

Note: This is an English translation highlighting the key points. The official application guidelines are available only in Japanese.

注意：公式な募集要項は日本語でのみ提供されており、これは重要なポイントを抜粋した英訳です。

Application Guidelines for the 2026 Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship – Research Students (University Recommendation)

[General selection]

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan is now accepting applications for international students recommended by universities to receive the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship as research students as outlined below.

1. Definition of Research Students

- Students enrolled as regular students in a master's, doctoral, or professional degree program at a graduate school.
- Students enrolled as non-regular students (research students, auditors, etc.) at a university, graduate school, or affiliated research institute, conducting research in preparation for admission to a regular program.

2. Eligibility and Conditions

MEXT aims to foster human resources who will act as bridges between their home countries and Japan, contributing to the development of both nations and the world. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

(1) Target

Outstanding international students at the graduate level who will newly come to Japan from overseas.

- Academic performance coefficient must be 2.30 or higher, and expected to be maintained during the scholarship period.
- Must also meet one of the language requirements listed in section (6).

(2) Nationality

- Must hold nationality of a country with diplomatic relations with Japan.
- Japanese nationals are generally ineligible, except dual nationals who will renounce Japanese nationality before enrollment.

(3) Age

- Born on or after April 2, 1991.

(4) Academic Background

Must have qualifications to enter a Japanese graduate school (master's or doctoral program) at the time of enrollment. (Including those who are certain to meet this requirement at the time of enrollment.)

Note: We, the graduate school of international cooperation Kobe university, accept only doctoral program applicants; therefore, a master's degree is required.

(5) Field of Study

Must be the same or a related field as previously studied, and feasible at the host university.

(6) Language Ability [English]

Applicants must meet one of the following:

- ① Must have an English qualification/examination score equivalent to B2 or higher in the CEFR at the time of application (Valid within 2 years at the time of application)
- ② Completed an educational program conducted primarily in English, qualifying for graduate school admission.
- ③ Assessed by the host university to have equivalent ability.

(7) Health

Applicants should not have health conditions that would prevent them from pursuing studies in Japan.

(8) Arrival in Japan

Must arrive during the period specified by the host university, within two weeks before or after the semester start (October).

Failure to arrive within the period may result in cancellation.

(9) Visa

Must obtain a "Student" visa at a Japanese embassy/consulate before arrival. Please note that if you enter Japan without newly obtaining a "Student" visa, your scholarship will be canceled.

Tuberculosis screening may be required for applicants from certain countries (e.g., Philippines, Nepal, Vietnam).

(10) Ineligible Applicants

Any applicant who meets any 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 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). This does not apply to: (i) those who have educational or work experience

exceeding more than three years from the following month of the period of the previous scholarship to the estimated first month of the payment of this scholarship; (ii) the past grantees of Japanese Studies Students program who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Young Leaders' Program; (iii) those who obtained or will obtain a bachelor's degree under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs (university recommendation/special selection). The Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs;

- ④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system in FY2026;
- ⑤ Those who are already residing in Japan at the time of application for the MEXT scholarship;
- ⑥ Those who are planning to receive scholarship or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization, and others after the start of the scholarship payment period;
- ⑦ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of 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 plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the university;
- ⑩ Those who have no intention to enter a regular course;
- ⑪ Those who have no intention to obtain a degree;

3. Scholarship Period

Regular students: For the standard duration of the program (master's, doctoral, professional).

4. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Monthly Stipend

Regular students enrolled in doctoral courses: 145,000 JPY

The amounts listed below shall be paid depending on the course enrolled in. A supplemental regional allowance of 2,000 yen 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 for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

(2) Travel Expenses

- ① Arrival: MEXT provides an airline ticket from the nearest international airport in the home country to Japan. Domestic travel, airport tax and fees, domestic travel expenses in Japan, insurance, and personal expenses are borne by the student.
- ② Return: Provided upon graduation/completion, if returning within the scholarship period. Not provided for early withdrawal or continued stay in Japan.

(3) Tuition

Entrance examination fee, admission fee, and tuition are borne by the host university.

Note: Applicants are required to pay examination fee before being selected as a MEXT scholarship awardee. This fee will be refunded if the applicants are selected as a MEXT scholarship awardee and pass the entrance examination at GSICS.

5. Termination of Scholarship

Scholarship will be revoked if the student:

- ① Submits false documents.
- ② Violates pledge conditions.
- ③ Breaks Japanese law and receives serious punishment.
- ④ Is expelled or suspended from the university.
- ⑤ Shows poor academic performance.
- ⑥ Fails to maintain “Student” visa status.
- ⑦ Receives another scholarship that may not be held concurrently with this scholarship.
- ⑧ Withdraws from the host university or transfers to another university without approval.

6. Recommendation and Selection

(1) Recommendation

Each university president, after internal screening, recommends to the Minister of Education outstanding applicants in need of financial support. Recommendations are made for each quota, ranked, and submitted with required documents using the designated form.

(2) Selection

From among the applicants recommended by each university president, the selection committee of the MEXT will determine the prospective scholarship recipients. Based on this, the Ministry will decide the scholarship awardees and the duration of the scholarship.

7. Submission Period and Notification

- Submission deadline at GSICS :January 15th , 2026 by registered mail
- Results Notification: Mid-June 2026 (to universities only)

8. Force Majeure

Scholarship may be cancelled or modified due to unavoidable circumstances such as natural disasters, war, epidemics, or government restrictions.