

Application Guidelines for AY2023 Tuition Exemption for Excellent Master's Course Students

Kumamoto University has started S-HIGO Fellowship Program, which has been adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) as the University Fellowship Establishment Project for the Creation of Science and Technology Innovation, that aims to help doctoral course students in the Graduate Schools of Medical Sciences, Health Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences to enhance their research skills and develop their career path.

From the viewpoint of enhancing support for excellent doctoral students, the government will provide a budget for tuition waiver for fellowship program students, and tuition for fellowship program students will be fully waived. In conjunction with this, in order to encourage master's course students to enter doctoral courses in future, a budget has been allocated for tuition waiver for outstanding master's course students. The tuition waiver will be offered to master's course students of the Graduate Schools of Medical Sciences, Health Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

1. Eligibility for Application

Students who fall under any of the following categories and also who are willing to go on to the doctoral course can apply for the Tuition Exemption. However, this excludes students who are repeating an academic year, international students who are supported by MEXT scholarship or the scholarship programs of their home country, and students who have received a disciplinary action stipulated in Kumamoto University's Regulations.

- (1) Students who will be enrolled in the first year of the master's course of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Graduate School of Health Sciences and Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences on April 1, 2023 (This also includes students who are planning appear for entrance exams for the master's courses.)
- (2) Students who will be enrolled in the second year of the master's course of the Graduate School of Health Sciences on April 1, 2023

2. Number of Students to be Supported

Grade (As of April 1, 2023)	Number of Students
1st year student of master's course	Graduate School of Medical Sciences: 3 Graduate School of Health Sciences: 1 Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences: 4
2nd year student of master's course	Graduate School of Health Sciences: 1

* Based on the selection results, if there are not sufficient eligible candidates in one graduate school, number of selected candidates from another graduate school may be increased for the students of 1st year of master's course.

3. Amount of Tuition Exemption

Grade (As of April 1, 2023)	Amount of Tuition Exemption
1st year student of master's course	Full amount of tuition fees for the first and second semesters of the AY 2023
2nd year student of master's course	Full amount of tuition fees for the second semester of the AY 2023

4. Application Procedures

(1) Application Documents

- Application form for tuition exemption for excellent master's course students
- Research plan

Forms can be downloaded from the following link and should be written in Japanese or English.

https://higoprogram.jp/s-higo_english/

(2) Application Period

From February 14 (Tue), 2023 through February 17 (Fri), 2023

(3) Application Process

Application documents should be submitted by email to Administrative Division of Life Sciences (higo-program@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp).

5. Selection Procedures

- The selection will be made by S-HIGO Fellowship Program Steering Committee.
- The first round of selection will consist of a document review, and the second round will consist of an interview.
- In the document review, students will be evaluated comprehensively based on concreteness, feasibility, originality, etc. of their research plan.
- In the interview examination, students will be evaluated based on their answers for the question regarding the reason for their willingness to enter doctoral course and their vision after completing the doctoral course.
- The interview will be held online using Zoom between late February and early May. Applicants who pass the preliminary screening will be contacted individually with details of the interview.

6. Notification of Results

The selection results will be notified individually by email in middle of May.

7. Submission of Research Reports and Requirements for AY 2024

- Those students who will be supported by this tuition exemption system should submit a research report (the form will be announced separately) at the end of the AY 2023.
- If the government implements a tuition waiver budget in the AY 2024 as in the AY 2023, the students who receive tuition waiver in AY 2023 can continue to receive same support in AY 2024.
- In such cases, students who wish to continue to receive tuition waiver will have an interview with their academic advisor, etc. to confirm the continuation of tuition waiver.

8. Orientation for Tuition Exemption

Orientation programs for interested students will be organized as follows:

[Date and Time] February 1 (Wed), 2023 15:00-15:30 *Only in Japanese

[Meeting Format] Online using Zoom

* Zoom information will be announced on the following URL by two days before the orientation.

https://higoprogram.jp/s-higo_english/

Explanation video in English will be uploaded on this link some days after the orientation.

9. Handling of Personal Information

All personal information collected through the selection will only be used for the purpose related to this tuition exemption system.

10. Office for Submission of Application Documents/Inquiries

Administrative Division of Life Sciences, Kumamoto University

Phone : 096-373-5006

Email: higo-program@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

*If there are any unclear points, the content of the Japanese version of application guidelines should be followed.