

Guidelines for 2021 University Recommended Japanese Government Scholarship (PBL-AI Program)

Muroran Institute of Technology (MuroranIT)

Program name:

Project base AI learning program utilizing the cooperation with private corporations (PBL-AI program)

Overview:

- This program is financially supported by MEXT (Japanese Government).
- This program provides education and/or research through projects in which AI-technologies are used.
- In this program, a multidisciplinary and practical education is conducted with supports of private companies.

1. PBL-AI Program's Qualifications

The candidates whom **PBL-AI Program** of MuroranIT recommends to MEXT should satisfy “(1)” and “(2)” in **PBL-AI Program's Qualifications** in addition to “2. MEXT's Qualifications”.

- (1) An applicant must belong to one of the following 3 categories.
 - a) An applicant who obtained or will obtain a master's degree by the point of travel time to Japan and received an official recommendation from a university which has concluded an academic agreement with MuroranIT.
 - b) An applicant who has received an official recommendation from the president or department head (or higher position) of any university that has had academic exchanges with MuroranIT.
 - c) An applicant who has received a recommendation from the president of his or her home university for his contribution to the improvement of education and research, even if his or her home university does not have any academic exchange with MuroranIT.
- (2) Acceptance permission from a **PBL-AI Program** faculty member (refer to “NOTE” at the end of this document)
Before an application to MuroranIT, the applicant should contact one of the **PBL-AI Program** faculty members and receive an acceptance permission from his or her intended supervisor at MuroranIT through a full discussion regarding research plan.

2. MEXT's Qualifications

- (1) Who can apply for: An applicant should be an international student at university graduate level and newly study from abroad in Japan. In addition, applicants must have demonstrated excellent academic achievement with a grade point average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above in the last two academic years and meet certain criteria.
- (2) Nationality: An applicant must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with the Japanese Government.
- (3) Age: An applicant must be less than 35 as of April 1 in 2021 (born on or after April 2 in 1986)
- (4) Academic background: An applicant must have academic ability equivalent to or greater than that of a master's degree of Japanese university by the point of travel time to Japan.
- (5) Field of study: An applicant should apply for the field of study that they studied at their previous university or a related field (Concurrently, the research field should be covered in Brain-Food PGP).
- (6) English or Japanese Proficiency
Applicants must be proficient in the English or Japanese language and meet one of the

following conditions:

I. Japanese

- (1) Have obtained a Japanese language proficiency test score that is equivalent to have passed N2 or N1 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) (Scores valid for 2 years).
- (2) Have been awarded or expect to be awarded by the time of MuroranIT enrollment an undergraduate or graduate degree from an institution where all instruction was in Japanese.
- (3) Possess a level of proficiency in Japanese equivalent to that stated in (1) and be able to provide supporting evidence.

II. English

- (1) Have obtained an English language proficiency test score that is equivalent to CEFR level B2 or higher (Scores valid for 2 years).
- (2) Have been awarded or expect to be awarded by the time of MuroranIT enrollment an undergraduate or graduate degree from an institution where all instruction was in English.
- (3) Possess a level of proficiency in English equivalent to that stated in (1) and be able to provide supporting evidence.

- (7) Health: An applicant must be physically and mentally healthy to pursue their studies at MuroranIT.
- (8) Arrival in Japan:
October 2021 Enrollment: An applicant must arrive at MuroranIT between September 17 and October 15 in 2021.
- (9) An applicant shall newly obtain a student visa and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student."
- (10) Exclusion: Applicants in the following categories are not eligible for this scholarship:
 - ① An active member of the military or a civilian employed by the military at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship
 - ② An applicant who is unable to travel to Japan within the designated period by MuroranIT.
 - ③ A former recipient of a Japanese Government Scholarship is ineligible unless he or she has had at least three years of research or teaching experience at the time of receiving the new scholarship after the completion of their previous scholarship.
 - ④ Those who are applying for another scholarship from Japanese government (MEXT)
 - ⑤ Those who are already, or going to be, enrolled in a university or institution in Japan with a visa status of Student as a privately-financed international student before the scholarship period starts.
 - ⑥ A recipient of scholarship from Japanese government (MEXT) or the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) or other organizations (including his/her own government) after coming to Japan.
 - ⑦ Those who do not meet the academic background qualifications by the admission date
 - ⑧ Those who hold dual nationality of Japan and another country at the time of application and cannot verify that they have given up Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan
 - ⑨ Those who are expecting to conduct long-term research activities outside Japan or take an extended leave of absence
 - ⑩ Those who have already obtained a doctoral degree and do not plan to pursue 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.

3. Scholarships and other benefits (See 7. Additional Information for details.)

- (1) Amount of scholarship listed below will be granted to the recipients.
 - Doctor's Course Student: ¥145,000 per monthIf a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.
- (2) Screening, Entrance and tuition fees will be exempted.
- (3) Travel expenses:
 - ①Ticket to Japan: The student will be issued an economy class air ticket from the international airport nearest the student's residence in his/her country to Narita Airport or to New Chitose Airport if it is more economical.
 - ②Return ticket: The student who has completed his/her study will be issued an economy class air ticket from Narita Airport or New Chitose Airport to the international airport of his/her country nearest his/her place of residence.
- (4) Scholarship Period:

For degree students: scholarship will be granted from October in 2021 for the regular period of degree course.

