

# 2026 Joint Graduate School (Ph.D. Program) in Science of School Education, Hyogo University of Teacher Education Registration outline (three-year postdoctoral course)

## Admissions policy

The Joint Graduate School (Ph.D. Program) in Science of School Education is a three-year postdoctoral course conducted jointly by six schools: Hyogo University of Teacher Education (as the core institution), Joetsu University of Education, Gifu University, Shiga University, Okayama University, and Naruto University of Education. It is intended to contribute to solutions to contemporary educational issues and qualitative improvements and reforms in school education, through establishing practice-based school education as an individual interdisciplinary field.

The program seeks students who aim to become researchers and specialist educators capable of conducting specialized research on school education practice at a high level and of carrying out independent research and practice in the fields of study of school education practice and course education practice.

## Prerequisites for admission

- Must possess sufficient specialized knowledge to conduct research and implement practices
- Must have the deep understanding and insight required to conduct research and implement practices
- Must have the ability to conduct autonomous, active research from an academic perspective, with a critical mind

## Basic policy on selection of applicants

Based on the Admissions Policy of the Joint Graduate School (Ph.D. Program), selection of applicants for admission is based on comprehensive consideration of the results of examinations and academic transcripts, to determine comprehensively whether the applicant possesses qualities such as specialized knowledge of, understanding of, and insight into the research field and is capable of conducting research.

## Diploma Policy

In The Joint Graduate School (Ph.D. Program) in Science of School Education, students who complete the required credits, undergo the research instruction, pass the PhD. defense and a comprehensive exam, and who have acquired qualifications and skills needed to perform practical education research both independently and cooperatively will be awarded a Ph.D. degree (Science of School Education).

### ◎ The flextime curriculum system

The program has adopted a flextime curriculum system offering courses (with some exceptions) at times such as during school vacations, on holidays, and at night, as a special educational method for students currently employed in education or other fields and those beginning employment during their time as students.

### 1. Numbers of students to be admitted, by major

Field	Department	Students
School Instruction	School Educational Methodology School Counseling and Human Developmental Support	12
Instructional Development in Forefront Issues	Instructional Development in Forefront Issues	6
Content Area Instruction	Language Education Social Science Education Natural Science Education Fine Arts and Music Education Health and Living Sciences Education	18
Total		36

### 2. Standard number of years required for completion

3 years

### 3. Requirements for applicants

Applicants must meet any of the following requirements (1) through (7):

- (1) Those possessing, or expecting to possess by March 2026, a master’s degree or a professional degree (hereinafter, this refers to a professional degree as defined in Article 5-2 of the degree regulations based on the stipulations of Article 104, Paragraph 1 of the School Education Act [1953 Ordinance no. 9 of the Ministry of Education])
- (2) Those awarded, or expecting to be awarded by March 2026, a master’s degree or the equivalent of a professional degree from an institution overseas
- (3) Those awarded, or expecting to be awarded by March 2026, a master’s degree or the equivalent of a professional degree from a correspondence course of an overseas institution conducted in Japan
- (4) Those awarded, or expecting to be awarded by March 2026, a master’s degree or the equivalent of a professional degree from completion of a course at an educational facility in Japan that offers courses of overseas graduate schools considered a part of the school education system of the relevant foreign country, as designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- (5) Those awarded, or expecting to be awarded by March 2026, the equivalent of a master’s degree from completion of a course at the United Nations University established pursuant to the December 11, 1972 resolution of the United Nations General Assembly as stipulated in Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the Act on Special Measures Incidental to Enforcement of the "Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University" (Act No. 72 of 1976).
- (6) Persons as designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (1989 Notification no. 118 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture)
- (7) Persons aged 24 or older, or who will be aged 24 or older by March 31, 2026, deemed through individual admissions screening by the Program to have academic abilities equal to or surpassing those of a holder of a master’s degree or a professional degree

Note that applicants under requirements (6) and (7) must complete separate screening to determine if they meet the requirements for applicants.

