

Appendix 5

Essay Questions for Applications to Nagoya University International Programs (Undergraduate) Academic Year 2026

Instructions

- **All applicants must submit two essays.**
- All questions are to be answered by the candidate only. You may be asked about your answers if you are selected for an interview.
- Essay 1 is compulsory for all candidates.
- Essay 2 is also compulsory for all candidates, but you are to answer the question specific to the program you are applying to.
- Be sure to indicate the word count written at the bottom of each essay.
- Please make sure to use the template provided in the Online Admissions System.
- If you add citations to your essay, remember to list your sources in a reference list at the end of your essay. The correct usage of proper citations and references will help your essay to be more highly evaluated.
- The reference list is not calculated towards the word count.
- According to Nagoya University's regulations, the use of generative AI tools to create text or any other content including essays, as part of application documents, is prohibited. Note that we run all essays through an AI detection program.

1. Essay No. 1 – Answer the following question (200-300 words).

As briefly and clearly as possible please explain why you are applying to a particular program at Nagoya University and how it is related to your academic history and your personal and professional future goals.

2. Essay No. 2 – Answer one of the following questions* (400-500 words).

*Please choose an essay topic based on your **program choice**

Automotive Engineering (School of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering Course)

Explain why you are a strong candidate for the Automotive Engineering program at Nagoya University.

Automotive Engineering (School of Engineering, Electrical, Electronic, Information Engineering Course)

Identify a transformative technology in electrical, electronic, or information engineering. Analyze how it fundamentally changes society or daily life, drawing on personal experiences or interests to support your discussion.

Physics (School of Science)

We value students who are passionate about Physics and Mathematics above all other fields. Explain the underlying principles of a Physics phenomenon that inspired you so much that you chose Physics as your career path. Tell us how you initially found your interest and passion for this topic.

Chemistry (School of Engineering)

Among the recent research achievements and technological developments in the fields of chemistry and biotechnology, identify those you consider to be particularly important. Discuss the potential benefits that could be brought to society if they are implemented in practical applications in the future.

Chemistry (School of Science)

Describe a chemical concept or topic that you once found difficult to understand. Explain how you came to grasp it, and how that experience has influenced your current perspective on science—not just in chemistry. Has it inspired any new questions or a broader curiosity about how the world works through science that you would like to explore further?

Biological Science (School of Science)

Sydney Brenner once said, "Progress in science depends on new techniques, new discoveries and new ideas, probably in that order."
Based on this idea, what kind of new technique(s) do you think will emerge in the next decade in the field of biology, and how will they contribute to scientific progress? Discuss with specific examples or reasoning.

Biological Science (School of Agricultural Sciences)

What is the importance of studying biology in agriculture and life sciences? Identify an emerging societal problem and propose a strategy to address it using the skills and knowledge gained from the School of Agricultural Sciences.

Social Sciences (School of Law)

University X is situated in a developed country and ranks among the top universities in the nation. Likewise, the School of Law and Politics is considered one of the leading schools. Their alumni serve as lawyers, public servants, researchers, and business professionals. The School of Law and Politics at University X is considering its recruitment process for the upcoming year's undergraduate students. A major issue is whether to permit candidates to use generative AIs for their theses, which are required submissions for the application to the School of Law and Politics.

Question

The admission committee of the school asked the student board to provide their opinion on whether to permit the use of generative AI in the upcoming admission process. As the board leader, how do you respond to this request?

Social Sciences (School of Economics)

Tell the story of a financial decision you had to make. How did this moment prompt you to think critically about economic or business principles, theories, or systems?

Japan-in-Asia Cultural Studies Program (School of Humanities)

Our program focuses on the literature, cinema & media, and history of Japan and East Asia. Describe and analyze one example of a novel, film/visual culture, or historical person/event that you find particularly interesting. What do you find interesting about it? How could it be interpreted in different ways by different people? Why is it important to understand today?