

Japanese Government MEXT Undergraduate Scholarship 2025

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Age

- The age limit is strictly applied. You must be born on or after **2 April 2000**. If you were born before 2 April 2000, 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 2025, 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 **17 May (Friday) 2024**. 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 (i.e. school reports) or cannot (i.e. 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/2024/04/2025_SampleRecommendation_Undergraduate.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 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 Undergraduate Students’ document, copied here only to clarify the above.

No.	Documents	1 original	1 copy	Remarks
①	Application Form	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the FY2025 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 FY2025 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 FY2025 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

Plus: **Passport copy (certified) & Exam and Interview 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 (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.
- 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 1 bundle of copies)
- 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 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 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 interview. Shortlisted candidates will be informed of the date and format of the interview 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 2024)

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 2025 MEXT Scholarship - Undergraduate category is provided below:

DOMESTIC SCREENING	17 May 2024	Application submission deadline.
		Document screening
	11 June 2024	Notification of document screening results/Exam details
	June 2024	Examinations held for successful applicants
		Notification of Exam results/Interview details
		Interviews for successful examinees
	Mid July	Notification of results of Domestic Screening
	September 2024	Embassy recommends Australian Candidates to MEXT in Tokyo
	October - December 2024	MEXT decides successful applicants and their placements
	December 2024 - February 2025	Notification from MEXT on final placement
	April 2025 (or for Direct Placement: 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