

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO:MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2006

(RESEARCH STUDENT)

The Monbukagakusho (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Government of Japan: MEXT) offers scholarships to foreign students who desire to study at Japanese universities as research students for the academic year 2006 under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program as follows:

1. FIELDS OF STUDY

Humanities and Social Sciences: Literature, History, Aesthetics, Laws, Politics, Economics, Commerce, Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology, Music, Fine Arts, etc.

Natural Sciences: Pure Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Fisheries, Pharmacology, Medicine, Dentistry, Home Economics, etc.

* Students majoring in medicine or dentistry must not carry out their clinical studies such as conducting medical examinations or performing operations until they are permitted by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare under the provisions of the Japanese laws concerned.

** Fields of study must be one of those available at Japanese universities. Traditional entertainment such as Kabuki, Japanese dancing and so on, and practical training conducted by factories or companies are excluded.

2. QUALIFICATIONS

(1) Nationality: Each applicant must have nationality covered by this scholarship program. (Any applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible.)

(2) Age: Applicants must be under 35 years of age as of the 1st of April 2006 (i.e. born on and after the 2nd of April 1971).

(3) Academic Background: Each applicant must have an undergraduate degree of a Japanese university or have the same or a higher level of academic ability than a university or college graduate. Any person who falls under either of the items may be considered to have the same or a higher level of academic ability than a university or college graduate:

a. Any person who has completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country (or 18 years of school education in the case of a person who desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science); or

b. Any person aged 22 or older who has taken a separate entrance qualification examination and has been judged by a graduate school as having the same or a higher level of academic ability than a university or college graduate (or 24 is or older in the case of a person who desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science).

In principle, any person who has completed a doctoral course may not apply unless he/she aims to obtain a degree.

(4) Study Area: The study area must be the field that the applicant studied at the previous university or any related area. Each applicant must choose a university where he or she can study and research the study area of his/her choice.

(5) Japanese Language: Applicants must be eager to learn the Japanese language. In addition, they must be interested in Japan and enthusiastic about deepening their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. Moreover, they must have the capability to study and research in Japan, while adapting to the Japanese lifestyle.

(6) Health: Applicants must have the physical and mental health to carry out their studies at Japanese universities.

(7) Arrival in Japan: Applicants must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan between the 1st and 7th of April 2006 or between the 1st and 7th of October 2006. An applicant who desires to come to Japan in either of the two periods may have to switch to the other arrival period if requested by the accepting university.

(8) Visa: Applicants must have a "College Student" visa when he/she arrives in Japan.

* MEXT does not pay any grantee the traveling expenses to come to Japan (including arrival allowance) if he/she fails to arrive in Japan within the appointed arrival period. Furthermore, if the arrival of the grantee is delayed for a considerable period of time, he/she may lose the right to receive this scholarship.

** Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list are not eligible for this scholarship.

*** Any applicant whose spouse has already won a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship or whose spouse applies for this scholarship at the same time will not be selected as a grantee.

**** Any applicant who received a Japanese Government Scholarship in the past is not eligible unless he or she has spent three years or longer on his/her study or research after returning to his/her home country.

However, former "Japanese Studies" scholarship students may apply for admission to the Research Student Program after completing the undergraduate courses of their enrolled universities after returning to their home countries.

***** Any applicant who is already enrolled in a Japanese university with the resident status of "College Student" at the time of application is not eligible to apply.

***** Any applicant who continues to receive this scholarship or any other monetary assistance from any institution (including the government of his/her home country) other than the Japanese Government is not eligible.

***** Any applicant who fails to graduate by the appointed date will lose the right to receive this scholarship.

***** Until last year, each applicant was requested to contact a professor of the university of his/her choice to obtain a letter of acceptance in advance. Please note that this procedure has been changed. From this year, only the applicants who have passed the preliminary selection examination conducted at Japanese Embassies/Consulates General are required to obtain a letter of acceptance and admission to the university of their choice.

3. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

The term of scholarship may differ depending on what course a grantee takes in Japan as follows:

(1) In the case of a grantee who takes a course as a research student, non-degree student, or auditor, etc. (hereinafter referred to as "Research Student")

a. If the grantee comes to Japan in April 2006, 24 months from April 2006 through March 2008;

b. If the grantee comes to Japan in October 2006, 18 months from October 2006 through March 2008.

(In either case, the above-mentioned term of scholarship includes a 6-month Japanese language training period. Such training will be given to any grantee whose Japanese language ability is insufficient.)

(2) In the case of a grantee who enrolls in a master's course, doctoral course, or professional graduate course right after coming to Japan, the term of scholarship will be, regardless of when the grantee comes to Japan, a period to the completion of the relevant course plus a 6-month Japanese language training period if such training is given.

In the case where a grantee desires to enroll in a regular graduate course after studying as a Research Student or to move on from a master's course or a professional graduate course to a doctoral course, if his/her academic achievement is outstanding, he/she may receive this scholarship for a longer period of time as long as such extension of the term of scholarship is approved by examination.

Please note that a grantee who desires to move on to a regular graduate course after studying as a Research Student may not apply for an extension of scholarship term in either of the following cases:

- a. In the case of a grantee who desires to move on to a doctoral course after studying as a non-regular student for a period longer than one year starting from the arrival date, including a Japanese language training period; or
- b. In the case of a grantee who desires to move on to a master's course in a scientific field after studying as a non-regular student for a period longer than two years starting from the arrival date, including a Japanese language training period.

(Note) Until last year, each grantee needed to study as a Research Student for at least six months in principle, regardless of a degree even if he/she desires to enroll in a regular graduate course. The term of scholarship was limited to the periods described in (1) above. From 2006, however, a grantee may receive this scholarship after obtaining permission to enroll in a regular graduate course before coming to Japan (Please refer to the item (1) of 6 below). As a result, the term of scholarship is extended to cover a period to the completion of such a course.

4. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Scholarship Allowance: 175,000 yen per month will be given to each grantee during the term of his/her scholarship. The amount is subject to change. Please note that no scholarship will be given to any grantee who takes a leave of absence from the university or is absent from the university for a long period. Moreover, no scholarship may be given to any grantee who violates his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- (2) Transportation:
 - a. Transportation to Japan: MEXT will prepare an itinerary and choose an air route for each grantee and will provide him/her with an economy-class air ticket for the trip from the international airport nearest to his/her home address to the New Tokyo International Airport (or any other airport designated by MEXT; hereinafter the same). The grantee will be supplied, according to his/her itinerary as designated by MEXT, with a tourist class air ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address to the New Tokyo International Airport (or the international airport nearest to the university he/she is placed, on the condition that it is less expensive to arrive at that airport). Each grantee must pay for such expenses as inland transportation from his/her home address to the international airport, airport tax and special taxes relating to the travel. (The current address stated in the application is considered as the "home address of the grantee.") No air ticket will be issued to a grantee for a route from any country other than the country of his/her nationality.
We will not supply the expenses incurred by a grantee who comes to Japan before April 2006 (or October 2006 in the case of a grantee who is scheduled to come to Japan in October) in order to obtain admission or for any other purpose.
 - b. Transportation from Japan: MEXT will, upon receipt of an application from a grantee, provide the grantee with an economy-class air ticket from the New Tokyo International Airport to the international airport nearest to his/her home address as long as the grantee returns to his/her home country by the appointed date after the expiration of the scholarship term.
(Note) The grantee should, at his/her cost, buy aviation and accident insurance for a trip to and from Japan. For a trip to and from Japan, the grantee must not use any airport other than the international airport of the country of his/her nationality.
- (3) Arrival Allowance: In 2006, the sum of 25,000 yen is scheduled to be given to each grantee upon his/her arrival in Japan. The amount is subject to change.
- (4) School Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition at universities will be born by the Government of Japan.
- (5) Accommodations:
 - a. The Foreign Student Houses, operated by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)
The grantees enrolled at universities in the Tokyo, Osaka, or Kobe district may reside, if they so desire, at one of the Foreign Student Houses, operated by JASSO. However, some grantees who desire to reside there may not be able to find a vacancy due to the limited accommodation capacity.
 - b. Residence halls for foreign students established by national universities
At present, about 90 national universities have residence halls for foreign students. The grantees enrolled at national universities that offer such accommodations may reside, if they so desire, at these residence halls under certain conditions.
However, some grantees who desire to reside there may not be able to find a vacancy due to the limited accommodation capacity.
 - c. Private boarding houses or apartments
Any grantee who does not live in any of the above-mentioned houses or halls will have to live in a normal dormitory of the university or in a private boarding house or an apartment introduced by the university.
- (6) Any grantee who receives medical treatment in Japan will be reimbursed for a part of the medical expenses.
*The support activities specified in the above items (3), (5)-a, and (6) are carried out by the Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO). JASSO performs various activities for foreign students in cooperation with MEXT and universities in Japan.

