# APPLICATION GUIDELINES
# JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2027
# (RESEARCH STUDENTS : For Indian Railways)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to study in graduate courses at Japanese universities as Research Students (either regular students or non-regular students) under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program as follows.

## 1. DEFINITION OF "RESEARCH STUDENTS"

Those who are enrolled in a master's course, a doctoral course, or a professional graduate course at a graduate school, or who are conducting research in a specialized field at an undergraduate department, graduate school, institute attached to a university, etc. with the aim of completing the course, or who are receiving preparatory education in the Japanese language and other subjects prior to placement at the university, etc. (Excluding Young Leaders' Program Students or Teacher Training Students.)

## 2. FIELDS OF STUDY

Applicants should apply for the field of study they majored in at university or its related field(s). Moreover, the fields of study must be subjects which applicants will be able to study and research in graduate courses at Japanese universities. The fields of study may be restricted to the particular fields specified by the Japanese Embassy or Consulate (hereinafter referred to "Japanese diplomatic mission") in the applicant's country.

Traditional entertainment arts such as Kabuki and classical Japanese dances, or subjects that require practical training in specific technologies or techniques at factories or companies are not included in the fields of study under this scholarship program.

A student who studies medicine, dentistry or welfare science will not be allowed to engage in clinical training, such as medical care and operative surgery, until he/she obtains a relevant license from the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare under applicable Japanese laws.

## 3. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

MEXT accepts applications from international students for study in Japan who satisfy the following qualifications and conditions. MEXT's aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between the grantee's country and Japan through study in Japan and who will contribute to the development of both countries and the wider world.

**(1) 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 of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status). The First Screening must be conducted at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country whose nationality the applicant chooses.

**(2) Age:** Applicants, in principle, must have been born on or after April 2, 1992. Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to the situation or circumstances of the applicant's country (military service obligation, loss of educational opportunities due to disturbances of war, etc.). Personal circumstances (financial situation, family circumstances, state of health, circumstances related to applicant's university or place of employment, etc.) will not be considered for exceptions.

**(3) Academic Background:** Applicants must satisfy any one of the following conditions for admission to a master's course at a Japanese graduate school in which they wish to enroll. (Applicants who will definitely satisfy any of the following conditions by the time of enrollment are eligible.)

**(a) Master's course / Doctoral course (first phase)**

① Applicants who have completed 16 years of school education in countries other than Japan.

② Applicants who have completed a program with the standard study period of three years or more at universities or equivalent educational institutions in countries other than Japan and received a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

③ Other than conditions ① and ② above, applicants who are eligible for enrollment in a master's course /doctoral course (first phase) at a Japanese graduate school.

**(4) Japanese Language:** Applicants must be willing to learn Japanese. Applicants must be interested in Japan and be willing to deepen their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. Applicants must also have the ability to conduct research and adapt to living in Japan.

**(5) Health:** Applicants must submit a health certificate in the prescribed format signed by a physician attesting that the applicant has no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.

**(6) Arrival in Japan:** Applicants must choose, and fill in the choice in the Application Form, either of the following arrival periods ① or ②. In principle, a change in the arrival period is not permitted after the submission of the Application Form.

① April term: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan between April 1, 2027, and April 7, 2027. Departure from the home residence should be on or after April 1, 2027.

② October term: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by the accepting university within two weeks before or after the starting date of the university's relevant academic term (September or October) for that year.

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 is decided by MEXT or the accepting university. If the applicant does not arrive in Japan within the specified period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.

**(7) Visa Requirement:** Applicants shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country/region of nationality, and enter Japan with the status of residence as "Student."

Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other status of residence ("Permanent resident," "Long-term resident," etc.), the applicant must newly obtain a "Student" visa and re-enter Japan. If the applicant resides in Japan for exceptional reasons before acceptance, the applicant must change or renew his/her status of residence to that of "Student" by the end of the month prior to the month of the first scholarship payment installment.

