

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026
Research Students (recommended by universities)
(General Program and Special Program)

1. Qualifications and Terms of Conditions

(1) Target:

Excellent students newly coming to Japan as foreign students at a graduate school level institution.

※Specifically, applicants must have maintained a scholastic performance level of 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.

(2) Nationality:

Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. In principle, 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.

(3) Age:

Applicants must have been born after April 2, 1991.

(4) Academic Background:

Applicants must have the appropriate qualifications to enter a masters' course in a graduate school, or a doctoral course (either first or second semester) in a graduate school of Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. (This includes individuals who will meet this requirement by one day before their arrival in Japan.)]

Note: Qualification screening will be done if necessary.

(5) Major Fields of Study

Applicants must apply to a program of study that correlates to their undergraduate major, or a related field, and a field that can be studied at our university, TUMSAT.

(6) Language Ability

Applicants must be proficient in Japanese or English language to receive education and conduct research at the university. Although it is not considered a requirement for selection this year, it is proposed that applicants sit for a language test (for English: TOEFL, IELTS, and so on and for Japanese: Japanese Language Proficiency Test - JLPT) in order to objectively show their language ability.

(7) Health:

Applicants whose mental and physical conditions are judged by the university to be free from impediment to pursue study at the university will be admitted.

(8) Arrival in Japan:

Entrance in October: Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan, in principle, on the day designated by TUMSAT within 1 week preceding the first day of the course. However, due to the influence of COVID-19, the time of arrival in Japan may change.(9) Visa Acquisition:

Applicants must newly obtain College Student (ryugaku) visa at a diplomatic mission of Japan in the applicants' home countries before entering Japan. They then enter Japan with the College Student (ryugaku) residence status.

If an applicant holds a status of residence in Japan, such as permanent resident, long-term resident, etc., the person must change the status to "ryugaku" and come to Japan anew. It should be noted that if this person applies for "permanent resident" or "long-term resident" status upon completion of the status of a MEXT scholarship student, such application may not be approved as a matter of course.

Please note that depending on the country, the Japanese government may implement pre-entry tuberculosis screening in the future. Therefore, when applying for a visa, you must follow the instructions provided by the Japanese embassy or consulate in your country of nationality.

(10) Ineligible Applicants

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 and/or during one's scholarship period in Japan.
- [2] Those who are unable to arrive in Japan by the day designated by the university.
- [3] Those who received a Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT scholarship) in the past (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status) and who have not been engaged in education and research for more than 3 years since the completion of the scholarship period before the time of admittance of the new application for a MEXT scholarship. However, those who had been students on MEXT scholarship majoring in Japanese language and Japanese culture, Japan-Korea Joint Department of Science and Technology and Young Leaders' Program returned home and graduated (or are expected to graduate) from the university enrolled, wish come to Japan again for study may apply for MEXT scholarship as research students.
- [4] Those who have applied concurrently to another program that qualifies for MEXT scholarship, the provision of which will begin in 2026.
- [5] For the general program, applicants who are in Japan at the time of application.
- [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" from their universities but who do not meet the academic qualifications and conditions by the designated date.

- [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 desire, at the time of application, to conduct fieldwork, internship and so on in countries other than Japan.
 - [10] Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.
 - [11] Those who have finished a doctoral course and do not intend to obtain a doctoral degree.
- (11) Others:

While studying in Japan, foreign students are expected to help promote mutual understanding between their home countries and Japan, to help promote internationalization of Japan, by taking part in activities organized by schools and communities in the neighboring area. After completing a study course, they are expected to maintain close partnership with TUMSAT, and to cooperate with its post-completion surveys. After returning to their home countries, they are expected to cooperate with programs organized by Japanese diplomatic establishments in their countries so that they can help promote relations between their countries and Japan.

2. Periods of Scholarship

The periods when a scholarship is paid vary according to the courses in which students are enrolled as follows:

When a student is permitted to enter on a date not applied to the above due to the starting date of the term as designated by TUMSAT, the period of payment shall be designated elsewhere by MEXT for the sake of education and research.

