

Application Guidelines Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT) for 2026

【Abstract】

***This is a summarized guideline for applicants. Official MEXT documents prevail.**

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

MEXT accepts applications from international students for study in Japan who satisfy the following qualifications and conditions. Our aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between the grantee's country and Japan through study in Japan and who will contribute to the development of both countries and the wider world.

- (1) **Nationality:** Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible. However, persons with dual nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan.
- (2) **Age:** Applicants, in principle, must have been born on or after **April 2, 1991**. Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to the situation or circumstances of the applicant's country (military service obligation, loss of educational opportunities due to disturbances of war, etc.) Personal circumstances (financial situation, family circumstances, state of health, circumstances related to applicant's university or place of employment, etc.) will not be considered for exceptions.
- (3) **Academic Background:** Eligible applicants satisfy the qualification requirements for admission to a master's degree course or a doctoral degree course at a Japanese graduate school. (Includes applicants who are certainly expected to satisfy the requirements by the time of enrollment.) The ones whose GPA **on the MEXT evaluation scale** is more than 2.30.

- (4) **Language Ability:** Applicants must have sufficient knowledge and skills either in Japanese or English. Applicants are required to submit a certification or proof of fulfilling requirement listed below.

Japanese

- ① Those who pass N2 level or above of Japanese-Language Proficiency Test
- ② Those who have completed a curriculum mainly taught in Japanese at universities or graduate schools.
- ③ Those who can be judged at a host university that have enough Japanese language ability as ① or above.

English

- ① Those who pass B2 level or above of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- ② Those who have completed a curriculum mainly taught in English at universities or graduate schools.
- ③ Those who can be judged at a host university that have enough English language ability as ① or above.

Non-regular students are also required to satisfy the language ability above. In addition, those who satisfy the requirements ③ must satisfy requirement ① or ② when they go on to a regular course.

- (5) **Health:** Applicants must have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.
- (6) **Arrival in Japan:** If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan within the designated arrival period (approximately two weeks before or after October 1) and during the period designated by the host university, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. Except in cases of unavoidable circumstances, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program if he/she cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the designated period.
- (7) **Visa Requirement:** An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student." The applicant should be aware that the scholarship will be cancelled if he/she arrived in Japan without a newly obtained "Student" visa.
- (8) **Pre-entry Tuberculosis Screening:** Applicants of certain nationalities (e.g., the Philippines, Nepal, Vietnam) may be required to submit a Certificate of Non-Tuberculosis at the time of visa application. Failure to submit required documents may result in visa denial.
- (9) **Non-eligibility:** Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he /she must withdraw from the scholarship.
 - ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees;
 - ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the period designated by MEXT or the accepting university;

- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). This does not apply to: those who have educational or work experience exceeding more than three years from the following month of the period of the previous scholarship to the estimated first month of the payment of this scholarship; and the past grantees of Japanese Studies Students program who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Young Leaders' Program. The MEXT Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs;
- ④ Those who are currently also applying for another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system;
- ⑤ Those who reside in Japan at the time of application with a mid- to long-term residence status. (See Note 1 below.)
- ⑥ Those who are planning to receive scholarship or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others after the start of the scholarship payment period (scholarships from foreign governments or other sources may be permitted under certain conditions);
- ⑦ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions related to academic background by the deadline given;
- ⑧ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status);
- ⑨ Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the university;
- ⑩ Those who do not wish to go on to regular course;
- ⑪ Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.

Note 1: Applicants staying in Japan temporarily (e.g., for entrance examinations or short visits under a "Temporary Visitor" status) are not included.

- (10) Others:** MEXT Scholarship will be granted those who are willing to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in activities at schools and communities during their study in Japan while contributing to the internationalization of Japan. They shall also make efforts to promote relations between the home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended after graduation, cooperating with the conducting of surveys and questionnaires, and cooperating with relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions after they return to their home countries.

2. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants must submit the following documents to the host universities by the designated deadline. The submitted documents will not be returned.

No.	Documents	Remarks
①	Application Form	Use the 2026 Application Form. (See Note 2 below.)
②	Copy of passport	
③	Field of Study and Research Plan	Use the 2026 form. (See Note 3 below.)
④	Certified grade transcript for each academic year from the last university attended and the university currently attending	A transcript issued either by the schools attended or by the applicant's national government. (See Note 4 below.)
⑤	Graduation certificate or degree certificate of the last university attended	If the applicant has not yet graduated, submit an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the school. (See Note 5 below.)
⑥	Recommendation letter from the president/dean at the current university or the last university attended or the university currently attending to host universities' president	Free format.
⑦	Approval letter of studying in Japan from the currently enrolled institution	Only in the case the applicant has a job currently Free format
⑧	Abstracts of theses	Submit if the applicant has written theses. (See Note 6 below.)
⑨	Certificate of language proficiency or proof of fulfilling requirement of Language Ability in the qualification and conditions	(See Note 7 below.)
⑩	Academic achievement record of the last university you have graduated or the current university attending that demonstrate excellence	The record must state your GPA, A B C classifications, your ranking number out of total number, or other numerical criteria.

Note 1: These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translation in either of these languages should be attached.

Note 2: The applicant's photograph to be attached to the Application Form should be of clear quality, taken within six months of submission, and printed on paper specially for photographs. The photograph should be 4.5 x 3.5 cm. upper-body, full-faced, no hats. Please write applicant's name and nationality on the back of the photograph. The photograph data can be pasted to the Application Form and printed out.

Note 3: The Field of Study and Research Plan should describe concretely and in detail the applicant's own research program because it will serve as one of the important references for selection.

Note 4: The academic transcripts of the last university attended should show the grade scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant in all the subjects studied for each year of study at a university department/faculty and graduate school. (A degree certificate or a graduation certificate simply showing the ranking of the applicant at graduation will not substitute for academic transcripts.) Those currently enrolled in a graduate school must submit their undergraduate academic transcripts at the time of application, and those will graduate from the graduate school by the time of the receipt of the MEXT scholarship, must also submit their graduate school academic transcripts.

Applicants who are pursuing a graduate school degree must submit an academic transcript of the undergraduate program and an academic transcript of the degree program at the graduate school covers from the year of enrollment to the term for which grades have been determined at the time of application for the scholarship.

Note 5: A copy of the graduation certificate or the degree certificate obtained from the last university attended is acceptable if the copy is attested by an authorized official of the university. Do not submit the originals as submitted certificates will not be returned. Those currently enrolled in must submit a certificate of expected graduation.

Note 6: For abstracts of the theses, abstracts of the graduation thesis and any presented papers will be acceptable.

Note 7: If printing out the certificates from the Internet, print out and submit a page showing the applicant's name and the details of the relevant qualification (level, score, etc.). **And please make sure that the score achieved in recent 2 years must be submitted. The test must be the one that measures 4 skills of English proficiency: listening, reading, speaking and writing, and each score of them must be B2 level or above of CEFR.**