4. Required Application Documents

- (1) No1_2021 Application Form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Research Students) (Make it in Excel and submit both of Excel and PDF)
- (2) No2_2021 Field of Study and Research Plan (Make it in Word and submit both of Word and PDF)
- (3) Copy of passport (face photo page)
- (4) Copy of transcript from the applicant's most recent academic institution attended (undergraduate or graduate degree program) and Grading System from Home University
- (5) Copy of certificate of graduation (or expected graduation) from the applicant's most recent academic institution attended (undergraduate or graduate degree program)
- (6) Copy of rank certificate specifying academic excellence of the applicant from the applicant's most recent academic institution attended (undergraduate or graduate degree program) if it is not described on your transcript submitted. It must clearly show the student's rank using a grading system such as GPA, A, B, C class divisions, or what number the student placed in his class.
- (7) Letter of recommendation from the head of the research department (or higher position) of the university the student last attended (should be addressed to the President of Muroran Institute of Technology)
- (8) Abstract of graduation thesis (Summary of contents briefly)
- (9) Proof of Language Proficiency (English or Japanese) – copies of the results of objective tests such as TOEFL, TOEIC, CEFR, IELTS, the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), or the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) in the subject of Japanese as a Foreign Language.
 - *In case of English, an applicant is required to have a capability equal to or greater than CEFR B2 equivalent.
 - *In case of Japanese, an applicant is required to have a capability equal to or greater than JLPT N2 equivalent.
- (10) Photograph: JPG data of passport-type photo taken within the last 6 months (4.5 x 3.5 cm, upper-body, full-faced, without a cap).
- (11) No3_ Research achievements (Books, Papers, International conference proceedings, presentation at conference/meeting etc.)

5. Document Submission & Submission Deadline

(How to submit)

Each applicant must send PDF files of all the documents listed above in “4 Required Application Documents” to the e-mail address of the Center for International Relations.

*Note that documents of No1 and No2 have to be sent to us not only in PDF format but also in Excel or Word format.

*The title of e-mail should be “MEXT Scholarship recommendation (PBL-AI Program) your university name”.

E-mail Address: kokusai@mmm.muroran-it.ac.jp (Center for International Relations)

Inquiries: Please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail if you have any further inquiries.

(Ms. Kozue Takekawa is in charge of this scholarship.)

Deadline: All documents must arrive no later than February 8 (Mon.), 2021.

*In case it is difficult to submit the documents due to COVID-19, please inform us in advance.

6. Application Instructions

- a. All documents must be written in Japanese or English, and be created in A4 format using software such as MS Word and Excel. A document written in any other language must be accompanied with a Japanese translation.
- b. Submitted documents will not be returned.
- c. The thesis abstract should be concise and to the point.
- d. Incomplete or overdue documents will not be accepted.
- e. Additional documents may be requested after the nominee is determined.
- f. **Non-disclosure agreements with cooperative companies are required after admission.**

[**NOTE**] When you wish for an acceptance permission from a PBL-AI faculty member

- ① Access to the below URL for intended supervisor’s research field, e-mail address, etc.

Professor SUTO Hidetsugu: https://rdsoran.muroran-it.ac.jp/html/100000239_en.html

Associate Professor WATANABE Shinya: https://rdsoran.muroran-it.ac.jp/html/100000110_en.html

Associate Professor KURASHIGE Kentarou: https://rdsoran.muroran-it.ac.jp/html/100000178_en.html

Associate Professor SATO Kazuhiko: https://rdsoran.muroran-it.ac.jp/html/100000260_en.html

Associate Professor OKADA Yoshifumi: https://rdsoran.muroran-it.ac.jp/html/100000122_en.html

- ② Contact one of the (PBL-AI Program) faculty members in pursuit of an acceptance permission by e-mail titled “MEXT scholarship candidate_####_%%university ####=your name, %%=name of your university”. In addition, please be sure to enclose the following documents as reference materials for the applicant’s intended supervisor.

1. Your CV
2. Research field and research plan in MuroranIT
*You can use the form named “Field of Study and Research Plan”.
3. Summary of Master’s thesis
4. A publication list if you have

7. Additional Information

(1) TRAVEL EXPENSES

- ① Transportation to Japan: MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who will arrive in Japan during the specified period. The airline ticket will be an economy-class 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 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, 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 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, or 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 the accepting university. In principle, 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 residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances.
- ② Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by MEXT. MEXT shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from the accepting 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 period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "(2). SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.
- If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended (ex. proceeding to further education or being employed in Japan, continuing to register at the university), travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid.

(2) 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 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; 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”;
- ⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures);
- 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 the University or transfers to another graduate school.

(3) NOTES

- ① The grantees are advised to learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and to acquire information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions of the university to attend in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country.
- ② As the first installment of the scholarship payment will 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. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship to other bank accounts.
- ④ Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- ⑤ Accommodations:
 - a. Dormitory for international students: The grantees may reside at these dormitory under certain conditions. However, due to the limited number of rooms, some of these facilities may be unavailable. Expenses relating to accommodations will be borne by the grantee.
 - b. Private apartments: Those who are unable to live in the dormitory may live in private apartments with student’s own expenses. It is difficult for grantees with dependents (spouse and children) to find appropriate housing in Japan. The grantee is requested to arrive in Japan alone first to secure housing before having his/her dependents come to Japan.
- ⑥ Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, 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 the 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.
- ⑦ Other regulations shall also be determined by the Japanese Government.