

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026
(JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS)

Wakayama University Recommendation

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to study for a period of one year at designated Japanese universities as Japanese Studies Students in order to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program as follows.

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS:

(1) Target: Those from Wakayama University partner universities who wish to study at Wakayama University in order to improve their Japanese language skills and understanding of Japanese affairs and culture. The applicant must not be living in Japan when apply. Please note that even if Wakayama University recommends a student to MEXT, he/she may not be selected in the final selection process by MEXT. The applicant should be aware that there is a possibility that he/she may not be selected in the final selection process by MEXT even if he/she is recommended by Wakayama University.

(2) 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 acquisition of student status). The First Screening must be conducted at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of which the applicant chooses the nationality.

(3) Age: Applicants must be born between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 2008. 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.

(4) Academic Background: Applicants must satisfy the following three conditions:

- ① Applicants must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan;
- ② Those who are majoring in fields related to the Japanese language and/or Japanese culture. On the other hand, those who are majoring in fields of study other than Japanese language and culture (such as engineering, economics, agricultural science, architecture, and art) and pursuing complementary studies in Japanese language

and culture are ineligible;

- ③ Those who have studied the Japanese Studies at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 1, 2026. Those who have studied Japanese Studies at another university should submit documents (transcript of grades at another university, etc.) which can verify that the applicant has studied Japanese Studies for a total period of one year or more at the attended universities including current university.

(5) Japanese Language Ability: Applicants must have JLPT N2 or higher and/or J-Test Pre B level (700) or higher.

(6) Health: Applicants must have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.

(7) Arrival in Japan: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by the designated period (end of September) between the day two weeks before the course starts and the starting date of the course. If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the specified period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. 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 which decided by MEXT or Wakayama university. Please note that the program at Wakayama University will be October 2026 to September 2027. Be aware that applicants will not be able to return to his/her home university until mid-September 2027 or later.

(8) Visa Requirement: An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the newly obtained residence status of "Student." Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other residence status ("Permanent resident," "Long-term resident," etc.), the applicant must newly obtain a "Student" visa and re-enter Japan. The applicant should be aware that the original resident status of "Permanent resident" or "Long-term resident," might not be necessarily granted after the expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student. Moreover, in case the grantee comes to Japan without newly obtaining the "Student" visa, the payment of the scholarship will be suspended.

In some countries, the Japanese government conducts pre-entry tuberculosis screening, so please follow the instructions of the diplomatic mission in your country of nationality when applying for a visa.

(9) Non-Eligibility: Those who meet 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 in the past (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). It does not apply to those receiving the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students in the past;
- ④ Those who are currently also applying for another program for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal 2026 through a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship scheme including University Recommended Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for Japanese Studies Students;
- ⑤ Those who are residing in Japan at the time of application;
- ⑥ Those who are planning to receive scholarships, fellowships, etc. contributed by the Japanese government or Japanese government-related organizations after the start of the scholarship period. (In principle, students may receive scholarships in addition to other scholarships, except for scholarships and fellowships funded by

the Japanese government and Japanese government-related organizations, starting from the fiscal year 2025.);

- ⑦ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of their arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status);
- ⑧ Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan.

(10) Return and Continue to Study after the End of the 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 institution which applicants had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan. However, if the grantees can keep taking the course of their institution with staying in Japan, for example, by participating in Double-Degree program or Joint-Degree program with their institution’s partner universities in Japan, they don’t necessarily have to return to their home country. **If a grantee does not satisfy both conditions, he/she may be ordered to return the entire amount of the scholarship paid during the scholarship period. Those who are uncertain about returning and continuing to study after the end of the scholarship period should not apply for this program.**

(11) 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 Japanese diplomatic missions after they return to their home countries.

2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship period is the necessary period for the completion of the accepting university’s study course, which should be within one year from October 2026 (or the starting month of the course).

3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1) Allowance: After arrival in Japan, 117,000 yen per month will be paid. 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 for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

(2) Travel Expenses

① **Transportation to Japan:** For grantees who come to Japan within the fixed period stipulated in 1. (7) “Arrival in Japan” above, 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 an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting university. The travel schedule change or route change is not allowed after provision of airline ticket. 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 (a) 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 because Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country are temporarily closed, or (b) if there are no direct flights from the grantee’s country of nationality to Japan. In such cases, 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 an international airport in Japan 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 airline 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 for cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances. Moreover, if, due to personal circumstances, the grantee comes to Japan outside of the fixed period stipulated in 1. (7) "Arrival in Japan" above, the travel expenses will not be provided.

