

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2016

(JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS, *NIKKENSEI*)

The Japanese Government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships for academic study in Japan to international students interested in deepening their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture. The purpose of these scholarships is to promote mutual understanding and deepening friendly ties between Japan and other countries through the application of advanced knowledge regarding Japanese language and culture.

Regulations for the 2016 MEXT Scholarship Program are as follows:

1. QUALIFICATIONS

- (1) Requirement: Applicants must arrive newly in Japan from abroad for the purpose of improving their understanding of Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese Culture at Japanese universities.
- (2) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible. Applicants are limited to those who are officially recommended by one of the universities overseas upon the exchange agreements that have been concluded.
- (3) Age: Applicants must be born between April 2, 1986 and April 1, 1998.
- (4) Academic Background: Applicants must be undergraduate female students at foreign (non-Japanese) universities majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan.
- (5) Japanese Language Ability: Applicants must have Japanese language ability sufficient for receiving education at a Japanese university in Japanese. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N2 or above is preferable.
- (6) Health: Applicants must be free from any mental or physical disabilities that would be an impediment to the pursuit of university study.
- (7) Arrival in Japan: Applicants must definitely be able to arrive in Japan within two weeks counted from the starting day of the study course set by the university and the period set by the accepting university. (If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the designated period, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. And if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the designated period, the applicant must resign.)
- (8) Visa acquisition: Applicants are required to acquire a "Student" (Ryugaku) visas when they come to Japan. Moreover, in exceptional cases when successful applicants have been residing in Japan before their acceptance under a status other than "Student" and are to change their visa status within Japan, they must acquire a "Student" visa by the end of the month prior to the month in which they are scheduled to start receiving the scholarship. Furthermore, please note that those who change their visa status to something other than "Student" after arriving in Japan will also lose their qualifications to be Japanese Government Scholarship recipients from the date when they change their visa status.

(9) Any applicant who meets any or all of the following conditions is not eligible. 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 have received a Japanese Government Scholarship (Monbukagakusho scholarship) in the past;
3. 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; However, even if the applicant is currently a privately financed international student studying in Japan, this restriction does not apply to an applicant who will certainly finish the current course before the start of the designated course at the Japanese university and will return to the home country;
4. 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);
5. Recipients who make a double application for this scholarship to other universities, other embassy recommendations, and the Student Exchange Support Program provided by Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO);
6. Those who have studied the Japanese language at a university for a total period of less than one year of April 2015. Those who have studied Japanese for a total of at least one year at another university should submit without fail documents (transcript of grades at other university, etc.) that can verify that the applicant studied Japanese for a period of at least one year at the said university;
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.

2. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

From October 2016 to September 2017 (fixed)

3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1) Allowance:

The amount of the scholarship disbursement per month has yet to be determined. However, the figures for the 2015 academic year have been included here for reference. (The monetary amount each year may be subject to change because of budgetary reasons.)

Actual amount of scholarship benefits in 2015: 117,000 yen per month

(3,000 yen per month will be added in Tokyo area)

However, the scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the university for an extended period.

The scholarship will be cancelled in principle in the following situations. And, if the recipient has been receiving the scholarship despite her falling under any of the following situations, the recipient will be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that she received during the period wherein she was involved with any of the following situations.

1. The recipient is judged to have made a false statement on her application;
2. The recipient violates any article of her pledge to the Monbukagaku-daijin (Minister of MEXT);
3. The recipient has been subjected to disciplinary action by the university or expelled from the

university;

4. 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 university;

5. The recipient's status, as defined in the Appended Table I-4 of the Immigration Act, has been changed into one other than "Student;"

6. The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified as being for research expenditures).

(2) Transportation:

a. Transportation to Japan: The recipient will be supplied, according to her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy-class airplane ticket from the international airport nearest to her *residence to the New Tokyo International Airport or Haneda International Airport. Expenses such as inland transportation from 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. (*Her residence should be stated in the application form)

b. Transportation from Japan: The recipient who returns to her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of her scholarship will be supplied, 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 her home address.

(Note) Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be borne by the recipient. In addition, the airport must be one in the country of the student's nationality.

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

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

(1) Application Form (Form 1)

(2) Photograph or digital image (size 4.5×3.5 cm, upper half of body, full-faced, hatless) taken within the past 6 months (pasted onto the application form)

(3) Recommendation letter (Form 2): from the head of the faculty or academic advisor at the university currently attending

(4) Study plan and Questionnaire (Form 3)

(5) Certificate of university enrollment

(6) Certified academic transcript from the university the applicant is currently attending (please mark subjects related to Japanese language and Japanese culture).

(7) Photocopy of passport (ID page)

(8) If the applicant has qualifications concerning Japanese-language ability, documented proof of such qualifications

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

(Note 2) No application will be considered unless the aforementioned application and all other documents are fully and correctly completed.

5. APPLICATION DAEDLINE

Not later than March 25, 2016