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This application guidelines are for the MEXT scholarship commencing in 2019. The new guidelines for 2020 will be published in middle of December 2019. Should there be any changes to the application requirements, we will announce to each candidate by e-mail.

**Application Guidelines (Excerpt)
Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship 2019
(University Recommendation, Special Program • General)**

<Qualifications and Conditions>

(1) Applicants: Applicants must be international students of graduate school level who are newly coming to Japan, and 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 be expected to maintain the equivalent level during the scholarship period. And furthermore, Applicants must satisfy one of the conditions of "(6) Language ability" below.

(2) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. Applicants with Japanese nationality at the time of application are 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, in principle, must have been born on or after April 2, 1985. Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to wider circumstances in 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 one of the qualification requirements to enter a master's degree program or a doctoral degree program at a Japanese graduate

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school. (Applicants who are expected to satisfy the requirements with certainty by the time of enrollment are also eligible.)

(5) Fields of Study: Applicants should apply for the field of study they majored in at university or a related field. The field of study must be a subject which applicants will be able to study and research in graduate programs at Japanese University.

(6) Language Ability:

Applicants must have either Japanese or English language ability and must also satisfy one of the following conditions.

<JAPANESE>

[1] Those who have passed level N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the time of entering a regular course.

[2] A person who has been educated where Japanese was used as the primary language, and completed a curriculum that meets the entrance qualifications for graduate school master's or doctoral course in Japan.

[3] The host university will confirm that applicants have a Japanese proficiency equal to or greater than the equivalent level required as stated above in [1].

<ENGLISH>

[1] A person who has attained a grade equal to or more than the B2 equivalent of European common language reference frame (CEFR) in English at the time of enrollment in a regular course.

[2] A person who has been educated using a curriculum that meets the entrance requirements for graduate school master's or doctoral course in Japan, with English as the main language.

[3] The host university will confirm that applicants have an English proficiency equal to or greater than the equivalent level required as stated above in [1].

(8) Arrival in Japan:

Applicants must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan on the date set by the university, which is normally the beginning of April.

(9) Visa Requirement: Applicants must obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant’s country of nationality, and enter Japan with the

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residence status of “Student.” Accordingly, even if the applicants already have other residence status (“Permanent resident,” “Long-term resident,” etc.), the applicants must change it to the “Student” status and re-enter Japan. Applicants should be aware that, in cases where they re-apply for their original resident status of “Permanent resident” or “Long term resident” after expiration of their status as MEXT Scholarship student, it cannot be guaranteed that their applications will be accepted.

(10) <Non –eligibility>

Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. He/she must withdraw from the scholarship if non-eligibility is identified after the start of the scholarship period.

[1] Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;

[2] Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the period designated by UT;

[3] Those who are previous grantees of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan), but do not have educational research experience of more than three years from the month following the final payment of the previous scholarship to the month when the payment of this scholarship begins. This does not apply to past grantees of Japanese Studies scholarship nor Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries and past participants in the Young Leaders Program. MEXT Honors Scholarship is not one of MEXT Scholarship Programs;

[4] Those who apply to more than one university for programs commencing in 2020 through the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship system.

[5] Those who are, or will be, enrolled in a Japanese university with a residence status of “Student” as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university, verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, return to their home country at the time of the scholarship application, and acquire anew the “College Student” residence status and come to Japan;

[6] Those who are planning to receive a scholarship from an organization other than

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MEXT (including a government organization of their home country).

[7] Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions related to academic background by the deadline given;

[8] Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan;

[9] Those whose main aim is to engage in fieldwork or an internship in a country other than Japan after submission of application;

[10] Those who have completed a doctoral course and have no intention to obtain 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 Japanese diplomatic missions after they return to their home countries.

2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship will be payable for the period necessary for the grantee to complete their regular program (standard period of study).

3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1)**Allowance:** The amounts listed below shall be paid depending on the course enrolled in. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment is subject to change each fiscal year. The scholarship shall be cancelled if a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period.

[1] Regular students enrolled in master's course: 144,000 JPY per month

[2] Regular students enrolled in doctoral courses: 145,000 JPY per month

(2)Travel Expenses

[1]**Transportation to Japan:** In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee's residence to an international airport used on the normal route to

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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 used on the normal route to the grantee's university. In principle, the address given in the space for "Residence before arrival in Japan" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence," and the airplane 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 graduating from their university and returning to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (Section 2 above) designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport used for the normal route to and from the grantee's 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.

The returning travel expenses will not be provided by MEXT in case a grantee returns to the home country before the end of period of scholarship due to personal circumstance, or reasons stated in "4 SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP".

If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended in cases such as being employed in Japan, he/she will not be paid travel expenses for a

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temporary return.

(3) Education fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition will be borne by the university.

4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Payment of the scholarship will be stopped in the following cases. Should any of the following 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 MEXT;

[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 receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment

[5] It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period 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 leaves the university or transfers to another graduate school/university.

[10] When the academic performance grade point average attained at each point in each year is less than 2.30 or the grading standard set by the university.