

2026 Application Guide for MEXT Scholarship Students of

“Global leader development program by innovation design method based on knowledge science”

We seek applicants who wish to enroll in JAIST as MEXT* scholarship students for the special program called “Global leader development program by innovation design method based on knowledge science”. This program has been selected as one of the “International Priority Graduate Programs” by MEXT.

*MEXT : Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (Monbukagakusho)

I. Number of Students Admitted

School	Program	Number of Students Admitted
Graduate School of Advanced Science and Technology (Study Area: Knowledge Science)	Master’s Program	Max. 2
	Doctoral Program	Max. 3

II. Enrollment Year and Month

October 2026

III. Terms and Allowance of Scholarship

Program	Terms	Monthly Allowance
Master’s Program	From 2026.10 to 2028.9	144,000 yen/Month
Doctoral Program	From 2026.10 to 2029.9	145,000 yen/Month

*Monthly allowance amount is as of July 2025. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year.

IV. Eligibility Requirements

As for the MEXT Scholar’s qualifications, please refer to the guidelines as below.

https://www.jaist.ac.jp/admissions/images/2026_MEXT_Scholarship_Guidelines.pdf

In addition, to enroll in JAIST master’s or doctoral program, applicants must satisfy one of the following requirements by the day prior to the day of desired enrollment.

Master’s Program:

Eligible applicants are those who have:

1. graduated from a Japanese university.
2. been granted a bachelor’s degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) as stipulated in paragraph 7, article 104 of the School Education Act.
3. completed a 16-year curriculum of school education in countries other than Japan.
4. completed a curriculum at a foreign-affiliated university in Japan which has a university education

curriculum under the school education of its country (Its completion must be regarded as the completion of a 16-year curriculum of school education in its country) and specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

5. completed a 16-year curriculum of school education in a foreign country by completing a correspondence curriculum of an overseas educational institution while residing in Japan.
6. been granted a bachelor's degree from a foreign university or other foreign institution of higher education by completing a curriculum with a completion period of three years or more.
7. completed a specialized curriculum specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology at a vocational school on or after the date designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The required period for graduation is four years or longer, and which also satisfies other condition specified by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
8. been designated as eligible by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. For example, those who graduated from a university which is not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology
9. Early Graduate School Entrance Program

Applicants for the early graduate school entrance program must have completed the required number of credits set by JAIST, which is approximately three-quarters of the necessary credits to graduate from a Japanese university or an equivalent level of the curriculum in a foreign country, with excellent academic results. Prospective applicants for the early graduate school entrance program are those who have:

- a) attended a Japanese university for at least three years.
 - b) completed a 15-year curriculum of school education in countries other than Japan.
 - c) completed a 15-year curriculum of school education in a foreign country by completing the correspondence curriculum of an overseas educational institution while residing in Japan.
 - d) completed a curriculum at a foreign-affiliated university in Japan which has a university curriculum under the school education of its country (Its completion must be regarded as the completion of a 15-year curriculum of school education in its country) and specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
10. enrolled in a graduate school as stipulated in Paragraph 2, Article 102 of the School Education Act, and recognized as having sufficient academic abilities by JAIST.
 11. been recognized by JAIST through the Judgment of Eligibility as having an equivalent or greater scholastic ability than that of university graduates, and have reached 22 years of age.

[Judgment of Eligibility for Master's Program]

Applicants who wish to apply under the eligibility requirements 9, 10 or 11 must be screened by JAIST for eligibility prior to applying. Applicants should download the instruction documents and forms for judgment of eligibility from our website and submit all the necessary documents before the following deadline. (Admissions > Application Guide > Judgment of Eligibility)

Application Deadline: August 1, 2025

<https://www.jaist.ac.jp/english/admissions/application-guide/Eligibility.html>

Note:

- a. Form 4, 5 and 8 for judgement of eligibility are not necessary to submit.
- b. Please submit the documents via mail to the following address.

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

c. The result will be noticed by the middle of September 2025.

