

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2009

(JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS)

The Japanese Government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships for academic study in Japan to foreign 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 Japan's language and culture.

Regulations for the 2009 MEXT Scholarship Program are as follows:

1. QUALIFICATIONS

- (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. Selection is conducted at facilities such as the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General (hereinafter, "Japanese legation") located in the country of the applicant's nationality. (This shall not necessarily be applied in cases where one embassy covers multiple nations.)
- (2) Age Applicants must be born between April 2, 1979 and April 1, 1991.
- (3) Academic Background: Applicants must be an undergraduate at a foreign (non-Japanese) university majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan.
- (4) Japanese Language Ability: Applicants must have Japanese language ability sufficient for receiving education at a Japanese university in Japanese.
- (5) Health: Applicants must be free from any mental or physical disabilities that would be an impediment to the pursuit of university study.
- (6) Arrival in Japan: Applicants must definitely be able to arrive in Japan within two weeks counted from the starting day of the study course set by the university in Japan (It is October as a general rule) and the period set by the accepting university. (If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the designated period, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.)
- (7) Visa acquisition: Applicants are required to acquire a "College Student" visa when they come to Japan. Moreover, in exceptional cases when successful applicants have been residing in Japan before their acceptance under a status other than "College Student" and are to change their visa status within Japan, they must acquire a "College Student" visa by the end of the month prior to the month in which they are scheduled to start receiving the scholarship. Furthermore, note that those who change their visa status to something other than "College Student" after arriving in Japan will also lose their qualifications to be a Japanese Government Scholarship student at the point when they change their visa status.
- (8) The following persons are not eligible:
 1. Those who qualify as military personnel or military civilian employees.
 2. Those who can not arrive in Japan during the period designated by the university.
 3. Recipients of scholarships from other institutions (including government institutions in their own countries) will not be selected as grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships.
 4. As of October 1, 2009, applicants who have been awarded a Japanese Government Scholarship in the past will not be selected as a grantee until at least three years have passed since the first of the month following the month of their final receipt of the previous scholarship.
 5. Those who are already enrolled at a Japanese university with a "College Student" visa status and those already enrolled or are scheduled to be enrolled in a university in Japan as a non-scholarship student, counted from the time of making the application in their home country to before the disbursement of the scholarship money.
- (9) Study courses implemented: The study/training is implemented only for university/study courses listed in the pamphlet "Course Guide for Japanese Studies Students," to be mailed separately. (The Course Guide will also be available on the MEXT website.: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/06032818.htm)

(Note #1) Applicants must not simultaneously apply to be a Japanese language/Japanese culture training student through a university recommendation for which recruiting is carried out during the same period of time. A university recommendation is a method whereby

universities recommend students residing overseas in cooperation with universities in other countries with which they have concluded exchange agreements.

(Note #2) Applicants must not simultaneously apply under a system that supports short-term study by exchange students like that implemented by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Short-term Student Exchange Promotion Program Scholarship.

Those majoring in fields of study other than Japanese language and Japanese culture (such as Engineering, Economics, Agricultural Science, Architecture, Art, etc.) and who wish to pursue complementary studies in Japanese language and culture should apply for another scholarship, such as the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Short-term Student Exchange Promotion Program Scholarship.

(Note 3) Those who have not studied at a university for more than one year, as of April 2009, will not be eligible in principle.

2. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

The term is the period necessary to complete the accepting university's study course, which should be within approximately one year from October, 2009 (the starting month for the study course). (Extension of the term is not allowed.)

3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance: The amount of the scholarship disbursement per month has yet to be determined. However, the figures for the 2008 academic year have been included here for reference. (The monetary amount each year may be subject to change because of budgetary reasons.)

Actual amount of scholarship benefits in 2008: 134,000 yen

The scholarship will be cancelled in principle in the following cases.

1. A false statement has been judged to have been made on the application.
 2. The grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the Monbukagaku-daijin (the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
 3. The grantee has been subjected to disciplinary action by the university or expelled from the university.
 4. It has been determined that it will be impossible for the grantee to complete the training course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension from the university.
 5. The grantee's status, as defined in the Appended Table I-4 of the Immigration Act, has been changed into one other than "College Student."
 6. The grantee has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified as being for research expenditures).
- (2) Transportation
 - a. Transportation to Japan: The grantee will be supplied, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy class air ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address* to the New Tokyo International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses. Expenses such as inland transportation from his/her home address to the international airport, airport tax, the airport usage fee, special taxes on travel, inland transportation within Japan will NOT be supplied. (*The address in the country of the grantee's nationality stated in the application form is in principle considered as the grantee's "home address.")
 - b. Transportation from Japan: The grantee who returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be supplied, upon application, with an economy class air ticket for travel from the New Tokyo International Airport or any other international airport that the appointed university usually uses to the international airport nearest to his/her home address*.

