

Provisional translation by The University of Tokyo

*Should any discrepancies or doubts arise between the English version and the Japanese version, the Japanese version shall prevail.

**2023 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP
FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS/UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
(UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION)
[THE INTERNATIONAL PRIORITY GRADUATE/
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM]**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships, based on university recommendation, to international students wishing to study at Japanese universities as research students or undergraduate students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2023.

1. Qualifications

(1) Eligibility:

Research Students: International students with outstanding academic records (*1) who wish to enter Japan as a new student to study at a graduate level.

Undergraduate Students: International students with outstanding academic records (*1) who wish to enter Japan as a new student to study at an undergraduate level.

(*1) Currently, working adults should have a final academic grade points (*2) of 2.30 or higher, while current students should have academic grade points (*2) of 2.30 or higher for their current course and are expected to maintain the same academic standards during the course of the scholarship program.

(*2) Grade points should be calculated according to a formula specified by the Japanese Government (MEXT).

Furthermore, students must meet one of the criteria given in “(6) Language Skills” given below.

Traditionally, this was limited to students who were coming to Japan from abroad, but solely for the program adopted in 2021 and 2022, in view of obtaining outstanding students, recommendations will be permitted for those who are already studying in Japan (hereinafter, “Domestic applicants”). However, the number of Domestic applicants should be no more than 25% of the total number of applicants.

(2) Nationality:

Applicants must have the nationality of a country with diplomatic relations with the Japanese Government (MEXT). Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are ineligible. However, Japanese nationals that reside outside of Japan at the time of application, holding dual nationality with another country, and plan to renounce their Japanese nationality before arrival (equivalent to the time when they enroll as a student at a Japanese university), may apply.

(3) Age:

Research Students: Applicants who were born on or after April 2, 1988.

Undergraduate Students: Applicants who were born on or after April 2, 1998.

However, exceptions may be given at the discretion of the Japanese Government (MEXT) based on their decision that the applicant could not apply at the time of the specified age due to the system or circumstances (compulsory military service, disruption/destruction of educational institutions due to armed conflicts, etc.) of their home country. Reasons of personal circumstances (financial, family, health reasons as well as circumstances relating to their university or employment, etc.) will not be considered. This does not apply to those who have completed the Young Leaders Program and are enrolling in a doctorate program.

(4) Academic Background:

Research Students: Applicants must have the necessary qualifications to be admitted to a graduate school of a Japanese university as a Master's or a doctorate candidate (including those who are deemed to be certain to satisfy this requirement by the time they enroll in university).

Undergraduate Students: Applicants who have completed 12 years of schooling overseas or completed a school that is equivalent to a high school (including applicants who are deemed to be certain to meet these conditions by the time they enroll in university, or those who have qualifications other than the aforementioned that qualifies them for entrance to a Japanese university).

(5) Field of Study:

Research Students: Applicants should apply for the field of study that they studied at their previous university or a related field. Applicants should select a field that they are able to research at the accepting university in Japan.

Undergraduate Students: Applicants should apply for a field of study that can be taken at the accepting university.

(6) Language Skills:

Applicants must have the necessary proficiency in Japanese or English to be able to study or take part in research at a university in Japan.

Research Students:

○Japanese

- ① Applicants must have passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test with a score of N2 or higher at the time of enrollment as a full-time student.
- ② Applicants must have completed an educational program which has Japanese as the primary language of instruction that satisfies the entrance requirements to the Master's program or doctorate program at a Japanese graduate school.
- ③ Applicants who are deemed by the accepting university to have Japanese proficiency equivalent to that given in ① above.

○English

- ① Applicants must have provable English proficiency test scores equivalent to B2 or above on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of enrollment as a full-time student.

- ② Applicants must have completed an educational program which has English as the primary language of instruction that satisfies the entrance requirements to the Master's program or doctorate program at a Japanese graduate school.
- ③ Applicants who are deemed by the accepting university to have English proficiency equivalent to that given in ① above.

Undergraduate Students:

○Japanese

- ① Applicants must have passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test with a score of N2 or higher at the time of enrollment as a full-time student.
- ② Applicants must have completed an educational program which has Japanese as the primary language of instruction that satisfies the entrance requirements to an undergraduate program at a Japanese university.
- ③ Applicants who are deemed by the accepting university to have Japanese proficiency equivalent to that given in ① above.

○English

- ① Applicants must have provable English proficiency test scores equivalent to B2 or above on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of enrollment as a full-time student.
- ② Applicants must have completed an educational program which has English as the primary language of instruction that satisfies the entrance requirements to an undergraduate program at a Japanese university.
- ③ Applicants who are deemed by the accepting university to have English proficiency equivalent to that given in ① above.

