

Provisional translation by The University of Tokyo
※Should any discrepancies or doubts arise between the English version and the Japanese version, the Japanese version will prevail

2017 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS (UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT or Monbukagakusho) offers scholarships, based on university recommendation, to international students wishing to study at Japanese universities as research students under the Japanese Government Scholarship Program for 2017.

1. Qualifications

- (1) Eligibility: International students with outstanding academic records (*1) who wish to enter Japan as a new student to study at a graduate level at this time.
- (2) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country with diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are ineligible. However, Japanese nationals that reside outside of Japan at the time of application, having dual citizenship with another country, and plan on relinquishing their Japanese nationality before arrival, may apply.
- (3) Age: Applicants who were born on or after April 2, 1982. This does not apply to those who have completed the Young Leaders Program and are enrolling in a doctorate program.
- (4) Academic background: Applicants must be a graduate of a Japanese university or have academic ability equal to or greater than that of a Japanese university graduate at the time of arrival in Japan.

Eligible applicants other than those who have graduated from Japanese universities are defined as follows:

- ① An applicant who has completed or will complete a 16-year school curriculum in a foreign country (or an 18-year school curriculum if he or she desires to enroll in a doctorate program in the field of medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science, or in pharmacy which is founded on a 6-year department/faculty);
- ② An applicant who is or will be aged 22 or older and has taken an individual entrance-qualification examination and has been judged by a host graduate school as being equal or greater in academic ability to a Japanese university graduate (or an applicant aged 24 or older if he or she desires to enroll in a doctorate program in the field of medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, or in pharmacy which is founded on a 6-year department/faculty).

*Note: Eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to a Japanese graduate school.

In principle, those who have completed a doctorate program and do not plan on pursuing an academic degree cannot apply.

- (5) Field of Study: Applicants should apply for the field of study that they studied at their previous university or a related field. Applicants should select a field that they are able to research at their chosen host university in Japan.

- (6) Japanese Language: Applicants with insufficient Japanese language skills are ineligible for study in research fields that require high levels of Japanese language proficiency (such as Japanese language, Japanese literature, Japanese history, or Japanese law and others) unless there are special circumstances.
- (7) Health: Those who have been determined by the University that studying in Japan will have no impact to their mental or physical health.
- (8) Arrival in Japan: In principle, applicants should be able to leave their country and arrive in Japan between 1 and 7 April, 2017 for the Spring Semester. For the Fall Semester, applicants should arrive on the dates specified by their host university, which will usually be between two weeks prior to the beginning of the Fall Semester and two weeks after the semester has begun (generally in September or October).

*Note from UTokyo: The Fall Semester for UTokyo begins in September.

- (9) Visa Requirement: In principle, applicants should enter the country with a resident status of “Student” having obtained the visa prior to traveling to Japan. The visa is to be issued by the Japanese embassy or consulate in the applicant’s home country. It should be noted that any applicants who change their status from “Student” to any other residence status after their arrival in Japan will forfeit their right to be a recipient of the Japanese Government Scholarship from the moment they apply to change their status.
- (10) While they are studying in Japan, applicants are expected, as someone who will contribute to the globalization of Japan, to broadly participate in the regions schools and activities to contribute towards the mutual understanding between their home country and Japan. Furthermore, they are expected to maintain a close link with the universities they studied at even after they have graduated and cooperate in various manners, such as answering questionnaires etc. Also, on returning to their home country, take part in the various activities organized by the Japanese government’s missions overseas to improve the relationship between Japan and their home country.
- (11) Applicants in the following categories are ineligible for the Japanese government scholarship. They must decline the scholarship offer if they are found to fit any one of the following criteria upon their selection.
 - ① An active member of the military or a civilian employed by the military at the time of arrival;
 - ② An applicant who is unable to travel to Japan within the period designated by the host university;
 - ③ A former recipient of a Japanese Government Scholarship in the past is ineligible unless he or she has had at least three years of research or teaching experience at the time of receiving the new scholarship after the completion of their previous scholarship. This does not apply to a research-student applicant, who (i) received training as a Japanese-studies student and later returned to a university from which he or she graduated in their home or another country, or who (ii) was an international student in Japan under the Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and later returned to South Korea, or who (iii) was an international student under the young leaders program.
 - ④ An applicant who is currently applying for a Japanese Government Scholarship for other programs (e.g. Teacher Training Student, etc.) at the same time.
 - ⑤ An applicant who (i) is already enrolled in a Japanese university, institution, etc. under the “College Student” visa, (ii) is or plans to be enrolled in a Japanese university, institution, etc. as a

self-supported international student between the times of application to the start of receiving this scholarship. However, self-supported international students who are currently studying in Japan may apply, if they can confirm that they will return to their home country before the start of the scholarship period.

- ⑥ An applicant who is expecting to receive a scholarship from any source in Japan (e.g. Japanese government (MEXT), JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) or any other foundations from overseas (including those from their own governmental body) (including students who have been awarded these scholarships and who plan to remain enrolled in the semester beginning in October 2017 and beyond.)
- ⑦ An applicant who is “expected to graduate” at the time of application and cannot provide proof of completing a degree by the designated deadline.
- ⑧ A Japanese national who has dual nationality with another country, and is not able to provide proof of relinquishing Japanese nationality by the day of arrival.
- ⑨ An applicant who is looking for fieldwork or internship in a country other than Japan once they have applied.

