

**Reference: Outline of the Scholarship System for
Monbukagakusho (MEXT) University Recommendation Scholarship; and
Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship
(September 2022 Enrollment)**

Ritsumeikan University
International Center
October 2021

***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, 1987.

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 2022 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 a 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) Persons 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 that recommendation, that he/she will immediately withdraw any other concurrent applications for scholarship, whether in Japan or overseas.
- 6) Applicant may 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 JPY is generally more than enough, **however, until the worldwide Covid-19 situation is resolved, preparing an extra 200,000 JPY for costs related to post-arrival quarantine and so on for a grand total of 400,000 – 450,000 JPY is highly 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 2021 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 2022, 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. As a rule, 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 (varies by scholarship type and degree program), etc.

1. Monbukagakusho (MEXT) University Recommendation Scholarship

- 1) Master's Program Scholarship Duration: October 2022 – September 2024
Doctoral Program Scholarship Duration: October 2022 – September 2025
- 2) MEXT scholars enrolled in a Master's degree program who wish to progress to a Doctoral degree program at Ritsumeikan University may be granted an extension of 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 (in addition to only a limited number of scholarship extensions being available each year, extension eligibility is dependent on MEXT's 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 enrolled graduate school, etc.).
- 3) If a scholar leaves Ritsumeikan University for any reason, they will not be able to receive scholarship.

*The preceding is based on the MEXT Scholarship System as of 2021. Conditions may change in the future.

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

Master's/Doctoral Programs with Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship

1)

Notice Regarding the Completion of the Top Global University Project (SGU)

The MEXT Top Global University Project itself will come to a close on March 31, 2024. In conjunction with this, the MEXT Top Global University Project (SGU) Scholarship will cease to exist from April 2024 onward. Therefore, at most, the maximum possible duration of scholarship is the one-year and six-month period beginning from October 2022 and ending March 2024. In other words, applicants selected for this scholarship who enroll with the university will become self-financed students for the final portion of their standard program duration (Master's students: the last six-months (April 2024 to September 2024); Doctoral students: The last one-year and six-months (April 2024 to September 2025). Applicants must be fully aware of this fact and accept these conditions prior to submitting an application to the university.

Further, before submitting an application, applicants must familiarize themselves with the amount of tuition fees, etc. they will be responsible to pay for once they lose their status as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholar and become a self-financed student. See the link below for tuition fees, etc. for 2022 enrollees.

http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gr/exam/pdf/point/eng2022_gakuhi.pdf?version=

Finally, applicants must be aware that while they will be able to apply for Tuition Reduction and scholarship to help cover the costs of tuition fees and living expenses after becoming a self-financed student, competition is fierce and there is no guarantee for additional scholarship selection. Thus, those who intend to apply must begin planning ahead from before they submit an application to the university so that they will be able to cover the costs of their tuition and related fees, living costs, a return flight to their home country and so on once they have become a self-financed student.

- 2) **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 will submit an additional recommendation to MEXT for a continuation of SGU scholarship from **April to March** of the following year (12 months).

RU sends 1 st scholarship recommendation to MEXT	SGU Scholarship Award Period no. 1	RU sends 2 nd scholarship recommendation to MEXT	SGU Scholarship Award Period no. 2
	10/2022~3/2023 Fall Semester 2022 (6 months)		4/2023~3/2024 Spring and Fall Semesters 2023 (12 months)
<p>For the final semester of the scheduled 2-year duration of the Master's Program, or for the final 3 semesters of the scheduled 3-year duration of the Doctoral Program, the MEXT SGU Scholarship ends, the scholar loses their status as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholar, and the scholar instead becomes a self-financed student. From that point onward the student is responsible to pay for his or her own tuition and related fees, living expenses, and flight home should he or she choose to return home after completion of studies.</p>			

- 3) If a scholar leaves Ritsumeikan University for any reason, they will not be able to receive scholarship.
- 4) A return flight ticket will be issued only to MEXT SGU Scholars who graduate early by the end of March 2024, and who will return to their home country by the end of the same month.