

# International Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship 2026 International Research Students (University Recommendation) (General Program)

Students who apply for this scholarship through the “university recommendation” process will often receive inquiries about their eligibility, etc., from prospective host professors in emails or during online interviews. Please be sure to answer such questions carefully.

Please read the following information carefully, and submit all required documents by the deadline in accordance with the instructions of your prospective host professor.

## 1. Eligibility and Requirements

### 1. Eligibility

Students with excellent academic records<sup>\*1</sup> who will newly come from overseas to enroll as international students at graduate schools in Japan.

<sup>\*1</sup> “Students with excellent academic records” means: students with an academic performance coefficient of 2.30 or higher in their currently enrolled program in the case of current students, or in their final academic record in the case of those who are not currently students, and who are expected to maintain that standard of performance during the scholarship period. The academic performance coefficient is calculated based on the grades in their academic transcript.

**Joint/double-degree program** students, who meet both of the following criteria ① and ② are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- ① Students whose period of research activity outside Japan does not exceed half of their study-abroad period (the scholarship period).
- ② Students who will stay in Japan for the first six months or more of the program and engage in research activities at a Japanese university.

\*Please note that the scholarship shall not be paid for the period the students will stay outside Japan.

### 2. Nationality

Eligible applicants must be **nationals of countries designated by MEXT** (<https://u.kyoto-u.jp/022pf>). As a general rule, those who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are not eligible for this scholarship. However, those who have dual nationality that includes Japanese nationality and who are living abroad at the time of application may be eligible. In this case, they are required to select the foreign nationality and renounce their Japanese nationality prior to their arrival in Japan.

### 3. Age

**Those born on or after April 2, 1991** (in principle)

Exceptions to the above age requirements may be made in the case of persons who are acknowledged by MEXT as having been unable to apply when they were of eligible age for reasons specific to circumstances in their country (such as mandatory military service, loss of educational opportunities due to war, etc.). However, no exceptions will be made for personal reasons (including financial difficulty, family situation, health condition, or university/employer’s circumstances).

In the case that persons who have completed the Young Leaders' Program do not meet the above age requirement but wish to advance to a doctoral program, they are permitted to apply within five years from the completion of the Young Leaders' Program.

#### 4. Academic Background

Those who meet the requirements for admission to a master's, professional, doctoral, or five-year doctoral degree program at a Japanese university. (Including those who are certain to meet the above requirements by the time of admission.)

#### 5. Field of study

The field of study must be the same as or relevant to the field of study in which the applicant has majored, and must be among the fields of research available at Kyoto University.

#### 6. Language Proficiency

Eligible applicants must have one of the following language proficiency qualifications **in either English or Japanese**.

- Japanese
  - ① Those who have passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level **N2 or higher**.
  - ② Those who have **completed a program of education with Japanese as the primary language of instruction** that meets the requirements for admission to a master's, professional, doctoral, or five-year doctoral degree program at a Japanese university (including those who are anticipated to complete their current program prior to admission).
  - ③ Those who are recognized by Kyoto University to have Japanese language proficiency equivalent to ①, above.
- English
  - ① Those who have **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) score of B2 or higher**<sup>\*2</sup> in English.
  - ② Those who have **completed a program of education with English as the primary language of instruction** that meets the requirements for admission to a master's, professional, doctoral, or five-year doctoral degree program at a Japanese university (including those who are anticipated to complete their current program prior to admission.)
  - ③ Those who are recognized by Kyoto University to have English language proficiency equivalent to ①, above.

<sup>\*2</sup> IELTS 5.5 or higher, TOEFL iBT 72 (4 in the band score system) or higher, (TOEIC Listening: 400 or higher, Reading: 385 or higher, Speaking: 160 or higher and Writing: 150 or higher), etc. A score equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher on a test that measures the four skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. For tests in which scores are calculated separately for each skill, a score equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher for all skills. For more details, please see the following website:

[https://www.mext.go.jp/component/a\\_menu/education/micro\\_detail/\\_icsFiles/afieldfile/2019/08/26/1420500\\_1.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/component/a_menu/education/micro_detail/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2019/08/26/1420500_1.pdf) (in Japanese only)

If non-regular students (research students) were recommended and selected as MEXT scholarship students with English or Japanese language proficiency qualification ③, above, they are required to apply for an extension of the scholarship period in approximately December of the year prior to advancing to a regular degree program. By that time, they must meet the requirements for qualification ① (qualification ③ is not

acceptable).

