

2021 Monbukagakusho (MEXT) University Recommendation Scholarship and Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship Application Guidelines for Overseas International Degree-seeking Students (September 2021 Enrollment)

The following outlines Ritsumeikan University's recruiting and application procedures for 2021 enrollment accompanied by a recommendation from the university to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Monbukagakusho (hereinafter "MEXT")) for either the MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship or the MEXT Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship.

I. Applicable Grad Schools, Majors, Courses, Levels, Recruiting Numbers, Medium of Instruction, etc.

(1) Recruitment info for admission with recommendation for MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship

Graduate School of Policy Science

Graduate School	Major	Level	Enrollment Limit	Number Recruited	Medium of Instruction
Policy Science	Policy Science	Master's	40	5 students	English only
		Doctoral	15	1 student	English only

Graduate School of Information Science and Engineering

Graduate School	Major	Courses	Level	Enrollment Limit	Number Recruited	Medium of Instruction
Information Science and Engineering	Information Science and Engineering	Information Science and Engineering	Master's	200	6 students	English only

Graduate School of Life Science

Graduate School	Major	Courses	Program	Level	Enrollment Limit	Number Recruited	Medium of Instruction
Life Sciences	Advanced Life Sciences	Applied Chemistry	International Program for Life Sciences	Master's	150	1 student	English only
		Biotechnology					
		Bioinformatics					
		Biomedical Sciences					
		-		Doctoral	15		English only

*Enrollment Limit includes all application methods.

*Actual numbers recruited (granted admission) may be lower, based on applications received and screening results.

(2) Recruitment info for admission with recommendation for MEXT Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship

Graduate School of Information Science and Engineering

Graduate School	Major	Courses	Level	Enrollment Limit	Number Recruited	Medium of Instruction
Information Science and Engineering	Information Science and Engineering	Information Science and Engineering	Master's	200	1 student	English only

Graduate School of International Relations

Graduate School	Major	Program	Level	Enrollment Limit	Number Recruited	Medium of Instruction
International Relations	International Relations	Global International Relations Program	Master's	60	1 student	English only

Graduate School of Life Science

Graduate School	Major	Courses	Program	Level	Enrollment Limit	Number Recruited	Medium of Instruction
Life Sciences	Advanced Life Sciences	Applied Chemistry	International Program for Life Sciences	Master's	150	1 student	English only
		Biotechnology					
		Bioinformatics					
		Biomedical Sciences					
		-		Doctoral	15		English only

*Enrollment Limit includes all application methods.

*Actual numbers recruited (granted admission) may be lower, based on applications received and screening results

i. Points of Caution: MEXT Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship Recruitment

In conjunction with the end of the MEXT Top Global University Project itself in March 31, 2024, the MEXT Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship will cease to exist from April 2024 onward. Thus, applicants must be aware of the following regarding Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship sponsored Master's and Doctoral study.

1. Master's Programs

- (1) The maximum possible duration of scholarship is the two-year period beginning from October 2021 and ending September 2023.
- (2) A return flight ticket will be issued only to MEXT SGU Scholars who graduate from the Master's Program of one of our graduate schools by the end of September 2023, and who will return to their home country by the end of the same month.

2. Doctoral Programs

- (1) As indicated above the MEXT Top Global University Project itself will end in March 2024. Therefore, at most, the maximum possible duration of scholarship is the two-year and six-month period beginning from October 2021 and ending March 2024. In other words, applicants selected for this scholarship who enroll with the university for the entirety of the standard three-year duration of the Doctoral Program will, at the latest, lose their scholarship and status as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholar from April 2024, and thus, at the least, will become a self-financed student for the last six-months of their standard program duration (April 2024 to September 2024). Applicants must be fully aware of, and fully accept these conditions prior to submitting an application to the university.

Further, at the homepage at the link below, applicants must review the tuition and other assorted fees which they will be required to pay once they lose their status as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholar and become a self-financed student before submitting an application to the university.

