

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES  
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2019  
(UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS)**

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

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

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

**2. FIELDS OF STUDY**

Those who apply for an undergraduate student must choose a “Field of Study (“Social Sciences and Humanities” or “Natural Sciences”), “Course”, and “Major(s)” from the below table. Applicants may enter a first, second, and third choice.

**(1) Social Sciences and Humanities**

Courses	Majors
Social Sciences and Humanities - A	1. Law    2. Politics    3. Pedagogy    4. Sociology 5. Literature    6. History    7. Japanese Language 8. Others (excluding “1. Economics” and “2. Business Administration” in Humanities B.)
Social Sciences and Humanities - B	1. Economics    2. Business Administration

(Note) Applicants who choose “8. Others” may have difficulties in finding universities that can accept them depending on their majors.

**(2) Natural Sciences**

Courses	Majors
Natural Science - 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 Science - 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)
	Science (12. Biology)
Natural Science - C	1. Medicine    2. Dentistry

(Note) An applicant who chooses Natural Sciences and would like to choose more than one majors is required to select up to three majors from within the same course (i.e. Natural Sciences A, B or C). However, an applicant who selects Natural Science - C as his/her first choice may choose his/her second-choice major from Natural Science - B or C and third-choice major from Natural Science - B as Natural Science - C offers only two majors.

### **3. PREPARATORY EDUCATION AND STUDY AT UNIVERSITY**

#### **(1) Preparatory Education**

- ① Each grantee will be enrolled at a preparatory educational institution (either at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies or Osaka University) designated by MEXT for the first year of the scholarship period. The preparatory course is a one-year intensive course in the Japanese language and other subjects necessary for preparation for proceeding to university. 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 A grantee who has completed the preparatory education will go on to a university designated by MEXT upon passing its entrance examination undertaken by the university. If a grantee is determined to be incapable of completing the preparatory course, his/her scholarship will be stopped and will be required to return to his/her home country. In such cases, expenses for the return to the home country will not be paid by MEXT.

#### **(2) University Education**

- ① The university which a grantee will enter will be decided by MEXT in consultation with the university and the preparatory educational institution and in comprehensive consideration of the results of the academic examinations in the First Screening conducted at the Japanese Embassy or Consulate (hereinafter referred to “Japanese diplomatic mission”) in the country of applicant’s nationality, academic achievement at the preparatory educational institution, 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 In principle, the academic year begins on April 1 each year and ends on March 31 the following year.
- ③ All classes will be given in the Japanese language (except where a grantee is directly placed at a university which requires no Japanese language ability).
- ④ 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 a Bachelor’s Degree.

**(3) Change of Field of Study and Subjects to be Studied:** A grantee will not be permitted to change his/her course (Social Sciences and Humanities A and B, and Natural Sciences A, B, and C). A grantee must study compulsory subjects as determined by the preparatory educational institution and the university even if he/she has already studied them at a university outside Japan.

### **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 course 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 directly enroll in the said undergraduate course. (These cases are called “direct placement”.) In such cases, enrollment may be from the autumn term (grantees arrive in Japan in September or October 2019, and start from the autumn term), depending on the university.
- (2) 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 cases when acceptance for direct placement is impossible for all universities, or the accepting university has yet to be determined at the time when the consultation period expires, the offer of direct placement will be withdrawn and he/she will be enrolled at a preparatory educational institution.

### **5. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

MEXT accepts applications from international students for study in Japan who satisfy the following qualifications and conditions. Its 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 other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan. The First Screening must be conducted at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of which the applicant chooses the nationality.
- (2) **Age:** Applicants, in principle, must be born between April 2, 1994 and April 1, 2002. Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to the situation or circumstances of the applicant's country (military service obligation, loss of educational opportunities due to disturbances of war, etc.) Personal circumstances (financial situation, family circumstances, state of health, circumstances related to applicant's university or place of employment, etc.) will not be considered for exceptions.
- (3) **Academic Background:** Applicants must satisfy any one of the following conditions. However, applicants desiring direct placement must satisfy either the following ① or ③ condition.
- ① Applicants who have completed 12 years of schooling in countries other than Japan. (Applicants who will meet the above qualifications by March 2019 are eligible. However, applicants wishing to enroll from the autumn term through direct placement must be expected to complete 12 years of schooling by August 2019.)
  - ② Applicants who have completed their studies at a school equivalent to a Japanese upper secondary school in countries other than Japan. (Applicants who will meet the above qualifications by March 2019 are eligible.)
  - ③ Other than the above ① and ② conditions, applicants who are eligible 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 before and 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 2019. Departure from the home residence should be on or after 1 April. If an applicant is to enroll in his/her university from the fall semester through direct placement, he/she must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by the accepting university within two weeks before and after the starting date of the university's relevant academic term for that year.
- Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above.
- If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan before the specified period (before the period between the 1st and 7th of April 2019 or before the period within two weeks before and after the starting date of the university's relevant academic term for that year) for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.
- (7) **Visa Requirement:** An applicant shall, in principle, obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student." Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other residence status ("Permanent resident," "Long-term resident," etc.), the applicant must change it to the "Student" status and re-enter Japan. Moreover, the applicant should be aware that after expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student and even if the student again applies for their original resident status of "Permanent resident" or "Long-term resident," such resident statuses might not be necessarily granted.

