APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2025
YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENT (LAW)

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 thorough deepening their understanding of Japan. The YLP is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT*) Scholarship 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 legal professionals, who are expected to play an active role as future national leaders in their respective countries.

   Eligible Countries: China, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Singapore, India, Republic of South Africa, Republic of Türkiye and Bangladesh (17 Countries)

3. Host University

   Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law.

4. The Number of Students

   Approximately 15 students per year.

5. Recruitment and Selection

   (1) Method of Recruitment

   Recruitment will be conducted through specially designated recommending authorities. Please enquire at the Japanese Embassy for further information on the recommending authorities.

   (2) Screening Procedure

   ① First screening: Call for applications, selection, and recommendation by the recommending authorities

   ② Second screening: Selection by the host university (in this case, Kyushu University)

   ③ Final screening: Final decision by the YLP Committee established by MEXT

6. Curriculum (Refer to the Appendix "Curriculum Guidelines".)

   (1) Basic Concept of YLP programs

   Each YLP course has been specially designed to contribute to the development of national leaders in various fields by seeking to take advantage of Japan's experiences of exchange with both Western and Asian countries and to establish a “human network” through education related activities.

   (2) Course Duration and Qualification

   Course duration is, in principle, for one year, resulting in the conferring of a Master’s degree in Law from Kyushu University.

   (3) Language

   All classes will be conducted entirely in English.

7. Commencement of the Program

   October 2025

II INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

MEXT will offer scholarships to foreign students who wish to study in Japanese universities as YLP students in law for the academic year 2025 under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program. The conditions are as follows:

1. Field of Study
   Law (Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law)

2. Qualifications
   (1) Nationality: Applicants must be nationals of a country that is participating in the YLP (see above). An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application will not be 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).
   (2) Age: Applicants must be, in principle, under 40 years old as of 1st October 2025 (i.e. born on or after 2 October 1985).
   (3) Academic Background: Applicants must be college graduates who have attained a high level of academic achievement in their undergraduate study.
   (4) English Ability: A minimum TOEFL-iBT score of 80, IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent.
   (5) Work Experience: At least 4 years of work experience from the time of graduating to the time of application. The work experience must be in the applicant's home country in a law office or in the legal section of a company or government department, and holding office continuously in the same work place at the point of application and for the duration of the program. The work experience must also be full-time and continue after graduation from university.
   (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) Arrival in Japan: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by the accepting university, within two weeks before and after the first day of the course conducted by the accepting university. If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the specified period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.
   (8) Visa Requirement: Applicants shall, in principle, newly obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese Embassy located in the applicant’s country of nationality and enter Japan with the status of residence as “Student.” If the applicant resides in Japan exceptionally before acceptance, the applicant must change or renew his/her status of residence to as “Student” by the end of the month prior to the installment of the first scholarship payment.
   Even if the applicant originally held a status of residence such as "Permanent Resident" or "Long-term Resident", he/she should be aware that the original status might not be necessarily regranted after the expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student.
   (9) Return to home country and resumption of work after the scholarship period: In accordance with the objectives of the YLP, after the scholarship period, applicants are expected to make efforts to build friendly relationships among various countries, including Japan, by creating human and intellectual networks among leaders in countries across the world. To this end, applicants should, in principle, return to their home countries by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and resume their work at the recommending authorities or the organization designated by the recommending authorities among others.
   (10) Non-Eligibility: 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 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 designated by accepting university;
   ③ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of “Student” or who are going to be enrolled, or plan 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, 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;

④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2024, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2025;

⑤ Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others after the start of the scholarship payment period;

⑥ 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 (the acquisition of student status);

⑦ Those who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after their arrival in Japan;

⑧ Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the host university;

3. Period of Scholarship

One year from October 2025 to September 2026.

4. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance: 242,000 yen per month. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change 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.

(2) Traveling Costs

① Transportation to Japan: In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address (in principle, the country of nationality) to the Fukuoka International Airport. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from his/her home address 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 for travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country in case there are no direct flights from the grantee's country of nationality to Fukuoka International Airport. In such cases, MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of nationality to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the host university. 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". For cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket. If a grantee will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period stated in "2. (8) Arrival in Japan", travel expenses will not be paid.

② Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See "3. Period of Scholarship") designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the Fukuoka International Airport to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. 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.

(3) Education Fees:
Fees for entrance examination, matriculation and tuition will be paid by MEXT.

(4) Accommodation: Students can apply for a room at Kyushu University accommodation. (Please note: The number of rooms is limited and successful candidates are not guaranteed a room).

