

Changes to the application and selection methods for April 2026 admission

YOKOHAMA Socrates Program, College of Urban Sciences
YOKOHAMA National University

To facilitate applications from students who have completed internationally recognized educational programs and those aiming to study in Japan, Yokohama National University will make some changes to the application requirements, application documents, and selection methods of the Socrates program.

	Earlier version (for April 2024 admission)	Revised version (for April 2026 admission)
Number of Students Accepted	No change	
Basic Conditions and Application Requirements	<p>Applicants must meet one of the requirements from (1) to (4), and must also satisfy all the requirements from (5) to (7).</p> <p>(1) Those who have received a total of at least three years of formal school education at an educational institution abroad* and have completed, or expect to complete, a 12-year curriculum abroad or in Japan which confers to graduates the eligibility to apply to universities by March 31, 2024.</p> <p>*“Formal school education at an educational institution abroad” refers to a regular educational program in a country outside Japan officially recognized by the country’s educational authority, and the geographical location of the educational institution which conducts the program is, in principle, outside Japan. Applicants from schools such as international schools or schools for overseas Americans (except those who satisfy the application requirements (3) or (4)) should consult with the International Students Section at least three weeks before the start of the application period as confirmation of their eligibility status may take time. Any period spent in schools whose geographical location is outside of Japan but whose curriculum is based on Japan’s School Education Law will not be counted toward the period in which the applicant received education in an educational institution abroad.</p>	<p style="color: red;">●Basic Conditions Applicants must meet one of the conditions from (1) to (4).</p> <p>(1) Those who have received a total of at least three years of formal school education at an educational institution abroad* and have completed, or expect to complete, a 12-year curriculum abroad or in Japan which confers to graduates the eligibility to apply to universities by March 31, 2026.</p> <p>*“Formal school education at an educational institution abroad” refers to a regular educational program in a country outside Japan officially recognized by the country’s educational authority, and the geographical location of the educational institution which conducts the program is, in principle, outside Japan. Applicants from schools such as international schools or schools for overseas Americans (except those who satisfy the basic conditions (3) or (4)) should consult with the International Students Section at least three weeks before the start of the application period as confirmation of their eligibility status may take time. Any period spent in schools whose geographical location is outside of Japan but whose curriculum is based on Japan’s School Education Law will not be counted toward the period in which the applicant received education in an educational institution abroad.</p>

