

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2024
(JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS: Nikkensei) [University Recommendation]

Osaka University will offer scholarships by the Japanese Government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for academic study in Japan to students as Japanese Government Scholarship Students through university recommendation as outlined below.

Regulations for the 2024 MEXT Scholarship Program are as follows:

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

(1) Eligible Applicants

Those with the purpose of studying at a Japanese university in order to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture, and those who will newly be coming to study from countries abroad. Only applicants with official recommendations from partner universities of Osaka University (Inter-University Agreements and Inter-Faculty Agreements with Osaka University) are eligible.

(2) 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 other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan.

(3) Age

Applicants must be born between April 2, 1994 and April 1, 2006.

Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to the situation or circumstances of the applicant's country (military service obligation, loss of educational opportunities due to disturbances of war, etc.) Personal circumstances (financial situation, family circumstances, state of health, circumstances related to applicant's university or place of employment, etc.) will not be considered for exceptions.

(4) Academic Background

Applicants must satisfy the following three conditions.

- ① Applicants must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan.
- ② Those who are majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture. Therefore, those who are majoring in fields of study other than Japanese language and culture and pursuing complementary studies on Japan (such as engineering, economics, agricultural science, architecture, and art) are ineligible.
- ③ Those who have studied Japanese language or Japanese culture at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 2024. (For those who have studied Japanese language or Japanese culture at another university and the time spent studying there totals one year or more: please submit a document [a transcript at another university] which can verify that applicants have been studying Japanese language or Japanese culture for a total period of one year or more).

(5) Japanese Language Ability

Applicants must meet one of the following requirements.

- ① Applicants must have Japanese language proficiency of Level N2 or higher than Level N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).
- ② Those who have Japanese language proficiency equivalent to or higher than Level N2 of JLPT evaluated by Osaka University.

(6) Health

Those who are determined by their university that applicants have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.

(7) Arrival in Japan

In principle, applicants must arrive in Japan on the date (scheduled on September 24 to 27) designated by Osaka University. (Unless the applicant has an unavoidable reason, if an applicant cannot arrive in Japan in the designated date by Osaka University, he/she must withdraw from this scholarship program. Also, if an applicant cannot arrive in Japan on the date designated by Osaka University for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.)

(8) Visa Acquisition

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 newly obtained residence status of "Student." Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other status of residence ("Permanent resident," "Long-term resident," etc.), the applicant must newly obtain a "Student" visa and re-enter Japan. The applicant should be aware that the original status of residence of "Permanent resident" or "Long-term resident" might not be necessarily granted after the expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student.

In case the grantee comes to Japan without newly obtaining the "Student" visa, the payment of the scholarship will be suspended.

(9) Non-Eligibility

Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, the applicant must withdraw from the scholarship.

- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or beginning of the scholarship payments.
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan on the date (scheduled on September 24 to 27) designated by Osaka University.
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). However, it does not apply to those receiving the MEXT Honors Scholarship in the past, because MEXT Honors Scholarship does not regard them as MEXT Scholarship Students.
- ④ Those who are currently also applying for another program for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal 2024 through a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship scheme including Embassy Recommended Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for Japanese Studies Students.
- ⑤ Persons who are residing in Japan at the time of application.
- ⑥ 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 provided by MEXT after the start of the scholarship payment period.
- ⑦ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of their arrival in Japan.
- ⑧ Those who change their residence status from "Student" to other status after arriving in Japan.

(10) Return and Continue to Study after the End of the Scholarship Period

Applicants must assure that they return to their home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of their institution which applicants had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan. However, if the grantees can keep taking the course of their institution with staying in Japan, for example, by participating in Double-Degree program or Joint-Degree program with their institution's partner universities in Japan, they don't necessarily have to return to their home country. (In this case, refer also to 3 (2) ②.) **If a grantee does not satisfy these conditions, he/she may be ordered to return the entire amount of the scholarship paid during the scholarship period.**

(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 Japanese diplomatic missions after they return to their home countries.

2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship period is scheduled for 11 months from October 2024 to August 2025.
(Extension of the scholarship period is not permitted.)

3. SCHOLARSHIP

(1) Allowance

Actual amount of scholarship benefits: 120,000 yen per month

Note that the monetary amount is subject to change due to budgetary reasons each fiscal year.

