

Graduate School of Information Sciences, Tohoku University

Congratulatory Address

On behalf of the Graduate School of Information Sciences of Tohoku University, I would like to express my sincere congratulations on your admission to our graduate school. In this April, 165 students entered the Master's course and 41 students entered the Doctoral course at the Graduate School of Information Sciences, Tohoku University. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you. I would also like to sincerely congratulate your families and all those who have supported you throughout your journey.

In November 2024, Tohoku University was designated as Japan's first University for International Research Excellence, a recognition given to institutions aiming to achieve world-class research capabilities. With this, we are entering a new era of remarkable growth, driven by enhanced research personnel and facilities. As AI technologies continue to evolve rapidly and begin to transform society, the role of our graduate school is becoming increasingly significant within this broader initiative.

Since its establishment in 1993, our graduate school has positioned information sciences as an interdisciplinary academic field that spans not only the natural sciences but also the humanities and social sciences. As a result, our school encompasses a wide variety of laboratories across both domains. In the natural sciences, we cover areas such as mathematical optimization, statistics and big data analysis, AI and natural language processing, high-performance computing, quantum computing, cybersecurity, robotics, and communications. In the humanities and social sciences, we cover topics such as learning sciences, linguistics, urban and transportation systems, and studies of society, politics, and culture. Such diversity and interdisciplinarity are rare among graduate schools.

At this point, I would like to share two important messages you.

First, I encourage you to develop the ability to view a broad spectrum of research fields from a panoramic perspective. In today's world, we face increasingly complex and multifaceted social issues. Solving these problems requires more than expertise in a single field — it demands a systems-oriented approach that transcends disciplinary boundaries. I urge you not only to deepen your knowledge in your own area of specialization, but also to actively explore other fields. Encountering new disciplines will broaden your horizons and may lead to “new insights” that would be difficult to attain from within your field alone. These insights can become a driving force that further advances your own research.

Second, I hope you will make an effort to enhance your communication skills in Japanese. Being able to communicate in Japanese will not only make your daily life more enjoyable and convenient, but it will also help you engage more deeply with the local community. Through learning the language, you will gain a richer understanding of Japanese culture, customs, and values. This will allow you to build more meaningful relationships with Japanese friends, classmates, and colleagues. Studying abroad is a rare and valuable opportunity. Use this time to grow, face new challenges, and take a step toward a bright and rewarding future.

In closing, all of our faculty and staff are committed to supporting you so that your student life is fulfilling and productive. I sincerely hope that you will devote yourselves to learning and research, and that you will grow into capable individuals who contribute to society and academia.

Once again, congratulations on your admission.

April, 2025
Graduate School of Information Sciences
Dean Masanori Hariyama