Doctoral Program

Eligible applicants are those who have:

1. been granted a master's degree or a professional degree (are stipulated in Article 5-2 of the Rules for Degrees (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education No. 9 of 1953) based on the Paragraph 3, Article 104 of the School Education Act. The same applies hereafter.) from a Japanese university.
2. have been granted a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree in a foreign country.
3. been granted a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree by completing a correspondence curriculum of an overseas educational institution while residing in Japan.
4. been granted a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree at a foreign-affiliated university in Japan which has a graduate education curriculum under the school education system of its country, and specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
5. completed the master's program at the United Nations University, and obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree.
6. taken a curriculum at a university abroad, the United Nations University, or a curriculum specified in the above 4, passed an examination or screening which is stipulated in Paragraph 2, Article 16 of the Standards for Establishment of Graduate Schools (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education No. 28 of 1974), and have been recognized as having an academic ability equivalent to or greater than a holder of a master's degree.
7. been designated as eligible by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology. Eligible applicants are those who have engaged in at least 2 years of research at a university or research institute after graduating from a Japanese university or completing a 16-year curriculum of school education in a foreign country, and who have been recognized by JAIST as having equivalent or greater academic ability than a holder of a master's degree.
8. been recognized by JAIST through the Judgment of Eligibility as having equivalent or greater academic ability than a holder of a master's degree or a professional degree and have reached 24 years of age.

[Judgment of Eligibility for Doctoral Program]

Applicants who wish to apply under the eligibility requirements 7 or 8 must be screened by JAIST for eligibility prior to applying. Applicants should download the instruction documents and forms for judgment of eligibility from our website and submit all the necessary documents before the following deadline. (Admissions > Application Guide > Judgment of Eligibility)

Application Deadline: August 1, 2025

<https://www.jaist.ac.jp/english/admissions/application-guide/Eligibility.html>

Note:

- a. Form 3 for judgement of eligibility is not necessary to submit.
- b. Please submit the documents via mail to the following address.

Mailing Address: International Student Section

Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)

1-1 Asahidai Nomi Ishikawa 923-1292 JAPAN

- c. The result will be noticed by the middle of September 2025.

V. How to Apply

There are nine main steps when applying for this selection:

Step 1: Read the application guide and 2026 MEXT Scholarship Guidelines carefully.

Step 2: Check your eligibility for MEXT Scholarship students.

Step 3: Contact the faculty you wish to be supervised and obtain an informal consent of acceptance in the laboratory after enrollment.

Step 4: Prepare the application documents.

Step 5: Submit your application documents.

Step 6: Take the interview.

Step 7: Wait for notification of admissions decision.

Step 8: Submit your application.

Step 9: Wait for notification of admissions decision.

Following chapters are the detailed instructions for Step 3 - 8.

VI. Application Process, Deadline and Documents

Step 3

Contact the faculty you wish to be supervised and obtain an informal consent of acceptance in the laboratory after enrollment.

Step 4 – 5

A. Application Process

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

Deadline: 5:00pm, Friday, September 19, 2025 (JST : Japan Standard Time)

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

- Your name
- Name of Program you wish to apply for (Ex: Global leader development program by innovation design method based on knowledge science / Doctoral Program (or Master's Program))
- 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

Deadline: 5:00pm, Friday, September 26, 2025 (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, October 24, 2025 (JST : Japan Standard Time)

If the documents have no problem, we will ask you to send the hard copies to us. Please place the following 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.

- Letter of Recommendation **[Form 3]**
- Official Academic Transcript
- Proof of Graduation or Expected Graduation
- Official document indicating your high achievement in the most recent university
- Letter of Pledge **[Form 4]**

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

B. Application Documents

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 Admissions Decision 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 > Admissions > [Application Guide] Master's Program and Doctoral Program - Examination for scholarship track (Division of Advanced Science and Technology) > Application Guide for Examination for International Priority Graduate Programs for MEXT Scholarship Students
- Applicants may be requested to submit additional application documents.

1	Application Form [Form 1] <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.
2	Field of Study and Research Plan [Form 2] <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Please summarize your field of Study and research plan within 4 pages.