- (8) Non-Eligibility:** Those who meets any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he /she must withdraw from the scholarship.
- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;
  - ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT or the accepting university;
  - ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). It does not apply to those receiving the MEXT Honors Scholarship while studying in Japan;
  - 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 or other institution with a residence status of “Student,” or who are going to be enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university or other institution 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 for payment of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university, verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, return to their home country at the time of the scholarship application, and newly acquire the “Student” residence status and come to Japan;
  - ⑥ Those who are planning to receive scholarship money from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant’s country) on top of the scholarship money provided by MEXT after the start of the scholarship payment period;
  - ⑦ Those 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;
  - 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.
- (9) Others:** MEXT Scholarship will be granted those who are willing to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in activities at schools and communities during their study in Japan while contributing to the internationalization of Japan. They shall also 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, and cooperating with relevant projects and events conducted by the Japanese diplomatic mission after they return to their home countries.

## 6. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

- (1) A grantee who studies at a preparatory educational institution prior to enroll in a university:** The scholarship period will last for five years from April 2019 to March 2024, including 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 2026.
- (2) A grantee who enroll in a university through direct placement:** 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). The scholarship period will start from the time of enrollment in the university which the university designates.
- (Note 1) 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.
- (Note 2) The grantees majoring a six-year course in pharmacy must undergo the “Pharmaceutical Common Achievement Tests” 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.

### **(3) 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.

## **7. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS**

**(1) Allowance:** 117,000 yen per month. A supplemental regional allowance of 2,000 or 3,000 yen per month will be added to the monthly scholarship amount for the grantees studying or conducting research in specially designated regions. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. If a grantee is absent from the university or the preparatory educational institution for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

**(2) Education Fees:** Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by MEXT.

### **(3) Traveling Expenses**

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 grantee's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport used 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, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage 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, or if there are no direct flights from the grantee's country of residence to Japan. MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of residence to the said third country, and from the third country to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport used on the normal route to the accepting university. In principle, the address given in the space for "Your address before departure for Japan" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence," and the airplane ticket will be arranged for a flight from the international airport nearest to that address. Except for cases when the grantee must travel to a third country to obtain a visa, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances.

② **Transportation from Japan:** Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See "6. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP") designated by MEXT. 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 in Japan 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, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc.

If a grantee returns to the home country before the end of period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "8. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended in cases such as proceeding to further education or being employed in Japan, he/she will not be paid travel expenses for a temporary return.

## **8. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP**

Payment of the scholarship will be stopped for the reasons given below. Should any of the following reasons apply,

the grantee may be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

- ① A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- ③ A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period of exceeding 1 year;
- ④ A grantee is suspended from his/her university or preparatory educational institution or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university or preparatory educational institution;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the “Student” residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than “Student”;
- ⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures);
- ⑧ A grantee proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.

## 9. SELECTION

(1) The Japanese diplomatic missions will conduct the First Screening of applicants by means of examination of submitted application documents, written academic examinations and interviews.

① Subjects of Written Academic Examinations (to be undertaken by all applicants)

Chosen Field of Study	Subjects
Social Sciences and Humanities - A Social Sciences and Humanities - B	Japanese, English, and Mathematics
Natural Sciences - A	Japanese, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics
Natural Sciences - B Natural Sciences - C	Japanese, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Biology

② 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 disclosed. Those who pass the First Screening will not necessarily be selected as the MEXT Scholarship grantees.

