

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO:MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2008

(RESEARCH STUDENTS)

MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology) offers scholarships to foreign students who wish to study at Japanese universities as research students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2008 as follows:

1. FIELDS OF STUDY

Fields of study must be subjects which applicants will be able to study and research at Japanese universities.

Keep in mind, however, that a student who majors in medicine, dentistry or welfare science will not be allowed to engage in clinical training such as medical care and operative surgery until he/she obtains a permit from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare under applicable Japanese laws. Majors in traditional entertainment such as Kabuki and classical Japanese dances, or in subjects that seek practical training in specific technologies or techniques at factories or companies are excluded.

2. QUALIFICATIONS

(1) Nationality: Applicant must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. Applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application will not be eligible. Applicant screening will be made at the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General in the country of Applicant's nationality (except where two or more countries are attended by the same Japanese Embassy/Consulate General).

(2) Age: Applicant must have been born on or after April 2, 1973.

(3) Academic Background: Applicant must be a graduate from a Japanese university or have academic ability equal or superior to that of a university graduate. A person will be deemed to have academic ability equal or superior to that of a university graduate, if he/she

① has completed or will complete a 16-year school curriculum in a foreign country (or an 18-year school curriculum if he/she desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, or pharmacy which is founded on a 6-year department or faculty); or

② is or will be aged 22 or older and has taken an individual entrance qualification examination and has been judged by a graduate school as being equal or superior in academic ability to a university graduate (or 24 or older if he/she desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, or pharmacy which is founded on a 6-year department or faculty).

Note: Eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to a Japanese graduate school. As a general rule, a person who has completed a doctoral course may not apply unless he/she seeks to obtain a degree.

(4) Major Field of Study: Applicant should apply for the field of study he/she studied at the previous university or any related field. Applicant must choose a field on which he/she can receive education and perform research at the university of his/her choice.

(5) Japanese Language: Applicant must be willing to learn the Japanese language, interested in Japan and enthusiastic about deepening his/her understanding of Japan after arriving, and capable of engaging in study and research while adapting himself/herself to life in Japan.

(6) Health: Applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue study at university.

(7) Arrival in Japan: Applicant must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan between the 1st and 7th of April 2008 or between the 1st and 7th of October 2008. Even when Applicant desires to come to Japan during one of the two periods, he/she may have to switch to the other if so requested by the recipient university.

(8) Visa Requirement: If selected, Applicant will be required to acquire a "College Student, (*ryuugaku*(留学))" visa prior to coming to Japan. Selected applicants who are already in Japan under a different resident status (i.e. other than "College Student") must change their resident status to "College Student" by the end of the last month before the scholarship enters into effect. (Applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of "College Student" will not qualify for a Japanese government's scholarship. Also keep in mind that if Applicant changes his/her resident status to any status other than "College Student" after entry into Japan, he/she will lose his/her status of a Japanese government scholarship student upon such change of status.)

Note 1: If Applicant cannot arrive in Japan in the set period, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. Furthermore, if his/her arrival in Japan is delayed for a considerable period of time, his/her selection may be cancelled.

Note 2: A service member or a civilian employee registered on the active military list is excluded from eligible scholarship grantees.

Note 3: Applicant who was a grantee of a Japanese Government Scholarship in the past will not be selected unless he/she has had at least three years of research or teaching experience after returning to his/her home country. This exclusion will not apply to a research-student applicant, who (i) as a foreign student in Japan received training in the Japanese language and/or Japanese culture at a university and graduated from it, or who (ii) was a foreign student in Japan under the Japan-Korea Joint government scholarship program for the students in science and engineering department and returned home.

Note 4: Applicant will not be eligible for this scholarship if he/she is currently enrolled in a Japanese university with the resident status of "College Student," or will be enrolled in a Japanese university as an other source or self financed international student between the time of application for this scholarship in his/her country and the time the scholarship period is due to begin.

Note 5: Applicant will not be selected if he/she is a grantee of a scholarship from an organization (including a governmental organization of his/her own country) other than the Japanese government (MONBUKAGAKUSHO:MEXT).

Note 6: Applicant, who is "expected to graduate" to satisfy one of the qualification requirements and was selected subject to such condition being duly met, will have his/her selection cancelled if he/she fails to graduate by the specified date.

Note 7: Please note that scholarship offers made in and after FY2006 require only those selected by the primary screening performed by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General to proceed to obtain a letter of provisional acceptance from or admission to the university of their choice. (See 5-(5) below).

3. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

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

- (1) In a case where Grantee will enroll as a research student, non-degree student, or auditor, etc. (hereinafter referred to as "Research Student") after coming to Japan:
 - ① If Grantee comes to Japan in April 2008, his/her scholarship will be payable for 24 months from April 2008 through March 2010;
 - ② If Grantee comes to Japan in October 2008, his/her scholarship will be payable for 18 months from October 2008 through March 2010.(In either case, the above-mentioned term of scholarship includes a 6-month Japanese language training period applicable to grantees whose Japanese language ability is insufficient.)
- (2) If Grantee directly enrolls in a master's course, doctoral course, or professional graduate course after coming to Japan, regardless of the time of his/her arrival in Japan the scholarship will be payable for a period necessary for Grantee to complete his/her regular course (standard course term). (Plus a 6-month Japanese language training period for Grantee who needs such training.)

If Grantee desires to proceed to a regular graduate course from a Research Student course, or to a doctoral course from a master's course or a professional graduate course, he/she may have the term of his/her scholarship extended upon successful examination by MEXT provided that he/she has outstanding academic achievement that meets certain criteria. (Grantee as Research Student cannot have the term of his/her scholarship extended, but he/she may proceed to higher education or continue with his/her study as an other source or self financed international student.)

Please note, however, that proceeding to a regular graduate course from a Research Student course is subject to period-related restrictions. Application for extension of stay will not be accepted in the following cases:

- ① Grantee desires to move on to a master's course in a Natural Science field, but is unable to proceed to a regular course by the last day of the 24th month counted from the month of arrival in Japan;
- ② Grantee desires to move on to a master's course in a Social Science field, but is unable to proceed to a regular course by the last day of the 25th month counted from the month of arrival in Japan;
- ③ Grantee desires to move on to a doctoral course in a Natural Science field, but is unable to proceed to a regular course by the last day of the 13th month counted from the month of arrival in Japan;
- ④ Grantee desires to move on to a doctoral course in a Social Science field, but is unable to proceed to a regular course by the last day of the 24th month counted from the month of arrival in Japan;

4. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance: Under the fiscal 2007 budget each grantee will be provided monthly with 170,000 yen, and 160,000 yen in and after the thirteenth month of stay in Japan (subject to change, however, depending upon the annual budget of each year). The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence or is long absent from his/her university.

Scholarship will be terminated for a grantee if

- ① any of his/her application documents is found to be falsely stated;
- ② he/she is in breach of his/her pledge made to the Minister of MONBUKAGAKUSHO(MEXT);
- ③ he/she is subjected to disciplinary action such as expulsion or removal from the register by his/her university or the preparatory Japanese-teaching institution;
- ④ it becomes definitive that the grantee will not be able to graduate(or complete his/her course) within the standard course term because of his/her poor academic achievement or suspension;
- ⑤ his/her resident status of "College Student" as provided for in Paragraph 1-4 of Appendix to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act changes to any other status; or
- ⑥ he/she is provided with another scholarship(except for a scholarship designated for research expenses).

- (2) Traveling Costs:

- ① Transportation to Japan: Each grantee will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy class air ticket from the international airport closest to his/her place of residence to Narita International Airport(or to the international airport which is usually used by the university where the grantee will be placed). Expenses such as inland transportation from his/her place of residence to the international airport, airport tax and any special taxes on overseas travel will NOT be provided ("Place of residence" of the grantee shall in principle be the address stated in the application form). No air ticket will be provided for a flight from a place other than the country of the grantee's nationality.

If the grantee comes to Japan earlier than April 2008(or earlier than October 2008 for a grantee due to arrive in October) to obtain admission to a university, he/she will not be provided with traveling cost to Japan.

- ② Transportation from Japan: The grantee who returns to his/her home country within the last-payment month of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy class air ticket for a flight from Narita International Airport to the international airport closest to his/her place of return.

Note: Insurance premiums for travel to/from Japan shall be borne by the grantee. The airport the grantee departs from or returns to must be an airport of the country of his/her nationality.

- (3) School Fees: The Japanese government will cover matriculation, tuition, and entrance examination fees at the university where the grantee enrolls as a regular student. The grantee shall bear the cost of entrance examination fees if he fails to be admitted. The grantee shall also bear the cost of additional entrance examination fees if he chooses to apply at more than one university.

5. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

- (1) In cooperation with the governments of the applicants' countries the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General will perform primary screening of applicants by means of submitted application documents, written examinations and interviews.
- (2) Written examinations will be English and Japanese tests. The Japanese examination must be taken by all applicants, and the English by those who wish.
- (3) The following policy will apply to each screening:
 - ① Application documents: Must show that the applicant obtained academic achievement higher than a certain level at the university he/she last graduated from, and state the applicant's desired research program in a detailed and concrete manner.
 - ② Written examination: Must show that the applicant obtained scores better than a certain level either in Japanese or English.
 - ③ Interview: Must reveal that the applicant has a clear sense of purpose relating to his/her study in Japan and has gathered information about Japanese universities. Interview must also reveal that the applicant has sufficient Japanese or English language ability to communicate with his/her adviser in Japan. If the applicant desires to study a subject that requires higher Japanese language proficiency, Interview must reveal that the applicant has a considerable degree of Japanese language proficiency.
- (4) Results of the primary screening will be notified on the date separately designated by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General.

- (5) Each candidate who has been selected by this primary screening is required to directly 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”) by the end of August. (Universities in Japan do not respond to a request for Admission after the end of August.)
- (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, academic transcript of the university attended, research program, all with a confirmation seal of the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General affixed, and a passing certificate of the primary 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 based on the results of the primary screening, and select as Japanese government scholarship grantees those applicants who have been accepted by a Japanese university. Applicants who have passed the primary screening are not guaranteed to be selected as Japanese government scholarship grantees.

Note 1: A written Japanese examination must be taken by all applicants. In addition, an English examination will be provided to those who wish. The result of these examinations will provide a basis for determining each applicant's language ability and will be reflected directly in the screening.

The result of the written Japanese examination will continue to be used as reference data for Japanese-language teaching due to be provided upon applicants' arrival in Japan.

Note 2: For example, if an applicant little proficient in Japanese desires to pursue fields of study such as Japanese linguistics, Japanese literature, Japanese history, or Japanese laws —fields that require sufficient knowledge of the Japanese language — he/she will not be selected as a grantee unless there is a very special situation.

An applicant who desires to conduct fieldwork abroad at the time of application will not be selected, either.

Note 3: Even if an applicant is selected by the primary screening, recommended as a candidate grantee to MEXT, and notified by MEXT as provisionally selected (his/her recipient university yet to be decided), he/she will automatically fail to be selected if he/she does not receive a notice of his/her recipient university being decided by the end of July 2008.

If an applicant is notified of his/her selection as a substitute grantee, he may be designated as a definitive grantee as early as by the end of July in the event that any one of the selected grantees is known to be failing because of his/her declination or any other event.

6. PLACEMENT AND RESEARCH GUIDANCE AT UNIVERSITY

- (1) Placement of a grantee at a university will be decided following a relevant request made to the university from which, upon passage of the primary screening, a candidate grantee obtained admission as a regular student or Research Student at the university's graduate school (a candidate who has received admission to a regular graduate course will be placed directly in such course without passing through a Research Student period).

If a candidate grantee has received a letter of acceptance from a university, first of all MEXT will request the university to receive the grantee, and place him/her there upon its approval.

If a candidate wants to enter a public or private university, the grantee's preference may not be met due to budgetary reasons concerning school fees, etc. In this case, the candidate is not allowed to raise an objection to the decision.

If a candidate has obtained neither admission nor a letter of acceptance, MEXT will contact related universities and decide at which university to place the candidate in consideration of his/her preference. In this case, the candidate is not allowed to raise an objection to the decision.

In a case where a candidate fails to obtain admission or a letter of acceptance and MEXT discusses the case with related universities, the candidate may not be accepted and therefore not definitively selected by MEXT, if his/her research program is vague or unclear, the content of his/her research is not substantial, or his/her desired major field presents difficulty from the perspective of research guidance.

- (2) Research guidance such as lectures, experiments and practical training at universities is basically conducted in Japanese.
- (3) If a grantee is determined to be insufficiently proficient in the Japanese language, usually he/she will be placed in a Japanese-language training institution designated by MEXT for education in Japanese for the first six-month period after his/her arrival in Japan. Upon completion of the education the grantee will be placed at a university for advanced education. If a grantee has poor achievement in the Japanese language training course and is considered unfit for advanced education at the university, scholarship payment will stop. (See 4.(1).)
- (4) If a grantee is deemed by his/her recipient university as sufficiently proficient in Japanese for conducting his/her research in Japan, he/she may be placed in the university as Research Student or a graduate student without going through Japanese-language training.
- (5) If a grantee desires to move on to a regular graduate course from a Research Student course, or to a doctoral course from a master's course or a professional graduate course, he will be able to do so provided that he/she takes an entrance examination provided by the relevant university and passes it. But to continue receiving the Japanese government scholarship after moving on to such higher education, the grantee must go through a separate examination and have the term of his/her scholarship extended. (See 3.(2).)

A grantee cannot apply for an extension of scholarship term while retaining the status of Research Student.