## **7. Health Condition**

Those who are recognized by Kyoto University to be sufficiently physically and mentally healthy to study in Japan.

## **8. Date of Arrival in Japan**

As a general rule, successful applicants must arrive in Japan on a designated date during the period two weeks before and after October 1 when the second semester begins at Kyoto University (September 17–October 15). If they are unable to arrive in Japan by the last day of the above period (October 15), they must decline the scholarship, except in cases that MEXT determines to be unavoidable circumstances. If they arrive in Japan prior to the above period for personal reasons, the cost of their flight to Japan shall not be covered.

## **9. Student Visa**

Students must obtain a “Student” visa at a diplomatic mission in their country of residence prior to departure (as a general rule), and must enter Japan with the “Student” status of residence.

As an exception, if a successful applicant was residing in Japan with a residence status other than “Student” at the time of their selection, they must change their residence status to “Student” by the last day of the month preceding the month in which the scholarship payments are scheduled to begin. Please also note that if a student applies for “Permanent Resident” or “Long Term Resident” status again after their status as a Japanese Government Scholarship student has expired, there is no guarantee that they will be granted such status of residence.

Please note that the Japanese government may conduct pre-entry tuberculosis screening for persons arriving from some countries. Successful applicants are therefore requested to follow the instructions of the diplomatic mission of your country of nationality when obtaining a visa.

## **10. Ineligibility**

Those to whom any of the following items apply are not eligible for the scholarship. Applicants must decline the scholarship if they discover that any of the following items apply to them after they have been selected.

- ① Those who are registered as active duty military personnel or civilians in military employ at the time of arrival or during the scholarship period.
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the date designated by MEXT or Kyoto University.
- ③ Those who have previously been Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students (including those who declined the scholarship after the student's enrollment in the university). However, this does not apply if either of the following items apply. As those who have received MEXT Honors Scholarship are not deemed to be international MEXT scholarship students, they are still permitted to apply for the scholarship.
  - Those who have at least three years of academic or work experience in the period between the month following the last month of the previous MEXT scholarship and the first month of the current MEXT scholarship.
  - Those who have previously received the MEXT Scholarship as an international student enrolled in the Japanese Language and Culture Course (limited to those who have graduated or are expected to graduate from their university after returning to their home country), the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Science and Engineering Program, or the Young Leaders' Program.

- Those who have obtained or are expected to obtain a degree as undergraduate students of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (special selection).
- ④ Those who are applying for another Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship in 2026.
- ⑤ Those who are residing in Japan at the time of application from Kyoto University to the Japanese Government (MEXT).
- ⑥ Those who, during the period of this scholarship (during the student's period of enrollment at the university), will receive a scholarship or fellowship provided by the Japanese government or a Japanese government-affiliated organization, including the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO). Those who will receive support of DoGS SPRING Program or DoGS Next AI Program are also not eligible to apply for this scholarship at Kyoto University.
- ⑦ Those who are anticipated to complete their current program, but do not meet the academic qualifications and requirements by the designated date.
- ⑧ Those who have dual nationality at the time of application, but cannot provide evidence that they have renounced their Japanese nationality prior to arrival in Japan.
- ⑨ Those who, at the time of application, are planning to engage in long-term research activities (including internship and fieldwork) in a country other than Japan, or take a long-term leave of absence.
- ⑩ Those who do not intend to advance to a regular degree program.
- ⑪ Those who do not intend to obtain a degree from Kyoto University.

## 11. Other matters

Scholarship recipients will be expected to:

- Proactively participate in a wide range of local school and community activities to contribute to the internationalization of Japan and mutual understanding between Japan and their home country.
- Maintain close communication with Kyoto University even after graduation, and cooperate in surveys and other activities conducted by the university and by MEXT.
- After returning to their home country, cooperate with projects conducted by diplomatic missions to enhance the relationship between Japan and their home country.

