

Application Guide for MEXT* Scholarship Students Research Students Program commencing in October 2025

*MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
(Monbukagakusho), Japanese government

Program Type: Research Students (non-degree seeking students) Program

Number of Students to be admitted: A few

Admission Date: October 1, 2025

The qualifications stated below are based on the guidelines provided by MEXT for the previous round of recruitment.

Qualifications and Conditions

I. Eligibility

International students with outstanding academic achievements of graduate school level who enter Japan as new students.

* “International students with outstanding academic achievements” must have earned a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.30 or above in their degree (for those who are employed) or currently enrolled courses, and be able to maintain that GPA while receiving the scholarship. Furthermore, applicants must meet any one of the language requirements stated in V. Language Proficiency.

II. Nationality

Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are 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).

III. Age

Applicants, in principle, must be born on or after April 2, 1990.

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.

However, for the Young Leaders' Program graduates who do not meet the above age requirements and wish to enroll in a doctoral course, they can apply only within five years after they have completed the program.

IV. Academic Background

Applicants must satisfy the conditions for admission to either a master's or doctoral course at a Japanese graduate school. (Applicants who will certainly satisfy them at the time of enrollment are eligible.)

V. Language Proficiency

Applicants must satisfy any one of the following conditions to prove that they have sufficient Japanese or English language ability.

○Japanese

Applicants must pass with N2 or higher in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the time of application.

Applicants must complete curriculums that meet the conditions for admission to master's or doctoral courses at Japanese graduate schools using Japanese as the main language.

Applicants are regarded by the accepting universities as having Japanese language ability equivalent to or better than .

○English

Applicants must pass or achieve scores in English language proficiency tests that correspond to B2 or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of application.

Applicants must complete school curriculums that meet the conditions for admission in masters' or doctoral courses at a Japanese graduate school by using English as the main language.

Applicants are regarded by the accepting universities as having English language ability equivalent to or better than .

VI. Non-eligibility

Those who meet 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 date specified by MEXT or the accepting university
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). However, this does not apply to those who meet any one of the following conditions. In addition, since the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students does not apply to the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs, the previous grantees can apply.
 - those who have at least three years of educational or work experience following the end of the payment of the previous scholarship and the start of this scholarship.

- the past grantees of Japanese Studies Students program who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Young Leaders' Program.
 - those who have obtained or are expected to obtain a degree as undergraduate students of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs. (university recommendation/special selection)
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 FY2025.
 5. Those who are living in Japan when apply.
 6. Those who are planning to receive scholarship or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others 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 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 university.
 10. Those who have no intention to enroll in Master/Doctoral program.
 11. Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.

Scholarship Benefits

I. Monthly Stipend

143,000 JPY

This stipend is subject to change as specified by the regulations of the MEXT Scholarship program and will not be paid to those who take a leave of absence from JAIST.

II. Term of Scholarship

Up to 18 months from October 2025 to March 2027 as a Research Student.

Scholarship recipients may apply for proceeding to a master's or doctoral program at JAIST during the term of scholarship. The recipients who passed the entrance examination are eligible to enroll in JAIST master's or doctoral program and to extend the duration of the scholarship under certain conditions.

III. Travel Expenses

Transportation to Japan

MEXT will stipulate the travel schedule and route, and provide an airline ticket. 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 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, and the Japanese diplomatic mission is closed 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 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 residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances.

Transportation from Japan

Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate or complete the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by MEXT. MEXT shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from the accepting 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 period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "**Scholarship Conditions**," MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

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

IV. Education Fees

Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities must be paid by the accepting university.

Application Procedure

Prior to submitting application materials to the International Student Section, applicants must directly contact the intended academic supervisor via email and provide a self-introductory statement. Applicants must obtain an informal consent of acceptance in the laboratory after enrollment.

For further information on our faculty members, please refer to the following website:

<https://www.jaist.ac.jp/english/areas/>

Application Process

1. Send an e-mail to the International Student Section (ISS)

Deadline: 5:00pm, Friday, December 6, 2024 (JST : Japan Standard Time)

First, please send an e-mail to ISS with the following information.