<p>(2) Those who have completed, or expect to complete, an equivalent educational program or certification to (1) as designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology by March 31, 2024. *</p> <p>*Those who wish to apply under requirement (2) must contact the International Students Section at least three weeks before the start of the application period</p> <p>(3) Those who have obtained one of the following qualifications abroad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The International Baccalaureate qualification awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organization, a non-profit foundation established in accordance with the Civil Code of Switzerland,b) An Abitur accredited as a qualification for admission to a university in the states of the Federal Republic of Germany,c) A Baccalaureate accredited as a qualification for admission to a university in the Republic of France, ord) A General Certificate of Education of Advanced Level (GCE Advanced Level) [obtaining grade E or above in 3 or more subjects] accredited as a qualification for admission to a university in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. <p>(4) Those who, by March 31, 2024, have completed or expect to complete a 12-year curriculum at an education institution, abroad or in Japan, accredited by one of the international evaluating organizations designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (WASC, ACSI, NEASC, or CIS).</p> <p>(5) Those who have taken the SAT (Reading and Writing, Math) or ACT (English, Math, Reading, Science) and can submit an official score report during the application period. *</p>	<p>(2) Those who have completed, or expect to complete, an equivalent educational program or certification to (1) as designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology by March 31, 2026. *</p> <p>*Those who wish to apply under condition (2) must contact the International Students Section at least three weeks before the start of the application period</p> <p>(3) Those who have obtained one of the following qualifications abroad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The International Baccalaureate qualification awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organization, a non-profit foundation established in accordance with the Civil Code of Switzerland,b) An Abitur accredited as a qualification for admission to a university in the states of the Federal Republic of Germany,c) A Baccalaureate accredited as a qualification for admission to a university in the Republic of France, ord) A General Certificate of Education of Advanced Level (GCE Advanced Level) [obtaining grade E or above in 3 or more subjects] accredited as a qualification for admission to a university in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. <p>(4) Those who, by March 31, 2026, have completed or expect to complete a 12-year curriculum at an education institution, abroad or in Japan, accredited by one of the international evaluating organizations designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (WASC, ACSI, NEASC, or CIS).</p>
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	<p>*Only scores from exams taken on or after September 1, 2018, will be accepted.</p> <p>(6) Those who are able to provide official score reports or official results of one of the following, to demonstrate their proficiency in English: *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) TOEFL iBT (including Home Edition and Paper Edition) Test Date Scores 80 or above (MyBest Scores are not accepted), b) IELTS (Academic Module, including online version) Overall Band Score 6.0 or above, c) International Baccalaureate (HL:5 or SL:5 or above (English A); HL:5 or SL:6 or above (English B)), d) Malaysian University English Test (MUET) Band 4 or above, e) Public English Test System Grade 5 (PETS5, People’s Republic of China), f) A document demonstrating that the applicant has attended primary and secondary school in English for either (i) a total period of at least six years, or (ii) four continuous years including the final year of secondary school, or g) A document demonstrating that the applicant’s command of English is equivalent to or above the standards indicated above in items a) through f). (Please consult for details before submitting an application). <p>*Only scores from exams taken on or after September 1, 2021, will be accepted.</p> <p>(7) If applicants do not have Japanese nationality, those who are eligible to acquire a visa status permitting them to pursue higher education in Japan if entering Japan under Japan’s Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.</p> <p>Note: Applicants may not apply concurrently with the Comprehensive Selection, the Returnee Selection (including the Selection for Applicants</p>	<p>●Application Requirements</p> <p>Applicants must also satisfy requirements (1) and (2) below.</p> <p>(1) Those who are able to provide official score reports or official results of one of the following, to demonstrate their proficiency in English: *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) TOEFL iBT (including Home Edition and Paper Edition) Test Date Scores 80 or above (MyBest Scores are not accepted), b) IELTS (Academic Module, including online version) Overall Band Score 6.0 or above, c) International Baccalaureate (HL:5 or SL:5 or above (English A); HL:5 or SL:6 or above (English B)), d) Malaysian University English Test (MUET) Band 4 or above, e) Public English Test System Grade 5 (PETS5, People’s Republic of China), f) A document demonstrating that the applicant has attended primary and secondary school in English for either (i) a total period of at least six years, or (ii) four continuous years including the final year of secondary school, or g) A document demonstrating that the applicant’s command of English is equivalent to or above the standards indicated above in items a) through f). (Please consult for details before submitting an application). <p>*Only scores from exams taken on or after September 1, 2023, will be accepted.</p> <p>(2) If applicants do not have Japanese nationality, those who are eligible to acquire a visa status permitting them to pursue higher education in Japan if entering Japan under Japan’s Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.</p> <p>Note: Applicants may not apply concurrently with the Comprehensive Selection, the Returnee Selection (including the Selection for Applicants</p>
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	<p>from Foreign Schools), or the YGEP (the Examination for Applicants who have come to Japan or the Pre-Arrival Examination) of the College of Urban Sciences or other colleges of YNU.</p>	<p>from Foreign Schools), or the YGEP (the Examination for Applicants who have come to Japan or the Pre-Arrival Examination) of the College of Urban Sciences or other colleges of YNU.</p>
<p>Required application documents</p>	<p>(1) Application Form</p> <p>(2) A scanned copy of the official certificate of graduation/completion issued by the high school</p> <p>Regarding the certificate of graduation/completion issued by the high school, which the school is equivalent to a Japanese high school you graduated/will graduate from, please submit the below documents according to the basic conditions.</p> <p>(i) Those who meet application requirement (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The official certificate of graduation/completion issued by the high school the applicant graduated from, or the last school attended. A certificate of expected graduation issued in the name of the principal of the school in the case of applicants still in their final academic year at the time of application. <p>(ii) Those who meet application requirement (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The official certificate of graduation/completion issued by the last school attended. A certificate of expected graduation issued in the name of the principal of the school in the case of applicants still in their final academic year at the time of application. - For those who have passed the national examination or its equivalent(s) to ascertain academic capability equal to, or higher than, high school graduates, a scanned copy of an official document certifying that the applicant has passed it. <p>(iii) Those who meet application requirement (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A scanned copy of the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the certificate of examination results from the International Baccalaureate Examination (6 subjects, TOK and EE). - A scanned copy of the General Qualification Form for University Entrance (Zeugnis der allgemeinen Hochschulreife). - A scanned copy of “Diplôme du Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement du 	<p>(1) Application Form</p> <p>(2) A scanned copy of the official certificate of graduation/completion issued by the high school</p> <p>Regarding the certificate of graduation/completion issued by the high school, which the school is equivalent to a Japanese high school you graduated/will graduate from, please submit the below documents according to the basic conditions.</p> <p>(i) Those who meet basic condition (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The official certificate of graduation/completion issued by the high school the applicant graduated from. A certificate of expected graduation issued in the name of the principal of the school in the case of applicants still in their final academic year at the time of application. <p>(ii) Those who meet basic condition (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructions for the required documents will be provided individually when inquiring about the Basic Conditions for application. <p>(iii) Those who meet basic condition (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A scanned copy of the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the certificate of examination results from the International Baccalaureate Examination (6 subjects, TOK and EE). - A scanned copy of the General Qualification Form for University Entrance (Zeugnis der allgemeinen Hochschulreife). - A scanned copy of “Diplôme du Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement du