(Note) Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be borne by the grantee. Moreover, 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 Japanese government.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General by the required date. The submitted documents will not be returned.

- | | (Original) | (Copy) |
|--|------------|--------|
| (1) Application Form (prescribed forms) | 2 | |
| Application Form (Annex) (prescribed form) | 1 | |
| (2) Passport-size photographs (4.5×3.5 cm, Upper half of body, Full-faced, Hatless) taken within | | |

the past 6 months (pasted on the application forms and Annex)	3	
(3) Certificate of university enrollment	1	1
(4) Certified grade transcript from the university enrolled in (Please mark subjects related to Japanese language and Japanese culture)	1	1
(5) Recommendation from the head of or academic advisor at the university of enrollment	1	1
(6) If the applicant has qualifications concerning Japanese-language ability, a documented proof of that Ability (Copy)	1	1
(7) Medical certificate on the prescribed form	1	1

(Note 1) Please choose universities and study courses in which you wish to be enrolled from among those indicated in the pamphlet, "Course Guide for Japanese Studies Students," to be mailed separately, and write them down on the application forms (Annex). (The Course Guide will also be available on the MEXT website : http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/boshu/08121006.htm)

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

(Note 3) No application will be considered unless the aforementioned application and all other documents are fully and correctly completed.

5. SELECTION

- (1) The Japanese Embassy/Consulate General will carry out the preliminary screening from among applicants by means of an interview, a written examination (in Japanese), and a review of the submitted documents.
- (2) Results of a the preliminary screening examination will be notified on a date separately designated by the Japanese Embassy/Consulate General.
- (3) Candidates who pass the preliminary screening examination will be recommended by the Embassy/Consulate General to MEXT.
- (4) MEXT will implement a final screening examination for the candidates recommended by the Embassy/Consulate General and select the government scholarship recipients.

6. ACCEPTANCE, PLACEMENT AND SPECIALIZED STUDY IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND JAPANESE CULTURE AT UNIVERSITIES

- (1) MEXT, in consultation with the university concerned, will decide on the university in which each grantee shall be enrolled, by taking into consideration his/her Japanese language ability and specialized courses he/she wishes to be enrolled in. Objections regarding the university placement will not be allowed.
- (2) The study at universities will be conducted in principle in Japanese.
- (3) University placement and specialized study of Japanese language and Japanese culture will be conducted as follows.
Specialized Japanese language and Japanese culture study will be divided into the following two courses, depending on the objective of the study: (a) a course conducted mainly to improve students' Japanese language proficiency, with supplementary study about Japan and Japanese culture, and (b) a course conducted mainly about Japan and Japanese culture, with supplementary study for raising Japanese language ability.
The specific course contents vary with each university, but every student will take special lectures on Japan, Japanese culture, and Japanese language and specialized practical study, as well as classes in the departments related to his/her individual major.
- (4) A grantee who has completed a specified course at the university concerned will be given a certificate.
However, the purpose of this scholarship program is not to obtain a diploma. Therefore, a grantee cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate course at a university or a Master's or a doctorate course at a graduate school as a Japanese-government-sponsored foreign student during this program or right after its completion.

7. NOTES

- (1) The grantee is advised to learn the Japanese language and to acquire some information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education and conditions in general before coming to Japan.
- (2) The grantee should bring approximately US \$1,500 or the equivalent to cover immediate needs after arrival in Japan
- (3) Accommodations:
 - a. The foreign Student Houses, operated by JASSO
Grantees enrolled at universities in Tokyo, Osaka and Kobe may reside at one of the Foreign Student Houses operated by JASSO, if they so desire and also meet the set conditions for residence.
However, because of the limited number of rooms, these dormitories may not be able to accommodate all the students who wish to live there.

- b. Residence halls for foreign students established by national university corporations.

National university corporations have residence halls for foreign students. The grantees enrolled at national universities where such facilities are available may reside, if they so desire, in these residence halls under certain set conditions. However, because of the limited number of rooms, some of these facilities may not be able to accommodate all the students who wish to live there.

- c. Private accommodations.

Those who are not able to find accommodation in the aforementioned facilities may live in a regular dormitory of the university or in a private boarding house/apartment introduced by the university.

It is very difficult for grantees with accompanied by family members to find appropriate housing in Japan. The grantee is requested to come to Japan alone first to secure housing before having his/her spouse and/or family members come over to Japan.

- (4) More detailed information on this scholarship program is available and queries about it and other matters may be asked at the Japanese legation.