

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2024 (Research Students)

MEXT (The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to study in graduate courses at Japanese universities as Research Students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2024 as follows.

1. DEFINITION OF “RESEARCH STUDENTS”

Those who are enrolled in a master’s course, a doctoral course, or a professional graduate course at a graduate school, or who are conducting research in a specialized field at an undergraduate department, graduate school, institute attached to a university, etc. with the aim of completing the course.

2. 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 or region that has diplomatic relations with Japan and also specified by MEXT (See Annex1). 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 acquisition of student status).
- (2) **Age:** Applicants, in principle, must have been born on or after April 2, 1989. 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) **Gender:** Applicants must be female or female identified students only.
- (4) **Academic Background:** Applicant who are eligible for enrollment in a master’s course / doctoral course at a Japanese graduate school. They must have at least 16 years academic back ground.
- (5) **Major Field of Study:** Applicants should apply for the field of study they majored in at university or its related field. Moreover, applicants must choose a field on which they are able to study and research at Ochanomizu University.

- (6) **Academic Grade Point:** Applicants who have already graduated from their latest degree program must have a final degree point* of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above, while current students must have a grade point of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above for their current course, and are expected to maintain the same academic standards during the course of the scholarship program.

How to calculate "academic grade point":

$$\frac{[(\text{Grade } 100-80) \text{ No. of credits} \times 3] + [(\text{Grade } 79-70) \text{ No. of credits} \times 2] + [(\text{Grade } 69-60) \text{ No. of credits} \times 1]}{\text{Total No. of registered credits.}}$$

- (7) **Japanese or English Language Level:** Applicants must have at least Level N2 of Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or an English proficiency test score equivalent to B2 or above on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale (e.g. TOEFL iBT 72 or above, IELTS 5.5 or above).
- If the applicant has completed an educational program whose primary language of instruction is Japanese or English that satisfies the entrance requirements to the Master's Program or Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of Ochanomizu University, the score above will not be needed.
- (8) **Health:** Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue their study at Ochanomizu University.
- (9) **Arrival in Japan:** Applicants must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan by the date specified by Ochanomizu University around the beginning of October 2024. Travel expenses will not be provided if the Applicant chooses to travel to Japan prior to the specified period.
- (10) **Visa:** Applicants must obtain a "Student (留学)" visa when they come to Japan. As the Japanese government requires pre-arrival tuberculosis screening for some countries, applicants obtaining a visa shall follow guidance at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant's country of nationality.
- (11) **Non-eligibility:** An applicant who meets any one of the following conditions is ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, they must withdraw from the scholarship.
- ① An applicant who is military personnel or military civilian employees;
 - ② An applicant who is unable to travel to Japan within the period specified by MEXT or Ochanomizu University;
 - ③ An applicant who is a previous grantee of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). This does not apply to: 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; and 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. The Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs;
 - ④ An applicant who is also applying for a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for another

AY2024 program;

- ⑤ An applicant who stays in Japan at the time of application;
- ⑥ An applicant who is 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 An applicant who is 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 (the acquisition of student status);
- ⑨ An applicant who plans 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 An applicant who has no intention to advance to a regular degree course in a graduate school of Ochanomizu University as a regular student.

3. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Ochanomizu University will accept grantees as research students (non-degree) for one year and half (from October 2024 to March 2026) at the maximum. They are expected to aim to advance to a master's/doctoral course in the graduate school of Ochanomizu University as a regular student through an entrance examination by the period ends. When they proceed, they can apply for the extension of scholarship period (the Master's Course: 2 years / the Doctoral Course: 3 years), but must note that the extension may not be granted to all who apply for an extension.

4. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1) Monthly Allowance: 146,000 yen per month shall be paid if the grantee is a non-degree student. 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) Traveling Expenses: The grantee can obtain traveling expenses from MEXT as follows.

A: Transportation to Japan: Each grantee will be provided, according to applicant itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy class plane ticket from the international airport closest to the address in the home country listed in the application form (Form 1) to Narita International Airport or Tokyo International (Haneda) Airport. Expenses such as inland transportation from their place of residence to the nearest international airport, airport tax, special taxes on overseas travel expenses within Japan will be borne by the grantee (the place of residence of the grantee shall in principle be the address stated in the application form). Plane tickets from a country other than the grantee's nationality will not be covered.

B: Transportation from Japan: The grantee who returns to their home country within the last-payment month

of their scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy class plane ticket for a flight from Narita International Airport or Tokyo International (Haneda) Airport.

(Note) Insurance premiums for travel to/from Japan: It shall be borne by the grantee.

The airport the grantee departs from or returns to must be an airport of the country of their nationality.

(3) School Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition at universities will be paid by Ochanomizu University.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Each applicant must submit the set of the following documents to Ochanomizu University through their university.

(1) Application for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Research Student for 2024) (Attached Form 1)

(2) Field of Study and Study Program (Attached Form 2)

(3) Supervisor Application form (Attached Form 3)

*It is preferable that the applicant contacts their desired supervisor in advance.

(4) Recommendation letter to the president of Ochanomizu University from a dean or above.

(5) Photocopy of passport (ID page)

(6) One photo data taken within the past six months (Full-faced photo from the waist up without a hat or a cap. The applicant must paste it on the Form 1.)

(7) Official academic transcript(s) issued by the last university(ies) attended (undergraduate and/or graduate) covering each academic year of the applicant's most recent grades, with GPA, the ranking or certificate of excellence of the applicant. The grading system must be explained in the academic transcript(s), or attached (an) official document(s).

(8) The graduation certificate or a certified copy of diploma obtained from the last university attended may be substituted for by a photocopy thereof provided that the copy is attested by the authorized person of the university.

(9) Abstracts of theses

(10) Proof of linguistic ability certifying that one of the language proficiency conditions apply (e.g. Record of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), CEFR, TOEFL, or IELTS)

(Note) These documents must be written in either Japanese or English. If they are written in other language, translations in Japanese should be attached.

6. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Must arrive no later than **January 13, 2024** by e-mail.

7. UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines here within, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable Circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including Embassies and Consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other foreign countries' government due to the event of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike, or lockout.

8. NOTES

Scholarship will be cancelled for a grantee if

- (1) any of their application documents are found to be falsely stated;
- (2) they are in breach of their pledge made to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology ;
- (3) they are subjected to disciplinary action, such as expulsion or removal from register;
- (4) it becomes definitive that the grantee will not be able to complete their course within the standard course term because of their poor academic achievement or suspension;
- (5) they have withdrawn from a graduate course in hosting university or transferred to another university;
- (6) they do not obtain a new "Student" visa status before entering Japan or her resident status changes to anything other than that of "Student" at any point;
- (7) they are provided with another scholarship (except for a scholarship designated for research expenses);
- (8) they proceed to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.