5. SELECTION

- (1) The Japanese Embassy will, in cooperation with the foreign governments concerned, conduct a preliminary selection examination of candidates from among applicants through an interview, a written examination, and a review of the submitted documents.
- (2) A written examination will be given in Japanese and English. Every applicant must take an examination in Japanese, while an examination in English is optional.
- (3) The principles of examination are as follows:
 - a. Application documents: Each applicant is required to have received from the university from which he/she graduated most recently grades higher than a certain level and to describe a detailed and concrete research plan in an application.
 - b. Written examination: Each applicant is required to receive a grade higher than a certain level on a written examination either in Japanese or English.
 - c. Interview: Each applicant is required to have a strong sense of purpose for studying in Japan and to have collected information on Japanese universities. In addition, each applicant is required to have an enough Japanese or English language ability to communicate with the professor in charge of his or her education in Japan. However, any applicant who desires to study a subject that requires a higher Japanese language skill must have sufficient Japanese language ability.
- (4) The result of a preliminary selection examination will be notified on the date separately designated by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General.

- (5) Each candidate who has passed the preliminary selection examination is required to contact the Japanese university of his/her choice and make the utmost effort to obtain admission as a graduate student or research student or a letter of acceptance as a research student (hereinafter referred to as "Admission").
- (6) Each candidate must submit to the university of his/her choice a set of the same documents as those submitted to the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General (Application, certified academic records of the university attended, study program to which a confirmation seal of the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General is affixed, and a certificate of the preliminary selection issued by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General). Additional documents may have to be submitted upon request of the university.
- (7) MEXT will conduct a final selection examination based on the results of the preliminary selection and select national scholarship recipients after deciding in which universities they should be placed. Please note that not every applicant who has passed the preliminary selection examination conducted at a Japanese Embassy/Consulate General will pass the final selection examination.
 - * Until last year, the result of a written examination in Japanese was treated as reference data to decide how much Japanese language training needs to be given to the grantee after his/her arrival in Japan. From 2006, however, each applicant is given an optional written examination in English in addition to a mandatory written examination in Japanese. The result of the examination will provide a basis for measuring his/her language ability and will also directly affect the outcome of the selection. The result of a written examination in Japanese will continue to be used as reference data to decide how much Japanese language training needs to be given to the grantee after his/her arrival in Japan.
 - ** In principle, any applicant who desires to pursue such a field of study as Japanese linguistics, Japanese literature, Japanese history, or Japanese laws, etc., will not be selected as a grantee unless he/she has an enough Japanese language ability to follow these courses. In addition, any applicant who desires to conduct fieldwork abroad at the time of the application will not be adopted.
 - *** Even if an applicant is selected as a candidate through the preliminary selection and given by MEXT a temporary notice of appointment as a grantee (It has not decided in which university he/she is placed.), if he or she does not receive a final notice of acceptance by the end of July 2006, the appointment as a grantee will automatically be cancelled. If any grantee declines the appointment as a grantee, a candidate who has received a notice of appointment as a substitute grantee may be accepted as a grantee to fill the vacancy.