- Your name
- Name of JAIST Faculty member from whom you have been given informal consent of Acceptance. Please submit the certification (Ex: e-mail from the faculty member) that shows you surely obtain the informal consent of acceptance from intended supervisor in JAIST.
- E-mail: ryugaku@ml.jaist.ac.jp

After receiving your e-mail, ISS will inform you how to submit your application documents.

2. Submission of PDF copies of the application documents via email

Deadline: 5:00pm, Wednesday, December 11, 2024 (JST : Japan Standard Time)

Please submit PDF copies of all the application documents following the instruction from ISS. We will check your documents whether there are any mistakes.

3. Submission of hard copies of the application documents via courier delivery

Deadline: Friday, January 10, 2025 (JST : Japan Standard Time)

If the documents have no problem, we will ask you to send the hard copies to us. Please place all the application documents in an envelope and send it via courier delivery (such as DHL, FedEx, or EMS) to the International Student Section. Please keep the tracking number for your confirmation purpose. Applicants are responsible for the timely delivery of all the required documents to the International Student Section. The parcel must reach the International Student Section by the deadline.

Mailing Address: International Student Section Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) 1-1 Asahidai Nomi Ishikawa 923-1292 JAPAN

Documents to be submitted

General Instructions:

- All the documents must be prepared in English or Japanese. Documents in languages other than English must be accompanied with a translation in English or Japanese. We prefer translations to be issued by the university or government agency and bear a stamp or embossed seal of the school or the agency and the signature of the authorizing official. Translations from a Japanese language school or translation company are acceptable if they are stamped with the official seal of the translating body.

- All the application documents are important to enable the Selection Committee to screen applicants in a fair and accurate manner, and applications omitting any one of the required documents will not be accepted.
- Please download the forms at the following website.
JAIST Top Page > Student Life > [Support System for Students/Disciplinary Action] Scholarships > 2. Scholarships for Which Students Can Apply BEFORE Arriving in Japan
- Applicants may be requested to submit additional application documents.
- Submitted documents will not be returned under any circumstances. JAIST will not provide photocopies of submitted documents. Please keep a copy of all documents for personal reference. If the applicant needs to keep the original copy, please submit a certified copy instead.
- If it is discovered that an applicant has made false statements or has neglected matters to be stated on application documents, the admission may be revoked even after enrollment.

1	<p>Application Form [Form 1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email will be the main medium of communication; therefore, make sure to provide us with an email address that you frequently use. Please check your email regularly. ● Regarding the photograph, please use a photograph of 4.5 cm in length by 3.5 cm in width, upper half of body, facing camera, without a hat or any material covering your head and face, taken in the past 6 months. If it is a photographic paper, please write your name and nationality on the back of the photograph and attach it to the specified space. A digital photograph is acceptable. ● Please print this form double-sided on A4-sized paper.
2	<p>Field of Study and Research Plan [Form 2]</p> <p>Please print this form double-sided on A4-sized paper and do not staple them together.</p> <p>Please summarize your field of Study and research plan within 4 pages.</p>
3	<p>Letter of Recommendation [Form 3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applicant must obtain an official letter of recommendation from the person of equivalent (or higher) status to a dean of your faculty addressed to the president of Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. ● Copies are not acceptable. ● Any format is acceptable, provided that the following contents shown in the box are included. ● Please show the following instructions and inform the deadline to your recommenders. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>➤ Please give your personal impressions of the applicant's motivation and aptitude to study, and character. Also, please describe a quality and details of research or work that the applicant has conducted, and reasons for recommending him/her as a suitable candidate for MEXT scholarship student at JAIST.</p> <p>➤ Please provide your name, title/position, organization, signature (in handwriting) and date on an official letter headed paper, and pass the letter to the applicant.</p> </div>
4	<p>Official Academic Transcript</p> <p>Applicants should submit originals or certified copies.</p> <p>Master's program applicants must submit a transcript of both undergraduate and graduate school.</p> <p>Doctoral program applicants must submit a transcript of graduate school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A transcript must indicate the <u>semester</u>, <u>credits</u> and <u>grading system</u>, e.g. A :100-90 B : 89-80 C :79-70 D : 69-60 F : 59-. Attach reference materials about the grading system if it not shown on the transcript.

