment or file a final tax return.

(*3) If your total income in one calendar year (January-December) exceeds a certain amount, you will be excluded from the category of dependent and/or non-working dependent on your parents' or spouse's health insurance. Moreover, depending on your total yearly income, you may be required to pay resident's tax in the next fiscal year.

8. Notes

(1) Only applications for which all of the necessary documents are submitted by the deadline will be considered.

(2) Under no circumstances may an applicant change the contents of their application once it has been submitted.

(3) For unforeseen reasons, changes may be made to these guidelines or the application procedures. In such cases, an announcement will be made to potential applicants.

(4) Personal information made known to IGPEES through the application process will be used for the following purposes: (i) selection of IGPEES students (application processing and selection), (ii) announcement of selected applicants, and (iii) enrollment procedures. For selected applicants only, the information will be further used for administrative duties relating to: (i) academic affairs (e.g., registration, enrollment), and (ii) student support (e.g., employment assistance, tuition waiver applications).

(5) Any student who is found to have made a false statement in their application, even after being selected to join the program, may have their status as an IGPEES student removed retroactively.

9. Contact

WINGS Desk, Academic Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo
Room 275, School of Science Bldg. 1 (Area E), 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo
Phone: 03-5841-4626
Email: wings.s@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp
*Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 29, 2026 to Sunday, January 3, 2027.

[Last updated: October, 2026]