

**JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2018  
YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENT (SCHOOL OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE)**

**I OUTLINE**

1. Objectives

The Young Leaders' Program (YLP) aims to contribute to cultivate future national leaders in Asian and other countries, moreover, to contribute to establish friendly relationship among various countries and to improve policy planning activities by forming a network among national leaders through deepening their understanding of Japan. The YLP is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT\*) Scholarship Student programs.  
\*MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

2. Eligible Countries and Participants

Participants are selected from the countries listed below. They should be young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders in their home countries.

Eligible Countries:

P. R. China, Rep. of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania (20 Countries)

3. Host University

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

4. Number of Students

Approximately 10 students

5. Recruitment and Selection

(1) Method of Recruitment

Recruitment will be conducted through the recommending authorities of each eligible country. Please ask the Japanese Embassy for further information.

(2) Screening Procedure

- ① First screening by the recommending authorities
- ② Second screening by GRIPS
- ③ Final screening by the YLP committee organized by MEXT

6. Curriculum (Please refer to the appendix "Curriculum Guidelines".)

(1) Basic Concepts

The curriculum is designed to train and cultivate young leaders in their respective fields of government, who are seeking to take advantage of Japan's experiences of interaction with both Western and Asian countries and also to establish a human network through various activities, such as special lectures, colloquium, research paper, workshops, etc.

(2) Course Duration and Qualification

Course duration is one year, resulting in the conferral of a Master's Degree in Public Administration/Public Policy by GRIPS.

(3) Language

All lectures are conducted in English.

7. Commencement of the Program

October 2018

## II INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

MEXT will offer scholarships to foreign students who wish to study at GRIPS as YLP students in local governance for the academic year 2018 under the MEXT Scholarship Program. The conditions are as follows:

### 1. Field of Study

Local Governance

### 2. Qualifications

- (1) Nationality: Applicants must be nationals of countries eligible for the YLP (School of Local Governance). An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible.
- (2) Age: Applicants must be, in principle, under 40 years of age as of October 1, 2018 (i.e. born on or after October 2, 1978).
- (3) Academic Background: Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized/accredited university or college, and have achieved excellent academic performance.
- (4) Work Experience: At least 3 years of full-time work experience in public administration (preferably 5 years or more).
- (5) English Ability: A minimum TOEFL PBT score of 550, TOEFL iBT score of 79, IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or equivalent.
- (6) Health: Applicants must be judged that you are medically adequate to pursue study in Japan by an examining physician on a prescribed certificate of health.
- (7) Date of Departure: The departure date, specified by GRIPS, will be two weeks or so before or after the first day of the course conducted by the accepting university.
- (8) Visa Requirement: In principle, selected applicants must acquire "Student" (留学) visas before entering Japan. The visas should be issued at the Japanese legation, located in the country of applicants' nationality. Applicants who change their resident status to any states other than "Student" (留学) after their arrival in Japan will immediately lose their status as a Japanese government scholarship student.
- (9) Applicants who meet any or all of the following conditions are not eligible. If identified after acceptance of the scholarship grantees, the applicants will be required to withdraw from the scholarship:
  - ① If an applicant is a service member or a civilian employee registered on the active military list at the time of his/her arrival in Japan;
  - ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan during the period designated by GRIPS;
  - ③ If an applicant is, in principle, currently enrolled in a Japanese university or other type of school with the resident status of "Student" (留学) or will be enrolled in a Japanese university, etc. as another 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;
  - ④ Those who are planning to receive scholarship money from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country) on top of the scholarship money provided by MEXT after the arrival in Japan;
  - ⑤ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan;
  - ⑥ Those wishing to engage in fieldwork or an internship in a country other than Japan after submission of Application; or
  - ⑦ Those who will lose their status as public administrators or government officials following the time of application or before completion of the program.

### 3. Term of Scholarship

One year, from October 2018 to September 2019

### 4. Scholarship Benefits

- (1) Allowance: Each grantee will be provided monthly with 242,000 yen during the term of the scholarship.

However, the amount of allowance will be subject to change depending upon the annual budget of the Japanese government for each fiscal year. The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence or is long absent from the assigned university.

