

Basic requirements: 2027 MEXT Scholarship for Graduate Students [Special Program: International Graduate Course for Data-driven and Hypothesis-driven Science (IGC-DHS)]

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, 1992. (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,
- Condensed Matter Physics
- CosmoSciences
- Natural History Sciences
 - Earth and Planetary Dynamics
 - Earth and Planetary System Science
 - 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 current students, calculate the academic record score for the program in which they are currently enrolled.

For working adults, calculate the academic record score for the last university/college attended.

Calculation Procedure

Classification	Evaluation Grading				
		Excellent	Good	Passing	Failing
4 level scale		A	B	C	F
		100~80	79~70	69~60	59~
	S	A	B	C	F
5 level scale	A	B	C	D	F
	100~90	89~80	79~70	69~60	59~
	Evaluation point	3	2	1	0

(Formula of the academic record score)

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

(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:

- ① Applicants must pass or achieve scores in English language proficiency tests that correspond to B2^{##} or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of application.
- ② Applicants must complete school curricula that meet the conditions for admission in master's or doctoral courses at a Japanese grade school by using English as the main language.
- ③ Applicants are regarded by accepting universities as having English language ability equivalent to or better than ①

##To demonstrate a CEFR B2 English level, applicants must be able to:

- Understand the main ideas of complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in their field of specialization;
- Interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party;
- 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; and
- Submit English language test score(s) obtained in or after December 2024, or a relevant substitute certificate.

Examples of scores equivalent to or higher than CEFR B2

Cambridge ESOL	160(all four skills)~
IELTS	5.5(all four skills)~
TOEFL iBT	72(R18~,L17~,S20~,W17~)~
TOEIC L&R / TOEIC S&W	L(400~) + R(385~) / S(160~) + W(150~)

(Note) Applicants must have a score equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher on a test that assesses all four skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

For example, applicants are required to take both TOEIC L&R and TOEIC S&W and have a score equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher in all four skills.

7) Health

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

8) Arrival in Japan

In principle, successful applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by Hokkaido University within two weeks before and after the starting date (October) of the second semester.

9) Visa Requirement / Status of Residence

Successful applicants shall, in principle, newly 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.”

Please also note that if a successful applicant arrives in Japan without newly obtaining a “Student” visa, scholarship payments will be cancelled. Note that the Japanese government requires pre-arrival tuberculosis screening for some countries. Successful applicants shall follow guidance at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant’s country of nationality.

*** Visa requirements and status of residence for domestic recommenders**

For those whose current status of residence in Japan is not “Student”, they must change their status of residence to "Student" at the local Immigration Services Agency in Japan by time of registration as students at the accepting university. Even in cases of having other statuses of residence ("Permanent Resident," "Long Term Resident", etc.), applicants must change their status to "Student" and begin their courses of study as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students. It is important to note that applications for "Permanent Resident" or "Long Term Resident" status after status of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship student ends, may not be granted as a matter of course. Also, if studies as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students begin without changing status of residence to "Student," scholarships will be canceled.

For those whose current status of residence is “Student,” they must complete the renewal procedures before the expiration of their periods of stay. Additionally, in the event of changes in school enrollment, notification must be submitted pursuant to the provisions of Article 19-16 of the Immigration-Control and Refugee-Recognition Act.

10) Non-Eligibility

Those who meet any one of the following criteria are ineligible for this scholarship. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship.

- 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 date specified by MEXT or the host university;
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). However, this does not apply to those who wish to apply for Research Students program and meet any one of the following conditions. In addition, since the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship

for Privately-Financed International Students does not apply to the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs, the previous grantees can apply.

- those who have at least three years of educational or work experience following the end of the payment of the previous scholarship and the start of this scholarship;
 - the past grantees of Japanese Studies Students program who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Young Leaders' Program;
 - those who have obtained or are expected to obtain a degree as undergraduate students of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (university recommendation/special selection).
- ④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2027;
 - ⑤ Those who are planning to receive scholarship money from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country) on top of the scholarship money provided by MEXT after the start of the scholarship payment (the acquisition of student status);
 - ⑥ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
 - ⑦ 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 (the acquisition of student status);
 - ⑧ Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the university;
 - ⑨ Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.

This guideline has been prepared based on previous application guidelines issued by MEXT. Please note that the selection process conducted by our Graduate School and the recommendation to MEXT will be carried out in accordance with the latest application guidelines.