(*1) An applicant should have university grade points* of 2.30 or above in the last two years of study, and is expected to maintain the same academic standards during the course of the scholarship program.

* Grade points should be calculated according to a formula specified by MEXT.

2. Period of Scholarships

The period of scholarships varies as described below, depending on the course a recipient takes in Japan: However, for academic and research training purposes, MEXT may designate a different period of scholarships if the recipient is accepted into a program for a period of time that does not fit with any of the periods listed below (due to differences between when programs start and end).

- (1) For a recipient who will enroll as a research student, non-degree student, or auditor etc., (hereinafter referred to as “research student”), the scholarship will be payable after he or she comes to Japan for more than one year to less than two years from October 2017 through March 2019.
- (2) For a recipient who will enroll in a Master's program, Doctorate program, or professional degree program after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for a period of time necessary for the recipient to complete his or her regular program (standard course term).
- (3) (For relevant graduate schools only) A research student for the International Priority Graduate Program (PGP) will be accepted only under those programs approved by MEXT. The period of the scholarship should be no longer than the term of the course he or she initially enrolls in. However, the recipient student has to apply for extension of the scholarship when proceeding to a doctorate program (for full-term doctorate programs, when proceeding to the third year). For a Master's only program, the student cannot extend the period of his or her scholarship.
- (4) (For relevant graduate schools only) Only an applicant for a doctorate program will be accepted as a research student for the SATREPS and the E-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP). Enrollment in an irregular course is not allowed.

(5) If a recipient desires to proceed to a regular graduate program from a research student status or to a doctorate program from a Master's or professional degree program, the period of the scholarship may be extended upon rigorous examination by MEXT, provided that the student has achieved outstanding academic performance that meets certain criteria. However, not all students will be automatically granted a scholarship extension even if they meet the criteria. The extension of the scholarship period applies only to those students proceeding to higher educational levels as mentioned above. Please note that not all applicants will automatically be given an extension for scholarship, and should be aware of further reservations listed below;

- ① Extending the scholarship period as a research student (or a non-regular student) is not allowed.
- ② The scholarship will be terminated if a recipient proceeds to another academic program without receiving permission for an extension of the scholarship (Note: it is possible for students to progress by becoming self-supported international students).
- ③ Research students (non-regular students) who do not pass entrance examinations/screenings for regular graduate programs during their time as research/non-regular students, will not be permitted to extend their scholarship periods.
- ④ In principle, if a recipient decides not to extend their period of study and return to his or her home country, despite having requested for an extension of the scholarship, he or she will not be funded for traveling expenses to leave Japan.
- ⑤ Entering a graduate school of another university is not allowed when moving up to a regular graduate course from a research student status or to a doctorate program from a Master's program or professional degree program.

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Scholarships

143,000 yen/month (for a research/non-regular student), 144,000 yen/month (for a student of a Master's or a professional degree program), or 145,000 yen/month (for a student of a Doctorate program) (an additional monthly stipend of 2,000 or 3,000 yen may be added to those students undertaking study or research in some designated regions of the country).

The scholarship will not be paid to a recipient who is on a leave of absence or long absent from his or her university.

The scholarship will be cancelled in the following cases. If a recipient receives the scholarship even though he or she is judged ineligible due to one of the following reasons, the recipient may be ordered to return the amount of scholarship money received during the period concerned.

- ① If any portion of the recipient's application documents is found to be falsely stated;
- ② If a recipient is in breach of his or her pledge made to the Minister of MEXT (Monbukagakusho);
- ③ Given life or more than one year of imprisonment with or without hard labor having been convicted of breaking the law in Japan.
- ④ Expelled from university following disciplinary action or removed from the registry. (Please note that payment of the scholarship may be stopped during the time decision is being made on

the disciplinary action.

- ⑤ If a student's academic performance is considered unacceptable, if the student has been suspended, or is deemed not to be able to complete the program within the standard duration due to extended absence.
- ⑥ If a recipient's resident status of "College Student," as provided for in Paragraph 1-4 of Appendix to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, changes to any other status;
- ⑦ If a recipient receives another scholarship (except for a scholarship designated for research expenses);
- ⑧ If a recipient proceeds to a higher academic program without obtaining permission to extend the scholarship period from MEXT;
- ⑨ If a recipient leaves the host university or is transferred to another graduate school;

(2) Traveling Costs

Not all scholarship recipients will be offered the travel allowance by MEXT, but some will be awarded the travel allowance. The recipient who will be awarded the travel allowance should follow the rules in below.

