

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2018
(TEACHER TRAINING STUDENTS)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to international teachers who wish to conduct research on school education at designated Japanese universities as Teacher Training Students as follows.

1. QUALIFICATIONS

MEXT accepts applications from international students who meet the following requirements for study in Japan. Its aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between the scholarship recipient's country and Japan through study in Japan and who will contribute to the development of both countries and the wider world.

- (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. 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 foreign country and give up their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan. The first applicant screening will be conducted at the Japanese Embassy or Consulate (hereinafter referred to "Japanese diplomatic mission") in the country of applicant's nationality.
- (2) Age:** Applicants, in principle, must be born on or after April 2, 1983. Exceptions are limited to only those applicants deemed by MEXT to have been unable to apply within the period of age eligibility due to the system or circumstances (loss of educational opportunities due to military service obligation, war, etc.) in the country of nationality. Under no circumstances will exceptions be made for personal reasons (financial, family, health, university, employment situation, etc.)
- (3) Academic and Career Background:** Applicants must be graduates of universities or teacher training schools and have worked as teachers at primary/secondary educational institutions or teacher training schools (excluding universities) in their home countries for five years in total as of April 1, 2018. In-service university faculty members are not eligible.
- (4) Japanese Language Ability:** Applicants must be keen to learn Japanese. Applicants must be interested in Japan and be keen to deepen their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. Applicants must also have the ability to do research and adapt to living in Japan.
- (5) Health:** Applicants must submit a health certificate in the prescribed format signed by a physician that the applicant has no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.
- (6) Arrival in Japan:** Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by the designated period (usually September of October) between the day two weeks before the course starts and the first day of the course. If the applicant arrives in Japan before this period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. Excluding cases of unavoidable circumstances, if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the designated period the applicant must withdraw the offer.
- (7) Visa Requirement:** Applicants should, in principle, acquire "Student" visas at the Japanese diplomatic missions located in the country of applicants' nationality before entering Japan and enter Japan with "Student" residence status. To satisfy this requirement, even if an applicant already has another status of residence in Japan ("Permanent Resident," "Long-Term Resident," etc.), the applicant must change the visa status to

“Student” and then re-enter Japan. Please be aware that even if the applicant applies for the permanent-resident or long-term resident status of residence after the expiration of the status as a Japanese Government Scholarship student, the possibility exists that the application may not be approved.

- (8) Applicants must return to their home country and resume their work immediately after the end of the scholarship period. Applicants shall utilize in their teaching careers the results of their research on school education in Japan. Should the applicant not return to the home country and resume work after the end of the scholarship period, the applicant must return the entire amount of the scholarship starting from the first payment.

In addition, while the applicant is studying in Japan, he/she shall contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and the home country by participating in activities at schools and communities with the aim of contributing to the internationalization of Japan. The applicant shall 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 after the return home, and cooperating with all relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions in the applicant’s country.

- (9) Any applicant who meets any or all of the following conditions is ineligible. If identified after the start of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship:

- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan and during the scholarship period;
- ② Those who have received a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past;
- ③ Those who have also applied for another program for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal 2018 through a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship scheme or for a fiscal 2019 Embassy Recommendation program (for Research Students);
- ④ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university with a residence status of “Student,” or who are enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program in the applicant’s country until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT scholarship;
- ⑤ 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 provide by MEXT after the arrival in Japan;
- ⑥ 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;
- ⑦ Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan.