(7) Health:

Those who have been determined by the University that studying in Japan will have no impact to their mental or physical health.

(8) Arrival in Japan:

In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan between 1 and 7 April, 2023 for the April term. Departure from the home residence should be on or after April 2023.

For the October term, applicants must be able to arrive on the dates specified by the accepting university within two weeks before and after the starting date of the university's relevant academic term (generally in September or October) of that year.

*Note from The University of Tokyo (hereinafter, UTokyo): The Fall Semester for UTokyo begins in October.

If applicants cannot arrive in Japan by the date specified, they must withdraw their application unless under unavoidable circumstances as deemed by the Japanese Government (MEXT). Furthermore, if applicants travel outside of the period specified above due to personal reasons, the cost of travel will not be paid.

(9) Visa Requirement:

In principle, applicants should enter the country with a resident status of “Student” having obtained the visa prior to traveling to Japan. The visa is to be issued by the Japanese embassy or consulate in the applicant’s home country. The applicant should be aware that the scholarship will be cancelled if they arrive in Japan without a newly obtained “Student” visa.

It should be noted that any applicants who change their status from “Student” to any other residence status after their arrival in Japan will forfeit their right to be a recipient of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship from the moment they apply to change their status.

*Domestic applicants under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program (International Priority Program) adopted in 2021 and 2022 whose current resident status is not "Student" (such as permanent resident, long-term resident, etc.) will be required to change their resident status to "Student" before enrolling at the university.

Those who already have other residency status (permanent resident, long-term resident, etc.) will be required to return to their country of nationality, change their status to that of “Student” and then travel to Japan. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that applications to change their status to that of “Permanent resident” or “long-term resident” etc. will be approved once they have completed their time as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship recipient.

(10) Non-eligibility:

Applicants in the following categories are ineligible for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, they must withdraw from the scholarship.

- ① An active member of the military or a civilian employed by the military.
- ② An applicant who is unable to travel to Japan within the period designated by the Japanese Government (MEXT) or the accepting university.
- ③ A former recipient of a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past is ineligible. This does not apply to: (i) those who have had at least three years of research or teaching experience at the time of receiving the new scholarship after the completion of their previous scholarship, (ii) those who received training as a Japanese-studies student and later returned to a university from which they graduated (including those who are expected to graduate) in their home or another country, (iii) those who were an international student in Japan under the Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and later returned to South Korea, or (iv) those who were an international student under the Young Leaders’ Program. However, applicants who have been recipients of the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-financed International Students are eligible to apply as it is not classed as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship.
- ④ An applicant who is currently applying for a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for other AY2023 programs at the same time.
- ⑤ An applicant who is residing in Japan (including those (i) who are already enrolled in a Japanese university, institution, etc. under the “Student” visa, (ii) who are or plan to be enrolled in a Japanese university, institution, etc. as a self-supported international student between the times of application to

the start of receiving this scholarship).

* This does not apply to self-supported international students who are currently enrolled or are expected to enroll at a Japanese university under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program (International Priority Program) adopted in 2020 if they can confirm at the time of application that they will return to their country of nationality, newly obtain a “Student” visa before the start of the scholarship period and travel to Japan.

* This does not apply to Domestic applicants under the program adopted in 2021 and 2022. Domestic applicants are able to change and extend their resident status to “Student” and apply for an extension at an office of the Immigration Services Bureau in Japan.

- ⑥ An applicant who is expecting to receive a scholarship from any source other than the Japanese Government (MEXT) including those from their own government body after the start of the period of scholarship (equivalent to the time of enrolling as a university student).
- ⑦ An applicant who is “expected to graduate” at the time of application and cannot provide proof of completing a degree by the designated deadline.
- ⑧ A Japanese national who has dual nationality with another country at the time of application and is not able to provide proof of relinquishing Japanese nationality by the day of enrollment.
- ⑨ An applicant who is planning to do fieldwork or internship etc. for more than 90 days in a country other than Japan or those who are expecting to take a long-term leave of absence from the time of application.
- ⑩ Those who do not plan on pursuing further academic degrees.

(11) Miscellaneous

While they are studying in Japan, applicants are expected, as someone who will contribute to the globalization of Japan, to broadly participate in regional schools and activities to contribute towards the mutual understanding between their home country and Japan. Furthermore, they are expected to maintain a close link with the universities they studied at even after they have graduated and cooperate in various manners, such as answering questionnaires etc. Also, on returning to their home country, take part in the various activities organized by the Japanese Government (MEXT)’s missions overseas to enhance the relationship between Japan and their home country.

2. Period of Scholarships

The period of scholarship shall be within the standard program duration of the program they will be registered in once they arrive in Japan. However, if the semester begins in the middle of the month, the scholarship will not be paid for that month.

e.g. If the semester begins on 2nd September, 2023, the scholarship period will begin in October 2023.