- ① Transportation to Japan: recipients awarded travel allowance will be provided, according to the itinerary and route designated for them by MEXT, with an economy class air ticket from the international airport closest to their place of residence to one of the International Airports of Tokyo (Narita (NRT) or Haneda (HND)) (or an international airport the recipient's host university normally uses). Please note that the cost of transportation from the recipient's residence to the nearest international airport; airport tax and surcharges; other special local taxes incurred by travelling; local travel expenses within Japan (including any costs if transferring by air) are the sole responsibility of the recipient. (The recipient's residence is taken to be the current address given in the application. However, if a change of address is known beforehand (limited to within the recipient's home country), residence will be taken as the latter. Moreover, an air ticket will not be provided if the recipient travels to Japan from a country other than that of his or her nationality.
- ② Transportation from Japan: Upon application, recipients awarded travel allowance who return to their home country within the last-payment month of the scholarship will be provided with an economy class air ticket for a flight from Narita International Airport (or an international airport the recipient's university normally uses) to the international airport closest to their place of return (in principle, within their home country).

Note

*1 As indicated in the "Period of Scholarship," if a recipient decides not to extend their period of study and return to his or her home country, despite having requested for an extension of the scholarship, he or she will not be funded for traveling expenses to leave Japan.

*2 The recipient has to pay for his or her insurance premiums for travel to/from Japan.

*3 Traveling expenses will not be included in the travel allowance if a recipient decides to remain in Japan after the period of scholarship ends and temporarily leaves Japan.

*4 From AY2014, MEXT also accepts applicants for scholarships that do not include travel allowance. Please ask the international office at your relevant graduate school.

(3) School Fees

The host university will pay for fees for matriculation and tuition for recipients.

4. Recommendation Procedure and Screening

(1) Recommendation: Upon internal screening, university presidents should recommend outstanding applicants in need of scholarships, to the Minister of MEXT. In the case of the SATREPS or E-ASIA JRP, only those students who have passed the pre-screening by the Japan Science and Technology Agency can be recommended.

(2) Screening: The Selection Committee will screen applicants recommended by the presidents. Based on the results, MEXT will decide on recipients and their period of scholarships.

After the recipients have been selected, the presidents will tell them to contact Japanese embassy or consulate general in their home country.

(3) Application Documents:

	(Original)	(Copy)
1) Application form (double-sided)	1	
2) Field of Study and Study Program (double-sided)	1	
3) Passport-type photo taken within the last 6 months (4.5 x 3.5 cm, upper-body, full-faced, without a cap) Write name and nationality on the back and glue it to the application form. A photo in electronic data format acceptable)	1	
4) A copy of a document that proves applicant's nationality (passport, citizenship card, etc.)	1	
5) An official transcript from the last university attended (undergraduate or graduate). Please refer to Note 1.		
6) Graduation certificate or diploma of the last university attended (undergraduate or graduate)	1	
7) Record showing the applicant's academic excellence at the last university attended. (For example, GPA, class placement, individual ranking or any other indicators showing the applicant's academic performance at the university) Please refer to Note 2.	1	
8) Letter of recommendation from dean or above (addressed to the president of the University of Tokyo)	1	
9) Abstract of thesis (should be concise and to the point)	1	
10) Proof of language ability or other special skills (for example, score of TOEFL, TOEIC). Please refer to Note 3.	1	

Notes by the University of Tokyo

Note 1:

- Transcript showing academic performance of the last two years, including the university program enrolled in at the time of application.(Not including the non-regular program)
- If academic performance of the last two years includes the program enrolled in at the time of application and a preceding program, please submit the entire transcript of the preceding program from enrollment to completion.
- If an applicant has a history of transfer during his or her enrolled programs that are subject to calculation for grade points, please submit the transcript of the first enrolled program.

- Please submit an official document that specifies and explains the grading system.

Note 2:

- If the transcript described in 5) proves the applicant's academic excellence through specific indicators, it will be considered acceptable.

Note 3:

- If the applicant has no TOEFL or Japanese language proficiency test scores, he or she must have their (foreign) language skills judged objectively and have a proof issued by their university and submit it along with other necessary documents.

Note 4:

- According to the general rule of the MEXT scholarship, travel allowance will be provided to the scholarship recipients by the MEXT. From 2014, however, the number of the travel allowance award is limited for the university recommendation.

(4) Others

- 1) These documents must be written in either Japanese or English. They should be created in A4 format using software such as MS Word and must be printed double-sided (duplex printing). A document written in any other language must be attached with a Japanese translation.
- 2) Submitted documents will not be returned.
- 3) An application will not be considered unless all application forms and necessary documents are completed correctly and all accompanying documents are complete.
- 4) In some countries, a graduation certificate and other documents are issued by a government administrative office. In this case, the host university may need to confirm with a student's previous university that the certificate issued contains no erroneous information.
- 5) The host university should ensure that the applicants are in good health.
- 6) When applicants are selected, their private information (name, nationality, affiliated university, graduate school/faculty, their major, period of stay, and career path after completing the program, etc.) may be used by the Japanese government or shared with related agencies for the purpose of promoting studying in Japan, as well as provided to third parties within acceptable limits of purpose of use.

Be aware that unless the selected applicants agree to this use of their private information, they will not be accepted.

5. Notification

Notification of the screening results will be sent in writing to university presidents in May or June of 2017, except for International Priority Graduate Program (PGP) whose results will be announced in July of 2017. MEXT does not send a notice to individual applicants.