<http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gr/file/2021tuitionandfees.pdf?version=>

Finally, applicants must be aware that the likelihood of being selected for any additional scholarship after they lose their status as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholar and become a self-financed student is extremely low. Those who intend to apply must begin planning ahead from before they submit an application to the university, so that they will be able to cover the costs of their tuition and related fees, living costs, a return flight to their home country and so on once they have become a self-financed student.

- (2) A return flight ticket will be issued only to MEXT SGU Scholars who graduate from the Doctoral Program of one of our graduate schools by the end of March 2024, and who will return to their home country by the end of the same month.

II. Eligibility Requirements

1. Master's Programs

Applicants for Master's programs must meet the scholarship application requirements and conditions as defined by MEXT in either the MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship Application Guidelines, or MEXT Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship Application Guidelines, and must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- (1) Persons who have completed a 16-year education program outside of Japan or who are expected to complete such a program before being enrolled in the graduate school
- (2) Persons who have graduated from a Japanese university (*1) or who are expected to graduate from a Japanese university before being enrolled in the graduate school
- (3) Persons who have completed (*2) a degree program of 3 years or more (5 years or more for those who would enroll in a Doctoral program in the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine) and received a bachelor's degree or the equivalent at a university or other institution outside of Japan (*3), or who are expected to complete such a program prior to enrollment in a Ritsumeikan University graduate school.
- (4) Persons who have been recognized as having an academic ability equal to or higher than university graduates by Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools as a result of an individual preliminary screening and who have reached 22 years of age or who will reach 22 years of age before being enrolled in the graduate school (*4)

*1 As designated by Article 83 of the School Education Act

*2 Limited to those whose overall academic research and education have been evaluated by an individual authorized by that country's government or appropriate related institution, or an individual designated by the Monbukagakusho who meets these standards.

*3 Including those who completed a distance learning degree program of a university outside of Japan while in Japan,

and those who completed the same at designated educational facilities according to the educational system of the respective university's country.

- *4 Applicants who believe they meet criteria (4), above, must contact the International Center at BKC no later than the day before the application period begins in order to undergo an individual review to determine whether their academic ability is equal to or higher than a university graduate.

In addition to the requirements above, applicants must have language abilities to understand course materials at their desired graduate school.

2. Doctoral Programs

Applicants for Doctoral programs must meet the scholarship application requirements and conditions as defined by MEXT in the MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship Application Guidelines, and must meet at least of one of the following conditions:

- (1) Persons who have been awarded a master's or professional degree as defined by Japanese law, or equivalent degree.
- (2) Persons who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree, as defined by Japanese law, abroad or who are expected to be awarded such a degree before being enrolled in the graduate school
- (3) Persons who have been engaged in research activities at a university or research institute for at least two years after graduating from a university or its equivalent and who have been recognized by Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools as having an academic ability equal to or greater than holders of a master's degree (the 1989 Notification of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture No.118) (*1)
- (4) Persons who have been recognized by Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools as having an academic ability equal to or higher than holders of a master's degree or professional degree, as defined by Japanese law, as a result of individual preliminary screening and who have reached 24 years of age (*2)

- *1 Applicants who believe they meet criteria (3), above, must contact the International Center at BKC no later than the day before the application period begins in order to undergo an individual review to determine whether their academic ability is equal to or greater than a master's degree holder.

- *2 Applicants who believe they meet criteria (4), above, must contact the International Center at BKC no later than the day before the application period begins in order to undergo an individual review to determine whether their academic ability is equal to a master's degree or professional degree holder.

In addition to the requirements above, applicants must have language abilities to understand course materials at their desired graduate school.

3. Important Notes

- (1) If you have any concerns about foreign education equivalence, your particular degree, or calculation of years of schooling described in (1) or (2) above, please contact the International Center at BKC no later than the day before the application period opens.

Ritsumeikan University International Center at BKC, Admissions Team
1-1-1 Noji-Higashi, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan 525-8577
Phone: +81 (0)77-561-3946 Fax: +81 (0)77-561-3956

- (2) Applicants who pass the admissions screening under the condition of "expecting" to fulfill the Eligibility Requirements but who ultimately do not fulfill the requirements by September 25, 2021, the day before enrollment, will not be permitted to enroll.
- (3) Payment of an application fee is not required when submitting an application via these procedures.

