

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
2023 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP (MEXT) FOR
GRADUATE STUDENTS
[Special Program:
International Graduate Course for Data-driven and Hypothesis-
driven Science (IGC-DHS)]

About the International Graduate Program “IGC-DHS”

The Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University will establish a new international graduate program "International Graduate Course for Data-driven and Hypothesis-driven Science (IGC-DHS)" in 2023. The IGC-DHS aims to develop the next generation of top scientists with both data-driven and hypothesis-driven multifaceted perspectives in the natural sciences. We are currently seeking out well-motivated and excellent international students to join the IGC-DHS. The focus of study should be one of the following; Mathematics, Cosmo sciences, Condensed Matter Physics, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Earth & Planetary Dynamics, Seismology & Volcanology, Biodiversity, and Science Communication.

Number of MEXT Scholarship (IGC-DHS special Slot) for enrollment in October 2023

4 fully-funded MEXT scholarships

- 3 doctoral students (3 years)
- 1 master’s student (2 years)

Application procedure

Please see separate file.

1. Qualifications

1) Nationality:

Applicants must have a nationality of a country with which Japan established diplomatic relations. This scholarship is open to all qualified international students, however, preference will be given to applicants from Southwest and Southeast Asia.

An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible for this scholarship program. However, if you are an overseas-based Japanese national with dual (or multiple) nationalities, you may apply for the scholarship on the condition that you renounce your Japanese nationality and opt for foreign nationality before you arrive in Japan (or before the enrollment date at the host university).

2) Age

Applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1988. (An exception to this general rule concerns the students who completed the MEXT Young Leaders' Program (scholarship) and enroll in a doctoral degree program.)

3) Academic background:

Applicants must have academic abilities equal to or more advanced than those of a Japanese university graduate or master course of graduate school.

4) Field of Study

The Graduate School of Science consists of 4 departments. Applicants should have sufficient knowledge and experience undertaking research in these fields.

- Mathematics,
- CosmoSciences
- Condensed Matter Physics
- Natural History Sciences
 - Earth & Planetary System Science
 - Earth & Planetary Dynamics
 - Seismology and Volcanology
 - Biodiversity
 - Science Communication)

5) Academic record requirements:

Applicants who are currently regular students in a university/college must have an academic record score[#] of 2.30 or higher in their degree program. Applicants who are working adults must have an academic record of a score of 2.30 or higher in their previous university/college.

[#]How to calculate the academic record score

For working adults, calculate the academic record score for the last university/college attended. For current students, calculate the academic record score for the program in which they are currently enrolled.

Calculation Procedure

Classification	Evaluation Grading				
	4 level scale		Excellent	Good	Passing
4 level scale		A	B	C	F
4 level scale		100~80	79~70	69~60	59~

5 level scale		A	B	C	F
5 level scale	A	B	C	D	F
5 level scale	100~90	89~80	79~70	69~60	59~
Evaluation point	3	3	2	1	0

(Formula)

$$\frac{\{(\text{"Evaluation point 3 credits"} \times 3) + (\text{"Evaluation point 2 credits"} \times 2) + (\text{"Evaluation point 1 credits"} \times 1) + (\text{"Evaluation point 0 credits"} \times 0)\}}{\text{Total registered credits}}$$

(Note 1) If the credit system is not used for classes taken, the number of credits should be calculated by replacing the number of credits with the number of courses.

(Note 2) If the student is a transfer student, the number of credits after transfer should be used.

(Note 3) Evaluations that are not included in the above table (e.g., "Approved", "Passed", etc.) should not be included.

(Note 4) If a fractional number appears in the academic record score, it should be rounded down to two decimal places.

(Note 5) For grades not included in the above table (e.g., "8", "10", etc.), the official conversion table (e.g., 100-point conversion table) of the university that issued the student's transcript and the local government or other official organization should be used to calculate the academic record score, if available.

6) English proficiency requirements:

Applicants must have a score equivalent to or higher than English level B2^{##} of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of application.

or

Applicants must have completed an educational program that meets the qualifications for admission to a master's or doctoral course program at a graduate school in Japan with English as the primary language.

^{##}Applicants with the English level B2 of the CEFR are those who;

- can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in their field of specialization.
- can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
- can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

Examples of the equivalent score on language test of the same level of B2

Cambridge ESOL	160-179
IELTS	5.5-6.5
TOEFL iBT	72-94
TOEIC L&R	L(400～) + R(385～)
TOEIC S&W	S(160～) + W(150～)

7) Health

You must be physically and mentally capable of pursuing studies in Japan.

8) Arrival in Japan

If enrolling in October, arrive in Japan on one of the days designated by your host university between 14 days before (could be in Sep or Oct) and 14 days after the first day of 2nd semester.

9) Visa Requirement and Residence Status

Successful applicants should obtain student visa prior to the departure from your country, and enter Japan with “Student” resident status (specified as “College Student” on Japanese visa stickers). Your visa must be issued by the Embassy or Consulate of Japan located in the country of your nationality. Please note that changing resident status other than College Student after arrival in Japan automatically revokes your MEXT scholarship student status. If you do not obtain ”student” resident visa at arrival, your scholarship will not be paid.

*For Domestic Applicants

If your residence status in Japan is not “student”, you have to change your status to “student” at the Immigration Services Agency in Japan before the enrollment day of the host university. The applicants must begin their academic courses with the residence status “student”. Please note that you cannot receive the scholarship when you have not changed your residence status before your course begins.