- ② **Transportation from Japan:** Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall complete the study course at the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period (See "2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP") designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from an international airport in Japan 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 grantee's residence. The travel schedule change or route change is not allowed after provision of airline ticket. 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 the scholarship period due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses. If a grantee will also not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period, or will not resume his/her studies at the undergraduate program of their home institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan, MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses. Also, if a graduate is able to continue his/her studies in Japan by participating in a double degree program or joint degree program after returning to Japan, he/she will not necessarily be required to return to his/her home country, assuming that he/she obtains appropriate status of residence. In such cases, MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

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 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 receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting university;
- ⑤ A grantee has been already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of "Student," or is going to be enrolled, or plans 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 or other institution, 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 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;
- ⑦ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the “Student” residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than “Student”;
- ⑧ A grantee has received another scholarship (scholarship, fellowship, etc. contributed by the Japanese government or Japanese government-related organizations) that is not allowed to be paid in conjunction with this scholarship;
- ⑨ A grantee does not return to his/her home country 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 which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan (excluding the case when the grantees can keep taking the course of their institution with staying in Japan, for example, by participating in Double Degree program or Joint Degree program with their institution’s partner universities in Japan and obtain a n appropriate residence status).

5. NOMINATION AND SELECTION

The selection committee of MEXT will examine the candidates recommended by the President of Wakayama University to be selected for the scholarship. MEXT will then determine the scholarship recipients and the scholarship period. Please note that nominees those who are recommended by Wakayama University are not necessarily selected for the MEXT Scholar student.

6. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit the following documents to the International Engagement Division of Wakayama University at kokusai@ml.wakayama-u.ac.jp by Thursday, April 9, 2026 via email. The submitted documents will not be returned.

1. Application Form
2. Certified academic transcript from home university (See Note 2)
※For all academic years up to the current year of enrollment.
3. Certificate of enrollment (See Note 3)
4. Recommendation letter to the President of Wakayama university from the head of or academic advisor at home university (See Note 3)
※If the letter is written in other language than Japanese, please attach Japanese translation.
5. Certificate of Japanese Language Proficiency Test or J-Test
6. Copy of the passport
※If you do not have a passport, please submit No.7 instead.
7. Certificate of Citizenship or Abstract of the student’s family register
※If you submit a copy of passport, this document is unnecessary.
8. Health Condition Confirmation Form (See Note 4)

(Note 1) These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translation in Japanese should be attached.

(Note 2) Mark subjects related to Japanese language and Japanese culture. Those who have studied the Japanese language and culture for a total of less than one year are not eligible to apply.

(Note 3) Since this program requires return to your home country and studies at the university you are enrolled in after the completion of the program, please discuss your plan after returning to your home country with the president of the university or your academic advisor from the application stage.

(Note 4) If there is a change in your health condition (including any serious changes relating to your life plan) after you have submitted your health certificate, please promptly share this information with

Wakayama University since it concerns the acceptance system of the accepting university and the Japanese medical institution.

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

- (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) Since the program is not intended for degree acquisition, it is not possible to enroll in undergraduate or graduate master's or doctoral programs at universities in Japan as a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship student during or immediately after the completion of the program.
- (3) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will not 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.
- (4) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account of Japan Post Bank (JP BANK) opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. We will not transfer the scholarship payments to other account.
- (5) Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- (6) It is suggested that grantees acquire a "My Number Card" upon arrival in Japan.
- (7) Even if the grantee has been selected as a scholarship recipient, circumstances in his/her home country may make it impossible for him/her to leave the country. In addition, if he/she unable to travel to Japan by the last day of the specified period, he/she must decline the offer of employment.
- (8) 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.

- (9) If the grantee is found to be suffering from an infectious disease such as tuberculosis (TB), etc. by obtaining a medical certificate, he/she must be treated for the disease by the time of travel to Japan. If he/she is not completely cured by the time of travel to Japan, he/she will not be allowed to travel to Japan.
- (10) In addition to the regulations stipulated in the Application Guidelines, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese government.