

2021 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR APPLICATION THROUGH JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES (JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT) offers a scholarship to international students (Japanese Studies Students) who can be recommended by a Japanese university under the Japanese Government Scholarship Program. The details are as follows:

1. QUALIFICATIONS

(1) Eligibility

Applicants must be those who come to Japan to study at a Japanese university to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture.

(2) 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.

(3) Age

Applicants, in principle, must be born between April 2, 1991 and April 1, 2003.

(4) Academic Background

Applicants must satisfy the following three conditions.

- a. Applicants must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities at the time of arriving and leaving Japan.
- b. Applicants must be majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture.
- c. Those who have studied the Japanese Studies at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 2021. 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 has studied Japanese Studies for a total period of one year or more at the attended universities including current university.

(5) Japanese Language Ability

Applicants must submit a certificate of N2 level or above of the JLPT.

(6) English Language Ability

Applicants must submit one of the following English aptitude proofs.

- a. Minimum 79 on TOEFL iBT
- b. Minimum 550 on TOEFL PBT/ ITP
- c. Minimum 6.0 on IELTS(Academic)
- d. Minimum 730 on TOEIC

(7) Enrolment program at Sophia University

Applicants must be enrolled in the Faculty of Liberal Arts as an exchange student at Sophia University from September to July (both Autumn semester 2021 and Spring semester 2022) and take Japanese language course or subject courses related to Japanese affairs and Japanese culture.

(8) 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.

(9) Arrival in Japan

Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by the designated period (usually mid-September) 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.)

(10) 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.

(11) Returning to home country and resuming study

Applicants must return to their home country and continue to study at their home institution immediately after the end of the scholarship period. If the applicant fails to do so, he/she may be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that he/she received during the period.

(12) Exclusion

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.

- a. Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan;
- b. Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the designated period;
- c. Those who have received a Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT scholarship) in the past;
- d. Those who currently make a double application for other MEXT scholarship program such as Research Students, Undergraduate Students or Specialized Training College Students;
- e. 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;
- f. 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;
- g. 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.

(13) Others

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.

2. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

From October 2021 to July 2022

The term of scholarship will not be extended.

3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1) Allowance

120,000 yen per month. The scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the university for an extended period.

(2) Transportation

a. 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.")

b. 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. Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be paid for by the recipient.

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.

If applicants fail to return to their home country and continue to study at their home institution immediately after the end of the scholarship period, the return ticket fee will not be provided.

(3) Tuition and Other Fees : Waived based on the Exchange Agreement between the universities.

4. FACTORS OF SCHOLARSHIP CANCELLATION

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.

- a. The recipient is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- b. The recipient violates any article of his/her pledge to MEXT;
- c. 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;
- d. 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.);
- e. 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;

- f. The recipient has entered Japan without obtaining a student visa or their residence status has changed to one other than “Student”;
- g. The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified for research expenditures).

5. PROCEDURES OF RECOMMENDATION AND SELECTION

- (1) Recommendation: The President of the host university may recommend candidates to the MEXT with the prescribed application forms.
- (2) Selection: The MEXT selects grantees and decides the tenure of scholarship from among those candidates at the Selecting Committee.
- (3) Documents to be submitted from the applicant to the host university and forwarded to the Ministry:
 - a) Application Form (form provided): 1 original
A photograph (1 photo, size: 4.5cm x 3.5cm; full-faced, without hat; nationality and full name written on the back of the photo; to be pasted on the Application Form)
 - b) Letter of Attendance or Certificate of Enrollment: 1 original
 - c) Official academic transcript of home institution: 1 original
It must certify that the applicant has studied Japanese at a university for more than one year. If the applicant has studied Japanese at other institution, a transcript of the other institution is needed.
 - d) A copy of passport or certificates to prove grantee’s citizenship: 1 original
 - e) A recommendation letter from the Dean of the department of the applicant: 1 original
It must be addressed to the president of Sophia university.
 - f) A certificate of JLPT N2 or above: 1 copy
 - g) A score report of TOEFL, IELTS, or TOEIC: 1 copy

(NB)

- 1) These documents must be type written in Japanese or English on A4 sized papers.
(If written in other languages, a translation should be attached)
- 2) The submitted application cannot be returned.
- 3) The application will not be accepted unless all the documents required are completely and correctly prepared or submitted before the application deadline.

6. APPLICATION DEADLINE

PLEASE submit the documents first by files attached to an e-mail by **March 5**.

After we check the documents, we will notify you and ask you to submit the original copies through post mail by **March 19**.

Please note that both digital file and original hard copy is required by MEXT.