

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES  
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2018  
(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 2018 as follows.

**1. DEFINITION OF “UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS”**

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: 1. Law, 2. Politics, 3. Pedagogy, 4. Sociology, 5. Literature, 6. History, 7. Japanese language, 8. others.

Social Sciences and Humanities-B: 1. Economics, 2. 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 (1. Mathematics, 2. Physics, 3. Chemistry), Electric and Electronic Studies (4. Electronics, 5. Electrical Engineering, 6. Information Engineering), Mechanical Studies (7. Mechanical Engineering, 8. Naval Architecture), Civil Engineering and Architecture (9. Civil Engineering, 10. Architecture, 11. Environmental Engineering), Chemical Studies (12. Applied Chemistry, 13. Chemical Engineering, 14. Industrial Chemistry, 15. Textile Engineering), other fields (16. Metallurgical Engineering, 17. Mining Engineering, 18. Maritime Engineering, 19. Biotechnology).

Natural Sciences-B; Agricultural studies (1. Agriculture, 2. Agricultural Chemistry, 3. Agricultural Engineering, 4. Animal Science, 5. Veterinary Medicine, 6. Forestry, 7. Food Science, 8. Fisheries), Hygienic studies (9. Pharmacy, 10. Hygienics, 11. Nursing), and Science (12. Biology).

Natural Sciences-C; 1. Medicine, and 2. 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. PREPARATORY EDUCATION PRIOR TO PLACEMENT AT UNIVERSITY**

(1) Preparatory Education: Each grantee will be enrolled at a preparatory school (either at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies 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 Field of Study: A grantee will not be permitted to change his/her 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) 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.)

#### **4. DIRECT PLACEMENT**

- (1) Applicants who have sufficient Japanese language proficiency may choose to enroll directly in their university without taking the preparatory education course. For cases where the undergraduate school of a university does not require Japanese language proficiency at the time of enrollment and allows applicants to enroll without going through the preparatory education, applicants may enroll in the said undergraduate school through direct placement. In such cases, enrollment may be from the autumn term (grantees arrive in Japan in September or October 2018, and start from the autumn term), depending on the university.
- (2) A list of undergraduate schools permitting direct placement is provided by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General (hereinafter referred to as the “Japanese diplomatic mission”).
- (3) The decision on universities for placement of applicants who desire direct placement shall be made by MEXT in consultation with the relevant university; however, in case acceptance for direct placement is impossible for all universities, the applicant will not be accepted. During the application process, after inquiring at the Japanese diplomatic mission, be careful when applying to ascertain the undergraduate schools accepting direct placement, the number of students accepted, any conditions for acceptance, the period when oversees students may enroll and start their studies, etc.

#### **5. 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 First 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: In principle, 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 Field of Study and Subjects to be Studied: 3 (2) above will apply.

#### **6. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

MEXT is now accepting applications from international students for study in Japan. Our aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between the grantee’s 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 applicant’s country.
- (2) Age: Applicants, in principle, must have been born between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 2001.
- (3) Academic Background: Applicants must meet one of the following conditions:
  - ① Must have completed 12 years of school education, or are expected to complete said education by March 2018. (However, for applicants wishing to enroll from the autumn term through direct placement, applicants must be expected to complete the 12 years of school education by August 2018.)
  - ② Must have completed an educational course at a school equivalent to a high school, or are expected to complete the course by 2018. (However, those desiring direct placement are excluded.)

- ③ Other than the qualifications in ① and ② above, must have qualifications deemed to be suitable for enrollment in a Japanese university at the time of application.
- (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 submit a health certificate in the prescribed format signed by a physician attesting that the applicant has no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.
- (6) Arrival in Japan: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan between the 1st and 7th of April 2018. 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: The applicant shall receive a "Student" visa, as stipulated in Appended Table 1(4) of the Immigration Act, and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student." In regards to the visa, it should, in principle, be issued at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country.
- (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 the Japanese diplomatic mission 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 also applying to another program (Research Students, College of Technology Students, Specialized Training College Students programs) under the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship system.
  - ⑤ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university with a residence status of "Student," or who are enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program in the applicant's country until the commencement of the period of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to those who, even though they are currently studying as a privately-financed international student in Japan, verifiably complete their studies within the end of the fiscal year and return to their home country;
  - 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;
  - ⑦ Those who are planning to receive scholarships from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country) on top of the scholarships provided by MEXT after the arrival in Japan;
  - ⑧ 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;
  - ⑨ Those who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after their arrival in Japan.

## 7. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

- (1) The scholarship period will last for five years from April 2018 to March 2023, 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 2025.
- (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) Extension of period of scholarship

If a grantee graduates from an undergraduate course, is admitted to a master's course at a graduate school during the period of his/her scholarship and has outstanding academic achievement that meets certain criteria, he/she may have the scholarship period extended upon a successful examination by MEXT. The scholarship will be discontinued if approval is not granted.

