

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship for 2026 (Japanese Language and Japanese Studies Students)

Note to Readers: This is an English translation of the major points in the Monbukagakusho (MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship announcement, prepared by Keio University with explanatory remarks. Refer to the official announcement in Japanese for the full and exact details.

The Japanese Government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to foreign students to support them in their academic studies at Japanese universities. It is expected that recipients will contribute building mutual understanding and deepening of friendship between Japan and their home countries through the knowledge acquired and life experience gained during their time in Japan. MEXT is currently accepting applications from foreign students interested in pursuing an education in the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture at a Japanese university as a MEXT scholarship student, per the following conditions.

1. Qualifications

1) Eligibility

Foreign students committed to deepening their knowledge of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture at a Japanese university. Students must currently reside outside Japan. As stated in the Intercollegiate Exchange Agreements, only those who have received an official nomination from their home university are eligible.

2) Nationality

Applicants must be a national of a country which has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are not eligible. However, applicants with dual nationality who reside outside of Japan are eligible as long as they give up their Japanese nationality and choose the nationality of the foreign country by the date of their arrival in Japan.

3) Age

Applicants must have been born between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 2008.

4) Academic Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the following three conditions:

- (a) Applicants who are applying for the Japanese Language Program (JLP) at Keio for one academic year from the 2026 Fall Semester are eligible to apply for this scholarship.
- (b) Applicants must be undergraduates enrolled at an overseas (non-Japanese) university and be majoring in a field related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture at the time of arriving in and departing from Japan.
- (c) Those who have taken Japanese studies at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 2026. Those who have taken Japanese studies at a university other than their current university should submit relevant documents (transcript of grades at the other university, etc.) which can verify that the applicant has taken Japanese studies for a total period of at least one year (including current university).

*Those who are majoring in fields of study other than Japanese language and culture (such as engineering, economics, agricultural science, architecture and art) while pursuing complementary studies in the Japanese language and culture are ineligible.

5) Japanese Language Ability

Applicants must satisfy either of the following conditions:

- (a) Applicants who have passed the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N2 level or above at the time of enrollment.
- (b) Applicants who are expected to have Japanese proficiency equivalent to or higher than (a) and have confirmed it by the accepting university.

6) Health

Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue their university studies.

7) Arrival in Japan

Applicants must **arrive in Japan in mid-September 2026** when Keio University holds the orientation for new exchange students. Travel expenses will not be provided if the applicant chooses to travel to Japan before the specified dates.

8) Visa

Selected applicants including those who hold a "permanent resident" or "Long Term Resident" status, must 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."

Applicants who hold a "Permanent Resident" or "Long Term Resident" status should understand that there is no guarantee that the same status will be granted after the "Student" visa expires.

Please note that as the Japanese government requires pre-arrival tuberculosis screening for some countries, applicants obtaining a visa shall follow guidance at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant's country of nationality.

9) Applicants who fall under any of the following conditions are ineligible. If it is discovered after the start of the scholarship period that one of these items applies to an applicant, he or she will be required to withdraw from the scholarship.

- (a) Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or start of scholarship payments.
- (b) Those who are not able to arrive in Japan by the designated date.
- (c) Those who have received a Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT scholarship) in the past.
- (d) Those who are currently applying to another program through a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship scheme for which scholarship payments will begin in the 2026 academic year.
- (e) Those who are currently enrolled at a Japanese university with a "Student" residence status, or those enrolled or scheduled to be enrolled at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student from the time the scholarship application must be filed in the home country until prior to the start of the provision of the scholarship.
- (f) 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.
- (g) Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they have given up their Japanese nationality by the time of arrival in Japan.

10) After the scholarship period ends

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 home institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan.

However, students who can continue their studies in Japan by participating in a "Double Degree Program" or "Joint Degree Program" of their home institution will not necessarily be required to return to their home countries.

If a grantee fails this condition, he/she may be ordered to return the entire amount of the scholarship paid during the scholarship period. Those who are uncertain about returning and continuing to study after the end of the scholarship period should not apply for this program.

11) Other requirements

While applicants are studying in Japan, they are required to contribute to building mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in activities at schools and communities with the aim of expanding the internationalization of Japan. They must also make efforts to promote relations between their home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended after graduation, cooperating with surveys and questionnaires, and with relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions after they return to their home countries.

2. Term of Scholarship

The scholarship will be granted from October 2026 to July 2027. (Successful applicants must be in Japan in mid-late September to attend our orientation for new exchange students. The scholarship cannot be extended.)

