

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2027
DEGREE STUDENTS
(UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION)

- Graduate Program in Multimodal Biomedicine -

October 2027 enrollment

MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study as degree students at the Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences (Master's Program in Medical Sciences and Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences) at the University of Tsukuba. Application Guideline for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2027 – Degree Students (University Recommendation) is as follows:

Before applying, applicants are required to apply for the preliminary review within the designated application period. Please read the “Before Application” section carefully to confirm the application procedure.

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. (※1)

Highly motivated and talented students with a background in life science or medicine are encouraged to apply.

(※1) Minimum requirement of Grade Point Average (GPA) on your latest academic record should be at least 2.30 on 3.00 scale and maintain a same academic standard during the scholarship period.

Applicant must satisfy one of the qualifications or conditions in (6) Language Proficiency.

(2) Nationality

Applicant must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with Japan. In principle, an applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application will not be 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

Applicant must be born on or after April 2, 1992. However, the applicant from the Young Leaders Program can only apply for the doctoral program within 5 years graduated in the same program.

(4) Academic Background

Applicant must be a graduate from a Japanese university or have academic ability equal or superior to that of a Japanese university graduate before get enrolled. A person will be deemed to have academic ability equal or superior to that of a university graduate, if he/she

[1] has completed or will complete a 16-year school curriculum in a foreign country (or an 18-year school curriculum if he/she desires to enroll in a Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences);

[2] is or will be aged 22 or older and has taken an individual entrance qualification examination and has been judged by a graduate school as being equal or superior in academic ability to a university graduate (or 24 or older if he/she desires to enroll in a Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences).

Note: Eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to a Japanese graduate school. Applicant who has no intention to obtain a degree may not apply.

(5) Field of Study and Number of Students to be enrolled

<u>Master's Program in Medical Sciences</u>	<u>4</u>
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<u>Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences</u>	<u>4</u>
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*Successful candidates who are not selected for a MEXT scholarship may receive an offered a spot as a privately-funded student.

(6) Language Proficiency

Applicant must satisfy one of the qualifications for Japanese or English Language Proficiency.

○ Japanese

1. Applicant must have at least passed N2 of the Japanese language proficiency test (JLPT) at the time

of get enrolled of the regular course.

2. Applicant must have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate course in which Japanese was the main language of study.
3. Applicant who is judged to have a better Japanese language ability than N2.

○ English

1. Applicant must have at least passed B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages test (CEFR) at the time of get enrolled of the regular course.
2. Applicant must have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate course in which English was the main language of study.
3. Applicant who is judged to have a better English language ability than B2.

(7) Health

Applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue study at university.

(8) Enrollment - Arrival in Japan

The day of enrollment will be scheduled sometime in October 2027 and the applicant must be able to arrive in Japan within two weeks before or after the starting date of the relevant academic term for that year set by the accepting university. If you are not able to arrive in Japan in the set period, you will be required to withdraw from the scholarship and travel expenses will not be provided if the applicant chooses to travel to Japan aside from the set period.

(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 of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of “Student”

Please also note that if a grantee arrives in Japan without newly obtaining a “Student” visa, scholarship payments will be cancelled.

* 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 the accepting university. 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. Additionally, in the event of changes in school enrollment, notification must be submitted pursuant to the provisions of Article 19-16 of the Immigration-Control and Refugee-Recognition Act.

(10) Non-Eligibility: Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship.

- 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 the accepting university;
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw 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 scholarship or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and 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 to obtain a degree.

(11) Others: MEXT Scholarship will be granted 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 the university attended 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. Term of Scholarship

If the grantee enrolls in Master's Program in Medical Sciences or Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences, the scholarship will be payable for a period necessary for the grantee to complete his/her regular course starting from October, 2027. (Two years for master's program, Four years for doctoral program)

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance

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 his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;
- 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 the university;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the “Student” residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than “Student.” 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 one 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 his/her university or transfers to another university;
- ⑩ A grantee’s annual GPA is below 2.30 or the grading standard set by the university.