- (1) Those who are enrolled as non-degree research students, such as non-degree credited auditors, and auditors after arriving in Japan, payment shall be made as follows:
 - Arriving in October 2026: 1.5 years as the maximum from October 2026 to March 2028.
The period will be separately determined by MEXT for those who arrive in other months.
- (2) Scholarships will be disbursed once the students have arrived in Japan for the periods required to finish the regular course of the respective courses for those who are enrolled in a master, doctoral or professional degree course in graduate school (standard term of study). For those who are enrolled in a 5-year doctoral course, the first 2 years will be treated as a master course and the remaining 3 years as a doctoral course.
- (3) For those students who are admitted to a special program, scholarships will be disbursed for the period of the course in which they are originally enrolled. However, individuals who wish to continue studying at a doctoral course (or advancing to the third year in a 5-year doctoral course) will be required to submit an application to extend the scholarship period. Students enrolled in programs only for master's courses are not able to extend their scholarship period. Those who have applied as students recommended by universities (research students – general program) shall not be admitted as they fall in [3] under (10) Ineligible Applicants in Qualifications and Terms of Conditions.

- (4) For the general program, for non-degree research students who wish to advance to a master's course, or those who wish to advance from a master's course or a professional degree course to a doctoral course, the periods of scholarship may be extended, provided that the students satisfy a specified academic standard and are academically outstanding. Their applications for extension shall be examined. Not all applicants may be admitted and the following points should be noted:
- The scholarship period cannot be extended as a non-degree research student.
 - For students who enter an upper-level course without obtaining approval for a scholarship extension application, there will be no disbursement of the scholarship. (However, a privately financed foreign student can advance to or be enrolled in an upper-level course.)
 - If a non-degree research student fails to pass an examination in a degree course while enrolled in a course as a non-degree research student, his/her scholarship period cannot be extended.
 - Please note that transportation cost will not be provided to a non-degree research student who, having failed in entrance examinations to advanced degree courses in graduate school, return to their home countries, even if the application for extension of scholarship has been approved.
 - Non-degree research students who advance to a master's course, or those who advance from a master's course or a professional degree course to a doctoral course will not be allowed to enter graduate schools of other universities on the same scholarship. (However, they are allowed to do so if they are privately financed international students).

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Scholarships

The following amounts of money are provided according to the course in which a student is to be enrolled. The amounts may vary each year due to budgetary conditions. When students take a leave of absence or are absent from school for an extended time period, scholarship funds will not be disbursed.

- Non-degree research students: 143,000 yen per month
- Master's course or Professional degree course: 144,000 yen per month
- Doctoral course: 145,000 yen per month

* A sum of 2,000 or 3,000 yen will be added per month for students studying in specific designated regions.

(2) Transportation

[1] Transportation to Japan

MEXT or TUMSAT will, in principle, designate a travel itinerary and route, and provide an economy-class airplane ticket from the international airport nearest to the student's

residence (in his/her home country in principle) to Tokyo International Airport Narita or Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport).

However, expenses such as inland transportation from his/her home address to the international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, special taxes on travel, or inland transportation within Japan (including transit expenses) will NOT be covered.

Expenses for travel insurance, baggage and transportation of unaccompanied baggage should be borne by students. If there are no Japanese diplomatic missions in the students' home country, and if they must visit a third country to obtain a visa to Japan, the costs of transportation to the third country, inland transportation within that country, as well as board and lodging there should be borne by students. An economy-class air-ticket from the third country to Tokyo International Airport Narita or Haneda Airport will be provided by MEXT or TUMSAT. (The student's residence is, in principle, the present address as described in the Application, but if one moves to a place within one's country at the time of travelling to Japan, the address registered in the column "Address before coming to Japan" will be considered as "place of residence.") The air ticket will not be given to those who arrive in Japan from countries other than their own for their personal reasons, except for students visiting a third country to obtain a visa to Japan.

[2]Transportation from Japan:

For foreign students who return home within the month when the scholarship period ends, MEXT or TUMSAT will, in principle, and upon request by the students, provide an economy-class airplane ticket from Tokyo International Airport Narita or Haneda Airport to the international airport nearest to the students' residence (in their home country in principle).

However, expenses such as inland transportation from returning students' places of residence in Japan to the nearest international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, special taxes on travel, or inland transportation within their home countries (including transit expenses), as well as expenses for travel insurance, baggage and unaccompanied baggage should be borne by students.

It should be noted that transportation expenses to return home will not be paid to students intending to return home before the end of their scholarship periods for personal reasons or reasons mentioned from (a) to (i) under 4 "Conditions for Revocation of Scholarship."

