

2027 Academic Year
Keio “Design the Future” Award for International Students
Application Guidelines

Purpose

This award is intended to support exceptionally talented international students at Keio University's graduate schools by creating an environment where they can devote themselves to their studies and research without being concerned about financial matters. To achieve this aim, recipients are provided with funds to cover academic and living expenses, and a one-time relocation grant.

1. Eligibility

- ① This award is open to international students with outstanding academic achievement and character who meet all the following criteria at the point of application:
 - 1) Those who wish to enroll in a Keio University graduate school in April 2027, September 2027, or in April 2028, and have been recommended for this award by their prospective graduate school.
 - 2) Those who wish to enroll as a full-time degree student in one of Keio University's master's, doctoral, or professional degree programs.
 - 3) Those who have completed 15 or more years of schooling outside Japan and obtained an undergraduate degree, or who are expected to obtain their undergraduate degree before entering Keio University. However, those who have obtained, or are expected to obtain, their undergraduate degree at any institution in Japan are ineligible.
- ② Those who are not currently receiving any funds from this university or another public institution that aims to support research, regardless of whether such funds are designated as scholarships, research grants, salaries, or under any other name (including scholarships, research grants, fellowships, and salaries provided by the Japanese government and Japanese government-affiliated organizations, as specified in the appendix)
- ③ Incoming international students participating in a double degree program (hereinafter, “DD international students”) are also eligible.

*Students may not reside outside Japan for more than six months while receiving this award.

2. Award Amount

- The full cost of academic fees and expenses at Keio University
(*Not applicable to DD international students.)
- Monthly stipend for living expenses: 200,000 JPY
- One-time relocation grant (including travel expenses): 150,000 JPY

3. Award Duration

- Master's students: Up to two years
- Doctoral/professional degree program students: Up to three years
(*Note: Funding will cease upon degree conferral or completion of the standard program duration, whichever occurs first, irrespective of the above.)
- DD international students: Eligible only while enrolled in a degree program at a Keio graduate school

4. Number of Recipients

- A small number of students will be selected.

5. Application Documents and Deadline

Applicants must submit a resume in the prescribed format and any other necessary documents to their intended graduate school. The necessary documents and application deadline may vary by graduate school. Please refer to the website below for details:

<https://www.ic.keio.ac.jp/en/life/scholarship/dfaward.html>

*Note: The materials you submitted during the Keio graduate school admissions process may be consulted during the selection process. Application documents will not be returned.

6. Selection Process

Initial Screening: Each graduate school selects candidates through an initial screening process and recommends them to the Design the Future Fund Steering Committee (hereinafter, the "Steering Committee").

Final Selection: The Steering Committee reviews application documents and conducts interviews to make the final selection of recipients.

Interviews are scheduled for December 12 (Sat.), 2026, at Mita Campus in Tokyo. Further details regarding the interview will be communicated to candidates individually.

7. Interview

Applicants may choose to have their interview in Japanese or English.

Applicants residing outside Japan may attend their interview remotely via the internet; in this case, applicants are responsible for preparing a webcam and microphone in advance. A connection test will be held prior to the formal interview.

8. Award Decisions

The Award Secretariat will notify all interviewed applicants of their award decision.

9. Entrance Exams and Eligibility

Applicants accepted for this award who (1) fail the graduate school entrance examinations, or (2) do not enroll in the designated program at the specified time will have their award revoked.

10. Award Disbursement

The monthly stipend for living expenses will be disbursed monthly upon confirmation of the recipient's enrollment status. The one-time relocation grant will be remitted together with the first stipend disbursement.

A Japanese bank account is required to receive both the monthly stipend and the one-time relocation grant. International bank transfers are unavailable. Disbursement to recipients who have not yet arrived in Japan and do not have a Japanese bank account will be placed on hold until they have opened an account.

11. Notification of Changes in Registration Status

Recipients must notify the Steering Committee immediately in the event of any of the following:

- ① Leave of absence or withdrawal from the graduate school
- ② Suspension from the university or any other form of formal punishment imposed by the graduate school
- ③ Change of name, address, or other important personal information

12. Award Suspension and Discontinuation

- 1) If the Steering Committee determines that a recipient is unable to continue their studies for an extended period due to a leave of absence or other reasons, their award will be suspended.

- 2) The Steering Committee may discontinue an award if it determines that the recipient has failed to demonstrate sufficient academic performance or has behaved in an inappropriate manner.

1 3. **Award Reinstatement**

Recipients whose award has been suspended or discontinued pursuant to “12. Award Suspension and Discontinuation” may apply to have their award reinstated at the discretion of the Steering Committee when the reason for suspension or discontinuation no longer applies.

1 4. **Termination and Repayment**

The Steering Committee may terminate an award and/or demand repayment of all or part of disbursed funds in the following cases:

- ① The recipient has failed to demonstrate sufficient academic performance.
- ② The recipient no longer meets the eligibility criteria defined in “1. Eligibility.”
- ③ The recipient has withdrawn from the university, or been suspended or expelled pursuant to the university’s rules and regulations.
- ④ The recipient’s application and/or other submitted materials are found to contain fraudulent or falsified information.
- ⑤ The recipient has failed, without reasonable grounds, to follow the procedures defined in “11. Notification of Changes in Registration Status”.
- ⑥ The recipient has otherwise been deemed unsuited to continue as an award recipient.

1 5. **Further Information**

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.ic.keio.ac.jp/en/life/scholarship/dfaward.html>

Inquiries

“Design the Future” Award Secretariat

(c/o Scholarships and Financial Assistance Group, Office of Student Services)

Email address: ic-scholarship@adst.keio.ac.jp

(Appendix) List of Japanese government-affiliated programs that cannot be received concurrently

This award may not be combined with any program offered by the following agencies, irrespective of type (e.g., scholarship, research grant, fellowship, salary).

Agency	Program
Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)	Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students
	Student Exchange Support Program
	Highly Skilled Foreign Professional Development Course Enrollment Support Program
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)	Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC)
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	University Fellowship Founding Project for Innovation Creation in Science and Technology
	Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)
	Fostering Researchers in Emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Program
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS), JICA Scholarship Program, etc.
The Japan Foundation (JF)	Japanese Studies Fellowship Program

*The programs listed above are representative examples. All financial assistance programs funded by the Japanese government and government-affiliated organizations prohibit recipients from receiving funds concurrently.