

2026 Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship (University Recommendation Students)

Note to Readers: This is an English translation of major points of the Monbukagakusho (MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship announcement, prepared by Keio University with explanatory remarks. Refer to the official announcement in Japanese for full and exact details.

The official announcement is available at:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/1423055_00022.htm (Only in Japanese)

The Japanese Government offers this scholarship to international graduate-level students who wish to study at Keio University from a foreign country as a regular student on a graduate degree program or as a non-degree research student who intends to proceed to a graduate degree program of Keio University in the period of the payment of the scholarship.

*Note: Applicants must enter Japan with a newly acquired residence status of ‘Student’.

I. Eligibility and Requirements

1. If applicants are not currently enrolled in the university, they must have a grade point of 2.30 or above in the institute they most recently graduated from. If applicants who are now pursuing undergraduate or graduate degree, they must have a grade point of 2.30 or above in their current universities. Furthermore, all applicants must be expected to maintain this grade point during the period of the payment of the scholarship.
*** Grade points shall be calculated according to a formula specified by MEXT.**
2. Applicants must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application will not be eligible. However, holders of dual nationality who are able to certify the renunciation of Japanese nationality before arriving to Japan will be eligible.
3. Applicants must have been born on or after **April 2, 1991** and be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue study at university.
4. Applicants must satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to a Japanese graduate school.
5. Applicants should apply for the field of study they studied at the previous universities or any related fields. Applicants must choose the field in which they can receive instruction and perform research at the universities of their choice.
6. Applicants must have a high level of proficiency in Japanese or English to obtain a degree in the universities of their choice.

7. Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan within two weeks before/after the date set by the accepting universities to make it in time for the beginning of the semester (in principle, in September). Travel expenses will not be provided if the applicant chooses to travel to Japan before/after these set dates. The applicants should also be aware that the scholarship may be cancelled if he/she arrive in Japan later than the set dates.
8. Applicants shall, in principle, newly obtain a “Student” visa at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant’s country of nationality and enter Japan with the residence status of “Student.” Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other residence status (“Permanent resident,” “Long-term resident,” etc.), the applicant must change it to the “Student” status and re-enter Japan. Moreover, the applicant should be aware that after the expiration of status as a MEXT Scholarship student, even if the student re-applies for their original resident status of “Permanent resident” or “Long-term resident,” such resident statuses might not be necessarily granted. The applicant should also be aware that the scholarship will be cancelled if he/she arrived in Japan without a newly obtained “Student” visa.
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.
 - (a) 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;
 - (b) Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the period designated by MEXT or the accepting university;
 - (c) Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). This does not apply to: those who have educational or work experience exceeding more than three years from the following month of the period of the previous scholarship to the estimated first month of the payment of this scholarship ; and 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 earned or expect to earn bachelors’ degrees as grantees of a special program of MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation). The Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs;
 - (d) Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system for which scholarship payments will begin in FY 2026. If it is found out that an applicant is concurrently applying for another program, he/she shall not be selected as a grantee of any MEXT scholarship program including this University Recommendation;
 - (e) Those who are staying in Japan at the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program excluding the ones who are temporarily visiting Japan for the purpose of tourism or the like;

- (f) Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others after the start of the scholarship payment period;
- (g) Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions related to academic background by the deadline given;
- (h) 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;
- (i) 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;
- (j) Those who intend to keep the status of non-degree research student and do not plan to proceed to a regular graduate program in order to obtain a degree. ;

II. Conditions

Candidates must be accepted by a graduate school of Keio University as full-time students in a Master's Program, Doctoral Program, or Professional Degree Program, or as Short-Term International students (non-degree research students), and be nominated by each graduate school. All of the application documents must be received by the deadline specified by the nominating graduate school.

If applicant is selected as a grantee of MEXT Scholarship, he/she should aim to arrive in Japan in mid-September 2026 for the beginning of the semester. Applicant should be aware that the scholarship will be granted from October 2026, even if his/her arrival month is September.

The term of scholarship will differ as follows depending on the course a grantee takes in Japan:

If grantee enrolls in a master's, doctoral, or professional degree program after coming to Japan, regardless of the time of his/her arrival in Japan, the scholarship period shall be the necessary period for the completion of the respective regular course (hereinafter referred to "the standard period of study").

In a case where grantee will enroll as a short-term international student, the scholarship period will last from October 2026 until the end of March 2028.

If a grantee desires to proceed to a regular graduate program from a short-term international student, or to a doctoral program from a master's or professional degree program, he/she may have the term of his/her scholarship extended upon a successful examination by MEXT provided that he/she has outstanding academic achievement that meets certain criteria. (Grantee as a short-term international student cannot have the term of his/her scholarship extended. If grantee proceeds to a higher level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the term of the scholarship, the scholarship

will be cancelled.) Extension of the MEXT Scholarship will not be granted if a grantee of MEXT Scholarship is progressing to a university other than Keio University.

III. Other Details Concerning the Scholarship

Contents of the Scholarship:

1. Monthly Scholarship Amount: The amount for 2026 is ¥146,000 - ¥148,000 per month, depending on the scholarship grantee's status (Short-Term International student/Master's Program student/Doctoral Program student/Professional Degree Program student) and the location of the scholarship grantee's campus.

※ Please note that these amounts are subject to change depending on the annual budget of each year.

※ Payment of the scholarship will be stopped 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.

(a) A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;

(b) A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;

(c) A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period exceeding 1 year;

(d) A grantee is suspended from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;

(e) It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university;

(f) A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than "Student";

(g) A grantee has received another scholarship (a scholarship or fellowship from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship; (h) A grantee proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship;

(i) A grantee withdraws from his/her academic institution or transfers to another graduate school or university.

2. The tuition fees:

The fees for the entrance examination and the tuition at Keio University will be borne by Keio University.

3. Traveling Costs:

(Transportation to Japan)

Scholars will be provided with an economy-class ticket for the flight from the International Airport closest to the grantee's residence in their home country to Narita or Haneda International Airport. Airport taxes, domestic travel within their home country, travel expenses within Japan, travel insurance expenses, luggage expenses, etc. are at the expense of the scholars themselves.

(Transportation from Japan)

When scholars who graduate from their program within the timeframe of their scholarship period are leaving Japan in the last month of their scholarship period, an economy-class ticket from Narita or Haneda airport to the International Airport closest to the grantee's residence in their home country will be provided. Airport taxes, travel expenses within Japan, domestic travel within their home country, travel insurance expenses, luggage expenses, etc. are at the expense of the scholars themselves.

IV. Application Documents

Please refer to "Check List" sent from the nominating graduate school.

Notes:

1. Applicant is required to prepare all the documents in either Japanese or English. A document written in any other language must have a Japanese translation attached. It is strongly requested that the documents be typed or be printed on A4 paper.
2. Application materials will not be returned.
3. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

V. Announcement of the Scholarship Award

Keio University is expected to receive the screening results from the MEXT in June 2026.

VI. Accommodation

MEXT Scholarship grantees must arrange accommodation by themselves.