

Frequently Asked Questions – MEXT Research Scholarship

If I get the scholarship, can I leave for Japan in time for the next semester?

- No. The total screening process, including application, interviews, and final selection by MEXT, takes approximately 9-10 months. Those who apply in spring 2024 will receive final selection notice in winter 2025 and depart in either spring or fall 2025.
- Note: MEXT Scholarship funds multiple years of higher education in pursuit of a degree and should **not** be considered a short-term study abroad opportunity.

My university won't give me a hard copy of my transcripts. What should I do?

- We will accept a digital transcript. Please use scholarship@ny.mofa.go.jp as the receiving address and have it sent directly to us. We will match it with your paper application.
- We will **not** accept a photocopy of your transcript or a photocopied signature.

My diploma is hanging in a frame. Do I have to send it in for proof of graduation?

- Please **do not** submit any documents that cannot be replaced.
- We will accept E-Verification (preferably emailed directly to us) or a signed letter from the registrar's office confirming your degree and date of graduation.
- If your transcript lists your date of graduation and the degree that you earned, it will suffice as proof of graduation.

I didn't pass the First Screening, and I accidentally submitted the only copy of my document / artwork. Can I get it back?

- We cannot mail your documents back to you. However, you may retrieve them in-person from our office. Please schedule an appointment with the MEXT Scholarship Coordinator.

My professor is abroad / on leave, and their letter of recommendation won't reach you before the deadline. What should I do?

- Please have them email the letter of recommendation in PDF form directly to our office (scholarship@ny.mofa.go.jp) in addition to a signed hard copy by mail.

The guidelines say to get a letter of recommendation from the Dean of Studies, but I don't know them well. Can I get a letter from a different professor?

- If you cannot obtain a letter from your dean or if they do not feel comfortable, we will accept a letter from the professor or advisor who is the most familiar with your academic work and can

most accurately advocate for you and the research you intend to do in Japan.

I'm interested in graduate studies with two different professors at the same university. Can I put the same school twice on the placement preference form?

- No. Please only list one university and one professor.
- An exception can be made if you are interested in two different schools within the university.

Should I write my application / research plan in English or Japanese?

- English is preferred. You may write your research plan in Japanese, but please prioritize accuracy and clarity.
- Note: If we find that any part of your application has been translated using an online engine / AI program, written by an outside party, or does not accurately represent your research or language ability, your application will be disqualified.

Do I have to be fluent in Japanese?

- Not necessarily. The level of a candidate's required fluency depends on their desired program / university / advisor.
- A conversational level of Japanese is highly recommended to assist with daily life in Japan.

I took the JLPT more than 5 years ago. Should I still submit my certificate?

- Feel free to submit all certifications. If it is deemed necessary, we will assess your current level of Japanese with a written test and during the interview.

I'm a US citizen living abroad. Can I apply for this scholarship from another country?

- We do not recommend applying from abroad. It is technically possible, but costly and difficult. Applicants may have to appear in-person at our New York office for a written exam and/or interview as part of the First Screening.
- All applications and visas must be processed at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of the applicant's nationality. You may not participate in the MEXT scholarship program under a visa obtained from a different university or program.
- If you are applying from Japan, please contact your desired university's international student department for information on how to apply for the MEXT scholarship directly through the university.

Can I take the interview and/or written exam virtually?

- No. In past years, interviews have been held virtually, but this may not always be the case.

Please be prepared to attend an in-person interview/exam.

- Note: It is **not possible** to take the written exam in a location or country other than the applicant's home consulate. No exceptions or accommodation can be made.

What's the best way to prepare for the written exam?

- The Study in Japan website has example tests from previous years.
- <https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/planning/scholarship/application/examination/>

My insurance doesn't cover parts of the Certificate of Health and it'll be expensive. Can I hold off on submitting it?

- Accommodation is possible. Please contact the MEXT Scholarship Coordinator.

For additional inquiries, please contact the MEXT Scholarship Coordinator at scholarship@ny.mofa.go.jp or call (212) 418-4463, Mon-Fri 10AM-5PM.

Consulate General of Japan in New York, MEXT Scholarship Office

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