## 2. Scholarship Period and Amount

### 1. Scholarship period

- ① Those who will enroll as **non-regular students (research students)** after arrival in Japan:  
**Up to one year and six months during the period of October 2026 to March 2028.**
- ② Those who will enroll as **regular students (in a master's, professional, doctoral, or five-year doctoral program)** after arrival in Japan:  
**From October 2026 until the end of the period required to complete the program (the regular term of study of the program)**  
(In the case of five-year doctoral programs, the period from the first to the second year is treated as a master's program, and the period from the third to the fifth year is treated as a doctoral program. Therefore, the scholarship period ends at the end of the second year.)

Please note that if the semester (the student's enrollment) begins in the middle of a month, the scholarship will not be paid for that month (For example, if the semester begins on October 2, 2026, the scholarship payment period will commence from November 2026.)

Non-regular students or regular students (of a master's or professional program, or in the second year of a five-year doctoral program), who wish to advance to a higher-level program (or to the third year of a five-year

doctoral program), who meet the required criteria and have excellent academic records, **are eligible to apply for extension of the scholarship period to advance to the higher-level program** in approximately December of the year prior to enrollment in the program. If their application for extension is accepted and they are admitted to the program, their scholarship period shall be extended until the end of the period required to complete the program (the regular term of study of the program). Please note that if they will enroll in a graduate school other than the one specified in the application, or if they will enroll in a month other than the month specified in their application, the scholarship period shall not be extended. (However, they will be able to enroll in the program as a privately financed international student.)

## 2. Monthly scholarship amount

<b>Non-regular students (research students):</b>	<b>JPY 143,000 per month<sup>*4</sup></b>
<b>Master's, professional, five-year doctoral students (first and second year):</b>	<b>JPY 144,000 per month<sup>*4</sup></b>
<b>Doctoral and five-year doctoral students (third to fifth year):</b>	<b>JPY 145,000 per month<sup>*4</sup></b>

<sup>\*4</sup> If the recipient's place of study is **Yoshida Campus, Katsura Campus, or Otsu City**, 3,000 yen shall be added to the above amount, and if their place of study is **Uji City or Inuyama City**, 2,000 yen shall be added to the above amount.

MEXT Scholarship students shall be also **exempt from admission fees, application fees, and tuition fees during the scholarship period.**

The above monthly scholarship amounts may change in each fiscal year, depending on the budget circumstances of the Japanese government.

## 3. Travel expenses to Japan

As a general rule, MEXT shall decide the travel itinerary and route and issue a flight ticket to students who will arrive in Japan during the period specified in item 1. 8. Date of Arrival in Japan, above. In principle, the flight ticket issued by MEXT shall be an economy class ticket from an international airport near the international student's area of residence (within their country of nationality) to Kansai International Airport.<sup>\*5</sup> Domestic travel expenses from their place of residence to the international airport, airport taxes, airport-usage charges, special taxes for travel, travel expenses after arrival in Japan (including Japanese domestic flights), travel insurance premiums, and expenses related to personal belongings and unaccompanied baggage must be covered by the international student. In the case of (a) or (b), below, the costs of domestic travel, accommodation, etc., within the third country must be borne by the student, and, MEXT shall issue economy class flight tickets from the student's country of nationality to the third country, and from the third country to Kansai International Airport.

(a) Those who travel to Japan via a third country in order to apply for a visa because there is no Japanese diplomatic mission in their country of nationality, or because the Japanese diplomatic mission in their country of nationality is temporarily closed.

(b) Those who have no direct flight from their country of nationality to Japan.

As a general rule, the student's "place of residence" is deemed to be the address entered in the "current address" field in their application form. However, if the international student moves to a different address within their country of nationality prior to departure, the address entered in the "address before departure" field in the application form shall be deemed to be their "place of residence," and an airline ticket from an international airport near the address shall be provided. Except in the case of traveling to a third country to apply for a visa, etc., if international students depart from a country other than their country of nationality for personal reasons, MEXT shall not issue a flight ticket for them. In addition, if the student travels to Japan for personal reasons outside the period specified in item 1. 8. Date of Arrival in Japan, travel expenses to Japan will not be provided.

