

Japanese Government MEXT Research Scholarship 2026

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Age

- The age limit is strictly applied. You must have been born on or after **2 April 1991**. If you were born before 2 April 1991 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. 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.
- 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).

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 Research - 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. 6 & 10)

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 ①②③④⑤⑥⑦ outlined below as well as a scanned copy of your Australian passport and Exam Location Form. If you have document ⑧ - ⑪, please include them with documents ① - ⑦.

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 June 2025 and the application documents must arrive at the Embassy by 5 PM 22 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	2 copies	Remarks
①	Application Form	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the 2026 Application Form. (See Note 4.)
②	Placement Preference Application Form	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the 2026 form.
③	Field of Study and Research Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Use the 2026 form. (See Note 5.)
④	Academic transcript for all academic years 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 2026 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 checked="" 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: **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.

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.
- 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.
- 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)

- Regarding the content, any format is acceptable but there is a sample you may refer to;
https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/mt/2025/04/07-2026_Research_SampleRecommendation.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.
- If you are currently employed in a permanent full-time capacity, you must submit a recommendation letter from your manager/superior at your place of employment.
- If you are currently working in a part-time or casual capacity and wish to submit a recommendation letter from your manager/superior at your place of employment, you can include the letter in your application.

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

“Exam Location Form” this tells us where you would sit exams if successful. Don’t forget to include it with your application documents.

Format

- Documents ①-③ **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—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/>

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 are required to sit the Japanese language exam.
- The exam is mandatory regardless of your 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 online interview. Shortlisted candidates will be informed of the date at a later date.

Contacting Universities

- If you successfully in passing 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 2025, 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 2026 MEXT Scholarship Research 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
	By 1 September 2025	Applicants successful in Domestic screening asked to contact prospective universities
	September 2025	Embassy recommends Australian Candidates to MEXT in Tokyo
	October - December 2025	MEXT decides successful applicants and their placements
	After January 2026	Notification from MEXT on final placement

	April 2026 or September/October 2026	Students depart for Japan
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Contact

Please direct enquiries to:

MEXT Scholarship Desk

Telephone: 02 6273 3244

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