5	<p>Proof of Graduation or Expected Graduation</p> <p>Applicants should submit originals or certified copies.</p> <p>This must specify the date of graduation or expected graduation.</p> <p>This must be issued by the president or a dean of the university from which the applicant graduate (or will graduate) and bear the school's stamp or embossed seal and the signature or the authorizing official.</p>
6	<p>Official document indicating applicant's high achievement in the most recent university</p> <p>This document should indicate your high achievement. For example, GPA, class division, your rank in the class.</p>
7	<p>Abstract of Thesis (or papers)</p> <p>Please summarize your thesis (or papers) within 4 pages. Copies are acceptable.</p> <p>If you have not written a thesis, please submit a document summarizing your research activities for the past few years in free format</p>
8	<p>Proof of Language Proficiency (Photocopies are acceptable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must have the language proficiency of either English or Japanese, and must satisfy one of the qualifications below. <p>ENGLISH</p> <p>Eligible applicants are those who have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a certificate of Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) Level B2 or higher. If you do not have a CEFR score, certificates such as IELTS, TOEFL, TOEIC* are also acceptable. Scores within 2 years on and after December 12, 2022 are valid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *For TOEIC certificate, applicants should submit both L&R and S&W scores. Submitting only either one is not acceptable. Certification from Institutional Testing Program of TOEFL or TOEIC (TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC-IP) will not be accepted. a certificate which shows that the applicant completed an undergraduate program or master's program which was conducted in English as a main language. a certificate which shows that the applicant's English language proficiency level is equivalent to or higher than the above No.1. <p>JAPANESE</p> <p>Eligible applicants are those who have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a certificate of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level N2 or higher on and after December 12, 2022. a certificate which shows that the applicant completed an undergraduate program or master's program which was conducted in Japanese as a main language. a certificate which shows that the applicant's Japanese language proficiency level is equivalent to or higher than the above No.1.
9	<p>Letter of Pledge [Form 4]</p> <p>Applicant should sign by his/her own hand. We don't accept digital signature.</p>
10	<p>Photocopy of applicant's passport</p> <p>Please print the page(s) with applicant's picture, name, nationality, date of birth and passport number.</p>

11	Curriculum Vitae [Form 5]
12	<p>Photograph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit both electronic and paper forms. ● The photograph should be 4.5 cm in length by 3.5 cm in width, upper half of body, facing camera, without a hat or any material covering your head and face, taken in the past 6 months. Please write your name and nationality on the back of the photograph and do not attach it to the application form.
13	Self-Declaration Form of Applicability to a Specific Category [Form 6]

Notification of the Results

In February 2025, JAIST will announce its selection of candidates to be recommended for the MEXT Scholarship. Please note that a recommendation by JAIST does not mean that the applicant will be accepted by MEXT as a scholarship recipient. If MEXT rejects the recommendation, JAIST cannot offer admission. If the applicant would like to enroll in JAIST without MEXT Scholarship, he/she must separately apply as a privately-funded student. The official announcement of MEXT Scholarship recipients will be made in June 2025 (TBD) via email.

Scholarship Conditions

I. 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 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 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 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 (a scholarship or fellowship from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship;
8. A grantee proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.
9. A grantee withdraws from his/her university or transfers to another university.

II. Research Activities outside of JAIST

MEXT scholarship students who enrolled in JAIST are generally NOT allowed to be supervised outside of JAIST for long time because this scholarship is intended for international students who wish to enroll in JAIST and do graduate research in JAIST. The recipients cannot receive scholarship during the period in other institutions.

Other Important Information

1. Recipients' personal information may be used for international students support programs and promotion activities by the Japanese Government. MEXT shall ask for the recipients' approval by written pledge at the time of adoption.
2. Recipients should be willing to participate in community events held in Japan to promote mutual understanding. After returning to their home country, scholarship recipients shall maintain close contact with JAIST, cooperate with the conducting of post-return survey questionnaires, participate in events conducted by local Japanese government offices, and endeavor to improve relations between their home country and Japan.

Contact and Submission

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