

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2017
(JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to foreign students to study for a period of one year at designated Japanese universities in order to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture. Regulations for the 2017 MEXT Scholarship Program are as follows:

1. QUALIFICATIONS

MEXT accepts applications from international students for study in Japan. Our aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between your 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 give up their Japanese nationality and choose the nationality of the foreign country by the date of their arrival in Japan. Applicant screening will be conducted at the Japanese Embassy or Consulate (hereinafter referred to “Japanese diplomatic mission”) in the country of applicant’s nationality.

(2) Age: Applicants, in principle, must be born between April 2, 1987 and April 1, 1999.

(3) Academic Background: Applicants must satisfy the following two conditions.

- ① Applicants must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan.
- ② Those who have studied the Japanese Studies at a university for a total period of one year or more as of April 2017. Those who have studied Japanese Studies at another university should submit documents (transcript of grades at other university, etc.) which can verify that the applicant have studied Japanese Studies for a total period of one year or more at the attended universities including current university.

Those who are majoring in fields of study other than Japanese language and culture (such as engineering, economics, agricultural science, architecture, and art) and pursuing complementary studies in Japanese language and culture should apply for other scholarships, such as Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-term Study in Japan) offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) since they are ineligible.

(4) Japanese Language Ability: Applicants must have Japanese language ability sufficient for receiving education at a Japanese university in Japan.

(5) Health: Applicants must be judged that they are medically adequate to pursue study in Japan by an examining physician on a prescribed certificate of health.

(6) Arrival in Japan: Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by the designated period(usually October) between the day two weeks before the course starts and the first day of the course. (If the applicant arrives in Japan before this period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. Excluding cases of unavoidable circumstances, if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the designated period the applicant must withdraw the offer.)

(7) Visa acquisition: Applicants should, in principle, acquire “Student” visas before entering Japan and enter Japan with “Student” residence status. The visas should be issued at the Japanese

diplomatic missions located in the country of applicants' nationality. Those who change their visa status to one other than "Student" after arrival in Japan will lose their qualification to be Japanese Government Scholarship recipients from the date when their visa status changes.

- (8) Applicants must return to their home country and continue to study at their home institution immediately after the end of the scholarship period. In addition, while the applicant is studying in Japan, he/she shall contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and the home country by participating in activities at schools and communities with the aim of contributing to the internationalization of Japan. The applicant shall make efforts to promote relations between the home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended after graduation, cooperating with its conducting of surveys and questionnaires after the return home, and cooperating with all relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions in the applicant's home country.
- (9) Any applicant who meets any or all of the following conditions is ineligible. If identified after the start of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship.
- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan;
 - ② Those who have received a Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT scholarship) in the past;
 - ③ Those who currently make a double application for other MEXT scholarship program such as Research Students, Undergraduate Students or Specialized Training College Students;
 - ④ Those who are currently enrolled at a Japanese university with "Student" residence status; those enrolled, or scheduled to be enrolled, at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student during the period when the scholarship application was filed in the home country until prior to the start of the provision of the scholarship; However, even if the applicant is currently a privately financed international student studying in Japan, this restriction does not apply to an applicant who will certainly finish the current course before the start of the designated course at the Japanese university and will return to the home country;
 - ⑤ Recipients of scholarships from institutions other than MEXT (including government institutions in their home countries) that overlapping with the Japanese Government Scholarship after arrival in Japan.;
 - ⑥ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan.

2. PLACEMENT, AND SPECIALIZED STUDY IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND JAPANESE CULTURE AT UNIVERSITIES

- (1) The study/training is implemented only in the university study courses listed in a webpage/booklet of "*Course Guide of Japanese Studies Program*."
- (2) MEXT, in consultation with the universities concerned, will decide on the university in which each recipient shall be enrolled by taking into consideration his/her Japanese language ability and specialized courses he/she wishes to take. Objections regarding university placement will not be accepted.
- (3) The study at universities will be conducted in Japanese.
- (4) The placement and specialized study of Japanese language and Japanese culture will be conducted as follows. Specialized Japanese language and Japanese culture study will be divided into the following two courses, depending on the objective of the study: (a) A course conducted mainly to improve students' Japanese language proficiency with supplementary study about Japan and Japanese culture, and (b) A course conducted mainly about Japan and Japanese culture with supplementary study to improve Japanese language proficiency. The specific course contents vary with each university, but every student will take special lectures on Japan, Japanese culture, and Japanese language and specialized practical study, as well as classes in the departments related to his/her individual major.
- (5) A recipient who has completed a specified course at the university concerned will be given a certificate. However, the purpose of this scholarship program is not to obtain a diploma. Therefore, a recipient cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate course at a university or a master's or a doctoral course at a graduate school as a Japanese-government-sponsored international student during this program or right after its completion. (This same restriction applies to privately financed international students enrolled in an undergraduate course at a university or a master's degree or doctoral course at a graduate school. If the recipient should be enrolled in such a course, the recipient will be required to pay back the entire amount of the scholarship money retroactive to the start of the scholarship payment.)

3. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

The term is the period necessary to complete the admitting university's study course, which should be approximately one year from October 2017 (the starting month of the course). Extension of the term is prohibited.

4. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance: 117,000 yen per month. (In case that the recipient researches in a designated region, 2,000 or 3,000 yen per month will be added. The monetary amount each year may be subject to change due to budgetary reasons.) The scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the university for an extended period. The scholarship will be also cancelled in principle in the following situations. If the recipient has been receiving the scholarship despite his/her falling under any of the following situations, the recipient will be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that he/she received during the period wherein he/she was involved with any of the following situations.

