

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2024
(SPECIALIZED TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENTS)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to study at Japanese specialized training colleges as Specialized Training College Students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program 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

Those who apply for a specialized training college student must choose a field of study in accordance with the following procedure and fill in “Preferred field of study and subjects in Japan” on the application form.

(1) Choose a preferred field of study from among (A) to (F) below.

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (A) Technology | (B) Personal Care and Nutrition | (C) Education and Welfare |
| (D) Business | (E) Fashion and Home Economics | (F) Culture and General Education |

(2) Choose preferred subject(s) from the “Name of Subjects” listed in the chosen field of study on the Annex “Majors and Related Subjects for Fields of Study”. Applicants may enter a first and second choice of subjects from the same field of study.

(Note 1) Applicants who choose “Other Subjects” in the field of (A) to (F) are required to specify what kind of subjects they want to study in “Preferred Field of Study and Subjects in Japan” and “Reasons for Selection of Field of Study and Subjects” on the application form. If there are no accepting colleges for the subjects which are not specified as “Name of Subjects” and “Main Learning Contents” in the Annex “Majors and Related Subjects for Fields of Study”, his/her applications will be rejected and the applicants must withdraw from the scholarship selection. (Examples of subjects: medicine, nursing, biology, psychology, aircraft piloting, etc.)

3. PREPARATORY EDUCATION AND STUDY AT SPECIALIZED TRAINING COLLEGE

(1) Preparatory Education

- ① Each grantee will be enrolled at a preparatory educational institution designated by MEXT for the first year of the scholarship period. The preparatory course is a one-year intensive course in the Japanese language, Japanese affairs, and other subjects necessary for preparation for proceeding to a specialized training college.
- ② A grantee who has completed the preparatory course will go on to a specialized training college designated by MEXT. If a grantee is determined to be incapable of completing the preparatory course, his/her scholarship will be cancelled and he/she will be required to return to his/her home country.

(2) Specialized Training College

- ① The specialized training college which the grantee who has completed the preparatory course enrolls will be decided by MEXT upon consultation with the college concerned. No objection by the grantee against the decision will be allowed.
- ② A grantee of this scholarship will be enrolled into a postsecondary course of a specialized training college requiring graduation from an upper secondary school for entrance and receive professional education for two

years prior to graduation (three-year specialized training colleges are ineligible). A grantee who graduates will be awarded a diploma.

- ③ All classes will be given in the Japanese language.

(3) Change of Field of Study and Transfer to Another Institution

- ① A grantee will not be permitted to change his/her field of study during the study at preparatory educational institution and specialized training college.
- ② A grantee will not be permitted to transfer to another educational institution during the period of the preparatory education course and the course at the specialized training college.

4. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

MEXT accepts applications from international students for study in Japan who satisfy the following qualifications and conditions. Its 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. 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 other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status). The First Screening must be conducted at the Japanese Embassy or Consulate (hereinafter referred to "Japanese diplomatic mission") in the country of which the applicant chooses the nationality.

(2) Age: Applicants, in principle, must be born between on or after April 2, 1999. However, applicants who satisfy the following ③ condition of Academic Background must be 18 years of age or older at the time of admission to a university in Japan.

Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to the situation or circumstances of the applicant's country (military service obligation, loss of educational opportunities due to disturbances of war, etc.) Personal circumstances (financial situation, family circumstances, state of health, circumstances related to applicant's university or place of employment, etc.) will not be considered for exceptions.

(3) Academic Background: Applicants must satisfy any one of the following conditions.

- ① Applicants who have completed 12 years of schooling in countries other than Japan. (Applicants who will meet the above condition by March 2024 are eligible.)
- ② Applicants who have completed studies at a school equivalent to a Japanese upper secondary school in countries other than Japan. (Applicants who will meet the above condition by March 2024 are eligible.)
- ③ Applicants who have successfully passed an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to the completion of 12 years of schooling in countries other than Japan. (Applicants who will meet the above condition by March 2024 are eligible.)
- ④ Other than the above ①, ② and ③ conditions, applicants who are eligible for enrollment in a postsecondary course at a specialized training college at the time of application.

(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 before and after arriving in Japan. In addition, in principle, 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, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan between April 1, 2024, and April 7, 2024. Departure from the home residence should be on or after April 1, 2024.

Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above which decided by MEXT or the accepting preparatory educational institution.

(7) Visa Requirement: An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student." If the applicant lives in Japan exceptionally under a residence status other than "Student" before acceptance, the applicant must change his/her status to "Student" by the end of the previous month before the installment of scholarship payment. Moreover, as the Japanese government requires pre-arrival tuberculosis screening for some countries, applicants obtaining a visa shall follow guidance at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant's country of nationality.

(8) Non-Eligibility: Those who meets any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he /she must withdraw from the scholarship.

- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT or the accepting institution;
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). The Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs;
- ④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2023, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2024;
- ⑤ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of "Student," or who are to be enrolled, or plan to be enrolled, 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 for payment of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, are enrolled, or are planning to be enrolled, in a Japanese university or other institution but verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, and newly acquire the "Student" residence status;
- ⑥ 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 start of the scholarship payment period;
- ⑦ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
- 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 (the acquisition of student status);

- ⑨ Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan;
- ⑩ Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the preparatory educational institution or the specialize training college;
- ⑪ Those who are found to have attempted or actually committed any kinds of cheating prohibited by the examiner during the written examination of the First Screening.

(9) Others: MEXT Scholarship will be granted those who are willing to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in activities at schools and communities during their study in Japan while contributing to the internationalization of Japan. They shall also 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 and cooperating with relevant projects and events conducted by the Japanese diplomatic mission after they return to their home countries.

5. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

- (1) The scholarship period will last for three years from April 2024 to March 2027, 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 for enrollment in a Japanese national university as a third-year transfer student 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 (transfer students enrolled at a public or private university are ineligible).

6. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance:** 117,000 yen per month. A supplemental regional allowance of 2,000 yen or 3,000 yen per month will be added to the monthly scholarship amount for the grantees studying or conducting research in specially designated regions. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government’s budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. If a grantee is absent from the specialized training college or preparatory educational institution for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.
- (2) Education Fees:** Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at specialized training colleges and preparatory educational institutions will be paid by MEXT.
- (3) Traveling Expenses:**
 - ① **Transportation to Japan:** MEXT will stipulate the travel schedule and route, and provides an airline ticket to grantees who will arrive in Japan during the specified period stated in “4. (6) Arrival in Japan”. The airline ticket will be an economy-class ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee’s residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting institution. 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, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage 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, or if there are no direct flights from the grantee’s country of residence to Japan. MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee’s country of residence to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting institution. In principle, the address given in the space for “Your address before departure for Japan” on the application form shall be recognized as the “residence,” and the airline ticket will be arranged for a flight from the international airport nearest to that address. Except for cases when

the grantee must travel to a third country to obtain a visa, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances. If a grantee will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period stated in "4. (6) Arrival in Japan", travel expenses will not be paid.

- ② **Transportation from Japan:** Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate the specialized training college and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See "5. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP"). MEXT shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from the accepting institution 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 in Japan 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, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. If a grantee returns to the home country before the end of scholarship payment period due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "7. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP" below, MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended in cases such as proceeding to further education or being employed in Japan, travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid.

7. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Payment of the scholarship will be cancelled for the reasons given below. Should any of the following reasons apply, the grantee may be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid made up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

- ① A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- ③ A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period of exceeding 1 year;
- ④ A grantee is suspended from his/her specialized training college or preparatory educational institution or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard period of study because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the specialized training college or preparatory educational institution;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or changed his/her residence status has changed to one other than "Student";
- ⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures);
- ⑧ A grantee proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.

8. SELECTION

- (1) The Japanese diplomatic missions will conduct the First Screening of applicants by means of examination of submitted application documents, written academic examinations and interviews.
 - ① Subjects of Written Academic Examinations (to be undertaken by all applicants): 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 disclosed. Those who pass the First Screening will not necessarily be selected as the MEXT Scholarship Students.

(3) Applicants who have passed the First Screening will be recommended to MEXT. MEXT will then conduct the Second Screening of the recommended applicants and decide the scholarship grantees. MEXT selects candidates from each field of study.

(4) Applicants will be informed of the final selection results by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country by the end of January 2024. The reasons for the results will not be disclosed. Any objections to the decision on the university of placement will not be accepted.

9. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of the applicant's nationality by the designated deadline. The submitted documents will not be returned.

| No. | Documents | 1 Original | 1 Copy | Remarks |
|-----|--|------------|-----------------|--|
| ① | Application Form | ○ | ○ | Use the FY2024 Application Form. (See Note 4.) |
| ② | Academic transcript(s) for all school years of last school/university attended | ○ | ○ | A transcript issued either by the school/university attended or by the applicant's national government. (See Note 5.) |
| ③ | Certificate(s) of graduation of school/university attended | ○ | ○ | If the applicant has not yet graduated, submit a certificate of prospective graduation from the school/university. (See Note 6.) |
| ④ | Recommendation letter from either a class teacher or principal of last school attended | ○ | ○ | Free format. A sample is available. (See Note 7.) |
| ⑤ | Medical certificate | ○ | ○ | Use the FY2024 certificate form. (See Note 10.) |
| ⑥ | Certificate of enrollment | ● | ● | Only for those currently enrolled in a university. |
| ⑦ | Certificate of university enrollment qualification examination | ● | ● | Only for those who pass the university enrollment qualification examination. (See Note 6 and 8.) |
| ⑧ | Certificate of language proficiency | / | ● (2 copies) | Only in case applicant has documents attesting to competency in Japanese or English; submit 2 copies. No original document necessary. The date of issue of the certificates should be no earlier than two years from the date of application to the Japanese diplomatic mission. (See Note 9.) |

(Note 1) Documents indicated by the white circle (○) must be submitted by all the applicants. Documents indicated by the black circle (●) should be submitted only if applicable.