Note 1) As indicated in 2. Scholarship Periods, in principle, no transportation expenses to return home will be disbursed to non-degree research students who, intending to enter a master's course, have submitted an application to extend their scholarship periods, but then return home without extending their scholarship periods. Therefore, care will be needed at the time of applying for scholarship extension.

Note 2) If a student continues to stay in Japan after the termination of one's scholarship period (ex. Further studies or employment in Japan), transportation expenses to return home temporarily will not be paid.

(3) Tuition and Other Fees

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

4. Conditions for Revocation of Scholarship

MEXT will stop paying scholarship when one or more of the following cases apply to students. MEXT may order applicable students to return a part or all of scholarship already provided.

- a. When a false or wrong statement is found in the application documents.
- b. When a student violates any articles of the pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- c. When a student violates Japanese laws and regulations, and is sentenced to imprisonment with hard labor or imprisonment for one year or longer indefinite term.
- d. When a student is subjected to disciplinary action by the university, including expulsion. (Scholarship payment may be suspended until a disciplinary action is determined by the university.)
- e. When it becomes certain that a student is unable to complete the enrolled course within the standard time period because of poor academic performance, suspension, or long absence from the university.
- f. When a student arrives in Japan without obtaining, or renewing their residence status as "Student(ryugaku)," or when one's status of "Student(ryugaku)" has changed to a different status.
- g. When a student 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
- h. When a student advanced to a higher-level course without obtaining approval for the extension of the scholarship period.
- i. When a student left or withdrew from the university in which they originally enrolled and transferred to a different graduate school.
- j. When a student's annual GPA is below 2.30 or the grading standard set by the university.

5. Recommendation Procedures and Selection

(1) Recommendation

The head of a university, upon examination within the university, recommends excellent students who require the provision of scholarship with a priority order in respective

recommendation quotas in the designated format to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan together with necessary documents.

(2) Selection

A Selection Committee will examine and select candidates for scholarship from among the students recommended by heads of universities. On the base of the examination, MEXT will determine the beneficiaries and their respective scholarship periods.

(3) Documents to be Submitted, etc.

Please refer the ANNEX sheet “APPLICATION FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO : MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP 2026”

<Important Notice>

- * These documents must be written in Japanese or English. If they are written in other languages, Japanese translations should be attached. They should be prepared, as much as possible, with A-4 size paper uniformly using word processing software programs.
- * Submitted documents will not be returned.
- * Recommending universities should be responsible to confirm the contents. If the above documents are not perfectly and correctly prepared, or attached documents are not complete, such application will not be placed for examination. (If defects or false descriptions are found after the admittance of applications, the admittance may be cancelled.)
- * Applications arriving later than the closing date (it must arrive before or on the closing day) will not be accepted.

6. Application deadline and Announcement of the result

(1) Application period:

October 10, 2025 - November 7, 2025

(2) Announcement of the result:

First selection (Selection by TUMSAT):

January 2026

Second selection (Selection by MEXT):

[General program] June, 2026

[Special program] June, 2026

7. Contact information

International Student Section

Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology

ks-ryuu@o.kaiyodai.ac.jp

Language requirements

Those who have Japanese or English proficiency and meet any of the following conditions

Japanese requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those who have passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) level N2 or higher at the time of admission to the regular course 2. Those who have completed an educational program with Japanese as their primary language that meets the qualifications for admission to a Japanese graduate school's master's program or doctoral program 3. Those who are judged to have Japanese proficiency equivalent to Item 1 or above by the accepting university
English requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those who have a qualification/certification exam score equivalent to B2 or above of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in English at the time of admission to the regular course. ※The exam must measure all four skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing), and the applicant must have a score equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher. For TOEIC, the applicant must have taken both the TOEIC Reading & Listening and TOEIC Speaking & Writing tests, and all four skill scores must be equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher. (Example) The main language exam scores are as follows (as of April 2024). IELTS: 5.5 or above; TOEFL iBT: 72 points or above; TOEIC (Listening: 400 points or above; Reading: 385 points or above) Note: For other exams, please submit the source document that the score is equivalent to CEFR B2 or above. 2. Those who have completed an educational program with English as their primary language that meets the qualifications for admission to a Japanese graduate school's master's program or doctoral program 3. Those who are judged to have English proficiency equivalent to Item 1 or above by the accepting university

※Qualification and certification exam scores must have been obtained within two years prior to the application start date (scheduled for February 2026).