

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES  
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO:MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2017  
(UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS)**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study at Japanese universities as undergraduate students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2017 as follows.

**1. Definition of “undergraduate student”**

Those who are enrolled in a course at an undergraduate department or faculty of a university, or who are receiving preparatory education in the Japanese language and other subjects prior to placement at university.

**2. FIELDS OF STUDY**

Those who wish to study in Japan as an undergraduate student must choose a field of study (major) from (1) or (2) below. Applicants may enter a first, second, and third choice.

(1) Social Sciences and Humanities

Social Sciences and Humanities–A: Law, Politics, Pedagogy, Sociology, Literature, History, Japanese language, others.

Social Sciences and Humanities–B: Economics, Business Administration.

Note 1: Applicants who wish to major in fields other than those listed above (“others”) may have difficulties in finding universities that can accept them.

Note 2: Any fields related to “Economics” and “Business Administration” in Humanities B are not included in “others.”

(2) Natural Sciences

Natural Sciences–A: Science (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry), Electric and Electronic Studies (Electronics, Electrical Engineering, Information Engineering), Mechanical Studies (Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture), Civil Engineering and Architecture (Civil Engineering, Architecture, Environmental Engineering), Chemical Studies (Applied Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Industrial Chemistry, Textile Engineering), other fields (Metallurgical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Maritime Engineering, Biotechnology).

Natural Sciences–B: Agricultural studies (Agriculture, Agricultural Chemistry, Agricultural Engineering, Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, Forestry, Food Science, Fisheries), Hygienic studies (Pharmacy, Hygienics, Nursing), and Science (Biology).

Natural Sciences–C: Medicine, and Dentistry.

Note: A student who intends to major in Natural Sciences and would like to choose more than one major is required to choose and select first-, second-, and third-choice subjects from the subjects in parentheses from within the same course (i.e. Natural Sciences A, B or C). However, a student who selects Course C as his/her first choice may choose his/her second-choice subjects from Course B or C and third-choice subject from Course B as Course C offers only two subjects.

**3. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is now accepting applications from overseas 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 choose the nationality of the foreign country and give up their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan. Applicant screening will be conducted at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of applicant’s nationality.

(2) Age: Applicants generally must have been born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2000.

- (3) Academic Background: Applicants must either have completed 12 years of regular school education or have graduated from a school equivalent to an upper secondary school in Japan. (Applicants who will meet the above qualifications by March 2017 are eligible. Includes those wishing to enroll for direct placement in the fall term who are expected to graduate by the end of August 2017.) Applicants who satisfy the entrance requirements for a Japanese university are also eligible.
- (4) Japanese Language: Applicants must be willing to learn Japanese. Applicants must be interested in Japan and be willing to deepen their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. In addition, in principle, applicants must be willing to carry out their academic studies in Japan in Japanese.
- (5) Health: Applicants must be free from any mental or physical disabilities that would impede the pursuit of study at Japanese universities.
- (6) Arrival in Japan: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan between the 1st and 7th of April 2017. If an applicant is to enroll in his/her university from the fall semester through direct placement, he or she must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan by the date specified by the accepting university.
- (7) Visa Requirement: Applicants must acquire College Student (ryugaku) visas before entering Japan. They then enter Japan with the College Student (ryugaku) residence status. Please also note that those who change their visa status to one other than College Student after arrival in Japan will lose their qualification to be Japanese Government Scholarship recipients from the date when their visa status changes.
- (8) 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 the 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 cannot arrive in Japan during the period designated by MEXT or the accepting university;
  - ③ An applicant who is a previous recipient of a Japanese government scholarship;
  - ④ Those who are currently enrolled at a Japanese university with a College Student (ryugaku) 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. This does not apply to current self-financed international students at Japanese universities who will complete their courses of study and return to their countries before the end of the current fiscal year;
  - ⑤ Recipients of scholarships from institutions other than MEXT (including government institutions in their home countries) that overlap with the Japanese Government Scholarship (Prospective beneficiaries are included);
  - ⑥ Applicants 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; or
  - ⑦ 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.