2. PLACEMENT AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING AT UNIVERSITIES

- (1) The study/training is implemented only in the university study courses listed in the “*Course Guide of Teacher Training Program*.” This *Course Guide* is available from the MEXT’s website and the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of applicant’s nationality.
- (2) MEXT, in consultation with the universities concerned, will decide on the university where each recipient shall be enrolled by taking into consideration his/her Japanese language ability, the result of written examination and specialized courses he/she wishes to take. Objections regarding university placement will not be accepted.
- (3) The training at universities will be conducted in Japanese or English in principle. Language(s) used in each course can be confirmed in “*Course Guide of Teacher Training Program*.”
- (4) The recipient students whose Japanese language ability is insufficient shall take Japanese-language education in a Japanese language study course at the appointed university or at a university designated by MEXT. Japanese-language education is generally provided for six months at the beginning of the program, but some of the accepting universities may conduct Japanese language education parallel to the training.
- (5) The training mainly consists of educational administration (examples: educational administration and finance,

school management), educational methods (examples: classroom teaching, learning system theory, curriculum, and educational assessment), specialized subject research (examples: mathematics, physics, chemistry, and gymnastics), and observational tours and practice (examples: class observations, participation in special educational activities, and tours of educational research facilities). Guidance plans may be organized flexibly according to the research themes the students wish to study.

- (6) A recipient 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 an academic degree. The recipient shall return to the home country immediately after the completion of the course and be re-enrolled at the recipient's university. Therefore, a recipient cannot be enrolled in a master's or a doctorate course at a Japanese university during this program or right after its completion.

3. TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP

The term is the period necessary to complete each university's training course and should be between October 2018 (or the starting month of the course) and March 2020. Extension of the term is not permitted.

4. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance:** 143,000 yen per month. In case that the recipient researches in a designated region, 2,000 or 3,000 yen per month will be added. The monetary amount each year may be subject to change due to budgetary reasons. The scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the university for an extended period.

The scholarship will be also cancelled in principle in the following situations. If the recipient has been receiving the scholarship despite his/her falling under any of the following situations, the recipient will be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that he/she received during the period wherein he/she was involved with any of the following situations:

- ① The recipient is judged to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② The recipient violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- ③ The recipient violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to imprisonment with or without work for life or for a period of exceeding 1 year;
- ④ The recipient is expelled from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment. The scholarship payment may be stopped during the period up until punishment is decided by the university;
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the study course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades, suspension or absent from the university;
- ⑥ The recipient's residence status has been changed to one other than "Student";
- ⑦ The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified as being for research expenditures).

- (2) Tuition and Other Fees:** Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition at universities will be paid by MEXT.

(3) Transportation

- ① **Transportation to Japan:** In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the recipient's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to the Narita International Airport or to any other international airport in Japan on the normal route to the accepting university. The recipient shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the recipient'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, expenses related to accompanied or unaccompanied baggage, etc. Although

the address in the home country stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home country residence," if it will be changed at the time of leaving from his/her home country the changed address will be regarded as "home country residence.") The recipient shall also bear at his/her own expense travel from his/her home country to a third country and travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country if the recipient must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes because there are no Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country. In this case, MEXT will provide the airline ticket from the third country to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport in Japan on the normal route to the accepting university. In principle, MEXT will not provide the airline ticket in cases when the recipient arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality due to personal circumstances, excepting for the case that the recipient must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes.

- ② **Transportation from Japan:** In principle, the recipient who returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy-class airline ticket for travel from the Narita International Airport or any other international airport in Japan that the accepting university usually uses to the international airport nearest to his/her home address, where in principle is in the country of nationality. The recipient shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the recipient's residence 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, expenses related to accompanied or unaccompanied baggage, etc.

Should the recipient return to his/her home country before the end of the scholarship period due to personal circumstances, or reasons 4 (1) ① to ⑦ above, the transportation fee for the return to the home country will not be provided. Should the recipient not return to his/her home country soon after the end of the scholarship period to resume his/her duties, the transportation fee for the return to the home country will also not be provided.

5. SELECTION

- (1) The Japanese diplomatic missions will conduct a first screening of applicants by means of a review of the submitted documents, a written examination (subject: Japanese, English) and an interview.
- (2) Results of the first screening will be notified on the date separately designated by the Japanese diplomatic mission.
- (3) Applicants who pass the first screening will be recommended by the Japanese diplomatic missions to MEXT.
- (4) MEXT will conduct a second screening of the applicants recommended by the Japanese diplomatic missions and determine the scholarship recipients.
- (5) Results of the final selection will be notified on a date separately designated by each Japanese diplomatic mission.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants must submit the following documents together to the Japanese diplomatic missions in the country of nationality by the required date. The submitted documents will not be returned.

