

Application guidelines for 2026 Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship (JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS) (Niigata University Recommendation)

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The following document is an excerpt of the MEXT Scholarship application guidelines (Japanese version) published annually by MEXT. Niigata University translated and extracted essential matters for people interested in studying in Japan (for "general section" for "JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS) (Niigata University Recommendation)" only.)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to study for a period of one year at Niigata university as Japanese Studies Students in order to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs and Japanese culture under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program as follows.

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

(1) Eligibility

Those who are newly studying at Niigata University from overseas for the purpose of improving their Japanese language skills and understanding of Japanese circumstances and culture.

(2) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan.

(3) Age: In principle, applicants must be born between April 2, 1996, and April 1, 2008.

(4) Academic Background: Applicants must satisfy the following three conditions

① Applicants, in principle, must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan.

② Those who are majoring in fields related to the Japanese language and/or Japanese culture. On the other hand, those who are majoring in fields of study other than Japanese language and culture (such as engineering, economics, agricultural science, architecture, and art) and pursuing complementary studies in Japanese language and culture are ineligible.

③ Those who have studied the Japanese Studies at a university for a total period of one year or more as of September 1, 2026. Those who have studied Japanese Studies at another

university should submit documents (transcript of grades at another university, etc.) which can verify that the applicant has studied Japanese Studies for a total period of one year or more at the attended universities including current university.

(5) Japanese Language Ability: Applicants must be fluent in Japanese, satisfying any of the following conditions.

- ① Applicants who have passed the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level N2 or higher at the time of regular degree course enrollment.
- ② Applicants that Niigata university can determine as possessing the Japanese language proficiency equivalent to criteria 1. or better.

(6) Health: Those who have been determined by Niigata University to have no physical or mental problems with studying in Japan.

(7) Arrival in Japan: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan between September 17th and October 1st. Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above which decided by MEXT or Niigata university. If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the specified period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.

(8) Visa Requirement: An applicant 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 newly obtained residence status of “Student.”

(9) Non-Eligibility: Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. 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 last date of the period specified by MEXT or the accepting university
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan).
- ④ Those who are currently also applying for another program for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal 2026 through a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship

scheme including University Recommended Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for Japanese Studies Students

- ⑤ Those residing in Japan at the time of application
- ⑥ Those who are planning to receive scholarship contributed by the Japanese government or Japanese government-related organizations after the start of this scholarship payment period
- ⑦ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of their arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status)
- ⑧ Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan

(10) Return and Continue to Study after the End of the Scholarship Period: Applicants must assure that they return to their home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of their institution which applicants had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan. **If a grantee does not satisfy both conditions, he/she may be ordered to return the entire amount of the scholarship paid during the scholarship period. Those who are uncertain about returning and continuing to study after the end of the scholarship period should not apply for this program.**

(11) Others: MEXT Scholarship will be granted those who are willing to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in activities at schools and communities during their study in Japan while contributing to the internationalization of Japan. They shall also make efforts to promote relations between the home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended after graduation, cooperating with the conducting of surveys and questionnaires, and cooperating with relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions after they return to their home countries.

2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

2026/10~2027/8

3. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

(1) Allowance: After arrival in Japan, 117,000 yen per month will be paid.

(2) Travel Expenses

① Transportation to Japan: MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to Niigata university.

The travel schedule change or route change is not allowed after provision of airline ticket. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the grantee's residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc.

② Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall complete the study course at Niigata University and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period (See "2. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP") designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from an international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from Niigata University to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The travel schedule change or route change is not allowed after provision of airline ticket. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence in Japan to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. If a grantee returns to the home country before the end of the scholarship period due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

If a grantee will also not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period, or will not resume his/her studies at the undergraduate program of their home institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan, MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Payment of the scholarship will be cancelled for the reasons given below. Should any of the following reasons apply, the grantee may be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter:

- ① A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application
- ② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- ③ A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period of exceeding 1 year
- ④ A grantee is suspended from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting university
- ⑤ Those who are already enrolled at a Japanese university with a residence status of "Student" at the time of application, and who are enrolled at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student from the time of application for this scholarship in their home country until the start of the scholarship payment period, or those who are planning to enroll.
- ⑥ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the study course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university
- ⑦ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than "Student"
- ⑧ A grantee has received another scholarship which must not be received in combination with this scholarship (scholarship contributed by the Japanese government or Japanese government-related organizations)
- ⑨ A grantee does not return to his/her home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and does not continue to study Japanese language and culture at the undergraduate program of his/her institution which had enrolled at the time of the arrival in Japan