#### **4. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP**

- (1) The scholarship period will last for five years from April 2017 to March 2022, including the one-year preparatory education in the Japanese language and other subjects due to be provided upon arrival in Japan. For scholarship grantees majoring in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or a six-year course in pharmacy, the scholarship period will be seven years until March 2024.
- (2) The preparatory education requirement may be waived for grantees who have sufficient knowledge of the Japanese language to pursue their studies or who wish to enter a university which demands no Japanese language ability (via direct placement). In such cases, the scholarship period will last for four years (or for six years for those majoring in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or in a six-year course in pharmacy). If a grantee graduates earlier or withdraws from his/her undergraduate course for early entrance to graduate school, the scholarship will be provided until his/her graduation or withdrawal.
- (3) The scholarship period in case of direct placement will start from the time of enrollment in the university, taking into account the circumstances of the accepting university.

- (4) In regard to six-year majors in Pharmacy, the grantees must undergo the common examinations (CBT= Computer-based Testing, OSCE= Objective Structured Clinical Examination) implemented prior to practical training. In cases when it is impossible for the grantees to fulfill the fixed standards necessary for practical training, the scholarship may be cancelled.
- (5) If a grantee graduates from an undergraduate course and is admitted to a master's course at a graduate school during the period of his/her scholarship, he/she may have the scholarship period extended upon a successful examination by MEXT, provided that he/she has outstanding academic achievement that meets certain criteria. The scholarship will be discontinued if approval is not granted.

## 5. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance: 117,000 yen per month. (In case that the recipient research 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 or preparatory Japanese-teaching institution 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 the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
  - 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. However, this shall not apply to those who were found guilty with suspension of execution of sentences;
  - ④ The recipient is subject to disciplinary action by the university, including expulsion;
  - 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 or suspension from the university;
  - ⑥ The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than College 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).
  - ⑧ The recipient has proceeded to a higher level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.
- (2) Traveling Costs
  - ① Transportation to Japan: The recipient will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy-class airplane ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home country residence \* to the New Tokyo International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses. 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 will NOT be covered. (\*The address in the country of the recipient's nationality stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home country residence.")
  - ② Transportation from Japan: In principle, 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 New Tokyo International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.

Note 1: If a grantee returns home without the granting of an extension even though he/she may have applied for an extension of the scholarship period, he/she will not, in principle, be reimbursed for the travel expenses to return to the home country.

Note 2: Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be paid for by the recipient.

Note 3: If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return to the home country for a temporary return.
- (3) Tuition and Other Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by the Japanese government.

## 6. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

- (1) In cooperation with the government of the applicants' countries the Japanese diplomatic missions in those countries will conduct primary screening of applicants by means of submitted application documents, interviews and academic examinations.

[Subjects for examination]

For applicants for a major in Social Sciences and Humanities:

All applicants must sit for examinations in mathematics, English, and Japanese (3 subjects in all).

For applicants for a major in Natural Sciences:

All applicants must sit for examinations in mathematics, English, two subjects selected from among physics, chemistry and biology, and Japanese (5 subjects in all). In the selection of the two subjects from among physics, chemistry and biology, the applicants must choose

physics and chemistry when applying for Natural Sciences A; and

chemistry and biology when applying for Natural Sciences B or C.

- (2) Results of the primary screening will be notified to each applicant on the date designated by the Japanese diplomatic mission.
- (3) Applicants who have been selected through this primary screening will be recommended to MEXT. MEXT will then conduct the final selection of the recommended applicants and decide the scholarship grantees. MEXT may select candidates from each field of study.

## **7. PREPARATORY EDUCATION PRIOR TO PLACEMENT AT UNIVERSITY**

- (1) Preparatory Education prior to Placement at University:

Each grantee will be enrolled at a preparatory school (either at the Tokyo University of Foreign Students or Osaka University) designated by MEXT for a one-year intensive course in the Japanese language and other subjects necessary for preparation for proceeding to university. The preparatory course lasts for one year. Its curriculum mainly consists of education in the Japanese language, and includes other subjects such as Japanese affairs, mathematics, English, and social studies for those majoring in Social Science and Humanities, and physics, chemistry and biology for those majoring in Natural Sciences.

- (2) Change of Major Field of Study: A grantee will not be permitted to change his/her major field of study between Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences, nor between Social Sciences and Humanities A and B, or between Natural Sciences A, B, and C.
- (3) Subjects to be Studied: A grantee must study compulsory subjects as determined by the preparatory school even if he/she has already studied them at a university outside Japan.
- (4) Direct placement: The preparatory education requirement may be waived for a grantee who has sufficient knowledge of the Japanese language to pursue his/her study at university or who wishes to enter a university without the Japanese language requirement (via direct placement).
- (5) Point for consideration: A grantee will not be allowed to proceed to the accepting university if he/she is determined to be incapable of completing the prescribed course at the preparatory school. (The grantee will be required to return to his/her home country upon such determination.)