III. Screening Method

Applicants will be screened based on submitted application documents. Foreign language tests, written exams and interviews may also be conducted if deemed necessary by the desired graduate school.

* This screening will determine admission to Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools. Ritsumeikan University will also recommend applicants who pass this screening to MEXT for scholarship. MEXT alone will make the final determination as to whether or not to award the applicant a scholarship, based on their own, separate screening.

IV. Application Procedures

1. Documents to be submitted. All application documents must be submitted together and must meet the criteria below.

- (1) Ritsumeikan University Graduate Application Sheet (University designated form)
- (2) Application for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship (Monbukagakusho designated form)
- (3) Application Questionnaire (University designated form)
- (4) Field of Study and Study Program (Monbukagakusho designated form)
- (5) Letter of Recommendation by the dean, or a person of equivalent or higher position, at the applicant's school or institution (MUST be addressed to the "President of Ritsumeikan University, Japan")
- (6) Formal and official certificate of grades from most recent college or university attended (Undergraduate or Graduate degree program)
 - *For those who have completed graduate school abroad, the certificate must indicate which degree was conferred (Master, Ph.D, etc.).
 - *MUST state number of credits and the year/period of credit acquisition for each course undertaken.
 - *MUST include a clear explanation of all possible levels used in grade evaluation (i.e. A, B, C, D, Fail, etc...), or be accompanied by a separate certificate explaining this information.
- (7) Formal and official certificate of graduation or expected graduation or of program completion or expected program completion from most recent college or university attended (Undergraduate or Graduate degree program)
- (8) (Optional) Records from most recent university indicating superior academic achievement with clear indicator of outstanding performance (e.g. GPA, grades and criteria, or individual rank order)
- (9) Abstract of thesis written for most recent academic degree awarded, etc...
 - *The abstract MUST be a concise summary (2 pages maximum) of your most recently written thesis, or if you did not write a thesis, of your graduation project or a term paper, etc...
- (10) Copy of passport page containing the applicant's name and date of birth or a copy of your family register or residence certificate, etc. (applicants in possession of a passport must submit the passport page copy)
- (11) Documentation showing objective proof of level of either English or Japanese language ability, whichever language you intend to study in. (*There is no need to submit certificates for both languages*)

-For those who wish to study in English

- 1) Submit a grade certificate from an English Language Ability Test on which the scores earned for each individual section, and the total score, are all equivalent to or higher than the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) B2 level. (Score reports must be from one of the following: TOEIC® LISTENING AND READING TEST, TOEFL iBT® TEST, IELTS™, TOEFL iBT® Special Home Edition, TOEFL ITP®, or IELTS Indicator. Copies are acceptable).

If you cannot submit a score from any of the above tests but can submit a test score from another internationally recognized English language test on which you earned scores equivalent to or higher than CEFR B2 level for each individual section and for the total score, please submit that original, official score certificate along with the official test score scale and score conversion chart showing the conversion to either the CEFR levels or to the levels of one of the tests mentioned above.

*Test must have been taken in the two-year period preceding the application deadline to be acceptable.

- 2) Applicants who cannot submit a score certificate fulfilling the criteria of 1), but for who the medium of instruction at their current college or university (or, for those who are not currently enrolled, at their most recently attended college or university) is English, should submit an original certificate or letter stating as much issued by their current college or university (or, for those who are not currently enrolled, issued by their most recently attended college or university).
- 3) Applicants who cannot submit a certificate fulfilling the criteria of either 1) or 2) above must submit other documentation showing objective proof of their level of English language ability (for example, an English language test score certificate on which scores earned were less than CEFR B2 level, or which was taken more than 2 years prior to the application deadline). Let it be known that in particular, any who submit a certificate which fulfills only this criterion 3) may later be asked to participate in an online interview(s).

-For those who wish to study in Japanese

- 1) Passing grade certificate from the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level N1 or N2. (copies acceptable)

*Test must have been taken in the two-year period preceding the application deadline to be acceptable.

