

2026 Guidelines for  
Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship  
<University Recommendation/Special Selection>

## **1. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

### **(1) Eligibility**

International students with outstanding academic achievements of graduate school level who enter Japan as new students or those already staying in Japan.

- \* "International students with outstanding academic achievements" must have earned a Grade Point Average(GPA) of 2.30 or above in their degreed (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 (6) Language Proficiency.
- \* From the viewpoint of attracting the best international students, it is possible to nominate international students presently residing in Japan for priority placement (hereinafter referred to "domestic recommenders"). However, the number of domestic recommenders should not exceed 40% of total candidates.

[Definition of "domestic recommenders"]

- ① Those who are staying in Japan with a medium- to long-term resident status at the time of application. Those who have their base of residence in Japan, not including tourists and short-term visitors who are staying in Japan for the purpose of taking entrance examinations, etc. It is irrelevant whether the applicant is residing in Japan from the time of after application to the start of scholarship payments.
- ② Applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application, but will come to Japan as a privately financed international students before the start of receiving scholarship payments.
- \* If you are or will be in Japan as a privately financed international student, you must complete your program at the school you are enrolled or plan to enroll in before receiving scholarship payments.
- \* Travel expenses will not be paid for domestic recommenders, regardless of the reasons stated in ① and ②. If applicants return to their country of nationality after applying under condition ①, however, there are no exceptions if students return to Japan before scholarship payments begin.

### **(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 (the acquisition of student status).

### **(3) Age**

Applicants, in principle, must be born on or after April 2, 1991.

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.

#### **(4) Academic Background**

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

#### **(5) Majors**

Applicants should apply for the field of study they majored in at university or its related field. Moreover, the fields of study must be subjects which applicants will be able to study and research at JAIST.

#### **(6) Language Proficiency**

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

##### **➤ JAPANESE**

- ① Applicants must pass with N2 or higher in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the time of application.
- ② 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.
- ③ Applicants are regarded by the accepting universities as having Japanese language ability equivalent to or better than ①.

##### **➤ ENGLISH**

- ① 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.
- ② 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.
- ③ Applicants are regarded by the accepting universities as having English language ability equivalent to or better than ①.

#### **(7) Health**

Applicants who are judged by JAIST to have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.

#### **(8) Arrival in Japan**

In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by JAIST within two weeks before and after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the

specified period above. If an applicant will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period due to personal circumstances, travel expenses will not be paid.

### **(9) Visa Requirement / Status of Residence**

An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant’s country/region of nationality, and enter Japan with the status of residence as “Student.”

Please also note that if a grantee arrives in Japan without newly obtaining a “Student” visa, scholarship payments will be cancelled. Moreover, as the Japanese government requires pre-arrival tuberculosis screening for nationals of the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar and China, applicants obtaining a visa shall follow guidance at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant’s country of nationality.

#### **\* Visa requirements and status of residence for domestic recommenders**

For those whose current status of residence is not “Student,” applicants must change their status of residence to “Student” at the local Immigration Services Agency in Japan by time of registration as students at JAIST. Even in cases of having other statuses of residence (“Permanent Resident,” “Long Term Resident”, etc.), applicants must change their status to “Student” and begin their courses of study as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students. It is important to note that applications for “Permanent Resident” or “Long Term Resident” status after status of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship student ends, may not be granted as a matter of course. Also, if studies as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students begin without changing status of residence to “Student,” scholarships will be canceled.

For those whose current status of residence is “Student,” they must complete the renewal procedures before the expiration of their periods of stay.

### **(10) Non-Eligibility**

Those who fall into any one of the following categories are ineligible. If an applicant is identified as being ineligible after selection as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship program.

- 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 JAIST;
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdrew from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). However, this does not apply to those who wish to apply for Research Students program and 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 FY2026;
- ⑤ Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others after the start of the scholarship payment period;
- ⑥ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
- 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 (the acquisition of student status);
- ⑧ 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;
- ⑨ Those who have no intention of obtaining a degree in Japan;

### **(11) Others**

MEXT Scholarship will be granted to 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 JAIST after graduation, cooperating with the conducting of surveys and questionnaires, and cooperating with relevant projects and events conducted by the Japanese diplomatic mission after they return to their home countries.

## **2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP**

Master's program student    24 months from October 2026 to September 2028

Doctoral program student    36 months from October 2026 to September 2029

## **3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS**

### **(1) Allowance**

The amounts listed below shall be paid depending on the course enrolled in. 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 JAIST for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

Master's program student    144,000 JPY per month

Doctoral program student    145,000 JPY per month

### **(2) Traveling expenses**

- ① Transportation to Japan: MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an airline ticket. However, MEXT does not provide an airline ticket for cases of domestic recommenders. 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 JAIST. 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. In a case of (a) or (b) below, MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of nationality to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to JAIST. While the grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country:

- (a) 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 or because diplomatic mission is closed, or
- (b) There is no direct flight from the grantee's country of nationality to Japan.

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.

- ② Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who will graduate from JAIST and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See "2. 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 JAIST to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The travel schedule change or route change is not allowed after provision of airline ticket. 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 "4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP," MEXT will not pay for the return 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.

### **(3) Education Fees**

Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at JAIST must be paid by JAIST.

### **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 exceeding 1 year;

- ④ A grantee is suspended from JAIST or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of JAIST;
- 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 JAIST;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the “Student” residence status, or changed his/her status of residence to something other than “Student” after entering Japan. In case of domestic recommenders, they begin studies as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students with a status of residence other than “Student” or changed his/her residence status to something 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 JAIST or transfers to another university;
- ⑩ A grantee’s annual GPA is below 2.30 or the grading standard set by JAIST.

## **5. 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.

## **6. Other Important Information**

- Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee’s arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.
- 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.

## **Inquiries**

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For prevention of spam mail, @ is changed to "at". Please replace "at" with @ when you send email to the above address.