Even if the applicant originally held a status of residence such as "Permanent Resident" or "Long-term Resident", he/she should be aware that the original status might not be necessarily regranted after the expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student. In case the grantee comes to Japan without newly obtaining the "Student" visa, the payment of the scholarship will be suspended

**(8) Return to home country/ Resumption of work after the scholarship period**: In accordance with the objectives of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Research: The Indian Railways) program, after scholarship period, applicants are expected to contribute to the high-speed railway project. To this end, applicants should, in principle, return to their home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and resume their work at the recommending authority.

**(9) Non-eligibility:** Those who fall into any one of the following categories are ineligible. If an applicant is identified as being ineligible after selection as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship program.

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 programs (including those who withdrew from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). 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. The Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs;

④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2026, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2027;

⑤ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of "Student," or who are to be enrolled, or plan to be enrolled, in a Japanese university or other institution as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program in the applicant's country until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, are enrolled, or are planning to be enrolled, in a Japanese university or other institution but will verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period and newly acquire the "Student" residence status, or change his/her status to, or renew his/her status to, that of "Student".

⑥ Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others after the start of the scholarship payment period;

⑦ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition for academic background by the deadline given;

⑧ 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 (the acquisition of student status);
⑨ Those who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after their arrival in Japan;
⑩ 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;
⑪ Those who have no intention of obtaining a degree in Japan;
⑫ Those who are found to have attempted or actually committed any kinds of cheating prohibited by the examiner during the written examination of the First Screening.

**(10) Others:** The MEXT Scholarship will be granted to 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 the Japanese diplomatic mission after they return to their home countries.

## 4. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

**(1) Non-regular students:**

① Grantees who arrived in Japan during the April term: The scholarship period will last from April 2027 until the end of March 2029.
② Grantees who arrived in Japan during the October term: The scholarship period will last from September or October 2027 until the end of March 2029.

In either case, the first 6-month period of the scholarship will be devoted to preparatory education of Japanese language (hereinafter referred to as "the preparatory education") for those who require such education. In cases of arrival in Japan in other months than those specified above, MEXT will decide the period of scholarship separately.

Note: If the university term begins (and the student status is acquired) in the middle of the month, the scholarship will not be paid for that month. For example, the scholarship payments will begin in October 2027 if the university's autumn term starts after September 2, 2027.

**(2) Regular students enrolled in master's or professional graduate courses:**

Regardless of the date of arrival, the scholarship period shall be the necessary period for the completion of the respective regular course (hereinafter referred to "the standard period of study"; see "13. ACADEMIC PATHWAY FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS" for the standard period of study at each course). In only those cases where the accepting university deems that preparatory education is necessary for conducting research in a specialized field, a 6-month preparatory education period will be added prior to the regular degree course.

## 5. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

Non-regular students advancing to a regular degree course in a graduate school as a regular student, or regular students in a master's or professional graduate course wishing to proceed to a doctoral course, either with outstanding academic achievement that meets certain criteria, may apply for extension of the scholarship period for advanced study and may have the scholarship period extended upon a successful examination by MEXT. The following points should be noted:

① The extension of the scholarship period will be permitted only if the successful student has passed an entrance examination for a regular degree course at a graduate school in which they wish to enroll and expresses his/her intention to enroll in the course. In addition, permission from The Indian Railways is also required.
② Non-regular students cannot extend the scholarship period as long as they stay in non-regular courses.
③ Students who are admitted to advanced courses without receiving approval for the extension of the scholarship period for advanced study cannot be granted the extension of the scholarship period.

## 6. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

**(1) Allowance:** The amounts listed below shall be paid depending on the course enrolled in. A supplemental regional allowance of 2,000 yen or 3,000 yen per month will be added to the monthly scholarship amount for the grantees studying or conducting research in specially designated regions. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. If a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

① Students receiving the preparatory education and non-regular students: 143,000 yen per month
② Regular students enrolled in master's or professional degree courses: 144,000 yen per month
③ Regular students enrolled in doctoral courses: 145,000 yen per month.

**(2) Education fees:** Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities are waivered. The entrance examination fee, however, will be borne by the grantees if they cannot proceed to the master's or

doctoral course or cannot be admitted to the university.

