

Video Statement Guidelines

Purpose

The Video Statement provides applicants with an opportunity to introduce themselves beyond the written application. The Admissions Committee uses the Video Statement to better understand your motivation, communication skills, personality, and potential as a future researcher in the Aqualogy Graduate Program. The Video Statement is not intended to be a formal research presentation. Instead, it should provide an authentic introduction to who you are, why you wish to pursue graduate studies, and why you are interested in the Aqualogy Graduate Program. The purpose of the Video Statement is not to evaluate professional video production skills. Instead, it is intended to help the Admissions Committee better understand you as a future researcher. Authenticity, clarity, and sincerity are valued more highly than editing quality or presentation effects.

General Requirements

- Language: English
- Maximum length: 5 minutes
- Format: MP4 or equivalent
- Recording: A single continuous recording is recommended.
- Submission: The service used must allow the Admissions Committee in Japan to access and play the video through the submitted URL without creating an account, requesting additional access permission, or installing special software.

Submission method

Applicants must upload their Video Statement using either of the following methods and submit the sharing URL through the online application system.

Option 1: YouTube

Upload the video to YouTube and set its visibility to Unlisted. Do not set the video to Private. Submit the URL through the online application system.

Option 2: Secure Online Video Hosting or Cloud Storage Service

Upload the video to a secure online video hosting or cloud storage service of your choice and submit the sharing URL through the online application system.

Important: Applicants are responsible for confirming before submission that the URL is accessible from outside their institution or organization. If the Admissions Committee cannot access the video, the applicant may be asked to provide an alternative access method. The submitted URL must remain accessible until the admissions process has been completed.

After the application deadline: The content of the submitted Video Statement must not be replaced, modified, or updated after the application deadline. The version accessible through the submitted URL at the application deadline will be regarded as the official submission. If a submitted video becomes inaccessible or is found to have been replaced or modified, the University may request confirmation or an alternative copy for verification.

Recommended Outline

The following structure is recommended. You do not need to follow the suggested timing exactly, provided that the total length does not exceed 5 minutes.

1. Self Introduction (approximately 30 to 60 seconds)

Briefly introduce yourself, including:

- Name
- Current university
- Current Degree program
- Country or region of study
- Brief academic background

2. Academic and Research Background (approximately 60 to 90 seconds)

Describe

- Your major or academic field
- Research experience
- Technical or analytical skills
- What you learned through your research

Focus on your own role and contributions rather than only describing the overall project.

3. Motivation for Graduate Study (approximately 60 to 90 seconds)

Explain

- Why you want to pursue graduate studies
- What scientific or societal problems interest you
- Why these problems are important

4. Why Aqualogy program? (approximately 60 to 90 seconds)

Explain why you chose the Aqualogy Graduate Program, and which aspects of the program are particularly relevant to your goals. Examples may include:

- Interdisciplinary education
- Laboratory rotation
- International research environment
- Collaboration with industry
- Research philosophy or research fields

You may mention faculty members or research units whose interests align with yours.

5. Future Goals (approximately 30 to 60 seconds)

Describe

- Your career aspirations
- What kind of researcher or professional you hope to become
- How the Aqualogy Graduate Program will help you achieve these goals

Evaluation Criteria

The Video Statement will be evaluated based on:

- Motivation for graduate study
- Communication skills
- Ability to explain ideas logically
- Enthusiasm for research
- Alignment with the Aqualogy Graduate Program
- Overall potential for graduate study

English proficiency is not evaluated on the basis of native-like pronunciation or accent. Applicants are assessed on their ability to communicate their ideas clearly and effectively.

Recording Tips

Applicants are encouraged to:

- Speak naturally and confidently.
- Look toward the camera.
- Record in a quiet environment.
- Ensure that audio is clear.
- Dress appropriately for an academic interview.
- Stay within the time limit.

Simple slides or figures may be used if they help explain your background, but they are not required.

Avoid

- Reading a prepared script word-for-word.
- Repeating your Statement of Purpose or CV verbatim.
- Delivering a formal research presentation.
- Using excessive visual effects or background music.
- Including confidential or unpublished research data without permission.

Checklist Before Submission

Confirm that:

- ☐ The video is no longer than 5 minutes.
- ☐ The video is recorded in English.
- ☐ The audio and video are clear enough for evaluation.
- ☐ The submitted URL can be accessed, and the video can be played by someone who is not signed in to your account.
- ☐ No special software, account registration, or additional permission request is required to view the video.
- ☐ The URL will remain accessible throughout the admissions process.
- ☐ The submitted video will not be replaced or modified after the application deadline.