

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2017

(SPECIALIZED TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENTS)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study at Japanese specialized training college of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2017 as follows.

1. Definition of “specialized training college student”:

Those who are enrolled in a postsecondary course at a specialized training college or who are receiving preparatory education in the Japanese language and other subjects prior to placement at the specialized training college.

2. FIELDS OF STUDY

Those who wish to study in Japan as a student at a specialized training college should choose a field of study to major in from (1) to (7) below.

- (1) Technology
- (2) Personal Care and Nutrition
- (3) Education and Welfare
- (4) Business
- (5) Fashion and Home Economics
- (6) Culture and General Education
- (7) Other Fields

Note 1: Select a field of study from (1)-(7) above, and enter it in “Preferred field of study in Japan” on the application form. Applicants may also refer to a separate sheet titled “Majors and related subjects for field of study”, and enter a first and second choice of subjects from the same field of study.

Note 2: Applicants who choose (7) “Other Fields” are required to specify what kind of field they want to study in “Chosen field of study and subjects in Japan (Field of study)” on the application form.

Note 3: For applicants who choose (7) “Other Fields,” there may be cases when there are no accepting colleges or it is difficult to be accepted at a college because the period of study exceeds that of the MEXT scholarship.

Note 4: Applicants who select “Other Fields” for a field of study should specify their chosen subject in “Chosen field of study and subjects in Japan (First choice of subjects, Second choice of subjects)” on the application form.

3. QUALIFICATIONS

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is now accepting applications from overseas students for study in Japan. Our aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between your country and Japan through study in Japan and who will contribute to the development of both countries and the wider world.

(1) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. Applicants with no official nationality are also eligible to apply. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not 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 foreign country and give up their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan. Applicant screening will be conducted at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of applicant’s nationality.

(2) Age: Applicants generally must have been born **between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2000.**

(3) Academic Background: Applicants must either have completed 12 years of regular school education or have graduated from a school equivalent to an upper secondary school in Japan. (Applicants who will meet the above qualifications by March 2017 are eligible.)

(4) Japanese Language: Applicants must be willing to learn Japanese. Applicants must be interested in Japan and be willing to deepen their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. In addition, in general, applicants must be willing to receive specialized training college education in Japanese.

(5) Health: Applicants must be free from any mental or physical disabilities that would impede the pursuit of study at Japanese schools.

(6) Arrival in Japan: In principle, the selected applicants must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan **between the 1st and 7th of April 2017.**

(7) Visa Requirement: Applicants must acquire College Student (ryugaku) visas before entering Japan. They then enter Japan with the College Student (ryugaku) residence status. Please also note that those who change their visa status to one other than College Student after arrival in Japan will lose their qualification to be Japanese Government Scholarship recipients from the date when their visa status changes.

(8) Others: While the applicant is studying in Japan, he/she shall contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and the home country by participating in activities at schools and communities with the aim of contributing to the internationalization of Japan. The applicant shall make efforts to promote relations between the home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended after graduation, cooperating with the conducting of surveys and questionnaires after the return home, and cooperating with all relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions in the applicant's home country.

(9) Any applicant who meets any or all of the following conditions is ineligible. If identified after the start of the scholarship period, the applicant 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;
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan during the period designated by MEXT or the accepting university;
- ③ An applicant who is a previous recipient of a Japanese government scholarship;
- ④ Those who are currently enrolled at a Japanese university with a College Student (ryugaku) residence status; those enrolled, or scheduled to be enrolled, at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student during the period when the scholarship application was filed in the home country until prior to the start of the provision of the scholarship. This does not apply to current self-financed international students at Japanese universities who will complete their courses of study and return to their countries before the end of the current fiscal year;
- ⑤ Recipients of scholarships from institutions other than MEXT (including government institutions in their home countries) that overlap with the Japanese Government Scholarship (Prospective beneficiaries are included);
- ⑥ Applicants who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions related to academic background by the deadline given; or
- ⑦ 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.

4. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

(1) The scholarship period will last for **three years from April 2017 to March 2020**, including one-year preparatory education in the Japanese language and other subjects due to be provided upon arrival in Japan.

(2) If a scholarship grantee graduates from a specialized training college and is admitted to a Japanese university as a junior transferee, he/she may have the period of his/her scholarship extended upon successful examination by MEXT and provided that he/she has outstanding academic achievement that meets certain criteria.

5. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1) Allowance:

117,000 yen per month.

(In case that the recipient research in a designated region, 2,000 or 3,000 yen per month will be added. The monetary amount each year may be subject to change due to budgetary reasons.)

The scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the specialized training college or preparatory Japanese-teaching institution for an extended period.

The scholarship will be also cancelled in principle in the following situations. If the recipient has been receiving the scholarship despite his/her falling under any of the following situations the recipient will be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that he/she received during the period wherein he/she was involved with any of the following situations:

- ① The recipient is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② The recipient violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- ③ 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. However, this shall not apply to those who were found guilty with suspension of execution of sentences;
- ④ The recipient is subject to disciplinary action by the specialized training college, including expulsion(The scholarship payment may be stopped during the period up until punishment is decided by the university, etc.);
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the training course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension from the specialized training college;

- ⑥ The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than College Student as defined in the Appended Table I-4 of the Immigration Act;
- ⑦ The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified for research expenditures); or
- ⑧ The recipient has proceeded to a higher level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.