(*1) Translation omitted as UTokyo has no 5 year-doctorate program.

(*2) Applications to extend the period of scholarship may be possible should a recipient wish to proceed to the doctorate program using the framework of priority placement associated with the selected Master’s and doctorate program.

(*3) It is not possible to extend the period of scholarship should a recipient wish to proceed to a higher degree course from their selected “bachelor” only, “Master’s” only, or professional degree only program.

(*4) Should a recipient selected for the International Priority Graduate/Undergraduate Program wish to apply

for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for Research Students (University Recommendation) [General Application] at the end of the scholarship period instead of an extension, they must consider point ③ of paragraph (10) in “1. Qualifications above”.

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Scholarships

- ① JPY 117,000/month (for undergraduate student)
- ② JPY 144,000/month (for a student in a Master’s or a professional degree program)
- ③ JPY 145,000/month (for a student in a doctorate program)

*An additional monthly stipend of JPY 2,000 or JPY 3,000 may be added to those students undertaking study or research in some designated regions of the country.

*The scholarship will not be paid to a recipient who is on a leave of absence or is absent for a long period from their university.

* Due to the situation of the Japanese Government (MEXT)’s budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year.

(2) Traveling Costs.

Not all scholarship recipients will be offered travel allowances by the Japanese Government (MEXT). Recipients who are awarded travel allowances are required to follow the rules in below.

- ① Transportation to Japan: Recipients awarded travel allowance will be provided, according to the itinerary and route designated to them by the Japanese Government (MEXT), with an economy class air ticket from the international airport closest to their place of residence to one of the international airports of Tokyo (Narita (NRT) or Haneda (HND)) (or an international airport the recipient’s host university normally uses). Please note that the cost of transportation from the recipient’s residence to the nearest international airport; airport tax and surcharges; other special local taxes incurred by travelling; local travel expenses within Japan (including any costs if transferring by air); travel insurance premiums; baggage and unaccompanied baggage; are the sole responsibility of the recipient. However, the Japanese Government (MEXT) will not provide air tickets to Japan for Domestic applicants as they already reside in Japan.

The Japanese Government (MEXT) or the university will provide an economy class air ticket to Narita International Airport (NRT) or the closest international airport to the university from a third country through which the applicant obtained their “Student” visa if Japan does not have an overseas diplomatic establishment in their country of nationality. However, any costs incurred in travelling to the third country, travels within the third country and cost of accommodations incurred is the sole responsibility of the recipient.

The recipient’s residence is taken to be the current address given in the application. However, if a change of address is known beforehand (limited to within the recipient’s home country), residence will be taken as the latter. Moreover, an air tickets will not be provided for travel from a third country for any reasons other than for obtaining visas.

- ② Transportation from Japan: In principle, the Japanese Government (MEXT) will issue airline tickets to recipients who return to their home country within the final month of the scholarship period as specified

in “2. Period of Scholarship” above upon application following their graduation from the university or completion of their research. Recipients will be provided with an economy class air ticket for a flight from Narita International Airport (or an international airport the recipient’s university normally uses) to the international airport closest to their place of return (in principle, within their home country). Please be aware that costs incurred for transportation from the recipient’s residence to the nearest international airport in Japan; airport tax and surcharges; other special local taxes incurred when travelling; local travel expenses within Japan (including any costs if transferring by air); insurance premiums for travel to Japan; sending baggage as well as unaccompanied baggage; are the sole responsibility of the recipient. Recipients who return to their home country before the end of the scholarship period for personal reasons or because of items as stipulated in 4. Suspension of Scholarship Payment below will not be provided with return airfare.

Note:

Traveling expenses will not be included in the travel allowance if a recipient decides to remain in Japan (for example: continuing the education at a higher level or entering employment in Japan) after the period of scholarship ends but temporarily leaves Japan for a short visit home.

(3) School Fees

The accepting university will pay for fees for matriculation, tuition and entrance examinations for recipients.

4. Suspension of Scholarship Payment

The scholarship will be cancelled in the following cases. If a recipient receives the scholarship even though they are judged ineligible due to one of the following cases, the recipient may be ordered to return all or a part of scholarship money received. Please note that payment of the scholarship may be stopped during the time decision is being made on the disciplinary action.

