

Japanese Government MEXT Research Scholarship 2022

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Age

- The age limit is strictly applied. You must have been born on or after **April 2 1987**. If you were born before April 2 1987 you are not eligible to apply.

Citizenship

- To apply through the Embassy of Japan in Australia, you must be an Australian citizen. Even if you have Australian permanent residency, you must contact the Japanese diplomatic mission in your country of citizenship.
- Those with Japanese and Australian Dual citizenship may apply. However, you will be required to renounce your Japanese citizenship before departing for Japan.
- Australian citizens who are living overseas may apply. However you *must* return to Australia for the exams and interview if you are successful in getting through to those stages of selection.

Academic History

- Applicants must, in principle, hold at least a Bachelor's degree. You may apply if you are still completing your studies however you must have obtained your degree before enrolling in a Japanese university.
- Whilst the guidelines state that you must have completed 16 years of school education, MEXT accepts that some Australian degrees may be awarded in 3 years, and therefore your total years of school education may only total 15. This is acceptable. As long as you hold a degree, you are eligible to apply.
- Those wishing to apply for PhD programs must hold a Master's Degree, or be obtaining one before departure. 'Honours' is not recognised as sufficient for entry into a Japanese PhD program.

Japanese ability

- The level of Japanese proficiency necessary for the scholarship depends on your chosen Field of Study and the number of applicants. Those wishing to pursue Japanese-language based studies such as linguistics, literature, history, law and/or other related subjects must demonstrate enough proficiency to study these subjects.
- The more Japanese knowledge you have, the easier it will be to live and conduct your studies in Japan.
- Those successful applicants who are deemed by MEXT to have insufficient Japanese to pursue their studies, may be required to take a 6 month intensive language class, run by the university.

Document Submission

Due Date

- Applications are due on **26 MAY (WEDNESDAY) 2021**. Applications must arrive as hard copy documents at the Embassy of Japan in **Canberra** by 5pm (Close of Business) on this day. Delivery Address at the end of this document.
- We strongly suggest using express post services and leaving enough time for your application to arrive on time. Late applications will not be accepted.
- You cannot supply documents electronically.

Original Documents & Certified copies

- Any documents you submit will not be returned. Therefore, please be aware when sending original documents such as academic transcripts.

Documents no ①, ④, ⑤, ⑥, ⑦ & ⑩ in particular must be submitted as original documents.

- In cases where you do not want to (ie. Academic transcript) or cannot (ie. Passport/Degree Certificate) send in original documents, you must supply a copy which has been certified. See below options:

University certification: Academic Transcripts (Document ④) and Letters of Expected Completion (Document ⑤) may be issued and/or certified by your University. Please ensure each page in the document is initialled or stamped in this way. If your university cannot certify a copy, please use the below method.

Justice of the Peace certification: For transcripts, passport page, degree certificate and other documents where you cannot provide the original, please provide a copy that has been certified by a Justice of the Peace (JP). This is someone who can legally verify that a document is a true copy of the original. You can search online for JP's in your home state. This service is free.

Field of Study and Research Plan (document no.3)

- This document should be filled out in a clear, detailed manner.
- If you have sufficient Japanese skills, you can submit this document in Japanese but note that if you do, you *must* also include an English translation.

Academic Transcripts (document no. 4)

- You are required to submit your Academic transcripts – the most up to date version available at time of application. If you are still completing your studies, we will ask for the final academic transcript after you graduate. For now, please supply a current, up to date transcript.
- Transcripts provided must either be original documents issued by your university OR Print-outs/ Photocopies which have been certified as true copies.
- Please note that print outs from online student accounts or websites such as 'My eEquals' will not be accepted as official documents. These can only be submitted if they are certified by a JP as above.

Degree Certificate/Proof of Expected Graduation (document no. 5)

- If you are still completing your University degree, we need to see a letter or official document from your University which states **when** you are expected to graduate. It is acceptable if this document includes a clause such as “on the condition that John Doe completes the necessary coursework...” or similar.
- Please submit this as an original or certified document, in place of the degree certificate.
- Note that if successful, you will be required to submit proof of your completed studies before you begin studies in Japan.

Recommendation letter (document no. 6 & document no. 10)

- The recommendation letter should include your university/company’s letterhead and be an **original document** signed by the referee. Regarding the content, any format is acceptable but there is a sample you may refer to https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/_mt/2021/04/2022_SampleRecommendation.pdf
- The recommender must provide you with a signed, original document, not an emailed document.
- The letter may be provided in a sealed envelope for confidentiality if the recommender prefers but this is not necessary otherwise.
- If you are submitting a recommendation letter written in Japanese, **you must attach an English translation** with it. If you anticipate your referee may write in Japanese, please let them know about the necessity of attaching an English translation.

Certificate of Health form (document no. 7)

- The Certificate of Health form can be completed by a GP. Please ensure the final check box is ticked by your GP (Q7) as this can get missed.
- As x-ray examinations can be expensive, you may leave this section of the form (only) blank. You do not need to do the x-ray before submitting your application. If you proceed beyond the interview stage, we will then ask you to complete the X-ray examination.

Additional Documents to Submit

1. We require proof of identity so please submit **a certified copy** of your Australian Passport with your application. In the case that you don’t have a passport, please submit **a certified copy** of your birth certificate. Do not submit original documents as they will not be returned.
2. **“Exam Location Form”** this tells us where you would sit exams if successful. Don’t forget to include it with your application documents.

