

APPLICATION GUIDELINES JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2018 (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 2018 as follows.

1. DEFINITION OF “SPECIALIZED TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENTS”

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

- (1) 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
- (2) Select a field of study from ①-⑦ above, and enter it in “Preferred field of study and subjects in Japan” on the application form. Applicants may also refer to a separate sheet titled “Majors and related subjects for fields of study”, and enter a first and second choice of subjects from the same field of study.
- (3) 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. 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.

3. QUALIFICATIONS

MEXT is now accepting applications from international students for study in Japan. Our aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between the grantee’s 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 Embassy/Consulate General (hereinafter referred to as the “Japanese diplomatic mission”) in the applicant’s country.
- (2) Age: Applicants, in principle, must have been born between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 2001.
- (3) Academic Background: Applicants, in principle, must have completed 12 years of regular school education.
(Applicants who will meet the above qualifications by March 2018 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 submit a health certificate in the prescribed format signed by a physician attesting that the applicant has no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant’s study in Japan.
- (6) Arrival in Japan: In principle, the selected applicants must be able to and arrive in Japan between the 1st and 7th of April 2018.
- (7) Visa Requirement: The applicant shall receive a “Student” visa, as stipulated in Appended Table 1(4) of the Immigration Act, and enter Japan with the residence status of “Student.” In regards to the visa, it should, in principle, be issued at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant’s country.

- (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 the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's 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 college;
 - ③ An applicant who is a previous recipient of a Japanese government scholarship;
 - ④ Those who are currently also applying to another program (Research Students, Undergraduate Students, College of Technology Students programs) under the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship system.
 - ⑤ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of "Student," or who are 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 of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to those who, even though they are currently studying as a privately-financed international student in Japan, verifiably complete their studies within the end of the fiscal year and return to their home country;
 - 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;
 - ⑦ Those who are planning to receive scholarship money from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country) on top of the scholarship money provided by MEXT after the arrival in Japan
 - ⑧ 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.
 - ⑨ Those who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after their arrival in Japan.

4. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

- (1) The scholarship period will last for three years from April 2018 to March 2021, including one-year preparatory education in the Japanese language and other subjects due to be provided upon arrival in Japan.
- (2) Extension of period of scholarship

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

5. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance: 117,000 yen per month. 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. 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 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 MEXT;
 - 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;
 - 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 college, etc.);
 - ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the course within the standard course period because of poor academic grades or suspension or leave of absence;
 - ⑥ The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than "Student";

- 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) Tuition and Other Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by MEXT.
- (3) Traveling costs:
- ① Transportation to Japan: In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the recipient's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport on the normal route to the accepting college. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the grantee's residence 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, etc. The grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country if the grantee must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes because there are no Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country. In principle, MEXT will not provide the airline ticket in cases when the grantee arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality because the grantee had moved to the country before the arrival in Japan.
 - ② Transportation from Japan: Grantees shall graduate the specialized training college and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (Section 4 above) designated by MEXT. Based on the Application by the grantee, MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from Narita International Airport or the international airport used for the normal route to and from the accepting college to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning recipient's residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence 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, etc.

Note 1: Should the grantee return to the home country before the end of scholarship payment period due to personal circumstances, or reasons (1) ①~⑧ above, MEXT will not pay for the return travel expenses.

Note 2: 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.

6. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

- (1) The Japanese diplomatic missions will conduct First Screening of applicants by means of submitted application documents, interviews and academic examinations.
[Examination subjects]
 - ① All applicants must sit for examinations in Japanese, English, and mathematics.
 - ② Calculators and other devices may not be used during the written examinations.
- (2) The date and time of the notification of the results of the First Screening will be specified separately by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country; the reasons for the results of the screening will not be announced. Those who pass the First Screening will not necessarily be selected as recipients of the MEXT Scholarship.
- (3) Applicants who have been selected through this First Screening will be recommended to MEXT. MEXT will then conduct the Second Screening of the recommended applicants and decide the scholarship grantees. MEXT may select candidates from each field of study.
- (4) Applicants will be informed of the results of the Second Screening by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country by January of the year of arrival in Japan.

7. PREPARATORY 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 Field of Study: A grantee will not be permitted to change his/her 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. Expenses for the return to the home country will not be paid by the scholarship.)

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 Field: The same condition as stipulated in Preparatory Education 7.(2) above applies.

9. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country by the required date. The submitted documents will not be returned.

No.	Documents	1 Original	1 Copy	Remarks
①	Application form	○	○	Please use the FY2018 application form. (See 4 below.)
②	Academic transcripts for all school years of last school attended	○	○	
③	Graduation certificate of last school attended	○	○	For applicants expecting to graduate, graduation certificate of school expected to graduate from (See 5 below.)
④	Letter of recommendation from either the principal or teacher of last school attended	○	○	Format up to recommender; samples available.
⑤	Health examination certificate	○	○	Please use FY2018 health certificate form.
⑥	Certificate of enrollment	●	●	Only for those currently enrolled in a university.
⑦	Certificate of university enrollment qualification examination	●	●	(See 6 below.)

Note 1: Documents indicated by the black circle (●) should be submitted only by the applicant.

Note 2: These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translations in either of these languages should be attached.

Note 3: One original and one copy must be submitted for each document. Always write the document number, from one to seven, (refer to the numbers in the table above) in the upper right-hand corner for all the documents.

Note 4: Please use the fiscal 2018 versions of the Application Form and the Placement Preference Form. The applicant's photograph to be attached to the Application Form should be of clear quality, taken within six months of submission, and printed on paper specially for photographs. The photograph should be 4.5 x 3.5 cm., upper-body, full-faced, no hats. Please write your name and nationality on the back of the photograph. Applicants may also paste the photograph data to the Application Form and print out the Application Form.

Note 5: The graduation certificate and the degree certificate obtained from the last school attended may be photocopies, provided that, the copies are attested by an authorized person of the university.

Note 6: An application will not be examined unless all the documents mentioned above are fully and correctly completed. For applicants with ⑦ Certificate of passage of university entrance qualification examination, this document may be submitted in place of documents ②, ③ and ④.

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, college 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 will be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee should bring approximately US\$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (3) Recipient must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) 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 college/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). Former recipients of MEXT Scholarships are asked to cooperate with any possible requests from the Japanese Government for the provision of relevant information after the recipient's graduation in Japan.

Information regarding MEXT Scholarship recipients (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 recipients who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

Grantees are requested to accept the handling of the personal information described above as specified in the written oath stipulating the matters for compliance as MEXT Scholarship recipients, which must be submitted after the applicant is accepted as a MEXT Scholarship recipient. Except in cases of special circumstances, those granting permission for the handling of personal information will be accepted as MEXT Scholarship recipients.

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