(3) Applicants who have passed the First Screening will be recommended to MEXT. MEXT will then conduct the Second Screening of the recommended applicants and decide the scholarship grantees. MEXT selects candidates from each field of study.

(4) Applicants will be informed of the final selection results by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant’s country by the end of January of the year of arrival in Japan. The reasons for the results will not be disclosed. Any objections to the decision on the university of placement will not be accepted.

## 10. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant’s country by the designated deadline. The submitted documents will not be returned.

No.	Documents	1 original	1 copy	Remarks
①	Application Form	○	○	Use the FY2019 Application Form. (See Note 4.)
②	Direct Placement Preference Form	●	/	Only for applicants desiring direct placement. Use the FY2019 Preference Form. (See Note 5.)
③	Academic transcripts for all school years of last school attended	○	○	A transcript issued either by the school attended or by the applicant's national government. (See Note 6.)
④	Graduation certificate of last school attended	○	○	If the applicant has not yet graduated, submit an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the school. (See Note 7.)
⑤	Recommendation letter from either principal or teacher of last school attended	○	○	Free format. A sample format is available.
⑥	Medical certificate	○	○	Use the FY2019 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 Note 7 and 8.)
⑨	Certificate of language proficiency	/	●	Only in case the applicant has documents attesting to competency in language; submit 2 copies. (See Note 9.)

- (Note 1) Documents indicated by the white circle (○) must be submitted by all the applicants. Documents indicated by the black circle (●) should be submitted only if applicable.
- (Note 2) These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translation in either of these languages should be attached.
- (Note 3) The applicants must submit two application packets: one is a complete set of original documents and the other is a complete set of their copies. Write the document number, from ① to ⑨ (refer to the numbers in the table above) in the upper right-hand corner of the first page for all the documents.
- (Note 4) 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. The photograph data can be pasted to the Application Form and printed out.
- (Note 5) A list of undergraduate courses permitting direct placement is provided by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country. Applicants desiring direct placement should choose and fill in their preferred university and department in the Preference Form out of the list. Prior to the submission of the Form, applicants should inquire the Japanese diplomatic mission about and understand the undergraduate courses accepting direct placement, the number of students accepted, any conditions for acceptance including Japanese language proficiency, information on any entrance examinations conducted by the university, the period when overseas students may enroll and start their studies, etc.
- (Note 6) The academic transcripts of the last school attended should show the grade scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant in all the subjects studied for each year of study at the school. In the case that the last school offers a single-structure education system consisting of a lower and upper secondary level or a primary and secondary level, the necessary academic transcripts to be submitted shall cover all school years of upper secondary education.
- (Note 7) A copy of the graduation certificate or the degree certificate obtained from the last school attended and the certificate of university enrollment qualification examination is acceptable if the copy is attested by an authorized official of the university or an examination authority. Do not submit the originals as submitted certificates will not be returned.
- (Note 8) For applicants with "⑧Certificate of university entrance qualification examination", this document may be submitted in place of documents No. ③, ④ and ⑤.
- (Note 9) If printing out the certificates from the Internet, print out and submit a page showing the applicant's name and the details of the relevant qualification (level, score, etc.).

## 11. NOTES

- (1) The grantees are advised to learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and to acquire information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions of the university to attend 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 is recommended to bring at least approximately US\$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (3) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. The bank account has to be opened at a Japanese financial institution designated by MEXT.
- (4) Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- (5) 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. Expenses relating to accommodations will be borne by the grantee.
  - ② Residence halls for international students provided by universities: Some universities have residence halls for international students. The grantees 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. Expenses relating to accommodations will be borne by the grantee.
  - 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 with his/her expenses. It is difficult for grantees with dependents (spouse and children) to find appropriate housing in Japan. The grantee is requested to arrive in Japan alone first to secure housing before having his/her dependent(s) come to Japan.
- (6) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (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).

Information regarding MEXT Scholarship Students (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 Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

These terms and conditions are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Excluding exceptional circumstances, only those concurring with these conditions will be accepted as MEXT Scholarship Students.
- (7) The English texts attached to the Application Guideline and the Application Form are for complementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.
- (8) If there are any questions about the content of the written text in this Application Guideline or any other matters, applicants/grantees should inquire the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country and follow their instructions.
- (9) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this Application Guideline, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese Government.