## **8. UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

- (1) Entrance into University: A grantee who has completed the preparatory education will go on to a university designated by MEXT upon passing its entrance examination. The university whose examination a grantee will take will be decided by MEXT in consultation with the university and the preparatory school and in comprehensive consideration of the results of the academic examinations in the primary screening held in his/her home country, academic achievement at the preparatory school, the grantee's proposed major subject, and the receiving capacity of the university. No objection by the grantee against the decision will be allowed.
- (2) Academic Year: The academic year begins on April 1 each year and ends on March 31 the following year.
- (3) Language Used at University: All classes will be given in the Japanese language (except where a grantee is placed at a university which requires no Japanese language ability).
- (4) Degree of "Gakushi" (Bachelor's Degree): If a grantee attends the designated university for the prescribed number of years and earns the required number of credits as determined by the university, he/she will be awarded the degree of "Gakushi."
- (5) Change of Major Field of Study and Subjects to be Studied: 6 (2) and 6 (3) above will apply.

- (6) Direct placement: MEXT will decide the accepting university upon discussion with prospective universities. An applicant desirous of direct placement must enter a university without preparatory education, and if the desired university does not accept the applicant, his/her application will be rejected by MEXT. If you want to apply for direct placement, be careful in selecting the university, faculty and school and their capacity to accept direct placement. For further information on universities capable of accepting students via direct placement, please inquire at the Japanese diplomatic mission in your country.

## 9. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic missions by the required date. The submitted documents will not be returned.

- ① Application Form (a prescribed form) 【original 1, copy 1】※photo Fiscal 2017 form
- ② Placement Preference Form (prescribed form for applicants for direct placement only) 【original 1】※ photo Fiscal 2017 form
- ③ Academic transcript for the past 3 years【original 1, copy 1】
- ④ Graduation certificate of the last school attended (or certificate of expected graduation for an applicant due to graduate) transcript issued either by alma mater or by applicants' national government 【original 1, copy 1】
- ⑤ Recommendation from the principal or the adviser of the last school attended【original 1, copy 1】
- ⑥ Medical certificate 【original 1, copy 1】Fiscal 2017 form
- ⑦ Certificate of enrollment (for an applicant currently enrolled in a university) 【original 1, copy 1】
- ⑧ Certificate of passage of university entrance qualification examination (if applicable) 【original 1, copy 1】

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

Note 2: Photographs (4.5×3.5 cm, taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced, uncapped. Write your name and nationality on the reverse and paste them onto the Application Form and Placement Preference Form) attached to the original application must be originals; copies are not acceptable. It is acceptable to paste the data of photo on each application form and print it. (To print your photos and paste it on the application form is not allowed.) Use fiscal 2017 form.

Note 3: The graduation certificate and the degree certificate obtained from the last university attended may be photocopies provided that the copies are attested by an authorized person of the university.

Note 4: An application will not be examined unless all the documents mentioned above are fully and correctly completed. For applicants with ⑧ Certificate of passage of university entrance qualification examination, this document may be submitted in place of documents ③, ④ and ⑤.

Note 5: Number the documents(① through ⑧) in the right upper corner.

## 10. 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, university education, and conditions in Japan, 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 approximately US \$2,000 to cover immediate needs after arrival in Japan.
- (3) Recipient must enroll in *Kokumin Kenko Hoken* National Health Insurance upon arrival in Japan.
- (4) Accommodations:
  - ① During the period of preparatory education, grantees can reside in the residential accommodations of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies or Osaka University, depending on where they are enrolled.
  - ② 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.
  - ③ 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. It is difficult for recipients with dependents to find appropriate housing in Japan. The recipient is requested to arrive in Japan alone first to secure housing before having his/her spouse and/or family come to Japan.
- (5) The English texts attached to the Application Guideline and the Application Form are for convenience only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content, so if you have any questions about the content of the written text, you should inquire at the Japanese diplomatic mission.
- (6) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this guideline, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship are determined by the Japanese government.
- (7) More detailed information on this scholarship program is available at the Japanese diplomatic missions.