The scholarships will be cancelled for a grantee in the following cases. Furthermore, if scholarship payments were made during the period the following cases applied, the grantees may be ordered to return scholarship payments received during that period:

- ① If any of his/her application documents is found to be falsely stated;
- ② If he/she is in breach of his/her pledge made to the Minister of MEXT;
- ③ If the recipient violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to imprisonment with or without work for life or for a period of exceeding 1 year;
- ④ If the recipient is expelled from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; (The scholarship payment may be stopped during the period up until punishment is decided by the university, etc.)
- ⑤ If 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, suspension or absent from the university;
- ⑥ If his/her resident status of “Student” (留学) as provided for in Paragraph 1-4 of Appendix to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act changes to any other status;
- ⑦ If he/she is provided with another scholarship (except for a scholarship designated for research expenses); or
- ⑧ If grantee’s government and/or other state institutions request such cancellation.

(2) Traveling Costs:

- ① Transportation to Japan: Each grantee will be supplied in general, accounting to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy-class airplane ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita or Haneda International Airport. Expenses such as domestic transportation from his/her home address to the international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, special taxes on travel, or inland transportation within Japan will NOT be supplied. The present address in the country of the grantee’s nationality stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient’s “home address” If, however, the address stated in the application form will be changed at the time of leaving from his/her country, the changed address will be regarded as the “home address”.
- ② Transportation from Japan: The grantee who returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be supplied, in general, upon application, with an economy-class airplane ticket for the travel from Narita or Haneda International Airport to the international airport nearest to his/her home address (in principle, the country of nationality).

\* Insurance premiums for travel to/ from Japan shall be borne by the grantee.

(3) School Fees: Fees for matriculation and tuition will be paid by the Japanese government.

(4) Accommodations:

- ① In principle, grantees may reside at residence halls provided by GRIPS;
- ② Private Boarding Houses or Apartment Houses:  
Those who cannot accommodate in the facilities described above will be arranged at private boarding houses or apartments recommended by the GRIPS Student Office.

5. Selection

- (1) Based on the recommendation of authorities, GRIPS will select initial candidates from among applicants by means of an interview, and a review of the submitted documents. If it is not possible to hold an interview in the applicant's home country, an interview may be conducted by telephone or the Internet.
- (2) Those who have been selected initially by GRIPS will be put forward to the YLP committee established by MEXT for the final selection.

6. Education at GRIPS

All lectures and practical training are conducted in English.

## 7. Application Process

Selection for admission is based on the evaluation of supporting documents submitted. Before starting your application, please carefully review the following application process.

You will NOT be registered as an applicant until we have received all of your supporting documents.

If you have applied to GRIPS in previous years and wish to reapply this year, any supporting documents you submitted previously cannot be used for this year's application.

Please note that if you provide any false or misleading statement or incomplete or inaccurate information in your application, your application may not be screened, you may be denied admission or, if you have been admitted, you may be dismissed from GRIPS.

Applicants must submit the following documents to their recommending authorities by the designated deadline. It is your responsibility to prepare all supporting documents far enough in advance so as to meet the designated deadline. Incomplete applications and applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

All materials submitted by an applicant become the property of GRIPS and will not be returned. Please be sure to keep one copy of your application for your records.

	Item	Number of Originals	Number of Photocopies	Remarks
(1)	① Application for Admission	1	4	Prescribed form
(2)	Photographs	5	—	6 x 4 cm, taken within the past 6 months, should be affixed to each of the 5 application forms
(3)	② Official transcripts of academic records from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended	1	4	
(4)	③ Recommendation Letter from the recommending authority	1	4	
(5)	③ Recommendation Letter from the applicant's direct superior at work	1	4	Prescribed form
	③ Recommendation Letter from the applicant's superior at work, or supervising professor of the university	1	4	
(6)	④ Certificate of Health	1	4	Prescribed form, to be issued by the medical institution designated by Japanese Embassy; all items must be completed, and all comments must be written in English in block letters
(7)	⑤ Official graduation/degree certificates from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended	1	4	
(8)	⑥ Essay explaining applicant's aspirations and future plans following program completion	1	4	3-page essay describing the applicant's reason/motivation for applying; future plans and expectations from the program as well as future career goals

(9)	⑦ Copy of the Passport	—	5	Any of these
	⑦ Family Register	1	4	
	⑦ Certificate of Citizenship	1	4	
(10)	⑧ Official Evidence of English Ability	1	4	TOEFL/IELTS or other equivalent test score.
(11)	⑨ Answer to the Essay Questions	1	4	

\*Attention

- (1) Use A4 paper as the standard for all submitted documents, which in principle should be typed. Handwritten documents should be written clearly.
- (2) Do not attach any additional documents apart from the items listed above.
- (3) All documents must be in English. Documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by an official translation. To be official, the translation must have been done by the organization issuing the document or by an accredited translator. We will not accept your own translations.
- (4) You must submit official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended. These must be documents issued by the university and bearing the seal or signature of the registrar, and they must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes with the university logo and address noted; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authorities. You should request and receive your official transcripts from your university. Official transcripts should contain the following information: the name of the degree program/course, the enrollment period, the names of all courses taken and grades received, and the grading scale. It is helpful to have the student's rank in the class included in the information. If you are currently attending a university, please submit your most recent transcript.
- (5) Your letters of recommendation must be written separately by an immediate superior at your workplace or an academic advisor from your university. At least one and preferably two should be written by immediate superiors at the workplace. Each of your letters must contain both of the two A4 pages provided. Letters submitted that do not use our designated forms will not be accepted. They must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes signed across the flap by the recommender. For details, please see the explanation on the designated form.
- (6) You must submit official graduation/degree certificates from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended. These must be documents issued by the university and bearing the seal or signature of the registrar, and they must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes with the university logo and address noted; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authorities. You should request and receive your official graduation/degree certificates from your university. Official certificates should state the name of your degree and the date the degree was awarded. If you are currently attending a university, you must submit an authorized statement of expected graduation certifying the specific date of graduation and the title of the expected degree upon completion of the program. Do not send your original diploma, as documents will not be returned.
- (7) Transcripts/certificates that have been opened are not acceptable. Transcripts/certificates without the institution's official stamp or the signature of the registrar are not acceptable. If a university has a policy not to issue more than one official transcript/certificate, you may submit photocopies verified by the university. These must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes with the university logo and address noted; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authorities. If a university cannot issue an official English transcript/certificate, you are required to submit both an official transcript/certificate (photocopies are not acceptable), written in its original language and bearing the institution's stamp or the signature of the registrar, and an official English translation of the document, prepared by an accredited translator. If official transcripts do not include the grading scale, you are required to request the university to issue an official letter providing the details of the grading scale. That letter should be enclosed in the same envelope as the transcripts. Provisional or temporary graduation/degree certificates are not acceptable.
- (8) Please note that English test scores are valid for two years from the test date, and therefore, tests must have

been taken within two years of the date of admission. If you submit the results of a different test of English proficiency, please submit a conversion of the score to TOEFL or IELTS.

(9) How to apply for a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement

(Please note that there are two categories in our English test exemption policy.)

Category 1: Applicants who have completed or expect to complete an undergraduate or a graduate degree at an accredited institution located in the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or Ireland will be automatically exempted from submitting an English test score.

Category 2: Applicants who have completed or expect to complete an undergraduate or a graduate degree at an institution where the language of instruction is English may request a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement. If you wish to apply for such a waiver, you must submit, as evidence, official documents issued by the educational institution you attended, certifying that your undergraduate or graduate education was conducted entirely in English. This document must be issued by the university and bear the seal or signature of the registrar, and it must be submitted in a sealed, unopened envelope with the university logo and address noted; the envelope must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authority. Please note that the granting of your language waiver request is at the discretion of our screening committee and that your request for a language waiver will be considered at the time of screening. This means that there is a possibility that your waiver request will be denied. If possible, we strongly recommend you to take a TOEFL or IELTS test prior to your application.

(10) Number the documents from ① to ⑨ (the items numbered in the list above) in the upper right corner of each document.