**(3) Traveling Expenses**

① **Transportation to Japan:** MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an airline ticket to grantees who will arrive in Japan during the specified period stated in "3. (6) Arrival in Japan". The airline ticket will be an economy-class 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 the accepting university. 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. In a case of (a) or (b) below, MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of nationality to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting university, while the grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country:

(a) The grantee must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes because there is no Japanese diplomatic mission in his/her country or because the Japanese diplomatic mission in his/her country is temporally closed, or

(b) There is no direct flight from the grantee's country of nationality to Japan.

In principle, the address given in the space for "Current address" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence." However, if the grantee plans to move within his/her country of nationality after application, the address given in the space for "Your address before departure for Japan" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence"~~)~~ and the airline ticket will be arranged for a flight from the international airport nearest to that address. Except for cases when the grantee must travel to a third country to obtain a visa, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances. If a grantee will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period stated in "3. (6) Arrival in Japan", travel expenses will not be paid.

② **Transportation from Japan:** Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who will graduate from the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See "4. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP") designated by MEXT. MEXT shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from the accepting 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 period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "7. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", MEXT will not pay for the return travel expenses.

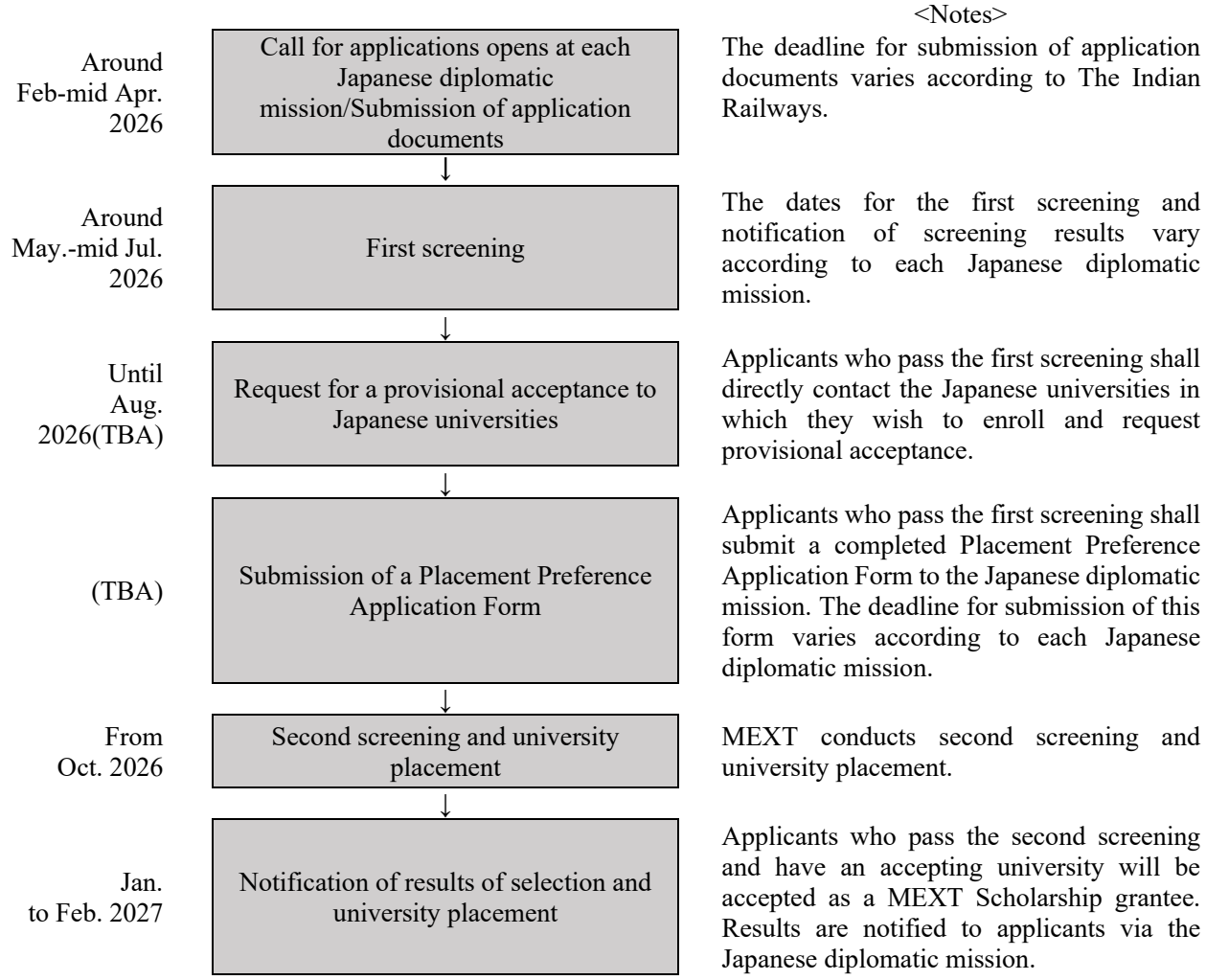
## 7. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Payment of the scholarship will be suspended or 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 exceeding 1 year;
④ A grantee is suspended from his/her university or preparatory educational institution or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;
⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard period of study because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university or preparatory educational institution;
⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly obtaining a "Student" visa, or changed his/her status of residence to something other than "Student" after entering Japan;
⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (a scholarship or fellowship from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship;
⑧ A grantee proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.