	<p>Secondaire” and “Relevé de Notes” from the French Baccalaureate Examination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A scanned copy of the General Certificate of Advanced Level (GCE Advanced Level). The applicant must obtain a grade of E or above on three subjects or more. <p>(iv) Those who meet application requirement (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The official certificate of graduation/completion from the last school attended. A certificate of expected graduation issued in the name of the principal of the school in the case of applicants still in their final academic year at the time of application. - Documentation that the last school attended is accredited by WASC, CIS, ACSI, or NEASC. <p>(3) Proof of enrollment for at least three years in a primary or secondary educational institution established in a country outside Japan based on the official educational system in the country. (Only for those who meet application requirements (1) or (2))</p> <p>(4) Scanned copy of academic transcript and other certificates from high school or last school attended</p> <p>(5) SAT (Reading and Writing, Math) or ACT (English, Math, Reading, Science) scores</p> <p>(6) Document certifying your English proficiency</p>	<p>Secondaire” and “Relevé de Notes” from the French Baccalaureate Examination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A scanned copy of the General Certificate of Advanced Level (GCE Advanced Level). The applicant must obtain a grade of E or above on three subjects or more. <p>(iv) Those who meet basic condition (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The official certificate of graduation/completion from the last school attended. A certificate of expected graduation issued in the name of the principal of the school in the case of applicants still in their final academic year at the time of application. - Documentation that the last school attended is accredited by WASC, CIS, ACSI, or NEASC. <p>(3) Proof of enrollment for at least three years in a primary or secondary educational institution established in a country outside Japan based on the official educational system in the country. (Only for those who meet application requirements (1) or (2))</p> <p>(4) Scanned copy of academic transcript and other certificates from high school attended (for years equivalent to a Japanese high school, i.e. tenth through twelfth years of schooling) *Please submit transcripts from all schools attended from the tenth year of schooling and beyond.</p> <p>(5) Transcripts of international standardized tests [Optional] Applicants are strongly recommended to submit one of the scores below from a) to e).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SAT (Reading and Writing, Math) b) ACT (English, Math, Reading, Science) c) International Baccalaureate (Diploma only) d) General Certificate of Education Advanced Level Qualification (obtaining grade E or above in 3 or more subjects) e) EJU (including General Subject and Mathematics (Course 1 or 2)) <p>* For a) and b), only scores from exams taken on or after September 1, 2021 will be accepted.</p> <p>* For c) and d), only scores obtained after 2021 will be accepted.</p>
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	<p>(7) Personal Statement (8) Scanned copy of passport and residence card (9) Scanned copy of the receipt for payment of the application fee</p>	<p style="color: red;">* For e), only scores from the November 2023, June and November 2024, and June 2025 examinations will be accepted.</p> <p>(6) Document certifying your English proficiency (7) Personal statement and essay (8) Scanned copy of passport (for all applicants) and Japanese residence card (for applicants currently residing in Japan) (9) Scanned copy of the receipt for payment of the application fee</p>
<p>Selection Method</p>	<p><u>First Screening</u> Selection of applicants will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of the following submitted documents. (1) Personal Statement (2) Essay (3) SAT or ACT scores (4) Proof of English proficiency</p> <p><u>Second Screening</u> The selection of applicants will be based on the submitted documents and an online interview.</p>	<p><u>First Screening</u> Selection of applicants will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of the following submitted documents. (1) Personal Statement (2) Essay (3) High school grades (for years equivalent to a Japanese high school, i.e. tenth through twelfth grades) (4) International standardized test scores - Applicants who submit one or more of the following will receive additional points comprising up to 10% of the maximum overall score, depending on the applicant's performance on the international standardized test. - If multiple test scores are submitted, the highest score will be used. a) SAT (Reading and Writing, Math) b) ACT (English, Math, Reading, Science) c) International Baccalaureate (Diploma only) d) General Certificate of Education Advanced Level Qualification (obtaining grade E or above in 3 or more subjects) e) EJU (including Japan and the World and Mathematics (Course 1 or 2))</p> <p><u>Second Screening</u> The selection of applicants will be based on the submitted documents and an online interview, which will include a presentation. (The interview is designed to test basic academic skills, basic understanding of the topic of the application essay, logical thinking, and expressive ability.)</p>