## 8. Notes

- (1) Each recipient is advised to learn some basic Japanese language and to acquire basic information on Japanese climate, geography, customs, university education, and social conditions in Japan, as well as about differences between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country before departing for Japan.
- (2) The recipient should bring approximately US\$2,000 or the equivalent to cover immediate needs after arrival in Japan since the scholarship will be paid a while later.
- (3) Recipient must enroll in National Health Insurance (NHI) upon arrival in Japan.
- (4) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, 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 overseas students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the overseas student system).

Information in regards to the recipient other than date of birth and contact information may be made public in materials produced by the Japanese Government as publicity information for promoting the acceptance of overseas students in order to introduce the activities of past recipients in countries around the world after their study in Japan.

These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Excluding exceptional circumstances, only those concurring with these conditions will be accepted as MEXT Scholarship recipients and will be granted the Scholarship.

- (5) All personal information that we receive from applicants will be used for the purposes of admissions screening, collecting statistical information, student registration, and educational affairs.
- (6) More detailed information on the YLP scholarship program is available at the Japanese diplomatic mission in your country.

## **Young Leaders' Program (School of Local Governance) Curriculum Guidelines**

### **I Basic Concepts**

1. Each subject will deal with theories based not only on the experiences of the so-called modern Western World, but also on those concerned with the historical experiences of Japan and other non-Western countries. While analyzing commonalities in the modernization process along with its various possibilities, the courses seek to find the most desirable method for each country's modernization. (Comparative Approach)
2. Through modernization, our thoughts and ideas undergo deep transformations. However, the curriculum will not be concerned with modern ideas alone, but will also incorporate basic premises from the classical civilizations and ideas of the great thinkers. (Emphasis on liberal arts education aiming at self-relativization and critical thinking)
3. Going beyond instruction that is related to skills and knowledge, the curriculum will emphasize the fostering of students' ideas; identifying problems; and developing the ability to arrive at their own solutions. (Emphasis on discussion and self-study)
4. Through encounters with leading figures from all areas (including other promising young students), the curriculum aims to create human networks and further understanding about Japan.
5. As decentralization progresses in line with a country's economic development, the demand for local governance and government that is capable of responding to various regional issues such as education, health, welfare, and local development rises. This program aims to cultivate leaders and core personnel for such local governance in their respective countries by equipping them with advanced theories on local governance and practices in Japan.

### **II Students**

The course is designed for young public administrators and government officials, who are expected to play active roles in Asia and Central Europe as future leaders in local governance.

### **III Courses (in alphabetical order; courses offered are subject to change)**

1. Required Courses (10 credits)
  - Introduction to Japan
  - Introduction to Public Policy Studies
  - Local Governance in the Changing World
  - Local Government Finance
  - Local Government System
2. Recommended Courses (at least 4 credits)
  - Economic Development of Japan
  - Essential Microeconomics
  - Global Governance: Leadership and Negotiation
  - Government and Politics in Japan
  - International Relations
  - Microeconomics I
  - Structure and Process of Government

3. Elective Courses (Credits for the graduation requirement)

- Development Economics
- East Asian Economies
- Global Development Agendas and Japan's ODA
- Government and Market
- International Relations of the Asia Pacific
- International Trade
- Japanese Financial System
- Japanese Foreign Policy
- Macroeconomics I
- Public Economics
- Social Science Questions and Methodologies

4. Colloquium (2 credits) (Required Course)

This course will provide an opportunity to listen and discuss various issues with young government leaders and frontrunners in various fields. The colloquia will be organized five times in each of the fall and spring terms.

5. Research Paper (4 credits) (Required Course)

Students will produce a research paper on a topic of their choice that pertains to local governance, with a perspective of comparison between their home country and another, such as Japan. Designated advisors will provide them with writing instruction/guidance.

6. Workshop (4 credits) (Required Course)

Workshops, including a field trip on local governance in Japan, will be conducted twice in association with other universities, central government ministries, and local governments.

7. Other Educational Activities

Japanese Language Class:

All lectures are conducted in English, making it unnecessary for students to master Japanese. However, Japanese language courses will be offered to students who wish to further their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

**IV Further information**

For more information on GRIPS, please visit: <http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/>