\*<sup>5</sup> If there are no flights arriving at Kansai International Airport MEXT may provide tickets for flights arriving at Narita Airport or Haneda Airport.

#### 4. Travel expenses for returning to the student's home country

As a general rule, MEXT will issue a flight ticket to international students who have completed their research and will return to their home country during the last month of the scholarship period as specified in “1. Scholarship period,” above. In principle, the flight ticket issued by MEXT shall be an economy class ticket from Kansai International Airport to an international airport near the student's place of residence (in their country of nationality). Domestic travel expenses from the student's place of residence in Japan to Kansai International Airport, airport taxes, airport-usage charges, special taxes for travel, travel expenses after arrival (including domestic flights) in the student's home country, travel insurance premiums, and expenses related to personal belongings and unaccompanied baggage must be covered by the international student. If an international student returns to their home country prior to the last month of the scholarship period for personal reasons or any of the reasons specified in “7. Suspension of Scholarship” below, MEXT shall not cover the cost of the flight. If an international student will continue to stay in Japan after the scholarship period (e.g. for further study, employment, or to enroll at a university as a privately funded international student, etc.), MEXT shall not cover the cost of flights to temporarily return to their home country.

### 3. Application Documents

#### I. 2026 Application Form

\* Please attach a facial photograph (taken within the past six months, 4.5×3.5 cm in size, upper body, front facing, without a hat). Write your nationality and name on the back of the photograph. The photograph data may be attached to the “Photograph” field in the application form.

\* Chinese students are requested to enter their name in both Chinese characters and Roman alphabet in the “Name” field.

#### II. Field of Study and Research Plan

\*Two pages or more are acceptable.

#### III. Copy of passport

\*If the student does not have a passport, an official identification card, a copy of the student's family register in their country, etc.

#### IV. Official academic transcript issued by the university (faculty or graduate school) last attended by the student

#### V. Official academic transcript for the program in which the student is currently enrolled (current students only, if the most recent transcript is different from that described in item IV).

#### VI. Certificate of (expected) graduation or certificate of degree from the university (faculty or graduate school) last attended by the student

#### VII. Academic achievements that demonstrate the student's excellent academic records (if any) (e.g. records of awards received in fields related to the student's research)

#### VIII. Letter of recommendation from the dean of the graduate school of the student's university (addressed to the President of Kyoto University)

\*If the student's academic performance coefficient cannot be calculated, a statement that the student's academic performance is ranked in the top 30% of the university (faculty or graduate school) is required.

#### IX. Summary of academic paper, etc.

\*A brief summary of the academic paper that the student has written or is writing.

#### X. Proof of Language Proficiency, as detailed in 1. 6

\*With the exception of official documents issued by universities and government offices, all of the above

documents should be A4 size (W: 210 mm, H: 297 mm), and must be completed in **Japanese or English**. Please avoid submitting handwritten documents if at all possible. A Japanese translation must be attached to documents in languages other than Japanese or English.

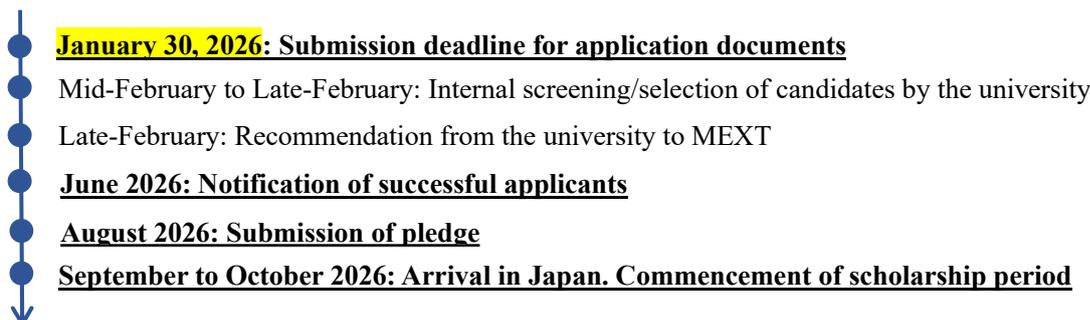
\*Please note that, once submitted to MEXT, the documents shall not be returned.