(2) Traveling Costs

① **Transportation to Japan:** The recipient will be provided, according 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 country residence * to the New Tokyo International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses.

Expenses such as inland 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 covered.

(*The address in the country of the recipient's nationality stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home country residence.")

② **Transportation from Japan:** In principle, the recipient who returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy-class airplane ticket for travel from the New Tokyo International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.

Note 1: If a grantee returns home without an extension though having applied for extension of scholarship period, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return home in general.

Note 2: Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be paid for by the recipient.

Note 3: If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return to the home country for a temporary return.

(3) Tuition and Other Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by the Japanese government.

6. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

(1) In cooperation with the governments of the applicants' countries the Japanese diplomatic mission will conduct primary screening of applicants by means of submitted application documents, interviews and academic examinations.

[Examination subjects]

All applicants must sit for examinations in Japanese, English, and mathematics.

(2) Results of the primary screening will be notified to each applicant on the date designated by the Japanese diplomatic mission.

(3) Applicants who have been selected through this primary screening will be recommended to MEXT. MEXT will then conduct the final selection of the recommended applicants and decide the scholarship grantees. MEXT may select candidates from each field of study.

7. EDUCATION AT PREAPRATORY EDUCATION PRIOR TO PLACEMENT AT SPECIALIZED TRAINING COLLEGE

(1) Preparatory Education: Each grantee will be enrolled at a preparatory school designated by MEXT for a one-year intensive course in the Japanese language and other subjects necessary for preparation for proceeding to a specialized training college. The preparatory course lasts for one year, mainly consisting of education in the Japanese language as well as in Japanese affairs, etc.

(2) Change of Major Field of Study: A grantee will not be permitted to change his/her major field of study.

(3) Point for consideration: A grantee will not be allowed to proceed to a specialized training college if he/she is determined to be incapable of completing the prescribed course at the preparatory school. (The grantee will be required to return to his/her home country upon such determination.)

8. EDUCATION AT SPECIALIZED TRAINING COLLEGE

(1) Entrance into Specialized Training College: A grantee who has completed the prescribed course at the preparatory school will go on to a specialized training college designated by MEXT. The specialized training college will be decided by MEXT upon consultation with the college concerned. No objection by the grantee against the decision will be allowed.

(2) Graduation: A grantee of this scholarship will be enrolled into a postsecondary course of a specialized training college that requires graduation from an upper secondary school for entrance eligibility and receive professional education for two years prior to graduation. A grantee who graduates will be awarded a diploma.

(3) Language Used in Education: All classes will be given in the Japanese language.

(4) Change of Major Field: A grantee will not be permitted in principle to change his/her major field of study.

9. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic missions by the required date. The submitted documents will not be returned.

- ① Application Form (a prescribed form) 【original 1, copy 1】 ※photo Fiscal 2017 form
- ② Academic transcript for the past 3 years 【original 1, copy 1】
- ③ Graduation certificate of the last school attended (or certificate of expected graduation for an applicant due to graduate) 【original 1, copy 1】 transcript issued either by alma mater or by applicants' national government
- ④ Recommendation from the principal or the adviser of the last school attended 【original 1, copy 1】
- ⑤ Medical certificate (prescribed form) 【original 1, copy 1】 Fiscal 2017 form
- ⑥ Certificate of enrollment (for an applicant currently enrolled in a university) ※if applicable 【Original 1, copy 1】
- ⑦ Certificate of passage of university entrance qualification examination (if applicable) 【original 1, copy 1】

Note 1: These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translations in either of these languages should be attached.

Note 2: Photographs (4.5×3.5 cm, taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced, uncapped. Write your name and nationality on the reverse and paste them onto the Application Form and Placement Preference Form) attached to the original application must be originals; copies are not acceptable. It is acceptable to paste the data of photo on each application form and print it. (To print your photos and paste it on the application form is not allowed.) Use fiscal 2017 form.

Note 3: For items ③ and ⑦ above, a photocopy of the graduation certificate and/or the qualification certificate is acceptable, provided that the copy is attested by the relevant school or examining organization.

Note 4: An application will not be examined unless all the documents mentioned above are fully and correctly completed. For applicants with ⑧Certificate of passage of university entrance qualification examination, this document may be submitted in place of documents ②, ③ and ④.

Note 5: Number the documents (① through ⑦) in the right upper corner.

10. NOTES

(1) The recipient is advised to learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and to acquire some information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions 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 cannot be provided immediately upon the recipient's arrival, the recipient should bring approximately US \$2,000 to cover immediate needs after arrival in Japan.

(3) Recipient must enroll in Kokumin Kenko Hoken National Health Insurance upon arrival in Japan.

(4) Accommodations:

① In principle, each grantee will be able to live in a dormitory during the preparatory education.

② After entering a specialized training college, a grantee will be able to continue to live in the aforementioned dormitory or other residential accommodations introduced by the college.

(5) 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.

(6) The English texts attached to the Application Guideline and the Application Form are for convenience only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content, so if you have any questions about the content of the written text, you should inquire at the Japanese diplomatic mission.

(7) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this guideline, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship are determined by the Japanese government.

(8) More detailed information on this scholarship program is available at the Japanese diplomatic missions.