Japanese Government MEXT Undergraduate Scholarship 2024

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Age
- The age limit is strictly applied. You must be born on or after April 2, 1999. If you were born before April 2, 1999 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 and be able to prove that you have done so.

School leavers
- If you are currently enrolled in Year 12, you are still eligible to apply. However, you will need to supply a letter from your school, confirming that you are expected to complete your studies by March 2024, with your application. This must be a signed or stamped original document (submit as document no. 4).

Japanese ability
- High proficiency in Japanese is necessary for the Undergraduate scholarship as you will need to take university classes in Japan where the language of instruction is Japanese.

Document Submission

Due Date
- Applications are due on 2 June (FRIDAY) 2023. They must arrive as hard copy documents at the Embassy of Japan in Canberra by 5pm (Close of Business) on this day. See the 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 school reports.
- In cases where you do not want to (ie. school reports) or cannot (ie. birth certificate/passport) send in original documents, you must supply a copy which has been certified. See below options:
  - School certification: School Reports and letters can be certified by the school with a stamp or signature. Please ensure each page in the document is initialled or stamped in this way.
Justice of the Peace certification: For school reports 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.

Documents no ①, ③, ④, ⑤, ⑥ in particular must be submitted as original documents.

Academic Transcripts (document no. 3)
- You are only required to submit your school reports/grades from years 10-12. This is the equivalent of Japan’s Senior High School system. It is not necessary to submit years 7-9 or earlier.
- If you are still completing your studies at the time of application, submit reports/grades from year 10 up to your most recent reports/grades.
- School reports/grade transcripts provided must either be original documents issued by your school or photocopies which your school has stamped or signed on each page to prove they are true copies.
- Please note that print outs from online student accounts or websites such as ‘My eQuals’ will not be accepted as official documents.

Recommendation letter (document no. 5)
- The recommendation letter should include your school’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/2023/04/2024_SampleRecommendation.pdf
- A letterhead is not required if the referee is using the sample format above.
- The recommender must provide you with a signed, original document, not something emailed.
- The letter may be provided in a sealed envelope for confidentiality as the sample format states 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.
- You do not need to submit copies of the recommendation letter if the envelop is sealed.

Certificate of Health form (document no. 6)
- 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. 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 Undergraduate Students’ document, copied here only to clarify the above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Documents</th>
<th></th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>①</td>
<td>Application Form</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○ Use the FY2024 Application Form. (See Note 4.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>②</td>
<td>Direct Placement Preference Form</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>Only for applicants desiring direct placement. Use the FY2024 Preference Form. (See Note 5.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>③</td>
<td>Academic transcript(s) for all school years of school/university attended</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○ A transcript issued either by the school/university attended or by the applicant’s national government. (See Note 6.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>④</td>
<td>Certificate(s) of graduation of school/university attended</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○ If the applicant has not yet graduated, submit a certificate of prospective graduation from the school/university. (See Note 7.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑤</td>
<td>Recommendation letter from either a class teacher or principal of last school attended</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○ Free format. A sample format is available. (See Note 8.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑥</td>
<td>Medical certificate</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○ Use the FY2024 certificate form. (See Note 11.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑦</td>
<td>Certificate of enrollment</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>● Only for those currently enrolled in a university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑧</td>
<td>Certificate of university enrollment qualification examination</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>● Only for those who pass the university enrollment qualification examination. (See Note 7 and 9.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑨</td>
<td>Certificate of language proficiency</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>(2 copies) Only in case the applicant has documents attesting to competency in Japanese or English; submit 2 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 MEXT Undergraduate Scholarship 2024. (See Note 10.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Format**
- Application forms should be submitted **single sided**. Please don’t print front and back.
- The application form **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.
- 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 1 bundle of copies)
- Please place corresponding document numbers ①—⑨ in the top right corner of each application document.
Examinations & Interviews

- Examinations are to be held on **29 JUNE (THURSDAY) 2023** at the Embassy of Japan and the Consulate-Generals of Japan in Australia.

- Examinations are not held outside Australian 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 mandatory examinations. These vary based on which Field of Study you have selected:
  
  - **Humanities/Social Sciences**: Japanese A, English A and Mathematics A. (3 in total)
  - **Natural Sciences**: Japanese B, English B, Mathematics B, Chemistry and either Physics or Biology depending on your nominated area of study. (5 exams in total)

- **All tests are mandatory** to attempt, regardless of your ability and even if you are a native speaker.

- **No Calculators or Dictionaries** may be used in any of the exams.

- You can see past test papers below. It is **highly recommended** that you go over these before sitting exams.  

Interviews

- Shortlisted candidates who successfully pass the examinations will attend an online interview, as arranged by the Embassy. The interview will take place in **late July 2023 (Date to be confirmed)**.

Preparatory Education vs Direct Placement

Preparatory Education

Undergraduate students attend 1 year of Preparatory Education at a **designated university** in Japan.

This one-year course not only acclimatises students to the Japanese University system but also brings their language and academic skills up to speed for commencing an Undergraduate degree at Japanese University. During this first year, MEXT assists students to apply for entry to their university of choice and begin studies in their nominated Field of Study. Those with higher ranked grades at the end of the year have more chance of being admitted to their first university of choice. Note that you cannot change your Field of Study once in Japan. You will be offered a scholarship based on the Field of Study you wrote in your application.

Direct Placement

In special cases, where applicants have exceptional Japanese proficiency, they may apply for Direct Placement to a university. This means they skip the one-year preparatory course and go straight to their desired university course.
This is an additional procedure which takes place after submitting your application. The Embassy can provide a list of Universities which can admit direct placement students. (We do not receive this list until July 2023)

Note that in some cases, if your application for direct placement is knocked back, you can revert to taking the Preparatory language course. However, for some universities this is not the case, and your application will be withdrawn. Please consult with the Embassy before applying if you are considering Direct Placement.

COVID-19 Impact on Scholarship Round in 2024
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, there remains the possibility that applicants will not be able to come to Japan on time after being selected as scholarship students.

Timeline
A timeline for the 2024 MEXT Scholarship - Undergraduate category is provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 June 2023</td>
<td>Application submission deadline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notification of document screening results/Exam details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 JUNE 2023</td>
<td>Examinations held for successful applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notification of Exam results/Interview details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATE JULY 2023 (TBC)</td>
<td>Online Interviews for successful examinees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early August</td>
<td>Notification of results of Domestic Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2023</td>
<td>Embassy recommends Australian Candidates to MEXT in Tokyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October - December 2023</td>
<td>MEXT decides successful applicants and their placements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2023 - February 2024</td>
<td>Notification from MEXT on final placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2024 (or for Direct Placement: September/October 2024)</td>
<td>Students depart for Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact
Please direct enquiries to:

MEXT Scholarship Coordinator
Telephone: 02 6272 7252
Email: cultural-application@cb.mofa.go.jp
Applications should be posted or delivered to:

MEXT Scholarship Coordinator
Embassy of Japan
112 Empire Circuit
Yarralumla ACT 2600