

**JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2026**  
**DEGREE STUDENTS**  
**(UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION)**

**- Graduate Program in Multimodal Biomedicine -**

**October 2026 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 2026 – Degree Students (University Recommendation) is as follows:

**1. Qualifications and Conditions**

**(1) Eligibility**

Applicant must be a foreign student from abroad or currently living in Japan to start a new graduate level education. (※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, 1991. 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>
---	----------

<u>Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences</u>	<u>4</u>
---	----------

\*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 2026 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

Selected Applicants shall obtain a College Student (ryuugaku 留学) visa on the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of their nationality, in principle, before his arrival in Japan. Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other residence status (“Permanent resident,” “Long-term resident,” etc.), the applicant must change it to the College Student (ryuugaku 留学) visa status and re-enter Japan. Moreover, the applicant should be aware that after expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student and even if the student again applies for their original resident status of “Permanent resident” or “Long-term resident,” such resident statuses might not be necessarily granted.

Please note that the applicant will not be able to grant the scholarship if the applicant doesn't obtain a College Student (ryuugaku 留学) visa to come to Japan.

The applicant living in Japan whose visa status is not the College Student (ryuugaku 留学) must change it to the College Student (ryuugaku 留学) before the date of enrollment at Immigration Services Agency of Japan. Even if the applicant already has other residence status ("Permanent resident," "Long-term resident," etc.), the applicant must change it to the College Student (ryuugaku 留学) to enroll as a grantee of Japanese Government Scholarship.

#### (10) Note

Any applicant who meets even one of the following conditions is not eligible. If identified after the start of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship:

- 1: The Applicant is an active member of the military or a civilian employed by the military during the arrival of Japan or the period of receiving scholarship
- 2: The Applicant is unable to travel to Japan within the dates set by the receiving university or MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
- 3: Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). This does not apply to: those who have educational or work experience exceeding more than three years from the following month of the period of the previous scholarship to the estimated first month of the payment of this scholarship; and 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. The MEXT Honors Scholarship is not one of the MEXT Scholarship Programs, so applicant who received the MEXT Honors Scholarship can still apply.
- 4: The applicant is 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 between the time of application and the start of the MEXT scholarship period.

However, this stipulation does not apply to applicants who are living in Japan at the time of application.

5: The Applicant is already the recipient of a scholarship from an organization (including a governmental organization in his/her country of origin) other than the Japanese government (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - MEXT).

6: Applicants who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions related to 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.

8: Those wishing to engage in research activities (fieldwork or an internship) or being absence from school for a long term in a country other than Japan after submission of Application.

9: Those who apply for duplication with the program of commencing another scholarship in 2025 under MEXT scholarship.

10: The applicant who has no intention to obtain a degree.

## 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, 2026. (Two years for master's program, Four years for doctoral program)

## 3. Scholarship Benefits

### (1) Allowance

Each grantee will be provided monthly with 147,000 yen (students enrolled in a master's program), or 148,000 yen (students enrolled in a doctoral program) However, these amounts are subject to change depending on the annual budget of each year. The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence or is long absent from his/her university.

Scholarship will be cancelled for a grantee in the following cases. Furthermore, if scholarship payments were made during the period the following cases applied, the grantee may be ordered to return scholarship payments received during that period.

- [1] When a false statement is detected in the information provided on the application or other documents.
- [2] When a grantee has violated his or her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- [3] When 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] A grantee is suspended from his/her university or preparatory educational institution or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution.
- [5] When a grantee is deemed not able to complete his or her study during the standard duration program due to deficiencies in academic performance or suspension.
- [6] When a grantee has dropped out of the host university or transferred to a different graduate school.
- [7] When a grantee has changed his or her status of residence from “College Student (ryuugaku 留学)” or has come to Japan without acquiring a new residence status of “College Student (ryuugaku 留学)” which is defined in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.
- [8] When a grantee has been awarded a different scholarship (excluding grants designated for research expenses).
- [9] When, following selection, a grantee has advanced to a higher program of study without obtaining permission for an extension of the scholarship award period.
- [10] When the annually Grade Point Average (GPA) is below 2.30 or below 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**

Before applying, applicants must contact a faculty member and obtain consent to serve as their prospective supervisor (the person who will provide academic guidance after enrollment).

