

MEXT Scholarship 2025-2026 Instructions to Applicants

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT: Monbukagakusho) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to study for a period of one year as Japanese Studies Students in order to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture. Its aim is to foster human resources who will become an educator or a researcher of Japanese language and/or Japanese culture and those pursuing other related careers.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Applicants must fulfill the following qualifications and conditions:

- 1) **Eligibility:** Limited to exchange students officially recommended by their home university. Students must be newly arriving from abroad to progress in the field of Japanese language/affairs/culture through the academic programs offered by the host university.
- 2) **Nationality:** Applicants must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with Japan. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are NOT eligible in principal.
- 3) **Age:** Applicants must be born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2007. If the applicant is a Ukrainian citizen, no upper age limit applies.
- 4) **Academic Background:** Applicants must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities majoring in fields related to the Japanese language and/or Japanese culture at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan. Applicants must have studied the Japanese Studies at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 1, 2025.
- 5) **Japanese Language Ability:** Applicants must have passed the JLPT N2 or above.
- 6) **Health Conditions:** Applicants must be free from any mental or physical disabilities that would be impediments to the pursuit of their studies in Japan.
- 7) **Arrival Period:** Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by the designated period between two weeks prior to the course and the first day of the course.
- 8) **Visa Requirement:** Applicants must newly obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic missions located in the applicants’ country of nationality, enter Japan with the residence status of a “Student”. Please note that in some countries, pre-entry tuberculosis screening is required by the Government of Japan. When applying for a visa, be sure to follow the instructions of the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicants’ country of nationality.
- 9) **Returning Home and Continuation of Studies after Termination of Scholarship Period:** Applicants must assure that they return to their home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of their home institution which they had been enrolled in at the time of arrival in Japan. Applicants who are able to continue their studies in Japan by participating in Double-degree program or Joint-degree program after their MEXT scholarship period at Nanzan are not necessarily required to return to their home country. If a grantee fails this condition, he/she may be ordered to return the entire amount of the scholarship paid during the scholarship period. Those who are uncertain about returning home and continuing to study after the end of the scholarship period should not apply for this program.
- 10) **Others:** MEXT Scholarship will be granted to 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 an effort to promote relations between their home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended even 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.

The following persons are NOT eligible to apply:

- 1) Those who are active military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or the commencement of the scholarship period.
- 2) Those who are not able to arrive in Japan by the designated period set by MEXT or the university.
- 3) Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past (including those who withdrew from the scholarship program after the enrollment occurs).
- 4) Those who are currently applying for other Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarships for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal 2025.
- 5) Those who are staying in Japan at the time of application.
- 6) Those who have a plan to receive other scholarships or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others after the start of the scholarship payment period.
- 7) Those who have dual nationality at the time of application and will not be able to verify that they renounced Japanese nationality by the time of their arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status).
- 8) Those who have changed their status of residence to other than “Student” after entering Japan.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

The Monbukagakusho (MEXT) scholarship provides the following:

- 1) **Scholarship Stipend:** A monthly stipend of 117,000 yen will be paid during the scholarship period. 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 in specially designated regions. The amount is subject to change. If a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for unattended period.
- 2) **Travel Expenses:** In principal, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class round-trip airline ticket between Central International Airport (Nagoya) and the international airport closest to the grantee’s residence (in principal, the country of nationality) . 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. If there are no Japanese Embassy/consulate in his/her country and the grantee need to stop off at another country (third country) in order to apply for visa or if there are no direct flights from the home country to Japan, the travel expenses such as transportation within the third country and accommodation will be covered by the recipient, and an economy-class airline ticket from the home country to the third country and from the third country to Central International Airport will be provided by the MEXT. (In principle, the address provided in the space for “Your address before departure for Japan” on the application form shall be recognized as the “residence”).