(Note 2) These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translation in either of these languages should be attached.

(Note 3) The applicants must submit two application packets: one is a complete set of original documents and the other is a complete set of their copies. Ensure that there is no missing information in the application form when printing out. Write the document number from ① to ⑧ (refer to the numbers in the table above) in the upper right-hand corner of the first page for all the documents.

(Note 4) 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 applicant's name and nationality on the back of the photograph. The photograph data can be pasted to the Application Form and printed out.

(Note 5) Applicants must submit the following documents according to his/her academic background:

- (a) Applicants who are attending, or have graduated from, an upper secondary school: an academic transcript of the upper secondary school
- (b) Applicants who are attending, or have already graduated from, a university: academic transcripts of both the upper secondary school and the university.

The academic transcripts should show the grade scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant in all the subjects studied for each year of study at the school or the university. Those who are currently attending an upper secondary school or a university must also submit the academic transcript that covers the period from the year of enrollment to the term for which grades have been determined at the time of application for the scholarship. Those who are attending an upper secondary school or a university must also submit a transcript when he/she graduates from that school or university by the time selection results are finalized. In the case that the last school offers a single-structure education system consisting of a lower and upper secondary level or a primary and secondary level, the necessary academic transcripts to be submitted shall cover all school years of upper secondary education.

(Note 6) Applicants must submit the following documents according to his/her academic background:

- (a) Applicants who are attending an upper secondary school: a certificate of prospective graduation from the upper secondary school;
- (b) Applicants who have already graduated from an upper secondary school: a certificate of graduation from the upper secondary school;
- (c) Applicants who are attending a university: a certificate of graduation from the upper secondary school (in addition, they must submit a ⑥certificate of enrollment.);
- (d) Applicants who have already graduated from a university: certificates of graduation from both the upper secondary school and the university.

A copy of the graduation certificate and the certificate of university enrollment qualification examination is acceptable if the copy is attested by an authorized official of the university or an examination authority. Do not submit the originals as the submitted documents will not be returned. Those who are attending an upper secondary school or a university must also submit a certificate of graduation when he/she graduates from that school or university by the time selection results are finalized.

(Note 7) A recommendation letter for those who are attending an upper secondary school or a university should be issued by that school or university they are attending. A recommendation letter for those who graduated from an upper secondary school or a university should be issued by that school or university.

(Note 8) For applicants with “⑦Certificate of university enrollment qualification examination”, this document may be submitted in place of documents No. ②, ③ and ④.

(Note 9) If printing out the certificates from the Internet, print out and submit a page showing the applicant’s name and the details of the relevant qualification (level, score, etc.).

(Note 10) If there is a change in your health condition (including any serious changes relating to your life plan) after you have submitted your health certificate, please promptly share this information with the diplomatic mission abroad since it concerns the acceptance system of the accepting university and the Japanese medical institution.

10. UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines here within, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable Circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including Embassies and Consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or

other foreign countries' government due to the event of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike, or lockout.

11. NOTES

- (1) The grantees are advised to learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and to acquire information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, college education, and conditions of the university to attend 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 is recommended to bring at least approximately US\$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (3) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account of Japan Post Bank (JP Bank) opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship payments to other account.
- (4) Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis following a medical exam must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee's arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.
- (5) Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- (6) It is suggested that grantees acquire a "Individual Number Card (My Number Card)" upon arrival in Japan.
- (7) Accommodations:
 - ① In principle, each grantee will be able to live in a dormitory during the preparatory education. Expenses relating to accommodations will be borne by the grantee.
 - 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. Expenses relating to accommodations will be borne by the grantee.
 - ③ Private boarding houses or apartments: Those who are unable to find accommodation in the aforementioned facilities may live in private boarding houses/apartments with his/her expenses. It is difficult for grantees with dependents (spouse and children) to find appropriate housing in Japan. The grantee is requested to arrive in Japan alone first to secure housing before having his/her dependent(s) come to Japan.
- (8) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (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).

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

These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship Students must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship.

- (9) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for complementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.
- (10) If there are any questions about the content of the written texts in this Application Guidelines or any other matters, applicants/grantees should inquire the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of the applicant's nationality and follow their instructions.
- (11) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this Application Guidelines, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese Government.