- 2) Applicants who cannot submit a score certificate fulfilling the criteria of 1), but for who the medium of instruction at their current college or university (or, for those who are not currently enrolled, at their most recently attended college or university) is Japanese should submit an original certificate or letter stating as much issued by their current college or university (or, for those who are not currently enrolled, issued by their most recently attended college or university).
- 3) Applicants who cannot submit a certificate fulfilling the criteria of either 1) or 2) above must submit other documentation showing objective proof of their level of Japanese language ability (for example, a JLPT N1 or N2 failing score certificate, or a JLPT N1 or N2 score certificate for a test which was taken more than 2

years prior to the application deadline). Let it be known that in particular, any who submit a certificate which fulfills only this criterion 3) may later be asked to participate in an online interview(s).

- (12) Certificate of health (University designated form, or form with identical contents)
- (13) Three (3) passport-quality photographs, (4.5 cm tall x 3.5 cm wide, front-facing, photos taken within 6 months of application showing applicant from shoulders up, with name and nationality written on the reverse)
- (14) -For those enrolled at a university in China: Please print out and submit your 教育部学籍在线验证报告 (教育部学籍在线验证报告).
-For those who have graduated from a university in China: Please print out and submit your 教育部学历证书电子注册备案表
(*Students who attended or are attending universities in Taiwan, Hong Kong or Macau need not submit these forms.)
*These forms MUST be submitted in English. Forms submitted in Chinese cannot be accepted.

2. Important Information Regarding Application.

- (1) All submitted documents should be printed in Japanese or English on A4-sized paper, and in general should be typed. Documents submitted in any languages other than Japanese or English must have Japanese or English translations attached.
- (2) On all documents, name and date of birth must be written exactly as it appears on your passport.
- (3) All application documents must be submitted together by international express mail to the address listed at "4." below and arrive before the application period ends.
- (4) Submitted documents will not be returned for any reason.
- (5) If it is determined that your application documents contain any deliberate falsifications or forgeries, your application will not pass the examination

3. Application Period:

Wednesday, January 6 – Wednesday, January 27, 2021

All application documents must arrive during the application period.

Documents postmarked by the cut-off date that arrive late will not be accepted.

Applications by email, fax, or walk-in will not be accepted.

4. Application Mailing Address:

Please send documents by traceable express post (i.e. EMS, FedEx, DHL, etc.) to:
Ritsumeikan University International Center at BKC, Admissions Team
1-1-1 Noji-Higashi, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan 525-8577
Phone: +81 (0)77-561-3946 Fax: +81 (0)77-561-3956

V. Notification of results

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

- * Applicants who successfully pass Ritsumeikan University's screening will be sent a letter of acceptance to the postal address, and will be sent a PDF scan of the same to the email address, listed on their Ritsumeikan University Graduate Application Sheet. Ritsumeikan University will then proceed to recommend each successful applicant to MEXT for scholarship, provided applicants continue to fulfill all scholarship recommendation criteria.
- * Passing this Ritsumeikan University admission screening does not guarantee that an applicant will be granted a scholarship by MEXT.
- * Waitlisted candidates from this Ritsumeikan University admission screening will be notified of their status as well, via email to the address listed on their Ritsumeikan University Graduate Application Sheet. If a waitlisted candidate is later elevated to passing status, the candidate will be separately informed of the change by the date specified in the waitlist notification email.
- * The university will determine whether to recommend applicants who pass this admissions screening for either the Monbukagakusho (MEXT) University Recommendation Scholarship or the Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship.

VI. Admissions Procedures

Successful applicants will be given detailed instructions once their results have been determined.

VII. Monbukagakusho Scholarships for International Students System

- (1) This entrance examination will be conducted in accordance with the "2021 Monbukagakusho (MEXT)

University Recommendation Scholarship for International Students Guidelines” and “2021 Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Top Global University Project (SGU) for International Students Scholarship Guidelines” expected to be released in December 2020. Those granted a letter of acceptance via this entrance examination will be recommended by Ritsumeikan University to MEXT for scholarship.

(2) For details on MEXT International Student Scholarships, please see MEXT’s homepage.

Nothing follows.