Document List

This list is part of the 'Application Guidelines for Research Students' document, copied here only to clarify the above.

No.	Documents	1 original	2 copies	Remarks
①	Application Form	○	○	Use the 2022 Application Form. (See Note 4.)
②	Placement Preference Application Form	○	○	Use the 2022 form.
③	Field of Study and Research Plan	○	○	Use the 2022 form. (See Note 5.)
④	Academic transcript for all academic year 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 2022 certificate form.
⑧	Abstracts of theses	●	●	Submit if the applicant has written theses. (See Note 8.)
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. (See Note 9.)
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.

Plus: **Passport copy (Certified) & Exam location form** as mentioned above.

Format

Notes on Format

- Application forms should be submitted **single sided**. Please don't print front and back.
- Documents ①-③ should be typed, except your signature which needs to be written by hand.
- You **are not** permitted to use an electronic signature for your application. Forms must be printed out and hand-signed.
- Please don't use staples. You may use paperclips or plastic sleeves.
- You **are** permitted to embed profile photo data into application form before printing out and signing by hand.
- Please make sure you provide the correct number of originals/copies for all application documents required. These should be provided in separate bundles (eg 1 bundle of originals and 2 bundles of copies)
- Please place corresponding document numbers ①—⑪ in the top right corner of each application document.

Identifying Universities/Supervisor

On your “Placement Preference Form” (Document ②) you are required to identify 3 Universities and Professors that may be suitable for your proposed research.

In order to find a good match for your interests, please visit the following websites. Please **do not make contact with individual Professors at this stage**. You may contact school administration offices if you need clarification.



Research Map – Researcher Search

<https://researchmap.jp/search/?lang=english>



J-GLOBAL Service

<https://jglobal.jst.go.jp/en>



Japanese College and University Portraits

<https://jpcup.niad.ac.jp/>



Study In Japan – Comprehensive site including information on Universities and courses offered in English

<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/planning/search-school/daigakukensaku.html>



Japan Study Support

<https://www.jpss.jp/en/search/>



Top Global University Project Japan

<https://tgu.mext.go.jp/en/index.html>

Examinations & Interviews

Examinations

- Examinations are to be held on **16 JUNE (WEDNESDAY) 2021** at the Embassy of Japan and the Consulate-Generals of Japan in Australia.
- Examinations are not held outside Australia and any overseas applicants must take examinations at one of the Japanese diplomatic missions in Australia
- Please **do not forget to submit the “Exam Location Form”** with your application so we know where you would sit for exams if successful in progressing to this stage.

Subjects

- All applicants who successfully progress through the document submission stage will be required to sit examinations
- **All applicants** will sit Japanese and English exams. These tests are mandatory regardless of your ability and even if you are a native speaker.
- You can see past test papers here. It is highly recommended that you go over these before sitting exams. <https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/planning/scholarship/application/examination.html>

Interviews

- Shortlisted candidates who successfully pass the examinations will attend an interview, as arranged by the Embassy. These are held in a number of cities in Australia and are set to take place **in late June/Early July 2021, Date TBC.**

Contacting Universities

- If you successfully pass the interview stage, you will be issued with a 'Certificate of Passing the Initial Screening' which verifies that the Embassy has shortlisted you.
 - After this, you can start contacting your three preferred professors. We will let you know the correct contact details to use in due course.
 - **MEXT requests that you do not approach individual professors before this stage.**
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Other things to note

COVID-19 Impact on Scholarship Round in 2022

Unpredictability

As we are all well aware, COVID-19 has made international travel and forward planning considerably difficult.

MEXT informs applicants that under some circumstances such as travel restrictions or curfews, there remains the possibility that applicants will not be able to come to Japan even after being selected as scholarship students.

Accompanying dependents

- 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.
- Note that the scholarship amount does not increase in the case of accompanying dependents.

MEXT Placement decisions

- After the Embassy recommends Australian candidates to Tokyo in September 2021, MEXT makes the final decision on which university you will study at. Please note that this decision is final and you may not change to a different university.

Scholarship Extensions

- MEXT advises that whilst students may apply for extensions to their scholarship period to advance to further study, these extensions are subject to certain conditions and are not guaranteed.

Timeline

A timeline for the 2022 MEXT Scholarship Research category is provided below:

DOMESTIC SCREENING	26 MAY (WED) 2021	Application submission deadline.
		Document screening
		Notification of document screening results/Exam details
	16 JUNE (WED) 2021	Examinations for successful applicants
		Notification of Exam results/Interview details
	LATE JUNE/EARLY JULY 2021 (TBC)	Interviews for successful examinees
	Early July	Notification of results of Domestic Screening
	By 27 August 2021	Applicants successful in Domestic screening asked to contact prospective universities
	September 2021	Embassy recommends Australian Candidates to MEXT in Tokyo
	October - November 2021	MEXT decides successful applicants and their placements
	December 2021 – February 2022	Notification from MEXT on final placement
	April 2022 or September/October 2022	Students depart for Japan

Contact

Please direct enquiries to:

MEXT Scholarship Advisor

Telephone: 02 6273 3244

Email: cultural-application@cb.mofa.go.jp

(please include your phone number in email enquiries)

Applications should be posted or delivered to:

MEXT Scholarship Advisor

Embassy of Japan

112 Empire Circuit

Yarralumla ACT 2600