APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2022
WITH KOBE UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION
(JAPANESE STUDIES STUDENTS)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study at Japanese universities as a Japanese Studies student under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2022 as follows.

I. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

(1) Eligibility
1. Applicants must come to Japan as international students in order to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, Japanese affairs, and Japanese culture.
2. Applicants must be recommended by universities which have academic agreements with Kobe University.

(2) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible. However, persons with dual nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the foreign country and give up their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan.

(3) Age: Applicants, in principle, must be born between April 2, 1992 and April 1, 2004. Exceptions are limited to only those applicants deemed by MEXT to have been unable to apply within the period of age eligibility due to the system or circumstances (loss of educational opportunities due to military service obligation, war, etc.) in the country of nationality. Under no circumstances will exceptions be made for personal reasons (financial, family, health, university, employment situation, etc.)

(4) Academic Background: Applicants must satisfy the following two conditions.
1. Applicants must be undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan.
2. Those who have studied Japanese language or Japanese culture at a university for a total period of at least one year as of September 2022. Those who have studied Japanese at multiple universities should submit certification (transcript of grades at other universities etc.) that can verify that the applicant studied Japanese for a total period of at least one year.

(5) Japanese Language Ability: Applicants must possess the Japanese language ability necessary to complete a course of study in Japanese at Kobe University. This is equivalent to passing N2 level in the JLPT.

(6) Health: Applicants must be free from any mental or physical disabilities that would impede the pursuit of study at a Japanese university.

(7) Arrival in Japan: Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan within two weeks before the first day of the course set by the university in Japan (usually October) on the date set by the admitting university. (If the applicant arrives in Japan before this period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. Excluding cases of unavoidable circumstances, if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the designated period, the applicant must withdraw from the program.)

(8) Visa acquisition: Applicants should, in principle, acquire “Student” visas at the Japanese diplomatic missions located in the country of applicants’ nationality before entering Japan and enter Japan with “Student” residence status. To satisfy this requirement, even if an applicant already has another status of residence in Japan (“Permanent Resident,” “Long-Term Resident,” etc.), the applicant must change the visa status to “Student” and then re-enter Japan. Please be aware that even if the applicant applies for the permanent-resident or long-term resident status of residence after the expiration of the status as a Japanese Government Scholarship students, the possibility exists that the application may not be approved.
Any applicant who meets any or all of the following conditions is not eligible. If identified after the start of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship.

1. Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan;
2. Those who are unable to come to Japan on the date designated by their host institution;
3. Those who have received a Japanese Government Scholarship (Monbukagakusyo scholarship) in the past;
4. Those who make a double application to any of the other Japanese Government Scholarship (Monbukagakusyo scholarship) programs (Research Students Program, Undergraduate Student Program, Specialized Training College Students Program etc.);
5. Those who are currently enrolled at a Japanese university with a College Student (ryugaku) residence status; those enrolled, or scheduled to be enrolled, at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student during the period when the scholarship application was filed in the home country until prior to the start of the provision of the scholarship. However, even if the applicant is currently a privately financed international student studying in Japan, this restriction does not apply to an applicant who will certainly finish the current course before the start of the designated course at the Japanese university and will return to their home country;
6. Recipients of scholarships from institutions other than MEXT (including government institutions in their home countries) that overlap with the Japanese Government Scholarship (Prospective beneficiaries are included);
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

Return home and school:
Applicants must return to their home country and continue to study at their institution immediately after the end of the scholarship period. Should the applicant not return to the home country and resume work after the end of the scholarship period, the applicant must return the entire amount of the scholarship starting from the first payment.

The applicant shall 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 after the return home, and cooperating with all relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions in the applicant's country.

II. DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP
The duration is the period necessary to complete the admitting university's study course, which should be within 11 months from October 2022 (or the starting month for the study course). Extension of the period is prohibited.

III. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS
(1) Allowance:
117,000 yen per month. In case that the recipient researches in a designated region, 2,000 or 3,000 yen per month will be added. The monetary amount each year may be subject to change due to budgetary reasons. The scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the university for an extended period.