For the lists of faculty members and their fields of research, see:

**<Master's Program in Medical Sciences>**

<https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/FrontierSite/en/laboratory/>

**<Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences>**

<https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/gradmed/en/research/>



###### **Application Period**

**July 7 - October 15, 2025** (The deadline is strictly observed)

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



###### **Screening**

Selection will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of both application documents and an oral examination. This includes:

(a) Review of documents (b) Oral examination (which will include a confirmation of English proficiency during the interview)

Prospective applicants will be contacted by email after the preliminary screening based on the submitted documents.

###### **Date of Oral Examination**

**Late October to Mid November 2025**

The exact date will be announced individually after the submission of application documents. The date and location of the interview will be arranged accordingly.





### **Announcement of Examination Result**

**Mid-December 2025**

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

Successful candidates who are not selected for a MEXT scholarship may receive an offered a spot as a privately-funded student.



### **Official announcement of acceptance from MEXT**

July 2026

Will be announced individually via e-mail.



### **Travel dates to Japan**

September 2026

Note: Date and time assigned by University of Tsukuba.



### **Entrance**

October 1, 2026

**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

The required documents for application are as follows

<b>1</b>	<b>Application Checklist</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Application Form (for the University of Tsukuba)</b></p> <p>※ <b>Printed double-sided on a single page</b></p> <p>※ Paste a passport sized photograph(4.5cm×3.5cm) by digital image taken within the past 6 months.</p> <p>※ As regards to "3. PROPOSED STUDIES", please refer to the information below and fill in the blank..</p> <p>If your prospective supervisor belongs to “Cooperative Graduate School System”, then you need to appoint a sub-supervisor. Please select the sub-supervisor from“<a href="#">List of Research Supervisor Groups</a>” and indicate next the supervisor’s name : “Name of supervisor from Cooperative Graduate School System (name of sub-supervisor)”</p> <p>&lt;Master's Program in Medical Sciences&gt;  <a href="https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/FrontierSite/en/laboratory/">https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/FrontierSite/en/laboratory/</a></p> <p>&lt;Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences&gt;  <a href="https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/gradmed/en/research/">https://www.md.tsukuba.ac.jp/gradmed/en/research/</a></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Field of Study and Research Plan</b></p> <p>※ <b>Printed double-sided on a single page</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Photocopy of your passport</b></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>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>“Reference Form” from your previous academic advisor</b></p> <p>Applications will be considered with academic references. Please use the prescribed form. <b>The “Reference Form” should be emailed directly from the referee as an email attachment.</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>“Letter of Recommendation” from the dean or above of the university</b></p> <p>※ Must be addressed to the attention of President of the <b>University of Tsukuba</b> and describe Recommender's <b>Title / Position</b> and <b>Date</b>.</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>

<b>7</b>	<b>Academic transcripts for each academic year from the most recent university attended.</b> ※ You must have demonstrated excellent academic achievement with a Grade Point Average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) higher at your previous school. ※ If the grading system is not indicated on your transcript, you must also submit an official document that specifies and explains the grading system.
<b>8</b>	<b>Graduation certificate and degree certificate of the from the most recent university attended</b> (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 (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.
<b>9</b>	<b>Any certificate indicating the applicant's academic excellence at most recent academic institution, such as GPA or class rank.</b> ※ To be issued by the most recent academic institution
<b>10</b>	<b>Degree Thesis Abstract</b> ※ <b>Printed on both sides</b> ※ A brief outline of thesis
<b>11</b>	<b>Documents to certify the language proficiency or specialty</b> ※ Applicants whose native language is not English are required to provide a certificate of language proficiency test such as TOEFL, IELTS etc.

\* 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.)

\* (No.1 to No.4 of required documents) Submit as digital data via e-mail.

\* (No.5 “Reference Form”) Should be emailed directly from the referee as an email attachment.

\* (No.6 to No.11 of required documents) Send originals by postal mail.

\* 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 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