5. Suspension of Payment of Scholarship

Payment of the scholarship will be stopped 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 institution;
⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university;
⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or his/her residence status changed to one other than "Student";
⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (a scholarship or fellowship from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship;
⑧ The request from the government and/or other state institutions of applicant's home country.

6. Selection

(1) Based on the recommendation of authorities, the participating university will select initial candidates from among applicants by means of an interview, a review of the submitted documents and a short essay. 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 the participating universities will be put forward to the YLP committee established by MEXT for the final selection.

7. Education at University

All lectures and practical training at universities will be conducted entirely in English.

8. Application Procedure

Applicants must submit the following documents to their recommending authorities by the designated deadline. (Please note: submitted documents will not be returned.)

(1) ①Application for Admission (prescribed form) ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy (except photographs);
(2) Photographs (6 x 4 cm, taken within the past 6 months, should be affixed on each of the 2 application forms) ---- 2 Originals;
(3) ②Official Transcript or Certified Academic Record of the university the applicant attended ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy;
(4) ③Recommendation Letter from the Recommending authority ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy;
(5) ④Two Recommendation Letters from the Employer or from the supervising Professor of the university the applicant last attended (prescribed form) ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy;
(6) ⑤Certificate of Health (to be issued by the medical institution designated by the Japanese Embassy) ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy;
(7) ⑥A Copy of the Official Diploma or Certificates of Graduation from the University the applicant last attended ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy;

(8) ⑦An Essay explaining applicant's future plans after the completion of the YLP ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy;
(9) ⑧A Copy of the Applicant's Family Register, Photocopy of Passport or Certificate of the Citizenship (any of these)---- 2 Photocopies;
(10) ⑨English Proficiency Certificate (TOEFL or other equivalent test score.) ---- 2 Photocopies;
(11) ⑩Answers to each of the designated essay questions ---- 1 Original and 1 Photocopy;
(12) Others

1. Use A4 paper as the standard for all submitted documents, which in principle should be typed. Handwritten documents should be written clearly.
2. These documents should all be written in English. If written in another language, attach an English version translated by a public institution. Caution is necessary as many applications are not written in English and do not come with an English translation, particularly recommendation letters and diplomas.
3. Recommendation letters written by a workplace supervisor or an academic advisor from one's university should be written separately by two of them and must use the stipulated format. At least one and preferably two should be written by your direct boss at work.
4. Reason for application and future plans will be important factors in selection, so submit a small essay of three pages explaining as much as possible what you expect from this program and what kind of job you seek in the short- and long-terms.
5. If you submit test English proficiency scores from TOEFL or IELTS, please submit scores obtained roughly within the past two years. If you submit other certifications, please submit documents illustrating how to convert the score to TOEFL or IELTS.
6. If you have a book or dissertation, submit a separate overview.
7. Your application may be rejected if the above application is either incomplete or inaccurate, or if some documents are missing.
8. Write the numbers ① through ⑩ in line with the item number for the items above on each document in the upper right corner.
9. 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 the Japanese Embassy since it concerns the acceptance system of the accepting university and Japanese medical institutions.

9. 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.

10. Notes

(1) The grantees should learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and 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) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will 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.
(3) 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. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship payments to other account.
(4) Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis following a medical exam

must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee's arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.

(5) Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.

(6) It is suggested that grantees acquire a "Individual Number Card (My Number Card)" upon arrival in Japan.

(7) 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 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 overseas students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

These terms and conditions 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. Those who consent to this treatment will be admitted as MEXT Scholarship Student.

(8) In principle, receiving another scholarship from an organization (including a government organization of the home country) other than the Japanese government (MEXT or other Japanese government organization) is permitted. However, applicants should consult with the Japanese Embassy in the home country in advance, since some scholarships may not be combined.

(9) If an applicant is judged not to meet the conditions for landing in Japan, he/she may be rejected.

(10) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for complementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.

(11) If there are any questions about the content of the written text in this Application Guideline or any other matters, applicants/grantees should inquire the Japanese Embassy in the applicant's country and follow their instructions.

(12) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this Application Guideline, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese Government.

(13) Accompanying Dependents: The grantee must bear all expenses incurred by the presence of dependents. YLP scholarship recipients are, therefore, advised to carefully consider the various difficulties that may be involved in finding suitable living arrangements. Therefore, those who want their dependents to accompany them are strongly recommended to come alone to Japan first and have their family join them later after all necessary arrangements have been made.