## **8. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS**

(1) Allowance: 117,000 yen per month. The scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the university or preparatory Japanese-teaching institution for an extended period. 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 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 subject 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, etc.);
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the course within the standard course period because of poor academic grades or suspension or leave of absence;
- ⑥ The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than "College Student";
- 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) Tuition and Other Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by MEXT.

(3) Traveling Costs

- ① Transportation to Japan: In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the recipient's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport on the normal route to the accepting university. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the grantee's residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, etc. The grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country if the grantee must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes because there are no Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country. In principle, MEXT will not provide the airline ticket in cases when the grantee arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality because the grantee had moved to the country before the arrival in Japan

- ② Transportation from Japan: Grantees shall graduate the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (Section 4 above) designated by MEXT. Based on the Application by the grantee, MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from Narita International Airport or the international airport used for the normal route to and from the accepting university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning recipient's residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, etc.

Note 1: Should the grantee return to the home country before the end of period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons 8. (1) ①~⑧ above, MEXT will not pay for the return travel expenses.

Note 2: 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.

## 9. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

- (1) The Japanese diplomatic mission in those countries will conduct First Screening of applicants by means of submitted application documents, interviews and academic examinations.

[Subjects for examination]

- ① 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).

- ② 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.

- ③ Calculators and other devices may not be used during the written examinations.

- (2) The date and time of the notification of the results of the First Screening will be specified separately by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country; the reasons for the results of the screening will not be announced. Those who pass the First Screening will not necessarily be selected as recipients of the MEXT Scholarship.

- (3) Applicants who have been selected through this First Screening will be recommended to MEXT. MEXT will then conduct the Second Screening of the recommended applicants and decide the scholarship grantees. MEXT may select candidates from each field of study.

- (4) Applicants will be informed of the results of the Second Screening by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country by January of the year of arrival in Japan.

## 10. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country by the required date. The submitted documents will not be returned.

No.	Documents	1 original	1 copy	Remarks
①	Application form	○	○	Please use the FY2018 application form. (See 4 below.)
②	Application form for direct placement	●	-	Only for applicants desiring direct placement. (See 4 below.)
③	Academic transcripts for all school years of last school attended	○	○	
④	Graduation certificate of last school attended	○	○	For applicants expecting to graduate, graduation certificate of school expected to graduate from (See 5 below.)
⑤	Letter of recommendation from either principal or teacher of last school attended	○	○	Format up to recommender; samples available.
⑥	Health examination certificate	○	○	Please use FY2018 health certificate form.

⑦	Certificate of enrollment	●	●	Only for those currently enrolled in a university.
⑧	Certificate of university enrollment qualification examination	●	●	Only for those who pass the university enrollment qualification examination. (See 5 and 6 below.)

Note 1: Documents indicated by the black circle (●) should be submitted only by the applicant.

Note 2: These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translations in either of these languages should be attached.

Note 3: One original and one copy must be submitted for each document. Always write the document number, from one to eight, (refer to the numbers in the table above) in the upper right-hand corner for all the documents.

Note 4: Please use the fiscal 2018 versions of the Application Form and the Placement Preference Form. The applicant's photograph to be attached to the Application Form should be of clear quality, taken within six months of submission, and printed on paper specially for photographs. The photograph should be 4.5 x 3.5 cm., upper-body, full-faced, no hats. Please write applicant's name and nationality on the back of the photograph. Applicants may also paste the photograph data to the Application Form and print out the Application Form.

Note 5: The graduation certificate and the degree certificate obtained from the last school attended may be photocopies, provided that, the copies are attested by an authorized person of the university.

Note 6: 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.

## 11. 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 will be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee should bring at least approximately US\$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.

(3) Recipient must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) 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) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, career path after completion of scholarship, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with other relevant government organizations for the purpose of utilization for international students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the international student system). Former recipients of MEXT Scholarships are asked to cooperate with any possible requests from the Japanese Government for the provision of relevant information after the recipient's graduation in Japan.

Information regarding MEXT Scholarship recipients (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be included in publicity materials prepared by the Japanese Government for promoting the acceptance of international students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship recipients who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

Grantees are requested to accept the handling of the personal information described above as specified in the written oath stipulating the matters for compliance as MEXT Scholarship recipients, which must be submitted after the applicant is accepted as a MEXT Scholarship recipient. Except in cases of special circumstances, those granting permission for the handling of personal information will be accepted as MEXT Scholarship recipients.

(6) 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 there are any questions about the content of the

written text, those should be inquired at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country.

- (7) More detailed information on this scholarship program is available at the Japanese diplomatic missions in the applicant's country.
- (8) 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.