(2) Transportation:
   ① Transportation to Japan
   In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the recipient's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport in Japan on the normal route to the accepting university. The recipient shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the recipient'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, expenses related to accompanied or unaccompanied baggage, etc. (Although the address in the home country stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home country residence," if it will be changed at the time of leaving from his/her home country the changed address will be regarded as "home country residence.") The recipient shall also bear at his/her own expense travel from his/her home country to a third country and travel and lodging costs incurred in the third country if the recipient must travel to a third country before coming to
Japan for visa purposes because there are no Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country. In this case, MEXT will provide the airline ticket from the third country to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport in Japan on the normal route to the accepting university. In principle, MEXT will not provide the airline ticket in cases when the recipient arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality due to personal circumstances, excepting for the case that the recipient must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes.

2. Transportation from Japan

In principle, the recipient who returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy-class airline ticket for travel from the Narita International Airport or any other international airport in Japan that the accepting university usually uses to the international airport nearest to his/her home address, which in principle is in the country of nationality. The recipient shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the recipient's residence 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, expenses related to accompanied or unaccompanied baggage, etc. Should the recipient return to his/her home country before the end of the scholarship period due to personal circumstances, or reasons IV 1 to 7 below, the transportation fee for the return to the home country will not be provided. Should the recipient not return to his/her home country soon after the end of the scholarship period to resume his/her studies, the transportation fee for the return to the home country will also not be provided.

3. Tuition and Other Fees:

Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by the accepting university.

IV.

The scholarship will be also cancelled in principle in the following situations. If the recipient has been receiving the scholarship despite his/her falling under any of the following situations, the recipient will be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that he/she received during the period wherein he/she was involved with any of the following situations.

1. The recipient is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
2. The recipient violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
3. The recipient violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labor, for life or for a period exceeding 1 year;
4. The recipient is subjected to disciplinary action by the university, including expulsion;
5. It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the training course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension from the university;
6. The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than Student as defined in the Appended Table I-4 of the Immigration Act;
7. The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified for research expenditures).

V. SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Kobe University will carry out a screening of applicants by means of a review of the following documents and inform each university of the selection result around the middle of April, 2022.
2. MEXT will implement a final screening examination for applicants recommended by Kobe University and select the scholarship recipients and inform each university of the selection result in June, 2022.

VI. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

1. Application form (double-sided printing)
2. Photograph or digital image (size 4.5 × 3.5 cm, upper half of body, full-faced, hatless) taken within the past 6 months (pasted on the application forms)
3. Copy of passport, family register or certificate of citizenship of the applicant's country
4. Certificate of university enrollment
5. Certified academic transcripts for all years from the university the applicant is currently attending (please mark subjects related to Japanese language and Japanese culture).
6. Recommendation letter from the head of or academic advisor at the university the applicant is currently attending
to the President of Kobe University (Prof. FUJISAWA Masato)

(7) Documents verifying that the applicant has studied the Japanese language for at least one year. (Only for those who cannot verify that they studied Japanese for a total of at least one year at their current university.)

(8) Documented proof of Japanese-language ability

(9) Documented proof of English-language ability if the applicant has qualifications

*In principle, all documents must be written either in Japanese or English

VII. DEADLINE AND WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

(1) Deadline Must arrive by 12 March 2021 (email), 26 March 2021 (hard copies)

(2) Where to send International Exchange Division, Kobe University

   intl-exchange@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

   Address: 1-1 Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe, 657-8501 JAPAN

   TEL: + (81)-78-803-5262  FAX: + (81)-78-803-5289

VIII. NOTES

(1) If falsification is found in the application document, the entrance permission may be withdrawn.

(2) All applications will not be returned for any reason.

(3) Kobe University will provide a single room at a dormitory. Rooms for married couples or families are not provided.

(4) Those who have been studying abroad currently have to depart from an airport in the applicant’s homecountry.

(5) As the first installment of the scholarship payment cannot be provided immediately upon the recipient’s arrival, the recipient should bring approximately US $2,000 or the equivalent thereof to cover immediate needs after arrival in Japan.