- ① If any portion of the recipient’s application documents is found to be false or wrongly stated.
- ② If a recipient is in breach of their pledge made to the Minister of the Japanese Government (MEXT).
- ③ Given life or more than one year of imprisonment with or without hard labor having been convicted of breaking the law in Japan.
- ④ Expelled, suspended, or given warnings or receive equivalent form of punishment from the university following disciplinary action according to the rules and regulations of the university or removed from the registry.
- ⑤ If a student deemed not to be able to complete the program within the standard duration due to unacceptable academic performance, student’s suspension, or student’s leave of absence.
- ⑥ If a recipient does not obtain a new “Student” status before travelling or the recipient’s resident status of “Student”, changes to any other status. For Domestic applicants: if they enroll at a university without "Student" status or change their status of residence from “Student” to another after enrolling.
- ⑦ If a recipient receives another scholarship (except for a scholarship designated for research expenses).
- ⑧ If a recipient proceeds to a higher academic program without obtaining permission to extend the scholarship period from the Japanese Government (MEXT).
- ⑨ If a recipient leaves the host university or is transferred to another graduate school.

- ⑩ If a student's grade point average for a year falls below 2.30 or a level that the university specifies.

5. Recommendation Procedure and Screening

- (1) Recommendation: Upon internal screening, university presidents should recommend outstanding applicants in need of scholarships, to the Minister of the Japanese Government (MEXT).
- (2) Screening: The Selection Committee will screen applicants recommended by the presidents. Based on the results, the Japanese Government (MEXT) will decide on recipients and their period of scholarships. After the recipients have been selected, the presidents will tell them to contact Japanese embassy or consulate general in their home country.
- (3) Application Documents:

	(Original)
1) Application form	1
2) Field of Study and Study Program	1
3) Passport-type photo taken within the last 6 months (4.5 x 3.5 cm, upper-body, full-faced, without a cap) Write name and nationality on the back and glue it to the application form. A photo in electronic data format acceptable.	1
4) A copy of a document that proves applicant's nationality (passport, citizenship card, etc.)	1
5) A copy of an official transcript from the last university attended (undergraduate or graduate). Please refer to Note 1.	1
6) A copy of a graduation certificate or diploma of the last university attended (undergraduate or graduate)	1
7) Record showing the applicant's academic excellence at the last university attended. (For example, GPA, class placement, individual ranking or any other indicators showing the applicant's academic performance at the university) Please refer to Note 2.	1
8) Letter of recommendation from dean or above (addressed to the president of the university in Japan)	1
9) Abstract of thesis (should be concise and to the point)	1
10) Proof of language ability or other special skills (for example, score of TOEFL, IELTS, JLPT). Please refer to Note 3.	1

[Notes from The University of Tokyo]

Note 1:

- Transcript showing academic performance, including the university program enrolled in at the time of application. (Not including non-regular (non-degree) programs.)
- If academic performance includes the program enrolled in at the time of application and a preceding program, please submit the entire transcript of the preceding program from enrollment to completion.
- If an applicant has a history of transfer during their enrolled programs that are subject to calculation for grade points, please submit the transcript of the first enrolled program.
- Please submit a copy of an official document that specifies and explains the grading system as original.

Note 2:

- If the transcript described in 5) proves the applicant's academic excellence through specific indicators, it will be considered acceptable.

Note 3:

- If the applicant has no TOEFL or Japanese language proficiency test scores, they must have their

(foreign) language skills judged objectively and have a proof issued by their university and submit it along with other necessary documents.

[Notes for the Application Documents]

- 1) These documents must be written in either Japanese or English. They should be created in A4 format using software such as MS Word. A document written in any other language must be attached with a Japanese translation.
- 2) Submitted documents will not be returned.
- 3) An application will not be considered unless all application forms and necessary documents are completed correctly, and all accompanying documents are complete.
- 4) In some countries, a graduation certificate and other documents are issued by a government administrative office. In this case, the accepting university may need to confirm with a student's previous university that the certificate issued contains no erroneous information.

6. Notification

- (1) Notification of the screening results will be sent in writing to university presidents in June of 2023.
The Japanese Government (MEXT) does not send a notice to individual applicants.
- (2) Please be aware that if a student's academic grade point average for a year falls below 2.30 or a level that the university specifies, the applicants will lose the right to be a recipient of a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship.
- (3) The accepting university shall ensure that the recipients enroll in the National Health Insurance after their arrival to Japan.
- (4) When applicants are selected, their private information (name, nationality, affiliated university, graduate school/faculty, their major, period of stay, and career path after completing the program, etc.) may be used by the Japanese Government (MEXT) or shared with related agencies for the purpose of promoting studying in Japan, as well as provided to third parties within acceptable limits of purpose of use.
Be aware that unless the selected applicants agree to this use of their private information, they will not be accepted.

7. Unavoidable Circumstances

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, the Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines here within, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including embassies and consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other foreign countries' government due to occurrence of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (with or without a declaration of war), revolts, revolutions or rebellions, strikes, or lockouts.