

**Reference: Outline of the Scholarship System for
Japanese Government
Monbukagakusho (MEXT) University Recommendation Scholarship
(September 2026 Enrollment)**

Ritsumeikan University
International Center
November 2025

The Japanese Government MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship is a prestigious “full-ride” scholarship sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (which is abbreviated to MEXT in English, and known as the “Monbukagakusho” in Japanese) and the Japanese host universities. Recipients of this award, referred to as MEXT Scholars, are high academic achievers who are expected to go on to act as bridges between Japan and their home countries and contribute to the overall good of society.

I. Application Requirements

- Nationality: Applicant must be a national of a country that has formal relations with Japan, must currently reside outside of Japan, and must intend to come to Japan from their home country for the purpose of studying.
Persons currently residing in Japan who wish to enroll in either the Graduate School of **Science and Engineering or the Graduate School of **Life Sciences**, however, may also apply.*
- Age: Applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1991.
- Health: Applicants must have no physical or mental obstacles to studying in Japan.
- Arrival in Japan: Applicants must be willing to arrive in Japan in mid-September 2026 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, research activities or formal employment since the completion of sponsored studies.
**Students who received a Japanese Language or Culture scholarship from MEXT (“Nikkensei”), or the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students (“JASSO” scholarship), are exempt from the waiting period. Students who received a MEXT Scholarship to complete their undergraduate studies may also be exempt from this waiting period, and should consult with the International Center at cger-bkc@st.ritsumei.ac.jp prior to application to clarify.*
- 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 they are selected for recommendation for scholarship and agree to accept recommendation, that they 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 2026.
**Applicants will need to newly acquire a “Student” Visa in their home country just prior to traveling Japan. For reference, the process is expedited for MEXT Scholars and does not require a COE.
**Mid-degree-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. Preparing approximately 200,000 to 250,000 Japanese Yen is generally more than enough.*
- 7) After enrollment, scholars must be able to maintain a yearly grade point average of 2.30 or higher out of 3.00.

II. Scholarship Summary

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

Admission Fee: Waived

& Tuition: Tuition: Waived during the scholarship award period
Award Period: Master's Students : 2 years, the standard length of our Master's Program
Doctoral Students: 3 years, the standard length of our Doctoral Program
Travel: (to Japan)

As a rule, Scholars will be provided a one-way, economy-class ticket from the International Airport nearest their home residence to Kansai International Airport (KIX), the nearest international hub to the university. Travel to the airport in their home country and travel within Japan are at the expense of the Scholar. Travel must originate from the Scholar's home country.
(return)

Scholars who graduate from their program within the timeframe of their scholarship award period who leave Japan during the month of their graduation will be provided an economy-class ticket from the international airport closest to their university, Kansai International Airport (KIX), to the international airport closest to their residence in their home country.

III. Possibility of Extension of Master's Program Scholarship to cover Doctoral Program Enrollment

- 1) MEXT Scholars enrolled in a Master's Degree program who wish to progress to a Doctoral Degree program *may* be granted an extension of their scholarship award period to cover enrollment into a Doctoral Program *if* they meet standards for enrollment, pass a rigorous internal university review, and a final evaluation by MEXT. Eligibility to apply for extension varies based on scholarship subcategory and annual budgetary restraints, however, and not all scholars are eligible to apply for this extension every year.

*The preceding is based on the MEXT Scholarship System as of 2025 and conditions may change in the future.