

2016 MEXT Specialized Training College Student Scholarship

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago)

1.) What is the MEXT Specialized Training College Student Scholarship?

The Ministry of Education, Culture Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT; Monbukagakusho) Specialized Training College Scholarship is a Japanese government scholarship that allows non-Japanese citizens to spend up to 3 years at a Japanese specialized training (i.e.: technical or vocational) college. Students can pursue vocational training in a variety of different fields: Technology, Personal Care & Nutrition, Education & Welfare, Business, Fashion & Home Economics, Culture & General Education, or other fields.

2.) What are the benefits?

MEXT will provide roundtrip airfare to Japan, full tuition and any technical college entrance fees, along with a monthly stipend of ¥117,000. An additional ¥2,000 - ¥3,000 monthly stipend may be provided to those students studying in designated regions. (As of 2015 Japanese fiscal year; the amount of stipend is subject to change). Please see Guideline #4 for more information.

3.) Who is eligible to apply?

To apply through the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago, applicants must (a) Be a United States citizen (b) Been born between April 2, 1994 – April 1, 1999 (c) Have completed 12-year regular education course by March 2016 (d) Be a resident of a state in the Chicago Consulate's 10-state Midwest jurisdiction [Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin]. Please see Guideline #2 for more information.

4.) I am not U.S. citizen/ resident of a state in the Chicago Consulate's 10-state jurisdiction? Can I still apply?

You can still apply for the MEXT Scholarship, but you will need to do so through the Japanese diplomatic mission responsible for your country/area. To find your nearest Embassy/Consulate-General/Consular Office, please see this link: http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/mofaserv.html

5.) What is the application timeline?

Applications will be posted on our MEXT Scholarship website in April; applications are due May 28th, 2015. Those selected to have an interview and exams will sit for them at the Japanese Consulate in Chicago in early July; Consulate recommendations will be announced within a week of the interviews. Secondary screening will then be conducted by MEXT in November. Final decisions will come in between December 2015 to February 2016. Scholarship recipients must then depart for Japan between April 1 – 7, 2016 (specific departure dates are determined by the technical college you will attend). Upon arrival in Japan, Scholarship recipients will undergo a 1-year preparatory education course (including Japanese language) before beginning their studies at a Japanese technical college.

6.) How do I fill out the Academic Background (Section #8) section?

List your entire academic career from kindergarten and/or first grade through your current or most recent academic year. Please include extended breaks (such as summer breaks) in the academic year. See the example chart at the end of this document.

7.) Can I choose what technical college I can attend?

At the time of application, you must choose one preferred field of study and one or two subjects from the Annex document "Majors and related subjects for field of study." The application questions 11, 12, and 14 are especially important for the placement and need to be explained in detail.

Applicants will be placed at a technical college by MEXT upon completion of the prescribed one-year preparatory education. Please see Guideline #6 and Application Form for more information.

8.) I live abroad. Can I apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

You can apply for the MEXT Scholarship from abroad. However, if selected for an interview, you MUST return to the United States for the interview and exams at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago on the designated day. Interviews must be done in person. We cannot do telephone/online interviews. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

9.) What exams must be taken for the Specialized Training Scholarship?

Applicants must take (1) Japanese Language exam (2) English Language exam (3) Mathematics exam.

10.) Do I need to know Japanese to get the scholarship?

Applicants do not need to know the Japanese language at the time of applying, but must be willing to study and learn the language before and after arriving in Japan.

11.) Can I have my application materials returned to me?

Unfortunately, no. Once application materials have been submitted to us at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago, they cannot be returned under any circumstances. We encourage you to make copies of all your application materials.

12.) How many copies of the application materials do I need to submit?

Please see Guideline #8 for more information about the required materials and how many originals vs. copies we require of each document. Please note that we need 2 original Application Forms with 2 original photographs of you attached, and with 2 original signatures. You may fill in one Application Form and make 1 photocopy of it, but the photocopy MUST have an original photograph attached and must have an original signature on it.

13.) Do my Letter of Recommendation writers need to use the Letter of Recommendation form provided?

No. The form is merely a sample. Letter writers can simply submit a signed letter (on letterhead) instead of the form.

For more information, please see the Guidelines posted on our website. If you have further questions, please contact MEXT Scholarship Coordinator Mr. Austin Gilkeson at austin.gilkeson@cq.mofa.go.jp or 312-280-0434.

Sample Chart for Academic Background:

For the “Duration of Attendances” column, please include extended leave such as summer vacation (i.e.: duration of attendances for High School should be “4 years,” not “3 Years and 9 Months.” Only list months of attendance if you transferred schools).

	Name and Address of School (学校名及び所在地)	Year and Month of Entrance and Completion (入学及び卒業年月)	Duration of Attendances (修学年数)	Diploma or Degree awarded, Major subject, Skipper years/levels (学位・資格、専攻科目、 飛び級の状況)
Primary Education (初等教育) Elementary School (小学校)	Githens Elementary School Name (学校名) New York City, NY Location (所在地)	From 9/1996 (入学) To 8/2001 (卒業)	5 years (年) and months (月)	Grades 1-5
Secondary Education (中等教育) Middle School (中学)	Southwest Middle School Name (学校名) New York, NY Location (所在地) Apex Middle School Name (学校名) Chicago, IL Location (所在地)	From 9/2001 (入学) To 12/2002 (卒業) From 1/2003 (入学) To 8/2004 (卒業)	1 year (年) and 4 months (月) 1 year (年) and 8 months (月)	Grades 6-8
High School (高校)	Pearsontown High School Name (学校名) Chicago, IL Location (所在地)	From 9/2004 (入学) To 6/2008 (卒業)	4 years (年) and months (月)	Grades 9-12; High School Diploma
Total years of schooling mentioned above (以上を通算した全学校教育修学年数) As of April 1, 2016 (2016年4月1日現在)			<u>12</u> Years and ___ months (年) (月)	