

**Reference: Outline of the Scholarship System for
Monbukagakusho (MEXT) University Recommendation Scholarship; and
Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship
(September 2021 Enrollment)**

***Covid-19 considerations are emboldened and in red.**

I. Application Requirements

Nationality: Applicant must be a national of a country that has formal relations with Japan and must intend to come to Japan from their home country for the purpose of studying.

Age: Applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1986.

Health: Applicants must have no physical or mental obstacles to studying in Japan.

Arrival in Japan: If accepted, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan in mid-September on a date specified by the university.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility conditions:

- 1) Applicant must not be active duty military or military-employed civilian.
- 2) If applicant previously received a Japanese government scholarship, they must have completed at least three (3) years of education or research activity since the completion of sponsored studies. (Students who received a Japanese Language or Culture scholarship from MEXT, or the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students (“JASSO” scholarship), are exempt from the waiting period. Students who received MEXT SGU scholarship are also exempt from this waiting period, but only if they are applying to a graduate school which is recruiting MEXT SGU scholarship applicants. The waiting period applies to current and former MEXT SGU scholarship recipients if they are applying to a graduate school which is only recruiting applicants for the MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship.)
- 3) Applicant must not be receiving or scheduled to receive scholarship from any other organization or government, including in the applicant’s home country.
- 4) Applicants who have applied to another university under this same scholarship, who are currently applying for any other MEXT scholarship or for the JASSO short-term student exchange program, may not apply.
- 5) Applicant must agree that if he/she is selected for recommendation for scholarship and agrees to accept the recommendation, that he/she will immediately withdraw any other concurrent applications for scholarship, whether in Japan or overseas.
- 6) Applicant must not already be scheduled to enter a university in Japan in 2021.
*Applicants will have to acquire a “Student” Visa in their home country before traveling to Japan.
*Mid-program transfer to other universities with MEXT scholarship is not possible.
*If accepted, applicants are highly recommended to bring sufficient funds to Japan to cover initial living expenses for their first 5-6 weeks before payment of the first scholarship stipend. **Under normal circumstances** preparing approximately 200,000 to 250,000 Japanese Yen is generally more than enough, **however, until the worldwide Covid-19 situation is resolved, preparing an extra emergency fund of 100,000 – 150,000 Yen for a grand total of 300,000 – 500,000 is recommended.**
- 7) After enrollment, scholars must be able to maintain a yearly grade point average of 2.30 or higher out of 3.00 (MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship) or 2.50 out of 3.00 (MEXT SGU Scholarship).

II. Scholarship Summary

Monthly Allowance: JPY 143,000-145,000 (based on 2020 figures. The amount is subject to change according to budgetary constraints and cost of goods.

Tuition: Students will be exempted from paying tuition fees while under scholarship.

Travel: (to Japan)

As a rule, students will be provided a one-way, economy-class ticket from the International Airport nearest their residence to Kansai International Airport. **For 2021, however, arrival may be limited to Narita International Airport due to Covid-19 restraints. Information will be provided just prior to the arrangement of tickets, one to two weeks prior to travel.** Travel to the airport in their home country and travel within Japan are at the expense of the student. Travel must originate from the student’s home country.

(return)

Students who leave Japan during the month of completing their scholarship-sponsored studies will be provided an economy-class ticket from the international airport closest to their university (Kansai International Airport) to the international airport closest to their home.

III. Scholarship period: Scholarship periods vary by scholarship type and degree program.

Monbukagakusho (MEXT) University Recommendation Scholarship

- 1) Master’s program students: October 2021 – September 2023
 Doctoral program students: October 2021 – September 2024
- 2) MEXT scholars enrolled in a Master's degree program who wish to progress to a Doctoral degree program at Ritsumeikan University *may* be permitted to extend their scholarship award to cover enrollment in a Doctoral program (36 months) if they meet standards for enrollment, pass a rigorous internal review and a final evaluation by MEXT. However, handling of extension applications varies and not all scholars are eligible to apply for this extension (dependent on MEXT extension guidelines to be released at a later date, type of MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship slot granted, continued availability of scholarship at the student’s graduate school of enrollment, etc.).
- 3) If students leave Ritsumeikan University for any reason, they will not be able to receive their scholarship.

*The preceding is based on the MEXT Scholarship System as of 2020. Conditions may change for 2021 entrance.

Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship

- 1) Ritsumeikan University selects students to be recommended for a total of two years of SGU scholarship, provided the student continues to meet MEXT’s scholarship recommendation criteria during enrollment.
 Master’s program students: October 2021 – September 2023

About the Duration of the SGU Scholarship: MEXT SGU scholarships at Ritsumeikan are generally granted to students from October, however the SGU scholarship itself occurs 1 year at a time according to the Japanese fiscal year (April~March). This means that September enrollees initially receive scholarship from **October to March** of the following year (6 months). After this, provided they still meet all of MEXT’s recommendation criteria, the university submits an additional recommendation to MEXT for a continuation of SGU scholarship from **April to March** of the following year (12 months). Finally, provided the student once again meets all recommendation criteria the process is then repeated one final time for a continuation of scholarship from **April to September** (6 months).

RU sends recommendation to MEXT scholarship 1 st	SGU Scholarship Award Period no. 1	RU sends recommendation to MEXT scholarship 2 nd	SGU Scholarship Award Period no. 2	RU sends recommendation to MEXT scholarship 3 rd	SGU Scholarship Award Period no. 3
	10/2021~3/2022 Fall Semester 2021 (6 months)		4/2022~3/2023 Spring and Fall Semesters 2022 (12 months)		4/2023~9/2023 Spring Semester 2023 (6 months)

- 2) As a rule, Ritsumeikan University does not recommend Doctoral students for MEXT SGU Scholarship, therefore, advancement from a MEXT SGU scholarship-sponsored Master’s degree program to a Doctoral degree program with continued MEXT SGU scholarship is not possible at Ritsumeikan University.
- 3) If students leave Ritsumeikan University for any reason, they will not be able to receive their scholarship.

*The preceding is based on the MEXT Scholarship System as of 2020. Conditions may change for 2021 entrance.