6. PLACEMENT TO AND EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY

- (1) Each grantee will be placed in the university from which he/she obtained admission as a regular student or a Research Student of the graduate school after he/she passed the preliminary selection examination and became a candidate (Any candidate who has received admission to a regular graduate course will be placed directly in the regular course without requiring him/her to study as a Research Student first.)
In the case of a candidate who has obtained from a university a letter of acceptance as a Research Student, MEXT will contact the university and obtain its consent before placing him/her to the university.
For any candidate who has obtained neither admission nor a letter of acceptance, MEXT will contact related universities and decide which university the candidate should be placed in consideration of his/her preference. In this case, the candidate is not allowed to oppose MEXT's decision.
 In the case where MEXT discusses with related universities on the possibility of the admission of a candidate who has not received admission, the candidate might not be appointed as a grantee because Japanese universities will have great difficulties in educating him/her in the academic field of his/her choice.
- (2) All lectures, experiments and practical training at universities are principally conducted in Japanese.
- (3) Any grantee whose Japanese language ability is insufficient will be placed in a language training course designated by MEXT for the first six-month period after his/her arrival in Japan. Those who have completed the language course will be transferred to the universities officially chosen in advance. However, any grantee whose achievement in the Japanese language training course is unsatisfactory may be considered unfit for advanced education at the university and may, as a result, lose his/her right to receive this scholarship.(cf. 8-(1))
- (4) Any grantee whose Japanese language ability is considered by the accepting university as high enough to conduct his/her study in Japan may be placed in the university as a Research Student or graduate student without Japanese language training.
- (5) Any grantee who desires to move on to a regular graduate course after studying as a Research student or to move on from a master's course or a professional graduate course to a doctoral course must pass an entrance examination given by the university concerned.
 Any grantee who desires to continue receiving a national scholarship after moving on to a higher education must undergo a separate examination to obtain approval on an extension of scholarship term. (Please refer to the description about an extension of scholarship term specified in item 3. Even if such an extension is refused, the student may continue his/her higher education in Japan at his/her own cost.)
 If any grantee who desires to be enrolled in a regular graduate course after studying as a Research Student fails to pass an entrance examination, he/she may not apply for an extension of scholarship term while retaining the status of Research Student unless another entrance examination is scheduled to be given before the expiration of scholarship term.
- (6) In principle, any grantee who desires to be enrolled in a regular graduate course after studying as a Research Student must move on to the graduate school of the university at which the grantee is studying as a Research Student. Any grantee whose specialized field or capability makes the entrance into the graduate school of the same university undesirable may transfer to another graduate school on the condition that he/she obtains admission.

* According to the educational system of Japan, a typical master's course lasts for two years after graduation from a university (i.e. after 16 years of school education), whereas a typical doctoral course lasts for three years after the completion of a master's course. Any student who has completed such a two-year or three-year course, obtained necessary credits, and passed the final examination after submitting his/her graduation thesis will be given the degree concerned. A student who is not enrolled in a doctoral course may be granted a doctoral degree if he/she submits his/her dissertation to a graduate school and receives a high evaluation.

** In the fields of medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, most of the universities offer only doctoral courses which require four years of study after completion of 18 years of school education. If an applicant is from a country where the completion of 16 years of school education qualifies one to apply for admission to a doctoral program in these fields, he/she must have research experience of two years or longer at a university, a research institute, or any other institution, and must be considered by the Japanese graduate school as having the same academic ability as that of a graduate who has received 18 years of school education.

