

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2023

(JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS: Nikkensei)

Osaka University will offer scholarships by the Japanese Government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for academic study in Japan to students as Japanese Government Scholarship Students through university recommendation as outlined below.

Regulations for the 2023 MEXT Scholarship Program are as follows:

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

- (1) Eligible applicants Those with the purpose of studying at a Japanese university in order to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture, and those who will newly be coming to study from countries abroad. Only applicants with official recommendations from partner universities of Osaka University (Inter-University Agreements and Inter-Faculty Agreements with Osaka University) are eligible.
- (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. 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.
- (3) Age Applicants must be born between April 2, 1993 and April 1, 2005. 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.
- (4) Academic Background Applicants must satisfy the following three conditions.
① Applicants must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan.
② Those who are majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture.
③ Those who have studied Japanese language or Japanese culture at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 2023.
(For those who have studied Japanese language or Japanese culture at another university and the time spent studying there totals one year or more: please submit a document [a transcript at another university] which can verify that applicants have been studying Japanese language or Japanese culture for a total period of one year or more).
- (5) Japanese Language Ability Applicants must meet one of the following requirements.
① Applicants must have Japanese language proficiency of Level N2 or higher than Level N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).
② Those who have Japanese language proficiency equivalent to or higher than Level N2 of JLPT evaluated by Osaka University.
- (6) Health Those who are determined by their home university that applicants have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.
- (7) Arrival in Japan In principle, applicants must arrive in Japan on the date (scheduled on September 27) designated by Osaka University. (Unless the applicant has an unavoidable reason, if an applicant cannot arrive in Japan in the designated date by Osaka University, he/she must withdraw from this scholarship program. Also, if an applicant cannot arrive in Japan on the date designated by Osaka University for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.)
- (8) Visa acquisition An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic

mission located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the newly obtained residence status of "Student." Moreover, it should be noted that if the grantee comes to Japan without newly obtaining the "Student" visa, the provision of the scholarship will be stopped.

(9) Non-Eligibility

Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, the applicant 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 on the date (scheduled on September 27) designated by Osaka University
3. Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). However, it does not apply to those receiving the MEXT Honors Scholarship in the past, because MEXT Honors Scholarship does not regard them as MEXT Scholarship Students.
4. Those who are currently also applying for another program for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal 2023 through a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship scheme including Embassy Recommended Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for Japanese Studies Students.
5. Persons who are residing in Japan at the time of application.
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. Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of their arrival in Japan.
8. Those who change their residence status from "Student" to other status after arriving in Japan.

(10) Return and Continue to Study after the End of the Scholarship Period

Applicants must assure that they return to their home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of their institution which applicants had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan. **If a grantee fails both conditions, he/she may be ordered to return the entire amount of the scholarship paid during the scholarship period. Please do not recommend those who are uncertain about returning and continuing to study at his/her home institution after the end of the scholarship period.**

(11) 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 Japanese diplomatic missions after they return to their home countries.

2. Period of Scholarship: The scholarship period is scheduled for 11 months from October 2023 to August 2024.
(Extension of the scholarship period is not permitted.)

3. SCHOLARSHIP

(1) Allowance Actual amount of scholarship benefits: 120,000 yen per month
Note that the monetary amount is subject to change due to budgetary reasons each fiscal year.
If a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

(2) Travel Expenses

1. Transportation to Japan: The grantee will be supplied, according to his/her itinerary and route designated by MEXT, with an economy-class airplane 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 Osaka University.
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, 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 Osaka University.

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 nationality due to the grantee's personal circumstances.

2. Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall complete the study course at Osaka university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period (See "2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP") designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from an international airport in Japan used for the normal route from Osaka university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee'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 the scholarship period due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses. If a grantee will also not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period, or will not resume his/her studies at the undergraduate program of their home institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan, MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

(3) Tuition etc.: Entrance examination fees, enrollment fees and tuition fees will be borne by Osaka University.

4. 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 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 university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting university.
5. It has been determined as impossible for the grantee to complete the course by the end of the final month of the scholarship period due to poor academic grades or suspension or leave of absence from the university.
6. A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than "Student".
7. A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures)
8. A grantee does not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and does not continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of his/her institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan.

5. Recommendation procedures and selection

- (1) Recommendation The representative of home university will carefully screen and select **especially outstanding applicants in need of financial assistance**, send the necessary documents using the separate

forms, and submit the recommendations to Osaka University.