- ① The recipient is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② The recipient violates any article of his/her pledge to MEXT;
- ③ The recipient violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to imprisonment with or without work for life or for a period of exceeding 1 year;
- ④ The recipient is subjected to disciplinary action by the university, including expulsion (The scholarship payment may be stopped during the period up until punishment is decided by the university.);
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the training course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades, suspension or absent from the university;
- ⑥ The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than "Student" as defined in the Appended Table I-4 of the Immigration Act;
- ⑦ The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified for research expenditures).

(2) Transportation

- ① Transportation to Japan: The recipient will be provided an economy-class airplane ticket, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, from the international airport nearest to his/her home country residence*, where in principle is in the country of nationality, to the Narita International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses when they enter to Japan. Expenses such as inland transportation from his/her home address to the international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, special taxes on travel, or inland transportation within Japan including a connecting flight will NOT be covered. (*Although the address in the home country stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home country residence," if it will be changed at the time of leaving from his/her home country the changed address will be regarded as "home country residence.")
- ② Transportation from Japan: The recipient who returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy-class airplane ticket for travel from the Narita International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses to the international airport nearest to his/her home address, where in principle is in the country of nationality.

(Note 1) Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be paid for by the recipient.

(Note 2) Should the recipient not return to his/her home country soon after the end of the scholarship period to resume his/her studies, the transportation fee for the return to the home country will not be provided.

- (3) Tuition and Other Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by the Japanese government.

5. SELECTION

- (1) The Japanese diplomatic missions will carry out the primary selection of applicants by means of a review of the submitted documents, a written examination (subject : Japanese) and an interview .
- (2) Results of the primary selection will be notified on a date separately designated by each Japanese diplomatic mission.
- (3) Applicants who pass the primary selection will be recommended by the Japanese diplomatic mission to MEXT.
- (4) MEXT will conduct the secondary selection of the applicants recommended by the Japanese diplomatic mission and determine the scholarship recipients.
- (5) Results of the secondary selection will be notified on a date separately designated by each Japanese diplomatic mission.

6. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic missions by the required date. The submitted documents will not be returned. These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translations in either of these languages should be attached. No application will be considered unless the aforementioned application documents and all other necessary attachments are fully and correctly completed. Number the documents(① through ⑧) in the right upper corner.

- ①Application Form (prescribed form for 2017) 【1 original】 ※photo attached
- ②Placement Preference Application Form (prescribed form for 2017) 【1 original】 ※photo attached
※Select three preferred universities at most from among the universities listed in the “*Course Guide of Japanese Studies Program*” available at the Japanese diplomatic missions in the home country and fill out the Placement Preference Application Form with three university names at most and course code in order of preference.
※Attach one photo each to the Application Form and the Placement Preference Application Form. The photos must have been taken within the past six months and be 4.5 x 3.5 centimeters in size. They must show the applicant full-face from the chest up and with no hat. Write name and nationality on the back of the photos; paper copies not accepted. It is acceptable to insert the photo data to the application data and print out each form. (However, do not print out the photo data by yourself and attach the paper copy to the Application Form.)
- ③Certified academic transcript from the university the applicant is currently attending
※Please mark subjects related to Japanese language and Japanese culture. Those who have studied the Japanese language and culture for a total of less than one year are not eligible to apply. 【1 original】
- ④Documents verifying that the applicant has studied the Japanese language for at least one year. 【1 original】
(Only for those who cannot verify with the document ③ that they studied Japanese for a total of at least one year at a university.)
- ⑤Certificate of university enrollment 【1 original】
- ⑥Recommendation from the head of or academic advisor at the university currently attending 【1 original】
- ⑦Certificate of Health (prescribed form for FY 2017) 【1 original】
- ⑧If the applicant has qualifications concerning Japanese-language ability, documented proof of such qualifications 【1 copy】

7. NOTES

- (1) The recipient is advised to learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and to acquire some information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, and university education, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country.
- (2) As the first installment of the scholarship payment cannot be provided immediately upon the recipient’s arrival, the recipient should bring at least approximately US \$2,000 or the equivalent thereof to cover immediate needs after arrival in Japan.
- (3) Recipient must enroll in National Health Insurance (NHI) upon arrival in Japan.
- (4) Accommodations:
 - ① Residence halls for international students provided by universities.
Some universities have residence halls for international students. The recipients enrolled at such universities may reside at these residence halls under certain conditions. However, due to the limited number of rooms, some of these facilities may be unavailable.

② Private boarding houses or apartments:

Those who are unable to find accommodation in the aforementioned facilities may live in regular dormitories of the university or in private boarding houses/apartments.

- (5) It is the recipients' responsibility to verify whether the completion of the courses in Japan will be recognized as credits in his/her home country. If they need further information regarding the content of the course, please directly contact the university that offers the course.
- (6) Information regarding the recipient (name, gender, birthdate, nationality, accepting university, graduate school /undergraduate school, specialty, period of enrollment, career path after completion of course, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with relevant government organizations for the purpose of the use of the information in international student exchange programs (support during period of study, follow-up, improvement of the international student system) implemented by the Japanese Government.

Information regarding the recipient other than date of birth and contact information may be opened to the public after study in Japan in order to introduce the activities of returning recipients around the world in materials produced by the Japanese Government as publicity for promoting the acceptance of international students in Japan.

These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Excluding exceptional circumstances, only those concurring with these conditions will be accepted as MEXT Scholarship recipients and will be granted the Scholarship.
- (7) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form is for convenience only. The Japanese versions of the Application Guidelines and the Application Form take precedence, and any English expressions do not change the Japanese content; if you have any questions about the content of the written text, you should inquire at the Japanese diplomatic mission.
- (8) More detailed information on this scholarship program is available at the Japanese diplomatic missions.
- (9) In addition to the regulations stipulated in the Application Guidelines, those that are necessary to implement the MEXT Scholarship are determined by the Japanese government.