MEXT will NOT provide the airline ticket in cases as below:

- The grantee arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality due to personal reasons.
 - The grantee returns to his/her home country before the end of the scholarship period due to personal circumstances.
 - The grantee does not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period, or does not resume his/her studies at the undergraduate program of their home institution.
 - The grantee who will continue their studies in Japan by participating in Double-degree program or Joint-degree program after their MEXT scholarship period at Nanzan will not be provided with a return flight ticket.
- 3) **Education Fees:** Tuition, admission fee and application fee are waived with the exchange agreement between the home university and Nanzan University.

SUSPENSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT

Payment of the scholarship will be cancelled 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 already granted. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the penalty of the matter has been made.

- 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 receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting university.
- 5) It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the study course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university.
- 6) A grantee came to Japan without a newly acquiring “Student” visa, or changed his/her residence status to one other than “Student”.
- 7) A grantee has received another scholarship (scholarship or fellowship from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization, and others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship.
- 8) A grantee does not return to his/her home county by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and does not continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of his/her institution in which he/she was enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan (excluding the case of continuing studies in Japan by participating in Double-degree program or Joint-degree program after the MEXT scholarship period at Nanzan.)

PROCEDURE FOR RECOMMENDATION AND SELECTION

- 1) Recommendation: Partner institutions of Nanzan University should nominate one candidate for this scholarship and submit scholarship application documents to the Center for Japanese Studies, Nanzan University. Nanzan University will conduct an internal screening and determine the final candidates to be recommended to MEXT. The president of Nanzan University will then recommend the selected candidates to MEXT.
- 2) Selection: MEXT will conduct the selection of applicants recommended by Japanese universities and determine the scholarship recipients.
- 3) Documents to be Submitted:
 - a. 2025 Application Form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Japanese Studies Students) 「2025年度日本政府（文部科学省）奨学金留学生申請書（日本語・日本文化研修留学生）」
 - * A digital photograph taken within the past six months, showing your upper body, facing forward, and without a hat, must be attached to the designated space on the application form.
 - b. MEXT Scholarship Application for Nanzan University 2025-2026
 - c. Letter of Recommendation addressed to Nanzan University President, Robert KISALA, S.V.D.
 - d. A copy of applicant’s passport, family registration or certificate which certifies citizenship
 - e. Certificate of Enrollment issued by home institution
 - f. Certified academic transcript for all academic years up to the current year of enrollment (Indicate the courses related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture on the transcript.)
 - g. Document(s) verifying that the applicant has studied the Japanese language and culture for at least one year (Only necessary for those who cannot verify with the transcript that they studied Japanese language and culture for a total of at least one year at the university he/she is currently attending. Indicate the relevant Japanese language and culture courses on it.)

h. Certificate of JLPT (N2 or higher)

*Certificates of Japanese level by Japanese language instructors will not be accepted.

(Note) All documents must be in PDF format, prepared in either Japanese or English on A4-size paper. If the documents are prepared in any other language, a Japanese translation must be attached.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline for CJS : Monday, March 24, 2025 (JST)

All documents need to be submitted through the applicants' home institutions. Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants must check on-campus deadlines set by their home institutions. Applicants are advised to maintain good contact with the appropriate office at their home universities in order to avoid any delays.

SCHOLARSHIP RESULT

The scholarship result is scheduled to be announced in July.

NOTES

- 1) The selection of MEXT Scholarship applicants separates from the one of admission for Nanzan University.
- 2) Due to force majeure, schedules for entering Japan may be subject to change, the scholarship may be cancelled, or the information contained in this application guideline may be subject to change at any time before or after notification of acceptance.
Force majeure is a ground beyond the reasonable control of MEXT. It includes national disasters, act of government (including local government) or government agencies (including border control measures such as immigration or travel restrictions by the Japanese government or other governments regarding infectious diseases), compliance with laws (including regulations and orders), fire, storm, flood, earthquake, war (whether or not declared), rebellion, revolution, insurrection, riot, strike, and lockout but is not limited to them.
- 3) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will not be made from one month to two 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.
- 4) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrollment, 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 matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship Students must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship.
- 5) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this instructions, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese government.