If your residence status is already “student” and it will expire within your scholarship period, please note that you have to finish the extension of the residence status before the enrollment day of the host university.

10) Ineligibility

Those who meet any of following criteria, are not eligible for the MEXT scholarship. You must decline the awarded scholarship if an ineligibility is found after scholarship approval:

- i) Active service members or civilian employees of foreign armed forces;
- ii) Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the date designated by Japanese government (MEXT) or their host universities;

iii) Those who have ever received any of Japanese government (MEXT) scholarships in the past, including ones who declined after arrival in Japan, and has yet to have teaching or research experience for three years or more between a month after the final provision of scholarship through the start month of the scholarship support.

However, this does not apply to the applications to this scholarship (for research students) from the past scholarship recipients of Japanese Studies Program (who returned and graduated from or will graduate from home university), Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments or Young Leaders' Program (past recipients of MEXT scholarship can be the applicants);

iv) Those who have applied for another MEXT scholarship for 2023 fiscal year (e.g. Teacher Training) aside from this scholarship;

v) Those who are already in Japan. It includes those who has already been enrolled in universities in Japan with Exchange student status on their residence card, and those who are enrolled or scheduled to be enrolled at universities in Japan as self-fund exchange student at the point of this application to the beginning scholarship grant period.

vi) Those who are to be granted scholarship by agencies other than Japanese Government(MEXT), including their home country government agencies, during this scholarship grant period.

vii) A prospective graduate who cannot meet academic qualifications and other criteria by a designated date;

viii) A dual citizen who cannot prove renunciation of his/her Japanese citizenship by the enrollment day of the host university in Japan;

ix) Those who are intending to engage in research work outside Japan, e.g., internship, field work etc., or planning to take leave of absence at the point of application.

x) Those who has no intention to take a degree.

2. Scholarship Period

The scholarships will be granted during the standard academic years of the enrolled program.

- 3 years for a doctoral course
- 2 years for a master's course*

*When you go on to a doctoral degree after completing a master's program, you must apply for an extension of scholarship.

3. Scholarship Benefits

1) Scholarship Allowance:

Master's degree program student – JPY144,000/month

Doctoral program student – JPY145,000/month

(JPY2,000-3,000 may be added monthly if you undertake study or research in specific regions of the country. The above figures are subject to change upon annual budget review.)

The scholarship will not be paid during leave of absence or being absent for a long period of time.

2) Travel Expenses

i) Inbound airfare to Japan and associated costs

MEXT determines your travel itinerary and route, and provides you with an economy class air ticket between the international airport closest to your home address* (generally in the country of nationality), and Tokyo Narita Airport or one of the most functional and rational airport in Japan to access your host university. (It is not applied for the Domestic Applicants as they are already in Japan). You must pay for the costs incurred beyond the above airfare, including the transportation from your home to the airport of departure, airport taxes and fees, taxes associated with overseas travel, domestic transport in Japan (incl. connecting flights), travel insurance and baggage charge.

If you have to go to different country of your citizenship for the reason of visa application to Japan embassy or transfer to the international airport, you are supposed to pay the transportation fees. MEXT will not pay the travel cost if you depart from the different country by your personal reason.

*Your home address should match the one provided on your scholarship application. If your home address when leaving your country is to change, the new address is recognized as your home address in this clause (must be the one in the country of nationality).

ii) Outbound airfare to your home country

MEXT provides you with an economy class air ticket between Tokyo Narita Airport or one of the gateway international airports most frequently used by your host university, to the international airport closest to your home address (generally in the country of nationality) along your request. You must leave Japan in the final month of your scholarship period to qualify for the free ticket.

Outbound travel expenses will not be funded if you remain in Japan after the end of scholarship period.

3) Tuition and other academic fees

Host universities cover the entrance examination fee, matriculation fee and tuition for their scholarship recipients.

4. Cancellation policy

Scholarship will be cancelled for the following circumstances. If you have already received the scholarship allowance under the false conditions, you may be ordered to reimburse the paid scholarship for the relevant period:

- i) False statements are found in the scholarship application documents;
- ii) Violation by a scholarship recipient of the pledge he/she and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology agreed;
- iii) Scholarship recipient violates Japanese law and sentenced life or over one year of imprisonment;
- iv) Scholarship recipient faces disciplinary action such as dismissal from university, or has his/her name struck off the university register (the scholarship allowance may be suspended during the suspension period before the final decision is made by the university);
- v) Host university determines that the scholarship recipient cannot complete studies within the standard length of his/her program on the grounds of unsatisfactory academic performance, or suspension or leave of absence from his/her course of study.
- vi) The residence status of scholarship recipient is changed to other than Student (College Student) which is defined in the Appended Table 1-4 of the Immigration Control Act. Domestic Applicants are not eligible to apply if they begin their courses without a residence status of “Student”. It is not also possible for them if a residence status of “student” is changed to other residence status.
- vii) Recipient of this scholarship is found having also taken another scholarship offer (excluding the ones of limited use for research purposes);
- viii) Scholarship recipient proceeds to a higher degree program without having his/her scholarship extension application approved; or
- ix) A withdrawal or dismissal from the host university, or a transfer to a course in a graduate school of another university.
- x) When the academic record score go below 2.30 or the criteria stated by host university go below average at each point in time every one year.