No.	Documents	1 Original	1 Copy	Remarks
①	Application Form (a prescribed form)	○	○	Please use the FY 2018 form. (See Note 4.)
②	Placement Preference Application Form (a prescribed form)	○	○	Please use the FY 2018 form. (See Note 5.)
③	Certified grade transcript for each academic year from the last university/ teacher training school attended	○	○	To be issued by the attended university/school or the local authority.

④	The diploma from the last university/ teacher training school attended	○	○	(See Note 6.)
⑤	Certificate of employment	○	○	To be issued by the present employer.
⑥	Recommendation from the head of the department that the applicant belongs to	○	○	Free format.
⑦	Certificate of Health (a prescribed form)	○	○	Please use the FY 2018 form.
⑧	Proof of Japanese language ability	/	●	Please submit a proof document (2 copies) if the applicant has qualifications concerning Japanese-language ability. (See Note 7.)

Note 1: Documents indicated by the white circle (○) should be submitted by all applicants. Documents indicated by the black circle (●) are to be submitted by only relevant persons.

Note 2: All of the above documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translations in either of these languages should be attached.

Note 3: Number the documents(① through ⑧) in the right upper corner.

Note 4: A photo attached to the Application Form must have been taken within the past six months and be 4.5 x 3.5 centimeters in size. It must show the applicant full-face from the chest up and with no hat. Write name and nationality on the back of the photo. It is acceptable to insert the image data to the data of application form and print out the form.

Note 5: Select five preferred universities at most from among the universities listed in the “*Course Guide of Teacher Training Program*” (available from the MEXT’s website and at the Japanese diplomatic missions in the home country) and fill out the Placement Preference Application Form with the selected university names, course code and teaching field. Select courses related to “20. Your research plan in Japan” described in your application form. Please be aware that if you select courses unrelated to your research plan, you will not be accepted by the university.

Note 6: Regarding the diploma, a photocopy thereof may be an acceptable substitute. However, this should be attested to by the school authority concerned. (Do not submit an original copy as the submitted documents will not be returned.)

Note 7: If you print out a certificate of proof of Japanese language ability from a website, print out and submit a page that shows your name and level/score.

7. NOTES

(1) The recipient is advised to learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and to acquire some information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education and conditions in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country.

(2) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will not be made from one month to one and a half months after the recipient’s arrival in Japan, the recipient should bring at least approximately US \$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.

(3) Recipient must enroll in National Health Insurance (NHI) upon arrival in Japan.

(4) Accommodations:

① Residence halls for international students provided by universities.

Some universities have residence halls for international students. The recipients enrolled at such universities may reside at these residence halls under certain conditions. However, due to the limited number of rooms, some of these facilities may be unavailable.

② Private boarding houses or apartments:

Those who are unable to find accommodation in the aforementioned facilities may live in regular dormitories of the university or in private boarding houses/apartments.

(5) All expenses incurred by the presence of dependents must be borne by the recipient. He/She is advised to take into consideration the various difficulties and great expense that will be involved in finding housing for them. Therefore, those who want to accompany their families are well advised to come alone first and let them come after suitable accommodation has been found.

- (6) Information regarding the recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university, graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrollment, career path after completion of course, 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 recipients (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 recipients who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Excluding exceptional circumstances, only those concurring with these conditions will be accepted as MEXT Scholarship recipients and will be granted the Scholarship.

- (7) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for convenience only. The Japanese versions of the Application Guidelines and the Application Form take precedence, and any English expressions do not change the Japanese content so if you have any questions about the content of the written text, those should be inquired at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country.
- (8) More detailed information on this scholarship program is available at the Japanese diplomatic missions in the applicant's country.
- (9) In addition to the regulations stipulated in the Application Guidelines, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship are determined by the Japanese government.