

Japanese Government MEXT Research Scholarship 2025

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Age

- The age limit is strictly applied. You must have been born on or after **2 April 1990**. If you were born before 2 April 1990 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 exam if you are successful in getting through the document selection stage.

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 completed 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 university to have insufficient Japanese to pursue their studies, may be required to take a 6 month intensive language class, run by the university.

Definition of "Research Students"

- As explained on page 1 of the application guidelines, if you are applying for/being selected for the non-degree program, you must do this with the aim of being transferred to one of the degree programs (i.e. master's degree program, professional graduate program or doctoral program).

Document Submission

Due Date

- Applications are due on **10 May (Friday) 2024**. 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 submit 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 (i.e. Academic transcript) or cannot (i.e. 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.
- Academic transcripts must either be the originals issued by your university OR photocopies of the originals 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.
- You will need to submit academic transcripts covering all courses taken at a university level. This includes courses not completed and transfers.

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 enrolling in a Japanese university.
- You will need to submit degree certificates of all degrees completed at a university level.

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/2024/04/07-2025_SampleRecommendation.pdf
- The letterhead is not required if the referee is using the sample format above.
- 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.
- You do not need to submit copies of the recommendation letter if the envelop is sealed.
- The recommender must provide you with a signed, original document, not an emailed document.
- 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.
- If you are currently working including in a part-time or casual capacity, you must submit a recommendation letter from your manager/superior at your place of employment.

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 and Interview 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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the 2025 Application Form. (See Note 4.)
②	Placement Preference Application Form	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the 2025 form.
③	Field of Study and Research Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the 2025 form. (See Note 5.)
④	Academic transcript for all academic year of university attended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Free format. A sample format is available.
⑦	Medical certificate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the 2025 certificate form. (See Note 8.)
⑧	Abstracts of theses	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Submit if the applicant has written theses. (See Note 9.)
⑨	Certificate of language proficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (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	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	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	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Submit if the applicant is to major in fine arts or music.

Plus: **Passport copy (Certified) & Exam and Interview 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 (not in all capital letters)**.
- Please don't use staples. You may use paperclips.
- You **are** permitted to embed profile photo data into application form before printing out.
- Please make sure you provide the correct number of originals/copies for all application documents required. These should be provided in separate bundles (e.g. 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/researchers?lang=en>



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 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 and Interview 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 pass the document selection stage are required to sit the Japanese language exam.**
- The exam is mandatory regardless of your Japanese language ability.
- 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

- Those who progress to the interview stage will be required to undertake an interview. Shortlisted candidates will be informed of the date and format of the interview at a later date.

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.**

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 2024, 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 2025 MEXT Scholarship Research category is provided below:

DOMESTIC SCREENING	10 May 2024	Application submission deadline.
		Document screening
	11 June 2024	Notification of document screening results/Exam details
	June 2024	Examinations for successful applicants
		Notification of Exam results/Interview details
		Interviews for successful examinees
	Mid July	Notification of results of Domestic Screening
	By 9 August 2024	Applicants successful in Domestic screening asked to contact prospective universities
	September 2024	Embassy recommends Australian Candidates to MEXT in Tokyo

	October - December 2024	MEXT decides successful applicants and their placements
	After January 2025	Notification from MEXT on final placement
	April 2025 or September/October 2025	Students depart for Japan

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