If a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

(2) Travel Expenses

① **Transportation to Japan:** The grantee will be supplied, according to his/her itinerary and route designated by MEXT, with an economy-class airplane ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the Osaka 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, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc.

The grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country (a) if the grantee must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes because there are no Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country, (b) if there are no direct flights from the grantee's country of residence to Japan. MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of residence to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to Osaka University.

In principle, the address given in the space for "Current address" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence," (if the grantee plans to move within his/her country of nationality after application, the address given in the space for "Your address before departure for Japan" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence".) and the airline ticket will be arranged for a flight from the international airport nearest to that address. Except for cases when the grantee must travel to a third country to obtain a visa, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of nationality due to the grantee's personal circumstances. Moreover, if, due to the grantee's personal circumstances, the grantee comes to Japan 5 outside of the fixed period stipulated in 1. (7) "Arrival in Japan" above, the travel expenses will not be provided.

② **Transportation from Japan:** Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall complete the study course at Osaka university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period (See "2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP") designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from an international airport in Japan used for the normal route from Osaka university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence in Japan 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, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. If a grantee returns to the home country before the end of the scholarship period due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

If a grantee will also not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period, or will not resume his/her studies at the undergraduate program of their home institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan, MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses. If the grantees can keep taking the course of their institution with staying in Japan, for example, by participating in Double-Degree program or Joint-Degree program with their institution's partner universities in Japan and obtain an appropriate residence status, they don't necessarily have to return to their home country, so that MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

(3) Tuition etc.

Entrance examination fees, enrollment fees and tuition fees will be borne by Osaka University.

4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

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 of 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 university.
- ⑤ A grantee is already enrolled in a Japanese university, etc. with "Student" visa at the time of application, and he/she is enrolled or scheduled to enroll in a Japanese university, etc. as a privately-financed international student from the time of application in their home country to the start of the scholarship period. However, this does not apply to privately-financed international students who are enrolled or scheduled to enroll in a Japanese university, etc., but are certainly at the time of application that he/she will complete his/her studies and return to Japan before the scholarship period begins, and he/she will come to Japan with a new " Student" visa.
- ⑥ It has been determined as impossible for the grantee to complete the course by the end of the final month of the scholarship period due to poor academic grades or suspension or leave of absence from the university.
- ⑦ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than "Student".
- ⑧ A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures)
- ⑨ A grantee does not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and does not continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of his/her institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan. (excluding the case when the grantees can keep taking the course of their institution with staying in Japan, for example, by participating in Double-Degree program or Joint-Degree program with their institution's partner universities in Japan and obtain an appropriate residence status).

5. RECOMMENDATION PROCEDURES AND SELECTION

(1) Recommendation

The representative of home university will carefully screen and recommend to Osaka University **especially outstanding applicants in need of financial assistance**. From 2024, the person in charge of recommending students at each university will respond to "[For Recommenders] Osaka University Nikkensei 2024 Online Recommendation Form" (URL below) with the names and other information of the students to be recommended. URL for Recommendation: <https://forms.office.com/r/YYtRPdBKdi>

(2) Selection

The Selection Committee of Osaka University will review and choose candidates who are recommended by the head of their home university, and based on this, Osaka University will recommend the selected candidates to the MEXT.

(3) Documents to be Submitted

From 2024, in addition to the submitted documents, the applicant is required to answer the questions on the “[For Applicants] Osaka University Nikkensei 2024 Online Application Form”.

Since some questions on “[For Applicants] Osaka University Nikkensei 2024 Online Application Form” overlap with questions on the “Application Form”, it is recommended that applicants have a completed Application Form on hand to answer the questions. **Please make sure that there are no differences between the answers to the same questions in the “[For Applicants] Osaka University Nikkensei 2024 Online Application Form” and the “Application Form”.**

The documents to be submitted are as follows.