- (6) If a grantee desires to step up to a regular graduate course from a Research Student course, in principle he/she must move on to the graduate school of the university at which he/she is studying as Research Student. If proceeding to such graduate school is deemed inappropriate given the grantee's major field or ability, he/she may be allowed to move on to another graduate school provided that he/she is admitted.

Note 1: Under the educational system of Japan, a typical master's course lasts for two years subsequent to graduation from a university (i.e. after completion of a 16-year school curriculum), and a typical doctoral course lasts for three years after completion of a master's course. If a student has completed such two-, or three-year course, obtained necessary credits, and passed the final examination after submitting his/her graduation thesis, he/she will be given relevant degrees.

Note 2: In the fields of medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and pharmacy which is founded on a 6-year department or faculty, most of the universities offer only 4-year doctoral courses. For admission to such doctoral course an applicant is required to have completed an 18-year school curriculum. If an applicant completed a 16-year school curriculum, he/she is required to have engaged for two or more years in research activities at universities or research institutions subsequent to completion of the 16-year curriculum, and to be deemed by a graduate school in Japan as being academically equal to an applicant who completed an 18-year curriculum.

Note 3: Professional graduate schools are a new type of graduate school implemented in 2003 designed to develop profound learning and outstanding ability that support professions that require sophisticated expertise. The standard required duration of study is two years. In some fields of study, the duration is less than two years but more than one year. Upon completion of the course a master's degree (specialized occupation) will be conferred.

Among the degree courses are "graduates schools of law." The school is one kind of professional graduate schools with the standard required duration of study of three years. Upon completion of the course a student will be granted the degree of "Doctor of Law (specialized occupation)."

Note 4: Entrance examinations given by a graduate school vary 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 the following documents to the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General by the specified date. The submitted documents will not be returned.

	(Original)	(Copy)
(1) Application (by the prescribed form)	3	
(2) Application Form (Attachment)	1	
(3) Research Program (Attachment)	1	2
(4) Photograph (6×4 cm, taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced, uncapped. Write your name and nationality on its back and paste it on the application form)	4	
(5) Academic transcript of each academic year of the last university attended (issued by the university attended)	1	2
(6) Recommendation from the principal or the adviser of the last university attended	1	2
(7) Recommendation from the present employer (if currently employed)	1	2
(8) Medical certificate on the prescribed form (issued by the medical institution designated by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General)	1	2
(9) Graduation certificate or degree certificate of the last university attended (or an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the school, where applicable)	1	2
(10) Abstracts of theses	1	2
(11) Photograph showing applicant's own works of art or a recorded tape of musical performance (only for those majoring in fine arts or music)	1	2

Note 1: These documents must be written in either Japanese or English. A document written in any other language must be attached with a Japanese or English translation.

Note 2: Photographs to be pasted on the original application must be original. Copies are not acceptable.

Note 3: Research Program should clearly describe the applicant's own research program because it will serve as important materials for placement of the applicant at a university.

Note 4: The academic transcripts of the last university attended should be prepared to show the grade scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant on all the subjects studied for each year studied at a university department/faculty and a graduate school. (A degree certificate or a graduation certificate simply showing the ranking of the applicant at graduation will not substitute for academic transcripts.)

Note 5: The graduation certificate and the degree certificate 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.

Note 6: For abstracts of the theses, abstracts of the graduation thesis and presented papers will suffice. Please note that these abstracts will be used as basic data for evaluation of the applicant's academic ability.

8. NOTES

(1) All grantees are advised to learn the Japanese language and have basic knowledge as to what the weather and climate, customs, and university education are like in Japan before leaving for Japan.

(2) Grantees are recommended to bring in approximately US \$1,500 or the equivalent to cover immediate needs just after arrival in Japan.

(3) Accommodations:

① Boarding houses operated by JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization)

Grantees enrolled at universities in Tokyo, Osaka and Kobe may reside, if they so desire, at one of the Foreign Student Houses operated by JASSO under prescribed conditions. However, these dormitories may not be able to accommodate all the students who wish to live there.

② Residence halls for foreign students established by national universities

At present some 90 national universities have residence halls available for foreign students. Grantees enrolled at national universities where such facilities are available may reside, if they so desire, at these residence halls under prescribed conditions. However, these facilities may not be able to accommodate all the students who wish to live there.

③ Private-run boarding houses or apartments.

Grantees who do not reside in any of the above facilities will have to live in a dormitory of the university or in private-run boarding houses or apartments introduced by the university.

Note: Please keep in mind that it is very difficult to secure family housing. A grantee is advised therefore to first come to Japan alone, and to bring in his/her spouse and children after securing a boarding house for his/her family.

(4) If you have any question about the matters set forth/not set forth herein, inquire at the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General, and follow their instructions if given any.