4. Application deadline

Applications must be postmarked Tuesday, December 2 - Monday, December 8, 2025

5. Examination schedule

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026

6. Selection method

Selection of applicants for entry shall be conducted through the following methods:  
(See note at right)

- A. Submittal of assigned pieces (Pre-assignments)
- B. Online oral examination

7. Screening for eligibility to apply

A party intending to apply under the provisions of Paragraphs (6) and (7) under "3. Eligibility to Apply" shall submit the following documents and undergo screening for eligibility to apply.  
\* Please meet with your requested lead faculty advisor before submitting the documents for screening for eligibility to apply.

(1) Documents to submit

Document etc.	Remarks
① Application for eligibility to apply for entrance examinations	Use the specified form.*
② Curriculum vitae	Use the specified form.*
③ Academic transcripts	Submit transcripts prepared by the President or Dean of your university, in a sealed envelope.
④ Research history report	Use the specified form.*
⑤ Research results report	Use the specified form for the cover sheet.* Attach an offprint of a paper equivalent to a doctoral thesis or (a copy of) your research results.  If applying for an artistic field, also submit details of works presented or similar information. If applying for a physical-education field, also submit details of physical training or similar information.

Note: Submittal of other documentation or materials may be requested as necessary in addition to the above documents.  
\* Please contact the Entrance Examinations Department of the Hyogo University of Teacher Education if you would like to be sent the specified forms related to application for eligibility to apply

(2) How to submit documents

Submit the documents by post. (Be sure to send them by registered express mail.)  
If the documents will not fit in the specified envelope, send them by an express method with recording of receipt (such as Letter Pack Plus).

- A. Submittal period: Tuesday, October 7 - Thursday, October 9, 2025
- B. Submit to: Entrance Examinations Department, Hyogo University of Teacher Education, 942-1 Shimokume, Kato, Hyogo Prefecture 673-1494

(3) Screening method: Screening for eligibility to apply will be conducted through screening of the documents submitted, followed by an oral interview if necessary.

(4) Oral interview method: The oral interview will be conducted in a question-and-answer format, at the specified time for the program applied for.

(5) Notification of results of screening: Applicants will be notified of the results of screening at a later date.

8. How to request the Applicant Guidelines (application form)

Plans call for releasing the Applicant Guidelines in early October 2025.  
If you need the Applicant Guidelines, request one from a member university by sending a square-shaped no. 2 return envelope (with the requester’s postal code, address, and name clearly indicated and stamps with “Non-Standard-sized Mail Rates (up to 500g)” affixed) enclosed in an envelope with “Ph.D. Program Applicant Guidelines request” written in red ink on the outside.  
You also may request a Student Application Kit from the website.

Request from:  
Hyogo University of Teacher Education, Admission Division;  
tel. +81-795- 44-2067  
942-1 Shimokume, Kato, Hyogo Prefecture 673-1494, Japan  
  
Gifu University, Faculty of Education, Student Affairs Section;  
tel. +81-58-293-2206  
1-1 Yanagido, Gifu, Gifu Prefecture 501-1193, Japan  
  
Okayama University, Faculty of Education, Student Affairs Office;  
tel. +81-86-251-7605  
1-1 Tsushima-naka 3-chome, Kita-ku, Okayama, Okayama  
Prefecture 700-8530, Japan

Joetsu University of Education, Admissions Office;  
tel. +81-25-521-3293  
1 Yamayashiki-machi, Joetsu, Niigata Prefecture 943-8512, Japan  
  
Shiga University, Faculty of Education, Admissions Office;  
tel. +81-77-537-7711  
2-5-1 Hiratsu, Otsu, Shiga Prefecture 520-0862, Japan  
  
Naruto University of Education, Admission Division;  
tel. +81-88-687-6131  
748 Nakashima, Takashima, Naruto-cho, Naruto, Tokushima  
Prefecture, 772-8502, Japan

Address any questions concerning student admissions to:  
Hyogo University of Teacher Education, Admission Division.  
942-1 Shimokume, Kato, Hyogo Prefecture 673-1494, Japan  
Tel. +81-795-44-2067  
E-mail office-nyushi-t@ml.hyogo-u.ac.jp

Note:  
1. See the Applicant Guidelines to be released in early October 2025 for details.  
  
2. The online oral examination will be conducted using Zoom (an online communication application provided by Zoom Video Communications).