## 8. THE PROCESS OF APPLICATION AND SELECTION

The following chart shows the whole process, from the call for applications and selection to final results. See the following Sections 9. to 12. for more details.




<Notes>

The deadline for submission of application documents varies according to The Indian Railways.

The dates for the first screening and notification of screening results vary according to each Japanese diplomatic mission.

Applicants who pass the first screening shall directly contact the Japanese universities in which they wish to enroll and request provisional acceptance.

Applicants who pass the first screening shall submit a completed Placement Preference Application Form to the Japanese diplomatic mission. The deadline for submission of this form varies according to each Japanese diplomatic mission.

MEXT conducts second screening and university placement.

Applicants who pass the second screening and have an accepting university will be accepted as a MEXT Scholarship grantee. Results are notified to applicants via the Japanese diplomatic mission.

## 9. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of the applicant's nationality by the designated deadline. The submitted documents will not be returned.

| No. | Documents | 1 original | 2 copies | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ① | Application Form | ○ | ○ | Use the 2027 Application Form. (See Note 4.) |
| ② | Placement Preference Application Form | ○ | | Use the 2027 form. |
| ③ | Field of Study and Research Plan | ○ | ○ | Use the 2027 form. (See Note 5.) |
| ④ | Academic transcript for all academic years of university attended | ○ | ○ | A transcript issued either by the university attended or by the applicant's national government. (See Note 6.) |
| ⑤ | Certification of graduation or degree certificate of the university attended | ○ | ○ | If the applicant has not yet graduated, submit a certificate of prospective graduation from the university. (See Note 7.) |
| ⑥ | Recommendation letter from the president/dean or the academic advisor at the current or last university attended | ○ | ○ | Free format. A sample format is available. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ⑦ | Medical certificate | ○ | ○ | Use the 2027 certificate form. (See Note 8.) |
| ⑧ | Abstracts of theses | ● | ● | Submit if the applicant has written theses. (See Note 9.) |
| ⑨ | Certificate of language proficiency | | ● (3 copies) | Only in case the applicant has documents attesting to competency in Japanese or English; submit 3 copies. No original document necessary. The date of issue of the certificates should be no earlier than two years from the date of application to the Japanese diplomatic mission. (See Note 10.) |
| ⑩ | Recommendation letter from the present employer | ● | ● | Submit if the applicant is currently employed. (Free format. A sample format is available.) |
| ⑪ | Photograph(s) showing applicant's own works of art or a digitally recorded media of musical performance | ● | ● | Submit if the applicant is to major in fine arts or music. |

(Note 1) Documents indicated by the white circle (○) must be submitted by all the applicants. Documents indicated by the black circle (●) should be submitted only if applicable.

