

Japanese Government MEXT Undergraduate Scholarship 2026

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Age

- The age limit is strictly applied. You must **be born on or after 2 April 2001**.
If you were born before 2 April 2001, 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. You will be asked to submit a scanned copy of the biodata page of your Australian passport at a later date.
- 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 2026, with your application.
- 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 & Submission

- Your application must be emailed to the MEXT Scholarship Desk at the Embassy of Japan at cultural-application@cb.mofa.go.jp by **5 PM 3 June (Tuesday) 2025 AEST**.

Subject line: - MEXT 2026 Undergraduate - Full name (first and last)

If you would like to share your application documents via an online platform such as OneDrive, please email the link with access to your documents.

- Recommendation letter (document no. 5)

If your referee prefers to submit a recommendation letter in a sealed envelope, please post this sealed envelope to the address below. It must arrive by **5 PM 3 June (Tuesday) 2025 AEST**.

MEXT Scholarship Desk

Address: Embassy of Japan, 112 Empire Circuit Yarralumla ACT 2600

Required documents for submission

- Please email 1 set of documents ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧ outlined below as well as the Exam Location Form. If you have document ⑨, please include it with documents ① - ⑧.

As you are emailing the documents, they can be copies of the original documents. The copies are not required to be certified by a Justice of the Peace or a person authorised to do so.

- If your application progresses forward in the selection process, **you will be asked to post or hand-deliver a hard-copy application (1 set of originals and 1 set of copies as per the table below) to the Embassy of Japan in Canberra in July 2025 and the application documents must arrive at the Embassy by 5 PM 31 July 2025 AEST.** Therefore, please keep your original application documents for this submission. We will explain this submission process further if your application progresses forward.

No.	Documents	1 original	1 copy	Remarks
①	Application Form	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the FY2026 Application Form. (See Note 4.)
②	Direct Placement Preference Form	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Submit after passing the First Screening (only for applicants who (a) select "Social Sciences and Humanities" and are eligible for direct placement or (b) desire direct placement regardless of their fields of study (either Social Sciences and Humanities or Natural Sciences)). Details will be informed to eligible applicants later. Use the FY2026 Preference Form. (See Note 5.)
③	Academic transcript(s) for all school years of school/university attended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A transcript issued either by the school/university attended or by the applicant's national government. (See Note 6.)
④	Certificate(s) of graduation of school/university attended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	If the applicant has not yet graduated, submit a certificate of prospective graduation from the school/university. (See Note 7.)
⑤	Recommendation letter from either a class teacher or principal of last school attended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Free format. A sample format is available. (See Note 8.)
⑥	Medical certificate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the FY2026 certificate form. (See Note 9.)
⑦	Certificate of enrollment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Only for those currently enrolled in a university.
⑧	Certificate of university enrollment qualification examination	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Only for those who pass the university enrollment qualification examination. (See Note 7 and 10.)
⑨	Certificate of language proficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (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 Japanese diplomatic mission. (See Note 11.)

Plus: **Exam Location Form** as mentioned above.

Additional Documents to Submit

- "Exam Location Form" this tells us where you would sit exams if successful. Don't forget to include it with your application 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.

Recommendation letter (document no. 5)

- Regarding the content, any format is acceptable but there is a sample you may refer to;
https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/_mt/2025/04/2026_SampleRecommendation_Undergraduate.pdf
- 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. 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.

Format

- The application form should be typed (not in all capital letters).
- You are permitted to embed profile photo data into application form.
- Please place corresponding document numbers ① – ⑨ in the top right corner of each application document.

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 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 selection 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.
- **Calculators and dictionaries, including electronic devices such as smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, etc are NOT ALLOWED** in any of the exams.
- You can see past test papers below. It is **highly recommended** that you go over these before sitting exams.
<https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/planning/scholarship/application/examination/index.html>

Interviews

- Those who successfully pass the examinations will be required to undertake an online interview in July 2025. Shortlisted candidates will be informed of the details at a later date.

Preparatory Education vs Direct Placement

Preparatory Education

In principle, 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.**

Please note that for those who choose “Social Sciences and Humanities”, if MEXT judges that they have sufficient Japanese language ability, etc., they will be directly placed in a university without going through preparatory education.

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 2025)

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.**

Timeline

A timeline for the 2026 MEXT Scholarship - Undergraduate category is provided below:

DOMESTIC SCREENING	3 June 2025	Application submission deadline
		Document screening
		Notification of document screening results/Exam details
	July 2025	Examination
		Notification of Exam results/Interview details
		Interviews for successful examinees
	August 2025	Notification of results of Domestic Screening
		Embassy recommends Australian Candidates to MEXT in Tokyo
	October - December 2025	MEXT decides successful applicants and their placements
	December 2025 - February 2026	Notification from MEXT on final placement
	April 2026 (or for Direct Placement: September/October 2026)	Students depart for Japan

Contact

Please direct enquiries to:

MEXT Scholarship Desk

Telephone: 02 6273 3244

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