*** Professional graduate schools are a new type of graduate school that trains professionals possessing advanced specialized skills by building a wide bridge between theory and practice, based on the basic skills, etc. gained at the undergraduate level. The standard required duration of study is two years; or less than two years but more than one year, as determined by each university, and the degree is described as Professional degree .(This is a newly established degree system so the degree is described as e.g. "Master of Public Policy (specialized occupation)".)

For "graduate law schools", one kind of professional graduate school, the standard required duration of study is three years, and the degree is described as "Doctor of Law (specialized occupation)."

**** An entrance examination given by a graduate school varies from one university to another. In general, applicants have to take examinations in two foreign languages, his/her major subject and an essay test.

7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Each applicant must submit three sets of the following documents to the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General by the appointed date. One set is required to be original documents. The other two sets may be photocopies thereof.

- (1) Application for Admission (prescribed forms), Field of Study and Study Program (Attachment)
- (2) Passport size (6 × 4 cm) photographs taken within the past six months (Full-faced photograph from the waist up. When photographed, the applicant must not wear a hat or cap hiding a part of his/her face or head. The applicant must write his/her name and nationality on the back of each photograph and paste them on the application forms.)
- (3) Certified academic records of each academic year of the university attended (issued by the university attended)
- (4) Recommendation from the university president or dean, or professor under whom the applicant studied
- (5) Recommendation from the present employer (in addition to form(4) listed above, if employed)
- (6) Medical certificate on the prescribed form (issued by the medical institution designated by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General)
- (7) Diploma of the university attended most recently (or a Certificate of Expected Graduation in the case of a student who is expected to graduate soon)
- (8) Certificate of degree
- (9) Abstracts of the theses
- (10) Photograph showing applicant's own works of art or a recorded tape of musical performance
(only for those majoring in fine arts or music)

* These documents must be written in either Japanese or English, or accompanied by a translation in either of these languages.

** Photographs must be pasted on the original application and on each of the copied applications. Copied photographs are not acceptable.

*** Regarding certified academic records of each academic year of the university attended, each applicant must submit all the academic records of each academic year of the undergraduate school and graduate school of the university that he/she attended. The certified records should be prepared in such a way that explain on what scale the grades were given, such as on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest grade, etc. (Neither a certificate of degree nor a university diploma simply showing the ranking of the applicant will substitute for certified academic records.)

**** Regarding a diploma and certificate of degree obtained from the university attended most recently, a copy thereof would suffice as long as the copy is accompanied by a certificate of acknowledgment issued by an official of the university who is in charge of this matter. (The same will apply to any case where an applicant submits a certificate of university entrance qualification examination as a substitute for a diploma.)

***** Regarding abstracts of the theses, abstracts of the graduation thesis and presented papers will suffice. Each applicant should note that these abstracts will be used as basic data for evaluation of his/her academic ability.

8. NOTES

- (1) A grantee will lose the right to receive this scholarship if:
 - a. A false statement is found in his/her application documents;
 - b. He/she violates his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
 - c. He/she receives disciplinary punishment from the university or has no prospects for academic improvement (e.g. failure to achieve a satisfactory level in the Japanese language course or in his/her major subject);
 - d. His/her residence status is changed from "College Student" to any other status;
 - e. He/she gets married to another grantee of this scholarship program. In this case, one of them will lose the right to receive this scholarship, while the other remains qualified to receive it.
- (2) A grantee is advised to learn the Japanese language and to collect as much information as possible on the Japanese culture in general such as the climate, customs and manners, and university education before coming to Japan.
- (3) It is highly recommended that a grantee should bring approximately US \$1,000 or the equivalent thereof in order to meet immediate needs after arrival in Japan.
- (4) It is very difficult for grantees with dependents to find appropriate housing in Japan. The grantee is requested to come to Japan alone to secure housing before having his/her dependents come over to Japan.
- (5) The amounts of the scholarship allowance and the arrival allowance specified in Section 4 are subject to change.
- (6) Any applicant who has a question concerning this document or needs further information should contact the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General and follow its instructions.