Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

During the registration process for PNST, if you have any questions, first, please read the Application Flow (PDF)

which can be downloaded from https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/seic-pnst/

I am expected to graduate sometime in 2025. Am I still eligible to apply for the PNST?

We accept applications as long as the applicant is expected to have the degree by September 2025.

However, the applicant will need to submit a proof of the expected degree conferral date by the submission deadline; 1 December 2024 (23:59 JST), and if selected, will also have to submit the diploma received before the Fellowship Programme starts on 1 October 2025.

As the topic of my Doctoral or Master thesis, am I restricted to choose something related to nano-satellite?

Space technology is made of many disciplines. You do not have to restrict yourself to choosing a topic too narrowly such as "nano-satellite guidance", "nano-satellite communications", etc. As long as the topic is space related, it has a possibility of being applied to nano-satellite. The important thing is that the thesis topic has suitable academic meaning as a Doctoral or Master thesis. Your research topic will be determined via matching between your research interest and the academic disciplines that Kyutech faculty members can offer. We will try to find a supervisor who is able to guide you in the area of your research interest.

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Where can I find more information about the research work I could conduct at Kyutech?

Please visit http://kyutech-cent.net/seic/seic_web.html which provides information about the research programmes at Kyutech, on the subjects of the Space Engineering International Course and on the faculty members and their recent publications.

You can also find the list of professors who belong to the Department of Space Systems Engineering at https://www.space.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/lab/list/ . Although the page is in Japanese, you can go to the webpage of each laboratory from the links listed in the page.

After a survey of the different researchers at Kyutech, I am interested in working with Dr. XXX. My question is if I can apply to the PNST Programme even though I do not have any agreement with any researcher yet?

Yes, of course you can apply! You do not need any pre-agreement with a Kyutech faculty before you apply. After the first round of down-selection, we will work on matching the remaining applicants to a professor at Kyutech. We will consider your interest in working with a particular professor if you pass this first round. Please first register for the PNST 2025 and then submit your application package.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who should sign the "Nomination Form"?

The nomination form shall be signed by the head of the nominating organization. If you are a student right now, the person who signs the form has to be the Dean or a higher ranking official. If you are employed by a company, the person who signs the form has to be the president of your company. If you are neither a student nor employed, please ask the Dean or a higher ranking official of the school you attended most recently.

Is it sufficient for the "Referees Report Form" to be signed by the referee or is the seal of the referee's organization also required?

The referee's signature is sufficient, however, for the "Nomination Form" the official seal of the nominating organization is required.

Access to Space for All
Post-graduate Study on Nano-Satellite Technology (PNST)

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Is it necessary to send the hardcopies of the application forms to PNST?

At the first stage in the application process this is not necessary. You should just upload and submit the softcopies of required documents through the specified website. However, please retain all the original certificates; such as Certificate of graduation (Diplomas) or expectation of graduation, grade certificates (transcripts) and those official translations into English, and official score report of English test (such as TOIEC, TOEFL, etc.), and Nomination Form signed by the head of the nominating agency/institution. The short-listed candidates will be contacted and asked to send those original documents by express mails (such as DHL, FedEx) directly to Kyutech in early February.

Can I send additional certificates to support my application?

Yes, you can if you think that it will strengthen your application.

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I will apply for the Master's Program. Do I have to fill the STATEMENT OF PURPOSE in the PNST 2025_Application Form?

Yes, please complete this field if you apply for Master's Program as well as if you apply for Doctoral Program.

Do I need any help from my nominating agency during the application process? How is the nominating agency going to know about the progress in the selection process?

It is up to the applicant and the nominating agency how they wish to relate to each other during the application process. For example, some successful applicants have retained employment with their respective nominating agency, retained the possibility to return to their previous employer, or had coordinated the topic of their theses work with their nominating agency. This is handled differently in each case and so it is up to the applicant and the nominating agency how you would like to handle this. It is also up to the applicant to keep the nominating agency informed about the progress in the application and selection process.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is TOEFL or another English proficiency certification required? If so, what score is required and where should the exam results be sent?

Basically, it is advised all the candidates should submit an official English test score, taken within two years, which can assess your English level in all four language skills (speaking, writing, reading and listening); such as TOEFL iBT, IELTS, Duolingo English Test, etc., and the score level should be CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) B2 or higher. Please check what tests are approved by CEFR at Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_European_Framework_of_Reference_for_Languages

The submission of the test score is not mandatory if your university (Bachelor for Master candidates, Master for Doctoral candidates) education was conducted entirely in English, and you can submit the evidence of that as a certificate signed by Dean or an official of higher rank.

Please refer to the checklist No.09 for the details about certification of English proficiency.

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Do I need preparation for an examination to Kyutech?

You need to register online for admission application in May, and then take an interview as an official entrance examination for Graduate School of Engineering, Kyutech in July. The details for registration will be provided by April from Kyutech. Doctoral Program candidates may be exempted from an interview, whereas Master's Program candidates must undergo an interview. However, as long as the candidates are selected as final PNST candidates, it is unlikely to fail the interview.

Please visit http://kyutech-cent.net/seic/pdf/seic_faq.pdf to obtain additional information regarding the Space Engineering International Course (SEIC), which successful candidates enroll in at Kyutech.

If you have further questions regarding the PNST, please contact us at unoosa-access-to-space@un.org