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. ※Applicants who are enrolled in degree-seeking program at JAIST need to obtain it from dean of the study area to which the applicants belong. ● 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-top: 10px;"> <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 (For graduate school, you must submit only in the case you are or have been enrolled in it.).</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. ● If master's program applicants apply under the eligibility requirements 9, 10 or 11, they do not need to submit it. ● If doctoral program applicants apply under the eligibility requirements 7 or 8, they do not need to submit it.
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>Student who apply to Master's program-2 of Eligibility Requirements Need To Submit bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If master's program applicants apply under the eligibility requirements 9, 10 or 11, they do not need to submit it. ● If doctoral program applicants apply under the eligibility requirements 7 or 8, they do not need to submit it.
6	<p>Official document indicating your 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 September 27, 2023 are valid. <p>*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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 September 27, 2023. 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 your passport</p> <p>Please print the page(s) with applicant's picture, name, nationality, date of birth and passport number.</p>
11	<p>Curriculum Vitae [Form 5]</p>
12	<p>Photograph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic data can be acceptable. 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.
13	<p>Self-Declaration Form of Applicability to a Specific Category [Form 6]</p>

VII. Interview

Step 6 - 7

After completion of the application of the candidate, the interviewers will be decided based on each candidate's field of specialization. You will be contacted individually by the interviewers regarding the method, date and venue of the interview. The interview is conducted by either personal or through web communication tools, and for the purpose of discussing the details of your research proposal and your school life after enrollment and determining whether you can proceed with the application process (Step 8). Applicants have a choice of speaking in English or Japanese. The International Student Section informs you of the result of the interview via email. Only the candidates who have received approval are allowed to proceed with the application process (Step 8).

VIII. Submission of Application

Step 8

A. Application Process

1. Submission of a PDF copy, Excel file and Word file of the application form via email or online storage service

Deadline: Early January 2026 (TBD)

The International Student Section sends a latest application form to only the candidates who have received approval via email.

Please send a PDF copy and Word file of the application form via email or online storage service.

We will check your documents whether there are any mistakes.

To: International Student Section Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) Email: ryugaku@ml.jaist.ac.jp
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- The specific deadline will be notified to applicants who received approval to proceed with the application process.
- Submission after the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.

B. Application Documents

1	Application Form prescribed by MEXT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The latest version will be announced by MEXT in November.• Submission should be via email or online storage service.
2	Field of Study and Research Plan prescribed by MEXT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The latest version will be announced by MEXT in November.• Submission should be via email or online storage service.
3	Photograph <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission should be via email or online storage service• 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.

Note: Applicants may be requested to submit additional application documents.

IX. Selection Method and Notification of Admission Decision

All applications are evaluated based on the same holistic criteria of screening all the documents submitted. Based on the selection results by MEXT, we will announce the final admission decision in June, 2026 (TBD) via email.

X. Admission Procedures

Instructions on admission procedures will be sent to successful applicants in June, 2026 (TBD) via email.

XI. Note

1. If there are any differences between the qualifications and conditions in the “2026 Application Guidelines for the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship students (University Recommendation)” which will be announced in the middle of November 2025, and those in the “2025 Application Guidelines for the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship students (University Recommendation)”, the 2026 Guidelines has the priority.
2. Application documents which are incomplete will be rejected. Generally, modification of submitted application documents is not permitted. Documents will not be returned to applicants.

3. 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.
4. Successful applicants must obtain a “Student” visa issued by the Japanese government before coming to JAIST. If an applicant cannot obtain a “Student” visa, the admission may be revoked.
5. We will start the visa procedures soon after the notification of the admission decision in June, 2026 (TBD). Therefore, if you do not possess a passport, please obtain one in advance.
6. Students who enrolled in JAIST based on this entrance examination are allowed to join only the laboratories which belong to the study area of knowledge Science.

Contacts:

International Student Section
Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)
1-1 Asahidai Nomi Ishikawa 923-1292 Japan
Email: ryugaku@ml.jaist.ac.jp