

Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship

Kyoto University accepts three categories of international students: Research Students (Graduate-Degree Students and Research [non-degree] Students), Undergraduate Students and Japanese Studies Students. There are two ways to apply for a MEXT scholarship before coming to Japan.

1. Apply through a Japanese diplomatic mission (Embassy recommendation)
2. Apply through a Japanese university (University recommendation)

※ Prospective applicants are advised to read the guidelines applicable to their intended year of entry.

Application Period, Eligibility, and Benefits (as of January 2021)					
Category	Research students		Undergraduate students ²	Japanese studies students ³	
Application method	Overseas Selection				
	Embassy Recommendation	University recommendation (general program)	Embassy Recommendation ⁴	Embassy Recommendation	University Recommendation
Application period	Around April – May	Around late December – January ¹	Around April – May	Around December	Around February ¹
Arrival in Japan	Early April or late September of the following year ⁸	Late September	Around April of the following year	Late September of the following year	Late September
Selection method	Evaluation of submitted documents, a written exam, an interview, and others				Evaluation of submitted documents, an interview, and others
Eligibility	Those who have graduated, or expect to graduate, from an undergraduate or higher degree program		Those who have graduated, or expect to graduate, from a secondary school or equivalent	Overseas undergraduate students majoring in fields related to the Japanese language and/or culture (having studied these subjects for a total period of one year or more as of 1 September of the year they expect to arrive in Japan), and expecting to return to their home universities after completing a program in Japan	
Age (as of 1 April of the year of arrival)	34 or younger		24 or younger	18–29	
Duration	Non-degree students: up to 2 years, including a six-month Japanese-language training period ^{5,6} (not mandatory for those with sufficient language skills)	Non-degree students: up to 18 months ⁶	Five years, including a one-year Japanese language training period ²	One year	
	Degree students (master's, professional, and doctoral): until completion of the degree program (not to exceed the standard number of years required) ⁶				
Monthly stipend ⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-degree students 143,000 yen • Master's and professional-degree students 144,000 yen • Doctoral students 145,000 yen 		117,000 yen	117,000 yen	
	For those studying/conducting research in Kyoto: Additional 3,000yen, For those conducting in Uji and Inuyama City: Additional 2,000yen.				
School fees ⁷	Examination, admission, and tuition fees are exempted				
Traveling cost ⁷	One round-trip ticket is provided				

¹ These periods are for application through Kyoto University.

² The language training is provided at either the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies or Osaka University during the first year of the scholarship period. The program includes Japanese language and other subjects needed to prepare for undergraduate studies, and must be completed before the student goes on to university. The university to be attended by the student for undergraduate studies is determined by MEXT in consultation with the preparatory educational institution and the university itself. For details, refer to the MEXT Scholarship application guidelines. Please note that undergraduate MEXT Scholarship students are not eligible to enroll in the six-year programs at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences' Division of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Medicine's School of Medical Science.

³ For details on Kyoto University's Japanese studies program, see: <https://u.kyoto-u.jp/w-20n> (in Japanese).

⁴ University Recommendation is also available, but is limited to: Undergraduate International Course Program of Civil Engineering, Undergraduate School of Global Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, and Kyoto iUP. For details, please contact the administrative office of each program.

⁵ Intensive Japanese language training is available to MEXT Research and Teacher Training Students expecting to conduct graduate-level research in the Kyoto or Shiga region. For details, see Intensive Japanese Language Course for Monbukagakusho Scholarship Students (<https://u.kyoto-u.jp/jzhya>).

⁶ Those wishing to go on to a master's program, doctoral program, or professional degree program may apply for an extension of the scholarship to cover their postgraduate studies. Applications are evaluated by the university and MEXT, and may be granted based on academic records and other criteria. Please note that not all the applications are approved.

⁷ All scholarship benefits are subject to specified requirements

Application procedures (overseas selection)

1) Embassy Recommendation

To obtain an "Embassy Recommendation", applicants must submit their applications to the Japanese embassy (or consulate) in their home countries for the initial screening. Those interested are advised to contact an appropriate Japanese diplomatic mission in their countries. In China, however, applications should be submitted to the country's Ministry of Education for the first screening. The application requirements, schedule, and process differ from those for Embassy Recommendation. Successful applicants usually arrive in Japan in October. Contact your home university in China or China Scholarship Council (CSC) for more details.

◆ Procedures and contact method

- ① Choose a prospective academic advisor, such as by searching the webpages.
- ② Make sure that you have obtained a Passing Certificate of the First Screening from a Japanese diplomatic mission, apply to the University's Admissions Assistance Office ("the AAO process") for permission to contact the prospective academic advisor, and request a Letter of Provisional Acceptance from that faculty.

■ AAO: <https://u.kyoto-u.jp/ymwev>

- It may take a month or more for the graduate school and faculty member concerned to evaluate the submitted materials and decide about the application.
- Those issued a Letter of Provisional Acceptance must apply not only for the scholarship but also for the University. In particular, those wishing to enroll in a master's, doctoral, or professional-degree program are required to pass the entrance exam carried out by the graduate school concerned.

Regular schedule (subject to change)			
Before arriving in Japan	April – May	Application	
	May – August	Japanese diplomatic mission review ("first screening")	
		In case of research students: Application for a Letter of Provisional Acceptance from a Japanese university ⁹	
	October	MEXT review	
	February (– July) ⁸	Notification of results	
March (September) ⁸	Immigration procedures		
During the stay in Japan	Early April (late September) ⁸	Arrival in Japan	
		Research (non-degree) students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese language training • Preparation for entrance exams • Conducting research 	Degree students Undergraduate, master's, doctoral, or professional-degree studies ⁶
		Entrance examination	Note: Students need to have passed the entrance exam before the program begins.
		Undergraduate, master's, doctoral, or professional-degree studies ⁶	
Returning to home country			

⁸ Months in parentheses are for those arriving in late September.

⁹ Please see: <https://u.kyoto-u.jp/4183y>

2) University Recommendation (general program)

Kyoto University screens the applications and selects candidates to recommend to MEXT as research(non-degree), master's, professional-degree, or doctoral students. In general, those who do not intend to enter a degree (master's, doctoral, or professional) program are not eligible to apply for university recommendations. This recommendation is limited to nationals and citizens of the countries and regions designated by MEXT. For those interested in undergraduate programs, only "Undergraduate International Course Program of Civil Engineering" and "Kyoto iUP" are available for the university recommendation. The application process varies by graduate school, so prospective applicants are advised to contact the administrative office of the school (ref. P.27-28) they wish to apply for.

Regular schedule (subject to change)			
Before arriving in Japan	December – February	Application	
		Graduate School review	
	March	Kyoto University review	
	April – May	MEXT review	
	June	Notification of results	
	July – September	Immigration procedures	
During the stay in Japan	Late September	Arrival in Japan	
		Research (non-degree) students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for entrance examinations • Conducting research 	Degree students: Master's, doctoral, or professional degree studies ⁶
		Entrance examination	Note: Students need to have passed the entrance exam before the program begins.
		Master's, doctoral, or professional degree studies ⁶	
Returning to home country			

▣ Kyoto University Japanese Government Scholarship: <https://u.kyoto-u.jp/mzp45>

▣ Activity Database on Education and Research: http://kyouindb.iimc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/view/index_e.html

▣ Find a supervisor: <https://u.kyoto-u.jp/t0a73>

▣ Embassies & Consulates: https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/over/index.html

▣ Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO): https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/index.html