

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026

(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 2026 MEXT Scholarship Program are as follows:

1. QUALIFICATIONS

- (1) Requirement: Applicants must newly arrive in Japan from abroad for the purpose of improving their understanding of Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture at Japanese universities. Applicants are limited to those who are officially recommended by one of the universities overseas upon the exchange agreements that have been concluded. Applicants must assure that they return to their home country by August 2027 and continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of the institution in which applicants were enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan.
- (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.
- (3) Age: Applicants must be born between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 2008.
- (4) Academic Background: Applicants must be undergraduate female or female identified students at non-Japanese universities majoring in fields related to the Japanese language and/or Japanese culture at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan. Applicants must have studied the Japanese Studies at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 1, 2026.
- 1, 2026..
- (5) Japanese Language Ability: Applicant must have at least Level N2 of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), or the equivalent.
- (6) Health: Applicants must have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.
- (7) Arrival in Japan: Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by the designated period between the day two weeks before the course starts and the starting date of the course (If the applicant arrives in Japan earlier than two weeks before the course starts, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. Or if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the period designated by the university, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program.)
- (8) Visa acquisition: Applicants are required to obtain a new "Student" (Ryugaku) visa when they come to Japan. If a grantee enters Japan without newly obtaining a "Student" visa, the scholarship will be terminated.
- (9) Any applicant who meets any of the following conditions is not eligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, they must withdraw from the scholarship:
1. Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees as of their arrival into Japan;
 2. Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past (including those who withdrew from the scholarship program after enrollment);
 3. Those who are staying in Japan at the time of application;
 4. Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from Japanese government, a

- Japanese government-related organization and others after the start of the scholarship payment period;
5. Those who are currently also applying for another program for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal year 2026 through a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship scheme including 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 Studies at a university for a total period of less than one year as of September 1, 2026. Those who have studied Japanese Studies at another university should submit documents (transcript of grades at another university, etc.) which can verify that the applicant has studied Japanese Studies for a total period of one year or more at the attended universities including current 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 (or by the enrollment period starts);
 8. Those who cannot assure that they return to their home country by the end of August 2027 and continue to study Japanese language and Japanese culture at the undergraduate program of their institution which applicants had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan (If a grantee does not satisfy both conditions, they may be ordered to return the entire amount of the scholarship paid during the scholarship period. Those who are uncertain about returning and continuing to study after the end of the scholarship period should not apply for this program);
 9. Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan.

2. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

From October 2026 to August 2027 (not extended)

3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1) Allowance:

After arrival in Japan, 120,000 yen per month will be paid. 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 university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

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 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 judged to have made a false statement on their application;
2. A grantee violates any article of their pledge to the Minister of MEXT;
3. A grantee has been subjected to disciplinary action by the university or expelled from the university;
4. A grantee is currently enrolled or planning to study at a Japanese university with a “Student” visa before the term of scholarship begins;
5. It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the training course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension from the university;
6. A grantee has not obtained a new “Student” visa status before entering Japan or their resident status changes to anything other than that of “Student” at any point;
7. A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures).

- (2) Transportation:
- a. Transportation to Japan: A grantee arriving in Japan during the specified period stated in “1 (7) Arrival in Japan” will be supplied, according to their itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy-class airplane ticket from the international airport nearest to their *residence (home country) to Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport. Expenses such as inland transportation from their home address to the international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, special taxes on travel, or inland transportation within Japan will NOT be supplied. (*Their residence should be stated as “ Current address “ in the application form)
 - b. Transportation from Japan: A grantee who shall complete the course and return to their home country in August 2027 will be supplied, upon application, with an economy-class airplane ticket for travel from Narita or Haneda Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses to the international airport nearest to their home address.
- (Note) Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be borne by a grantee. 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 accepting university.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

- (1) Application Form (Form 1)
- (2) Photo data (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 supervisor 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 culture).
- (7) Documents verifying that the applicant has studied the Japanese language for at least one year.
(Only for those who cannot verify with the document (6) that they studied Japanese for a total of at least one year at the university.)
- (8) Photocopy of passport ID page
- (9) Documents to prove Japanese-language ability of the applicant (e.g. Record of JLPT)

(Note 1) These documents must be typed 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 DEADLINE

Not later than **April 1, 2026**

The application forms and other necessary documents should be received by Ochanomizu University via email before the above date.