Documents to be submitted	Notes	Submission Deadlines
1) Questionnaire for Online/ Telephone interview	Scheduled for March 12 & 13, 2024 *Make a copy of the Application Form to be submitted and have it on hand for the Online/Telephone interview.	March 4, 2024
2) [For Applicants] Osaka University Nikkensei 2024 Online Application Form	https://forms.office.com/r/x246AHRMax	March 10, 2024
3) Application Form	(i) Fill in your age as of April 1, 2024. (ii) If you are accepted into this program, you will study abroad for 11 months from October 2024 to August 2025, so be careful to fill in the expected date of graduation. (iii) In the "Academic record" section, be sure to enter not only the year of admission and graduation, but also the month. (iv) Attach an upper-body, full-faced, no hats photo taken within the last six months.	
4) Certificate of university enrollment	Written in English or Japanese	
5) Certified academic transcript issued by the university where the applicant is currently enrolled for all academic years up to the current grade	(i) Please mark subjects related to Japanese language or Japanese culture with ●. (ii) Written in Japanese or in English	
6) Letter of Recommendation from the president or dean of the applicant's currently enrolled university	Addressed to the president of Osaka University	
7) Letter of Recommendation from an academic advisor	Using the prescribed form by Osaka University	
8) Identification document proving the applicant's nationality	A copy of the applicant's passport (the page with photo, nationality, date of issue/expiration) or the family register	
9) Certificate of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) of Level N2 or higher than Level N2	(i) JLPT certificate with the applicant's name and level/score. (ii) The JLPT certificate is valid for scores obtained within two years from the time of the starting calling for application. (iii) In case it is not possible to submit JLPT certificate, Japanese Language Proficiency Verification written by Japanese language instructor of the home university is also acceptable.	

10) Application Checklist		March 10, 2024
11) A document which proves that the applicant has been studying Japanese language or Japanese culture for one year or more*	This is only to be submitted by applicants whose transcript does not prove that he/she has studied Japanese language or Japanese culture for one year or more.	*only if necessary March 10, 2024

- (Note1)** The above documents must be written in Japanese or English, drafted using a word processing software etc. and printed out on A4 paper. (For documents in other languages, a Japanese or English translation must be attached.)
- (Note2)** Since this program requires that the grantee returns to the home country and continue studies at the university he/she is enrolled in after the completion of the program (excluding the cases mentioned in 1 (10)), the applicant needs to discuss his/her study plan after returning to his/her home country with the president or his/her academic advisor at the university from the application stage.
- (Note3)** Home universities are responsible to verify that the applicants are in good health both physically and mentally and that the applicant's condition will not affect his/her academic studies at Osaka University.
- (Note4)** Note that the application documents above will not be reviewed if: 1) they have false statement, 2) they have not been completed correctly, or 3) required documents are missing. Moreover, application documents submitted after the deadline will also be rejected.

(4) Submission Address

Center for Japanese Language and Culture
Osaka University
Email: nikkensei2024@cjl.osaka-u.ac.jp

6. RESULTS

The results will be notified to home universities around early July 2024.

7. UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines here within, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable Circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including Embassies and Consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other foreign countries' government due to the event of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike, or lockout.

8. NOTES

- (1) The purpose of this scholarship program is not to obtain a diploma. Therefore, the recipient cannot be enrolled as an undergraduate at a university or as a graduate studying for his/her master's degree or doctorate at a graduate school as a Japanese-government-sponsored international student during this program or upon its completion.
- (2) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will not be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee is recommended to bring at least approximately US\$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (3) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account of Japan Post Bank (JP BANK) opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. Scholarship payments will not be transferred to another account, therefore, please open an account under the instructions of Osaka University as soon as possible after arriving in Japan.

- (4) Based on Japanese rules, students must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- (5) It is suggested that grantees acquire a “My Number Card” upon arrival in Japan.
- (6) In principle, students will live in a dormitory on Minoh Campus. (The dormitory fee will be approximately 50,000~60,000 yen per month).
Website: <https://globalvillage.icho.osaka-u.ac.jp/minohsemba-en/index.html>
- (7) Due to certain restrictions applicable in their home country, some candidates may not be able to leave their country despite being selected for a Japanese government scholarship. Home universities of applicants should try to confirm whether such restrictions apply or not in advance.
- (8) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrollment, career path after completion of scholarship, 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 Students (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 Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world. These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship Students must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship.
The Applicants who agree with this handling are accepted as Japanese Government Scholarship students.
- (9) If an applicant is judged not to meet the conditions for landing in Japan, he/she may be rejected.
- (10) Note that recommendations for candidates who have previously been deported and whose “Student” visa will be difficult to be issued by the designated date will be rejected.
- (11) Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis following a medical exam must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee’s arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.
- (12) In addition to the regulations stipulated in the Application Guidelines, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese government.
- (13) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for complementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.