(2) Traveling Costs

[1] Transportation to Japan

In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class air ticket for the flight from the recipient's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport on the direct route to the accepting university. 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, expenses related to baggage, unaccompanied baggage etc. The grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country if the grantee must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes because there is no embassy of Japan in his/her country or there is no direct flight from his/her home country. In principle, MEXT or the university will only provide an economy class ticket to the international airport that the host university will use in the domestic route on ordinary routes from the visiting country. However, MEXT will not provide the air ticket in cases when the grantee arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality due to the personal issues that had moved to the country before the arrival in Japan.

("Residence place" of foreign students is in principle the 「current address」 stated in the application form. However, if the student moved to another place in the country of nationality before arrival, the new address stated in the application form "address" column will be referred as "residence place").

[2] Transportation from Japan

Grantees shall graduate and obtain a degree to from the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by MEXT. Based on the Application by the grantee, MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class air ticket from Narita International Airport or the international airport used for the direct route to and from the accepting university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning recipient's address in Japanese. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee'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 baggage, unaccompanied baggage etc.

[3] Tuition and Other Fees

Grantee gets full tuition fee, examination fee and admission fee coverage from the university.

4. Selection and Notification

【Time Schedule】

< Before Applying >

1. Pre-Application: August 1 – September 30, 2026

Applicants who wish to apply to this program must submit their information via the online form available on this website during the above period.

The degree program will conduct a preliminary review, including:

- laboratory capacity
- compatibility of research fields

Applicants who pass this initial screening will proceed to evaluation by a prospective supervisor.

Results will be announced individually by the administrative office in early October 2026.



2. Evaluation by Prospective Supervisor: Early to Mid-October 2026

The prospective supervisor will determine whether to grant preliminary acceptance.

Results will be communicated individually by the administrative office.



3. Notification of Pre-Screening Results: Late October - Early November 2026

Applicants who are approved to proceed to the formal application stage must submit all required application documents by the designated deadline.



< Application Stage >

4. Submission Deadline for Application Documents

Application Period: November 15, 2026 (strict deadline)

Note: Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.



5. Screening

Selection will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of both the application documents and an oral examination, including:

- (a) Document review
- (b) Oral examination (including confirmation of English proficiency during the interview)

Applicants who pass the document screening will be contacted by email.

Date of Oral Examination: Late November to Early December 2026

The exact date will be notified individually after submission of the application documents. Details regarding the format (including location or online arrangements) will also be provided.



6. Announcement of Examination Result: Late December 2026

Results will be communicated individually after the oral examination. Successful applicants will be recommended to MEXT as scholarship candidates.

Applicants who are not selected for the MEXT scholarship may still be offered admission as privately funded students.



<Final Decision and Enrollment>

7. Official Announcement of Acceptance from MEXT: July 2027

Results will be announced individually via email.



8. Travel to Japan: Late September 2027

Note: The date and time will be designated by the University of Tsukuba.



9. Enrollment: October 1, 2027

Note: Applicants who qualify the entrance exam, but was not selected for MEXT scholarship, may enroll to the graduate program as a privately-funded international student if they have checked “Yes” at the time of application. Those who enrolled as privately-sponsored international student must pay the tuition and fees.

5. Required Documents

< Before Applying >

Required documents for the pre-screening: Applicants must complete the online form, which will be available on August 1, 2026, and submit the following documents in digital format at the same time.

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Academic Transcript from the Latest University Attended (PDF)

< Application Stage >

The following documents must be submitted by applicants who pass the pre-screening and are permitted to proceed with the formal application process.

The required documents for application are as follows

No.	Required Documents	Note
1	Application Checklist	* (No.1 to No.5)
2	Application Form (for the University of Tsukuba) ※ Printed double-sided on a single page ※ Paste a passport sized photograph(4.5cm×3.5cm) by digital image taken within the past 6 months. ※As regards to "3. PROPOSED STUDIES", please refer to the information below and fill in the blank..	Submit as digital data via e-mail.