Appendix

Young Leaders' Program (Law)
Kyushu University

I Overview

The YLP in Law at Kyushu University offers a broad curriculum covering all major fields of law with a particular focus on international economic and business law. The program has been specifically designed to expose students to both theoretical and practical perspectives on a wide range of contemporary legal issues.

Courses taught within the framework of the YLP focus on "cutting edge" topics driven by the research interests of an international faculty, as well as more foundational courses. As such, the program aims to provide students with the necessary intellectual skills for pursuing a law-related career in an increasingly global economic

environment.

II Participants

As a one-year Master's program in law, this course is primarily geared towards persons who have worked in the legal department of government ministries & business, as well as judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and other law-related professions (at least 4-year work experience). In particular, the program is suited to lawyers or government officials working on international trade issues or commercial transactions.

III Curriculum

All students must complete a one-year program of study comprising coursework and a thesis.

The following classes are offered within the framework of the YLP. (Please note that the following is a list recently conducted courses and is subject to change and review).

(1) Core Classes

- Legal Research Methodology and Writing
- A Legal Studies Primer

(2) Foundational Classes

- Comparative Corporate Law
- Cultural Heritage Law
- Globalization and Commercial Law
- International Commercial Arbitration
- International Financial Law and Regulation
- International Labor Law
- International Law in Today's World
- International Tax Law: Theory and Practice
- Introduction to EU Law
- Introduction to EU Technology Law
- Introduction to Japanese Law, Historical Perspective
- Introduction to Roman Law and Civil Law Tradition
- Japanese Constitutional & Administrative Law
- Japanese Intellectual Property Law in Practice
- Law and Development: From the Perspective of Economic and Business History
- Mediation and Other Conflict Management Approaches
- Platforms and the Law
- Private International Law - Comparative Perspective
- Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

(3) Elective Classes

- Algorithms and the Law
- Big Tech and Competition Law
- Bioethics and the Law
- Borders and Development in Asia
- Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity
- Creative Thinking
- Global Value Chains and Law
- Implementation and Operation of the Hague Conventions
- International Criminal Law
- International Maritime Law
- Japan's Development in Context

- Resolution of Transnational Commercial Disputes
- Risk Management and the Law
- Secured Transaction Law: International Standards and Domestic Reforms
- White Collar and Corporate Crime
- Transnational Commercial Law and Foreign Investment Law

For an up-to-date list of classes, see: *http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/.*

In addition to coursework, students are expected to complete a Master's thesis (50 pages minimum). The thesis may be written on any law-related topic approved by the Faculty.

IV Internships

Each YLP student will be assigned to a Fukuoka-based law firm for around 2 weeks (in February - March) to experience legal practice in Japan. The interns will attend court hearings and accompany the lawyers for consultations with clients. During the internship students will visit other law-related institutions and will engage in discussions with serving judges.

Students are also provided with various summer internship opportunities at Tokyo based law firms and/or large corporations. These internships provide students with the unique chance to experience international commerce and legal practice in Japan.

V Fukuoka & Kyushu University

Located in the heart of East Asia, midway between Tokyo, Shanghai and Seoul, Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands. It is a thriving modern metropolis that has not sacrificed its unique local character and charm. Historically known as Hakata, it has long been one of Japan's key ports for commerce with the rest of Asia, and today the spirit of Hakata lives on, for the growing continental ties of recent years have enabled the city to establish itself as a major regional center.

Newsweek has named Fukuoka as one of the "Ten Most Dynamic Cities" in the world, identifying an energetic regional economy, excellent infrastructure, and the proximity and openness to Asia as key features behind its continued growth. The Financial Times reported a survey of world cities that ranked Fukuoka as the 17th most livable city in the world, and awarded the city a special commendation for its downtown district.

Kyushu University is the largest university in Kyushu and one of the most prestigious national universities in Japan. Founded in 1911 as one of seven original Imperial Universities, it continues to be a focal point for academic and educational excellence. Graduate study in Kyushu University provides well-motivated students with the opportunity to study in a dynamic academic atmosphere and to enjoy life in one of Japan's fastest growing cities.

And yet, perhaps the most important feature of Fukuoka for the foreign resident is its people. Known throughout Japan for their friendliness, the people of Fukuoka have long enjoyed good relationships with visitors from abroad. For the foreigners living among Fukuoka's 1.7 million residents, life is both comfortable and stimulating.

VI Further information

For further information:
http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/

For further information on Kyushu University:
http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/