(Note 2) These documents must be written in Japanese or English, or if they are written in any other languages, a translation in either Japanese or English should be attached.

(Note 3) Ensure that there is no missing information in the application form when printing it out. Write the document number, from ① to ⑪ (refer to the numbers in the table above) in the upper right-hand corner of the first page for all the documents.

(Note 4) The applicant's photograph to be attached to the Application Form should be of clear quality, taken within six months of submission, and printed on paper specially for photographs. The photograph should be 4.5 x 3.5 cm. upper-body, full-faced, no hats. Please write applicant's name and nationality on the back of the photograph. The photograph data can be pasted to the Application Form and printed out.

(Note 5) The sheet of Field of Study and Research Plan should describe the applicant's past and present field of study and research theme and plan in Japan as it will serve as an important reference for placement of the applicant to a university.

(Note 6) Applicants must submit the following documents according to his/her academic background:

(a) Applicants who have already graduated from a university's undergraduate program: an academic transcript of the program;

(b) Applicants who have already completed a degree program at a graduate school: academic transcripts of both the undergraduate and the graduate programs;

(c) Applicants who are pursuing an undergraduate degree: an academic transcript that covers from the year of enrollment to the term for which grades have been determined at the time of application for the scholarship;

(d) Applicants who are pursuing a graduate school degree: an academic transcript of the undergraduate program and an academic transcript of the degree program at the graduate school that covers from the year of enrollment to the term for which grades have been determined at the time of application for the scholarship.

The academic transcripts should show the grade scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant in all the subjects studied for each year of study at the course attended. A degree certificate or a certificate simply showing the ranking of the applicant at the time of graduation will not substitute for academic transcripts. Those who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree must also submit a transcript to the Japanese diplomatic mission when he/she graduates from that program by the time selection results are finalized.

(Note 7) Applicants must submit the following documents according to his/her academic background:

(a) Applicants who have already graduated from a university's undergraduate program: a certificate of graduation from the undergraduate program;

(b) Applicants who have already completed a graduate school degree: certificates of graduation from both the undergraduate and graduate programs;

(c) Applicants who are pursuing an undergraduate degree: a certificate of prospective graduation from the undergraduate program;

(d) Applicants who are pursuing a graduate degree: a certificate of graduation from the undergraduate program and a certificate of prospective graduation from the degree program at the graduate school.

A copy of the graduation certificate or the degree certificate is acceptable if the copy is attested by an authorized official of the university. (Do not submit the originals as the submitted documents will not be returned.) Those who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree must also submit a certificate of

graduation to the Japanese diplomatic mission when he/she graduates from that program by the time selection results are finalized.

(Note 8) If the applicant's health condition changes (including any serious changes relating to his/her life plan) after he/she has submitted his/her health certificate, the applicant needs to promptly share such information with the Japanese diplomatic mission since it concerns the acceptance system of the accepting university and Japanese medical institution.

(Note 9) For abstracts of the theses, abstracts of the graduation thesis and any presented papers will be acceptable. These abstracts will be used as basic data for evaluation of the applicant's academic ability. Make sure the applicant's name is on the first page of the abstracts.

(Note 10) Only if you have a completed certificate document of Japanese-language ability or English-language ability that show your name and level/score, enter necessary information in "21. Japanese language qualifications" and "22. English language qualifications" of the Application Form and submit a copy of the certificate. If printing out the certificate from the Internet, print out and submit a page showing the applicant's name and the details of the relevant qualification (level, score, etc.). The date of issue of the certificate should be no earlier than two years from the date of application ("Date of application" entered on the last page of the application form) to the Japanese diplomatic mission.

(Note 11) If documents are submitted in bound form, they may be dismantled during the review process.

## 10. FIRST SCREENING

(1) The Japanese diplomatic missions will conduct the First Screening of applicants by means of examination of submitted application documents, written examinations of language proficiency and interviews.

(2) The subjects of written examinations of language proficiency will be Japanese and English. Both subjects must be taken by all applicants. The result of the Japanese language examination will be used as reference for the Japanese-language preparatory education to be provided after the grantee's arrival in Japan. Moreover, the English proficiency test may be exempted for countries where English is the official language. Applicants must follow guidance by the overseas diplomatic establishment of their national origin.

(3) The following policy will apply to each stage of screening:

① Examination of submitted application documents: Must show that the applicant's academic achievement at the university that he/she last graduated from equaled to or exceeded a certain level, and state the applicant's research plan in a detailed and concrete manner;

② Written examination of language proficiency: Must show language proficiency adequate for research in a Japanese university;

③ Interview: Must reveal that the applicant has a clear sense of purpose relating to his/her study in Japan and has gathered information about Japanese universities. The interview must also reveal that the applicant has sufficient Japanese or English language ability to communicate with his/her academic advisor in Japan. If the applicant desires to study a subject that requires advanced Japanese language proficiency, the interview must show that the applicant has a considerable degree of Japanese language proficiency.

(4) The date and time of the notification of the results of the First Screening will be specified separately by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country; the reasons for the results of the screening will not be disclosed. Those who pass the First Screening will not necessarily be selected as the MEXT Scholarship grantees.

(5) The results of the First Screening will be used as reference for the Second Screening and the university placement.

## 11. REQUEST OF PROVISIONAL ACCEPTACE AND SUBMISSION OF A PLACEMENT FORM

(1) A letter of provisional acceptance will greatly influence final selection results. Applicants may be rejected if they have not obtained any such letter. Applicants who have passed the First Screening should, therefore, ask universities they wish to attend to issue letters of provisional acceptance.

(2) Applicants who have passed the First Screening shall directly contact the Japanese universities they wish to enter after the notification of the First Screening results **by Augst XX, 2026 (Japan time)**(to be announced) in order to request the issuance of letters of provisional acceptance as a regular or a non-regular student in graduate school. Applicants should be aware of the following notes.

① The applicants can obtain up to a maximum of two letters of provisional acceptance. Do not obtain more than two letters of provisional acceptance.

② Applicants can contact up to a maximum of two universities at the same time. Do not contact more than two universities at the same time. If, however, you have received a rejection from one of the universities and thus they have been waiting for a reply from less than two universities, then you can newly contact another university to request a letter of provisional acceptance.

③ If Applicant is rejected by an university, he/she should neither request an acceptance letter from another faculty member or graduate school at that university, nor lodge an objection to the university.

④ **Contact with universities to request issuance of a letter of provisional acceptance made XX, 2026 (to be announced) or after is not permitted.**

⑤ Since the above "**XX, 2026 (to be announced)** " is not the deadline for the universities to issue a letter of provisional acceptance, applicants should not urge the universities to issue the letter by that date . However, applicants may confirm with the university if the scheduled time of the issuance is delayed. In addition, applicants should keep in mind when scheduling request letters of provisional acceptance that universities generally need one month to issue a letter of provisional acceptance.

⑥ Applicants should first contact the division of international student affairs at the university (not an academic advisor you wish to be supervised by) to request a letter of provisional acceptance. (MEXT will inform the divisions of international student affairs beforehand that applicants who have passed the first screening may contact them.) The Japanese diplomatic mission can provide a list of contact information.

⑦ The information on useful websites to seek information on Japanese universities and researchers is also available from the Japanese diplomatic mission.

(3) When requesting universities for issuance of a letter of provisional acceptance, applicants must submit directly to universities the following documents (a) and (b).

(a) Copy of a Passing Certificate of the First Screening issued by the Japanese diplomatic mission

(b) A set of copies of the following documents submitted to the Japanese diplomatic mission among the "9. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS" that have been stamped by the Japanese diplomatic mission and returned to the applicants

① Application Form
③ Field of Study and Research Plan
④ Academic transcript for all academic year of university attended
⑤ Certificate of graduation or degree certificate of the university attended
⑥ Recommendation letter from the president/dean or the academic advisor at the current or last university attended
⑦ Medical Certificate
⑧ Abstracts of theses (*Only if submitted to the Japanese diplomatic mission)
⑨ Certificate of language proficiency (*Only if submitted to the Japanese diplomatic mission)
⑩ Recommendation letter from the present employer (*Only if submitted to the Japanese diplomatic mission)
⑪ Photograph(s) showing applicant's own works of art or a digitally recorded media of musical performance (*Only if submitted to the Japanese diplomatic mission)

Applicants must submit any other necessary documents requested by universities. Do not submit" ②Placement Preference Application Form" to the universities.

The above documents (a) and (b) should be sent by e-mail, but in cases when it is difficult to access the Internet, the documents may be sent by postal mail. Please make sure each document ①, ③ to ⑪ have been stamped, and that all lettering and photographs are clear and legible. Please also note that if a copy of the Passing Certificate of the First Screening is not submitted, the university cannot comply with the request to issue a letter of provisional acceptance.

(4) Applicants must always report the response from the universities and submit the final Placement Preference Application Form based on the responses from the universities and obtained letters of provisional acceptance to the Japanese diplomatic mission by the specified deadline. It is not permitted to include in the Placement Preference Application Form the names of universities or supervisors and all departments at the universities that have declined the applicant's request.

(5) Applicants should confirm carefully with the universities the period of arrival in Japan specified in the letter of provisional acceptance because it is not permitted, in principle, to change the specified period of arrival even if the applicants have stated in their Application Forms that they are able to arrive by either the April term or the October term.

(6) Forms other than those specified by MEXT for the letter of provisional acceptance will not be accepted. If a university issues a letter of provisional acceptance in a different format, the applicant should promptly contact the university and request that the university issue the letter in the MEXT-specified format.

## 12. SECOND SCREENING AND UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT

(1) MEXT conducts the Second Screening based on the results of the First Screening conducted by the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country, and selects the applicants as the MEXT Scholarship Students as long as their placement at a university has been decided.

An application may be rejected if it arouses weapons proliferation concerns, including those over weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related items.

(2) An applicant who successfully passes the Second Screening will, in principle, be placed at the university from which the applicant has received a letter of provisional acceptance. MEXT will hold consultations with the preferred universities listed in the applicant's Placement Preference Application Form and place the applicant

at the university that approves the admittance as result of the consultation.

In case that the applicant's preferences include a private or non-national public university as well as a national university, the applicant's preference order specified in his/her Placement Preference Application Form may not be met due to restrictions on the Japanese government's budget, and the option of a national university is prioritized regardless.

(3) Applicants who receive a letter of provisional acceptance to the regular course at a graduate school will be directly placed in the said regular course without going through the period of the non-regular student.

(4) If an applicant is judged by the accepting university, based on the results of the written examination of language given in the First Screening, not to have adequate Japanese language proficiency to understand lectures or research guidance for experiments or practical training at the university, the applicant will be placed in a course of Japanese-language preparatory education at an institution designated by the accepting university or MEXT for the first six-month period after the arrival in Japan. Upon completion of the Japanese language course, the grantee will enter the accepting university for advanced education.

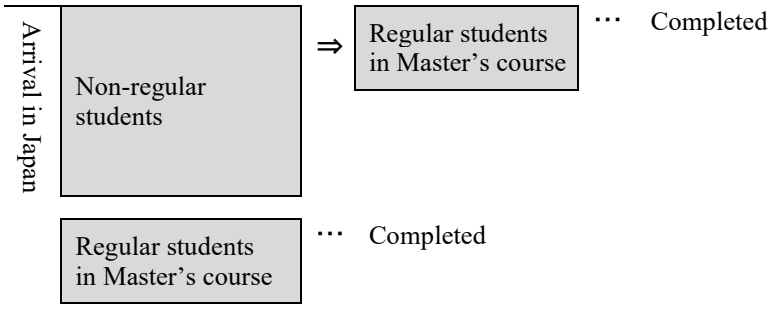
(5) If a grantee is deemed by the accepting university to have sufficient Japanese language proficiency to conduct research, the grantee may directly enter the accepting university as a regular student or a non-regular student.

(6) Applicants will be notified by the Japanese diplomatic mission of the final selection results and the grantees' accepting university from January 2027 to early March 2027. The reasons for the results of the final selection will not be disclosed. Any objections to the decision on the university placement will not be accepted.

(7) Even if applicants are unable to obtain a letter of provisional acceptance, they will be able to submit a Placement Preference Application Form, but their period of arrival will be restricted to the October term.

## 13. ACADEMIC PATHWAY FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS

The following chart indicates possible academic pathways as a MEXT Scholarship Research Student.




※"Master's course" includes a professional degree course.
※"Completed" means his/her status as a MEXT Scholarship student has ended upon successful completion of the last course attended.

(1) In the above chart, the single-lined arrow → indicates that the application for extension of the scholarship period is unnecessary. The double-lined arrow ⇒ indicates that the application for extension of the scholarship period will be necessary to proceed to a higher program. Extension of the scholarship period will be permitted only if the successful student has passed an entrance examination for a regular degree program at a graduate school. (See "5. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP".)

(2) While the entrance examinations to graduate school vary depending on universities, assessment of the applicant's foreign language competence, grasp of the specialized subject for study, plans for the graduation thesis, interview, etc. are normally included.

(3) The degree courses at the university's graduate schools under the Japanese school system include as follows.
① Master's degree course: The standard period of study is two years subsequent to graduation from a university. In some courses, the duration is less than two years but more than one year. Students who complete a master's degree course are awarded a Master's Degree.

## 14. UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, the Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines here within, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable Circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including Embassies and Consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other countries' governments due to the spread of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders,

fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike or lockout.

## 15. NOTES

(1) The grantees should learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and acquire information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions of the university to be attended in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country.

(2) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee is recommended to bring at least approximately US$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.

(3) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account of Japan Post Bank (JP Bank) opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship payments to other accounts.

(4) Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, following a medical exam must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee's arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.

(5) Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.

(6) It is suggested that grantees acquire an "Individual Number Card (My Number Card)" upon arrival in Japan.

(7) Accommodations:

① Residence halls for international students provided by universities: Some universities have residence halls for international students. The grantees enrolled at such universities may reside at these residence halls under certain conditions. However, due to the limited number of rooms, some of these facilities may be unavailable. Expenses relating to accommodations will be borne by the grantee. As some universities might ask the grantees to pay expenses relating to accommodations in advance of arriving in Japan, grantees should check with the accepting university after its decision on their acceptance.

② Private boarding houses or apartments: Those who are unable to find accommodation in the aforementioned facilities may live in regular dormitories of the university or in private boarding houses/apartments at his/her expenses. It is difficult for grantees with dependents (spouse and children) to find appropriate housing in Japan. The grantee is requested to arrive in Japan alone first to secure housing before having his/her dependents come to Japan.

(8) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, career path after completion of scholarship, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with other relevant government organizations for the purpose of utilization for international students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the international student system).

Information regarding MEXT Scholarship Students (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be included in publicity materials prepared by the Japanese Government for promoting the acceptance of international students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship Students must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Those who consent to this treatment will be admitted as a MEXT Scholarship Student.

(9) In principle, receiving another scholarship from an organization (including a government organization of the home country) other than the Japanese government (MEXT or other Japanese government organization) is permitted. However, applicants should consult with the Japanese diplomatic mission in the home country in advance, since some scholarships may not be combined.

(10) If an applicant is judged not to meet the conditions for landing in Japan, he/she may be rejected.

(11) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for supplementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.

(12) If there are any questions about the content of the written text in this Application Guidelines or any other matters, applicants/grantees should inquire at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of the applicant's nationality and follow their instructions.

(13) In addition to the regulations stipulated in these Application Guidelines, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese Government.