	<p>If your prospective supervisor belongs to “Cooperative / Collaborative Graduate School System”, then you need to appoint a sub-supervisor. Please select the sub-supervisor from “List of Research Supervisor Groups” and indicate next the supervisor’s name: “Name of supervisor from Cooperative / Graduate School System (name of sub-supervisor)”</p> <p><Master's Program in Medical Sciences> https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/FrontierSite/en/laboratory/</p> <p><Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences> https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/gradmed/en/research/</p>	
3	<p>Field of Study and Research Plan</p> <p>※ Printed double-sided on a single page</p>	
4	<p>Photocopy of your passport</p> <p>※ If you have not obtained a passport, you are required to submit Family Register or Certificate of Citizenship issued by your home country.</p>	
5	<p>Degree Thesis Abstract</p> <p>※ Printed on both sides</p> <p>※ A brief outline of thesis</p>	
6	<p>“Reference Form” from your previous academic advisor</p> <p>Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. Please use the prescribed form.</p>	<p>The “Reference Form” should be emailed directly from the referee as an email attachment.</p>
7	<p>“Letter of Recommendation” from the dean or above of the university</p> <p>※ Must be addressed to the attention of President of the University of Tsukuba and describe Recommender's Title / Position and Date.</p> <p>If it is not available to calculate the GPA from the transcript in the application documents, the recommendation letter should certify that his/her academic record indicated in the transcript is equivalent to top 30% within the university, faculty or graduate school.</p>	<p>* (No.7 to No.11)</p> <p>Send originals by postal mail.</p>

8	<p>Academic transcripts for each academic year from the most recent university attended.</p> <p>※ You must have demonstrated excellent academic achievement with a Grade Point Average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) higher at your previous school.</p> <p>※ If the grading system is not indicated on your transcript, you must also submit an official document that specifies and explains the grading system.</p>	
9	<p>Graduation certificate and degree certificate of the from the most recent university attended</p> <p>(1) Applicants who graduated from a foreign university must submit documentation, including an (expected) graduation certificate and a degree certificate, to verify that they hold a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree</p> <p>(2) Applicants who completed a master's program at a foreign university must submit documentation, including an (expected) completion certificate and a degree certificate, to verify that they hold a degree equivalent to a master's degree.</p>	
10	<p>Any certificate indicating the applicant's academic excellence at most recent academic institution, such as GPA or class rank.</p> <p>※ To be issued by the most recent academic institution.</p> <p>※ If the academic transcript includes information such as GPA or class ranking, this document is not required.</p>	
11	<p>Documents to certify the language proficiency or specialty</p> <p>If English is not your first language, submit your TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score report. If you completed your program in English, submission of a Medium of Instruction (MOI) certificate issued by your home institution will also be accepted.</p> <p>< Valid Score Sheet ></p> <p>(1) Certificate for passing the exam of N2 or a higher level of JLPT</p> <p>(2) Official score report of an English proficiency test that corresponds to B2 or a higher level of CEFR</p> <p>(3) Certificate proves that you finished curriculum taught in Japanese or English at the most recent academic institution</p>	

	<p>*(1) and (2) must be issued less than 2 years before the first day of the application period.</p> <p>*(2) must be a certificate proving English proficiency in all 4 skills (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing) and it is invalid if even one of the four skills doesn't reach B2 level.</p> <p>*If you have none of certificates above, please consult with the University of Tsukuba at the time of application</p>	
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*** All the documents except for specified official documents must be submitted in A4 size paper (same size as the application form) either in Japanese or English, preferably in typed and printed format. (If documents are in a written language other than Japanese or English, please attach Japanese translation.)**

*** If original documents cannot be submitted due to certain circumstances, copies with an official seal from the university or a public facility are also acceptable. However, documents that do not meet these conditions will not be accepted.**

Note:

1. Submitted documents will not be returned.
2. Incomplete or inaccurately completed applications, as well as those submitted after the deadline, will not be evaluated or accepted.
3. **Applicants must contact their prospective supervisor in advance to discuss the specialized research field.** (Applicants for the Cooperative / Collaborative Graduate School System must contact the sub-supervisor at the University of Tsukuba as well.)

It is required to verify all the documents carefully and submit to the Mailing address as below:

<Mailing Address>

Graduate Courses Educational Affairs, Academic Service Office for the Medical Sciences Area(4A237), University of Tsukuba

1-1-1, Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan Postal Code: 305-8575

<For inquiries> Academic Service Office for the Medical Sciences Area, University of Tsukuba

<E-mail> iga-in<at>un.tsukuba.ac.jp