

2019 MEXT Scholarship Research Category Frequently Asked Questions (Updated April 2018)

Eligibility

Q: I don't have a Bachelor's degree. Can I still apply?

A: Applicants *must* hold at least a Bachelor's degree or obtain such a degree by the end of December 2018.

Q: I was born before 2 April 1984. Can I still apply?

A: No. The age limit is strictly observed so if your birthday falls before the above date (even if you were born on the 1st of April 1984) you are not eligible to apply.

Q: I am an Australian permanent resident. Can I still apply?

A: No. You have to apply in the country where you hold citizenship.

Q: I am an Australian citizen who live overseas. Can I still apply?

A: Yes. You are able to apply from overseas. However, you are required to return to Australia for the exams and interview.

Q: I am a dual citizen of Japan and Australia. Can I still apply?

A: Yes. However, in order to receive the scholarship, you will have to renounce your Japanese citizenship before departing for Japan.

Q: Do I need to have a high proficiency of Japanese to be able to get the scholarship?

A: This depends on the course that you have chosen as well as the number of applicants. The pass mark varies each year, however the more knowledge of Japanese you have, the more advantageous and easier it will be to live in Japan and conduct your studies effectively.

Q: In Australia, university degrees can be awarded in three years, so the total academic years only add up to 15 years. However as applicants, we are required to have a minimum of 16 years of study. Am I still eligible to apply?

A: Yes. MEXT recognises that Australian university degrees can be awarded in three years, so as long as you hold a degree, you are eligible to apply.

Document Submission

Q: Can I submit my application electronically?

A: No. Hard copy applications must be sent to the Embassy of Japan in Canberra via post.

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Q: My Bachelor's degree testamur is in a frame. Can I take a photo and submit it?

A: No. If you are unable to remove it from the frame, you will need to provide another form of proof of graduation.

Q: I have printed my academic results from my online account. Will it be accepted?

A: No. You must submit official academic records issued by your university. If you don't want to submit the original documents, you will need to make photocopies and get them certified by a Justice of the Peace or an authorised person.

Q: My degree did not require me to write a thesis. Therefore I am not able to submit an abstract. What should I do?

A: If you didn't write a thesis for your Bachelor's degree, you do not have to submit an abstract.

Q: Will my submitted documents be returned to me?

A: No. The Embassy is unable to return submitted documents. Therefore, we strongly recommend not submitting original copies of important documents such as Bachelor's degree testamurs or academic transcripts.

Q: Can I use my electronic signature for the application form?

A: No. You have to print out the application form and physically sign each set.

Q: Who can complete the Certificate of Health?

A: Your GP can complete this form.

Q: X-ray examinations are expensive. Do I need to have one before I submit my application?

A: No. Only successful applicants from the domestic screening are required to have an X-ray examination.

Q: My referee lives overseas. Can they email me their Recommendation Letter as a PDF attachment?

A: Recommendation Letters should be physically signed by the referee. Original copies or certified copies of the originals should be submitted with your application.

Q: Can my referee submit their Recommendation Letters in Japanese?

A: Yes. Recommendation Letters may be written in Japanese. However, an English translation must also be submitted.

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Exams and Interviews

Q: I am a native English speaker. Do I still have to take the English examination?

A: Yes. All applicants are required to take the English examination to be considered for the scholarship.

Q: I live overseas. Am I able to take the exams overseas?

A: No. You are required to return to Australia and take the examination at one of the Japanese diplomatic missions.

Q: When and where are interviews held?

A: Interviews for applicants who successfully reach the third round of the application process will be arranged by the Embassy. Interviews are usually held in the city of the applicant's residence and generally conducted at the end of July.

Q: I'm currently living overseas/in Japan. If I reach the interview stage, can I sit for my interview in another country/in Japan, or via Skype?

A: No. Applicants who successfully reach the 3rd round of the application process must sit for their interview in Australia. It is not possible to sit for an interview at an alternative time or location, or via Skype.

Application Schedule

Q: What is the timeline from when I submit my application to when I receive results?

A: The 2019 MEXT Scholarship Research category timeline is as follows

15 June 2018	Application deadline
	1 st Round – Document Screening
By 28 June 2018	Notification of 1 st Round results and exam details
4 July 2018 (TBC)	Exams (to be held at the Embassy and Consulate-Generals in Australia)
By 19 July 2018	Notification of 2 nd Round results and interview details
End of July 2018	Interviews (to be held at the Embassy and Consulate-Generals in Australia)
Mid-August 2018	Notification of 3 rd Round (domestic screening) results
By 31 August 2018	Successful applicants of domestic screening to initiate contacts with prospective universities
31 August 2018	Embassy to recommend Australian candidates to MEXT
January 2019	Notification from MEXT of final results with placement university
Beginning of April 2019	Depart for Japan

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Accompanying Dependents

Q: I am applying with an accompanying dependents. Will this affect my chances of being selected?

A: Applying for a MEXT Scholarship with accompanying dependents will not have a negative impact on your chances of being selected. Please list all the necessary information on your application form under *Accompanying Dependents*. Please note that Japan does not recognise de facto relationships. As such your partner will not be granted a dependant visa if you are not legally married.

Studying in Japan

Q: I have enough Japanese proficiency to conduct my studies in university. Should I still take the six months Japanese training course?

A: You can discuss with your supervising professor whether or not if you need to take this course.

Q: How can I find universities and professors where I can conduct my study?

A: Please go to use <http://researchmap.jp/?lang=english> to find suitable professors and universities.

Q: When can I initiate contact with the professors?

A: If you are successful in the 3rd round, you will be issued with a 'Certificate of passing the initial screening' and with that you can start contacting universities. MEXT requests that you do not approach individual professors before this stage.

Q: Can I request to change the university where I was placed?

A: No. MEXT will decide the university you will enter. Please note this decision is final.

Q: Can I request to move to a different university once I have started my studies in Japan?

A: No. You will have to continue studying at the university where MEXT placed you.