#### 4. Submission Deadline and Where to Submit the Documents

**Submission Deadline: January 30, 2026**

Submit the Documents to: **Office of Student Affairs, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University**  
Email: [kyoumu-in@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:kyoumu-in@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

#### 5. Flow of Application Procedures



#### 6. Number of Recommendations by Kyoto University

Kyoto University can recommend a maximum of **three students**.

#### 7. Suspension of Scholarship

In the following cases, MEXT may suspend scholarship payments or order a refund of part or all of scholarships that have been paid. Scholarships may be suspended until a decision is made by MEXT.

- ① If any false information is found in the application documents submitted by a recipient.
- ② If a recipient violates any of the terms in the pledge submitted to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- ③ If a recipient has violated Japanese law, and has received a prison sentence of one year or more.
- ④ If a recipient has been expelled, suspended, issued with a warning or other disciplinary action, or if their enrollment has been revoked in accordance with the university's regulations.
- ⑤ If it is confirmed that a recipient will not be able to graduate or complete their program within the regular term of study due to poor academic performance, suspension, etc. (excluding a leave of absence).
- ⑥ If a recipient has not obtained "Student" VISA at the time of their arrival in Japan, or has changed their "Student" resident status to another resident status.
- ⑦ If a recipient receives another scholarship that is not permitted to be received in conjunction with the MEXT scholarship (such as other scholarships or fellowships provided by the Japanese government or Japanese government-affiliated organizations).
- ⑧ If a recipient, after being selected for the scholarship, advances to a higher-level program without receiving approval for an extension of the scholarship period for that purpose.
- ⑨ If a recipient has withdrawn from Kyoto University or transferred to another university, etc.

#### 8. Other Notes

- At any time before or after the notification of acceptance, the schedule for travel to Japan may be changed due to unavoidable occurrences, the scholarship may be canceled, or the contents of these application guidelines may be changed.
- Students, who are selected as candidates from Kyoto University cannot be selected as candidates for a MEXT scholarship from another university. In the case of students selected by two universities, neither application shall be accepted.
- As it will take one to one and a half months after arrival in Japan until the scholarship payments begin, students selected as scholarship recipients are requested to prepare at least 300,000 yen (approximately 2,000 US dollars) to cover their initial living costs in Japan.
- Scholarship recipients are required to confirm their enrollment by signing a document at the designated office every month. If they are unable to do so due to overseas travel or for other reasons, they will not be permitted to receive the scholarship for that month.
- Information about scholarship recipients (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, host university/graduate school/faculty, major field of study, period of enrollment, career path after completion of the program, and contact information [address, telephone number, email address]) shall be shared with relevant government organizations for use in the Japanese government's international student projects (including support during study abroad, follow-up for students who have completed their studies, and improvement of the system for international students).

In addition, information about scholarship recipients (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be published in public relations materials prepared by the Japanese government to promote study in Japan by international students, particularly in articles about former MEXT Scholarship students who are internationally active.

All MEXT Scholarship recipients must agree to these conditions regarding the handling of information. The conditions are included in the pledge that must be submitted by all scholarship recipients.

- Students who apply for a "Student" visa to a diplomatic mission in their country of nationality do not require a certificate of eligibility because MEXT will request the diplomatic mission to adopt exceptional measures.
- If, through obtaining their medical certificate, the applicant is found to be suffering from an infectious disease, such as tuberculosis, etc., they must receive treatment for the disease before traveling to Japan. If they are not fully recovered by the time of travel, they will not be permitted to enter Japan.
- In addition to the above, all matters necessary for the MEXT Scholarship Program shall be determined separately by the Japanese Government.

Contact:

Section in charge: Office of Student Affairs, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University

Email: [kyoumu-in@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:kyoumu-in@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp)