**Application Guidelines for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship for Research Student Program 2016**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study at Japanese universities as research students as follows.

**1. Qualifications**

(1) Target:

The scholarship is offered to new foreign students who have earned the equivalent level of a graduate.

(2) Nationality:

Applicant must hold a nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. Those who hold Japanese citizenship at the time of application is not eligible.

(3) Age:

Applicant must have been born on or after April 2, 1981.

(4) Academic Background:

Applicant must be a graduate of a Japanese university or have academic ability equal or superior to that of a Japanese university graduate.

A person will be deemed to have academic ability equal or superior to that of a university graduate, if he/she

[1] has completed or will complete a 16-year school curriculum in a foreign country (or an 18-year school curriculum if he/she desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science, or in a doctoral course in pharmacy that is offered by a 6-year department/school); or

[2] is or will be age 22 or older and has taken an individual entrance qualification examination and has been judged by a graduate school as being equal or superior in academic ability to a university graduate (or 24 or older if he/she desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science, or in a doctoral course in pharmacy that is offered by 6-year department/school).

Note: Other than those above, “eligible applicants” include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to a Japanese graduate school.

(5) Study Area:

Study area must be in the same field as applicant has studied or in a related one. It also must be available at the university that the applicant wishes to enter.

(6) Japanese Language Ability:

In the fields in which Japanese language ability is necessary (Japanese linguistics, Japanese literature, Japanese history, Japanese law), applicant must have sufficient Japanese ability to pursue his/her studies except under very special circumstances.

(7) Health:

Applicant must be mentally or physically healthy enough to pursue study at university.

(8) Arrival in Japan:

Applicant must be able to arrive in Japan within two weeks of the date set by the receiving university for the beginning of the semester (in principle, in September or October). Those who cannot arrive in Japan within the designated period should decline the award of scholarship. Those who arrive in Japan before the designated date for personal reasons will NOT be able to receive traveling expenses to Japan.

(9) Visa Requirement:

Selected applicant must obtain a “College Student (ryuugaku)” visa prior to coming to Japan. Accepted applicants who are already in Japan under a different resident status must change their resident status to “College Student” by the end of the month preceding the start of the scholarship.

Applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of “College Student” will NOT qualify for the Japanese government scholarship. Applicant who changes his/her resident status to any status other than “College Student” after entry into Japan will lose his/her status of a Japanese government scholarship student. )

(10) Other:

Students under the conditions stated below will NOT be considered as a candidate.

[1] Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list

[2] Applicants who are not able to arrive in Japan on the appointed dates

[3] Applicants who have received the MEXT scholarship within the past three years (this restriction does not apply, however, to students who were enrolled as a scholarship student in Japanese Language and Culture Program or as a scholarship student in the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Course for Science and Engineering or as an international student in Japan under the Young Leaders Program).

[4] Applicants who have already won a scholarship from another institution (including the government of their home country) other than MEXT

[5] Applicants who have applied for the MEXT scholarship through another university or for the support system for foreign students by the MEXT and JASSO simultaneously (this restriction also applies to students who have been selected and are to be registered continuously through 2016 with the support system for foreign students conducted by MEXT and JASSO).

[6] Applicants who will be enrolled in a Japanese university in 2016 as privately-financed international students and are on the register continuously from October in 2016.

**2. Term of Scholarship**

The term of scholarship will differ as follows, depending on the course a grantee takes in Japan.

(1) If a grantee will enroll as a research student, non-degree student, or auditor, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “Research Student”) after coming to Japan, his/her scholarship will be payable from October 2016 through March 2018.

(2) If a grantee will directly enroll in a master's course, doctoral course, or professional graduate course after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for a period necessary for the grantee to complete his/her regular course (standard course term) (starting in October 2016).

(3) A grantee who has difficulty enrolling during the period above because of the beginning date of each term at the university will be provided with a special term of scholarship specified by MEXT for education/research guidance; however, this condition does not apply to a grantee whose scholarship period would be within one year.

(4) A grantee who desires to proceed to a regular graduate course from a Research Student course or to a doctoral course from a master’s course or a professional graduate course may have the term of his/her scholarship extended upon approval by MEXT, provided that he/she has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement that meets specified criteria.

Applicant who proceeds to a regular graduate course from a Research Student course or to a doctoral course from a master's course or a professional graduate course may NOT move to another university.

**3. Scholarship Benefits**

(1) Scholarship amount:

The scholarship amount for 2016 has not been fixed yet. For reference, the scholarship amount for 2015 was as follows.

JPY143,000～JPY145,000（depending on the course and place where a grantee studies.）

Amounts for 2016 may change depending on the budget conditions.

The scholarship will NOT be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence from the university or does not attend classes for a prolonged period.

Recipient of the MEXT scholarship may have his/her scholarships revoked in the following cases. In case recipient wrongly receives the scholarship under the following circumstances, he/she may be required to return the scholarship for the period.

[1] If any of recipient’s application documents is found to be falsely stated;

[2] If recipient violates his/her contractual agreement with MEXT;

[3] If recipient gets disciplinary action at the university;

[4] If it becomes definitive that recipient will not be able to graduate (or complete the course) within the standard course term because of his/her poor academic achievement or suspension.

[5] If recipient withdraws from graduate school or transfers to a different graduate school;

[6] If recipient changes his/her "College Student" visa status to some other status of residence;

[7] If recipient gets other scholarship (excluding grants for specific research projects).;

[8] If recipient proceeds to the higher courses without the approval for the extension of scholarship by MEXT.

(2) Traveling Costs

①Transportation to Japan:

The grantee will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, an economy class air ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address to the New Tokyo International Airport (Narita) or the international airport that is usually used by the university where he/she is placed. Other expenses, such as inland transportation from his/her place of residence to the international airport, airport tax, and any special taxes on overseas travel, will NOT be provided (the address stated in the application is considered as “home address of the grantee”).

\* No air ticket will be issued to a grantee for a route from any country other than the country of his/her nationality.

②Transportation from Japan:

For a grantee who returns to his/her home country by a specified date after the period of his/her scholarship has ended, MEXT will pay for an economy class air ticket from the New Tokyo International Airport (Narita) or the international airport that is usually used by the university to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.

\* Grantee should buy air travel insurance at his/her own expense.

\* The airports for departure and return should be in the country of the grantee’s nationality.

(3) Tuition fee: The university will provide all the tuition fee.

**4. Recommendation and Selection Procedures**

(1) Recommendation:

After screening at universities, presidents recommend applicant(s) who have shown academic excellence and need the scholarship to the Minister of MEXT.

(2) Selection:

Candidates are screened and selected by the selection committee from a pool

of applicants recommended by presidents of universities throughout Japan, and, based on the result of screening and selection by the committee, MEXT decides grantees and their term of scholarship.

**5. Additional considerations**

1) All required documents must be prepared in Japanese or English using word-processing software (if possible) and print all required documents on both sides.

2) Submitted documents will not be returned.

3) Attach abstracts summarizing the contents of theses.

4) All required documents must be prepared completely and correctly. Application without a complete set of attachment is not accepted.

**6. Notification of the Result**

A written notification of the screening result is scheduled to be sent to the presidents in May 2016.