3. Additional Details

1) Scholarship Amount

Allowance: 117,000 yen per month with an additional stipend for designated areas.

*Students who study in certain designated regions will be provided an additional monthly stipend of 2,000 yen or 3,000 yen.

*The scholarship amount may be reviewed each year due to budgetary reasons.

2) Traveling Costs

(a) Travel expenses to Japan

The recipient will be provided an economy-class airplane ticket, appropriate to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, from the international airport nearest to his/her home city or country of residence, which is in principle in the country of nationality, to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting university. (Although the address in the home country stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home country of residence," if it will be changed at the time of leaving for Japan, the new address will be regarded as the "home country of residence.")

Expenses such as inland transportation from his/her home address to the international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, special taxes on travel, or inland transportation within Japan including a connecting flight will NOT be covered.

(b) Return travel expense from Japan

Recipients who return to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, an economy-class airplane ticket for travel from an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting university to the international airport nearest to his/her home address, which is in principle in the country of nationality.

Notes:

- (a) Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan must be paid for by the recipient.
- (b) Should the recipient not return to his/her home country soon after the end of the scholarship period to resume his/her studies, the return travel fee for the flight back to his/her home country will NOT be provided.

4. Withdrawal of Scholarship

In principle, the scholarship will be withdrawn if the recipient is absent from the university for an extended period. The scholarship will be also withdrawn in the cases listed below. If the recipient was receiving the scholarship despite any of the following situations, the recipient will be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that he/she received during the period in question.

- (a) The recipient is found to have made a false statement on his/her application.
- (b) The recipient violates any article of his/her pledge to MEXT.
- (c) The recipient violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to imprisonment with or without work for life or for a period exceeding 1 year.
- (d) The recipient is subjected to disciplinary action by the university, including expulsion. (The scholarship payment may be stopped during the period until punishment is decided by the university.)
- (e) 1)The recipient is already enrolled in a Japanese university or other such institution with a "Student" visa.
2)The recipient is enrolled or scheduled to enroll in a Japanese university as a privately financed international student
1)&2) above does not apply if the recipient has a plan to go back to his or her home country and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student" after reobtaining a "Student" visa.
- (f) It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades, suspension, or absenteeism from the university.
- (g) The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than "Student."
- (h) The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (a scholarship or fellowship from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others).
- (i) The recipient does not 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 home institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan. Exemption will be made to the recipient who continues their studies in Japan by participating in a "Double Degree Program" or "Joint Degree Program" of their home institution.

5. Documents to be Submitted to Keio University

1) Application Documents

The applicants are required to submit the following by **April 7, 2026**.

(a) Complete application for the scholarship

The scholarship application must be submitted by an exchange coordinator at a partner institution. No late applications will be accepted. Scholarship applications submitted directly by students will not be accepted.

Exchange coordinators should submit the application documents in electronic format by email.

Please refer to the “Check List” on the website below:

https://www.ic.keio.ac.jp/en/study/mext/japanese_study.html

Notes:

※Applicants are advised to prepare all the documents in either Japanese or English. A document written in any other language must have a Japanese or English translation attached.

※Application materials will not be returned.

(b) Online Application for the Keio Student Exchange Program

In addition to submitting the application documents for the scholarship above, please complete the Online Application for the Keio Student Exchange Program. Details can be found from the following webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/keio.jp/application-guide-keio/home>

6. Announcement of the Scholarship Award

Keio University will receive the screening results from MEXT in late June 2026.

7. Notes

- (a) As the first installment of the scholarship payment cannot be provided immediately upon the recipient's arrival, the recipient should bring the equivalent of approximately US \$2,000 or more to cover immediate needs after arrival in Japan.
- (b) Information regarding the recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university, graduate school/undergraduate school, specialty, period of enrollment, career path after completion of course, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with relevant government organizations for the purpose of conducting research or surveys on international student exchange programs (support during period of study, follow-up, improvement of the international student system) implemented by the Japanese government.
- (c) Information regarding the recipient (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be publicized after the period of study in Japan in order to introduce the activities of former recipients around the world in materials produced by the Japanese government to promote study abroad in Japan.
- (d) Regarding visa applications, for those who will be applying for a visa at a Japanese diplomatic office in their home country, a special arrangement has been implemented by the Japanese government so that applicants do not need to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility for Resident Status.
- (e) Scholarship payments will be made to the Japan Post Bank account opened by each student after arrival in Japan. Other Bank accounts will not be acceptable.