(2) Selection

The Selection Committee of Osaka University will review and choose candidates who are recommended by the head of their home university, and based on this, Osaka University will recommend the selected candidates to the MEXT.

(3) Documents to be submitted

The documents to be submitted are as follows. Please submit the documents by e-mail first, and then send them by post according to the instructions of Osaka University.

Documents to be submitted	Notes	The deadline and how to submit	
		via E-mail	via POST
1) Application form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A digital image of your photo must be pasted. The data should be the image of your upper half body taken from front with no hat within the last 6 months. • When applicants will send it by post, it must be printed on both sides of the paper. Also, applicants must sign for the signature block by themselves with their handwriting. 	to be submitted via email by March 5 2023	Regarding the submission by post, please follow the instructions from Osaka University. (one copy for each document, printed both sides)
2) Certificate of university enrollment	Written in English or Japanese		
3) Certified academic transcript issued by the university where the applicant is currently enrolled for all academic years up to the current grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies are acceptable • Please mark subjects related to Japanese language or Japanese culture with ● • Written in Japanese or in English 		
4) Letter of Recommendation from the head of the university where the applicant is currently enrolled	addressed to the president of Osaka University		
5) Letter of Recommendation from an academic advisor	using the prescribed form by Osaka University		
6) Identification document	A copy of the applicant's passport (the page with photo, nationality, date of issue/expiration) or the family register		
7) A copy of the Certificate of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) of Level N2 or	In case it is not possible to submit JLPT certificate, Japanese Language Proficiency Verification written by		

higher than Level N2	Japanese language instructor of the home university is also acceptable.		
8) Questionnaire for online/telephone interview	Scheduled on March 9, 2023 and March 10, 2023	to be submitted via email by February 28, 2023	
9) Questionnaire for Air-Ticket to Japan		to be submitted via email by March 5, 2023	
10) Application Checklist / Cover Letter		to be submitted via email by March 5, 2023	Regarding the submission by post, please follow the instructions from Osaka University.
11) A document which proves that the applicant has been studying Japanese language or Japanese culture for one year or more	This is only to be submitted by applicants whose transcript does not prove that he/she has studied Japanese language or Japanese culture for one year or more.	※only if necessary to be submitted via email by March 5, 2023	※only if necessary Regarding the submission by post, please follow the instructions from Osaka University.

(4) Other notes

- i. The above documents must be drawn up in either Japanese or English, drafted using a word processing software etc. and printed out on A4 paper. (For documents in other languages, a Japanese or English translation must be attached.)
- ii. Note that the application documents above will not be reviewed if: 1) they have false statement, 2) they have not been completed correctly, or 3) required documents are missing. Moreover, application documents submitted after the deadline will also be rejected
- iii. Submitted documents will not be returned under any circumstances.
- ix. Home universities are responsible to verify that the applicants are in good health both physically and mentally and that the applicant's condition will not affect his/her academic studies at Osaka University.

6. Results

The results will be notified to home universities around the end of June 2023.

7. 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.

8. Important Notes

- (1) The purpose of this scholarship program is not to obtain a diploma. Therefore, the recipient cannot be enrolled as an undergraduate at a university or as a graduate studying for his/her master's degree or doctorate at a graduate school as a Japanese-government-sponsored international student during this program or upon its completion.

- (2) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will not 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) Based on Japanese rules, students must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- (4) In principle, students will live in a dormitory on Minoh Campus. (The dormitory fee will be approximately 50,000~60,000 yen per month).
Website: <https://globalvillage.icho.osaka-u.ac.jp/minohsemba-en/index.html>
- (5) Due to certain restrictions applicable in their home country, some candidates may not be able to leave their country despite being selected for a Japanese government scholarship. Home universities of applicants should try to confirm whether such restrictions apply or not in advance.
- (6) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrollment, 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 international students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the international 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 international 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.
Except the particular matter the Applicants who agree with this handling are accepted as Japanese Government Scholarship students.
- (7) Note that recommendations for candidates who have previously been deported and whose "Student" visa will be difficult to be issued by the designated date will be rejected.
- (8) In addition to the regulations stipulated in the Application Guidelines, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese government
- (9) Applicant has to copy his/her submitted "APPLICATION FORM FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP Japanese Studies Students for 2023" and keep the copy at his/her online / telephone interview.
- (10) 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.

Submit to:

Ms. S. Minami

Center for Japanese Language and Culture

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