



MEXT SCHOLARSHIP FAQ



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1. What is the MEXT scholarship?



What is the MEXT scholarship (“Embassy Recommendation” Version)?

- The MEXT scholarship is a **fully paid scholarship** by the Japanese government, more specifically by the “Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology”, called “**MEXT**” for short. Japanese government scholarship supports foreign students who study in higher education institutions, selected on the recommendation of Japanese Embassy/Consulate General, University, or Authority.
- Each embassy of Japan all over the world recruits, selects and recommends applicants every year (“**Embassy Recommendation**” scholarship).
- The Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg conducts the selection of two types of scholarships. One for “Undergraduate” (**Bachelor**) and “Research” (**Master, PhD, etc.**). These have different applications and rules.



Which embassy can I apply to for the MEXT Scholarship?

- This scholarship is for students of non-Japanese nationality.
- The nationality of the applicant decides which Japanese Embassy is responsible for the application. At the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg, everyone with Luxembourgish nationality can apply.
(For example: With French nationality you apply to the Japanese Embassy in Paris, with Belgian nationality you apply to the Japanese Embassy in Brussels.)
- In case of dual nationality, you can only apply to one Embassy of your choice. The country of residence does not play into the application.
- (This FAQ is mainly for Luxembourgish people. If you are not Luxembourgish, please contact the Embassy of Japan in the country of your nationality.)



What does the MEXT scholarship cover?

The scholarship covers fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition at universities, the airplane ticket to Japan and from Japan, and gives a monthly allowance.

Monthly allowance.

Undergraduate student: ¥ 117,000 per month (As of 2024)

Research student: ¥143,000 - 145,000 per month (As of 2024)

2. Application process



What does the application process look like?

- Details and precise dates will be announced beforehand on the Embassy's social media and on the official website. Mind you that the application is always for the next following year. (For example, to get the scholarship for 2026, you should have applied in 2025, one year earlier.)
The normal schedule of the selection by the Embassy of Luxembourg for **Undergraduate** and **Research** students looks as follows:



Undergraduate (Bachelor, etc.):

Around April: Start of application

End of May or Early June: Deadline of application

During June: Documents screening by the Embassy

⇒ Afterwards: Interview and written tests

July - January: Second screening by MEXT

January of the following year: Notification of results of selection

April of the following year: visit Japan and start a preparatory education* (If you speak Japanese well, you can enter a university directly in April, September or October.)



* **preparatory education:** The preparatory course is a one-year intensive course in the Japanese language and other subjects necessary for preparation for proceeding to university. Its curriculum mainly consists of Japanese language education, and includes other subjects such as Japanese affairs, mathematics, English, and social studies for those majoring in Social Science and Humanities, and physics, chemistry and biology for those majoring in Natural Sciences.



Research (Master, PhD, etc.):

Around April: Start of application

End of May or Early June: Deadline of application

During June: Document screening by the Embassy

⇒ Afterwards: Interview and written tests

Until August: If passed: Request provisional acceptance to Japanese university

From October: Second screening and university placement by MEXT

January to February of the following year:

Notification of results of selection and university placement

April or October of the following year: visit Japan and start studying at the Japanese university



What kind of documents should I submit to the embassy?

Please consult the official guideline.

You are recommended to prepare the necessary documents in advance with some leeway for time, as some take time to acquire, i.e. medical certificate, academic transcript issued by school/university, recommendation letter by university professor, etc.



Can I apply via email?

Yes. Please send the necessary documents to culture.embjapan@lx.mofa.go.jp. Some documents need to be submitted in original, so please bring them with you when you come to the Embassy for the interview and written tests after you have passed the document screening process.



Can I choose the starting date for my studies in Japan?

No, you will start the following semester after the scholarship is validated, which is very often the spring semester starting April 1 (or 1st October for Research). For further details consult the guideline. As previously mentioned: Mind you that the application is always for the next following year. (For example, to get the scholarship for 2026, you should have applied in 2025, one year earlier.)



Can I combine the MEXT scholarship with other scholarships or grants?

If you have already gotten the MEXT scholarship or another Japanese government scholarship before, you normally cannot get the MEXT scholarship. If you already have applied for another scholarship from the Japanese government, you cannot apply for the MEXT one as well. For further details consult the guideline.



Can I study at [XY] university with the MEXT scholarship?

Undergraduate students: No. The university that the grantee will enter is decided by the MEXT in consultation with the university and the preparatory educational institution, in comprehensive consideration of the results of the academic examinations in the First Screening conducted at the Japanese Embassy and other factors such as the grantee's proposed major subject. For further details consult the guideline.

Research students: Three (3) universities can be chosen at the time of application. After passing the first screening by the Embassy of Japan, the applicants ask the universities they wish to attend to issue letters of provisional acceptance. In principle, the grantee will be placed at the university from where the applicant has received a letter of provisional acceptance. For further details consult the guideline.



Can I study [XY] with the MEXT scholarship?

Undergraduate students: There are several fields of study, under both "Social Sciences and Humanities", as well as "Natural Sciences". These include, for example, Law, Literature, History, Physics, Civil Engineering, Agricultural Sciences, Medicine and Electronics. For the full list, please consult the guideline.

Research students: Applicants should apply for the field(s) of study they have majored in or a related field for their previous studies. If needed, please check if



the university you want to apply offers the studies you wish for – please visit the university's website or consult official information sites such as the following.

"Study in Japan".

https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/search-for-schools/school_search.php

"Researchmap"

<https://researchmap.jp/?lang=english>

"J-GLOBAL"

<https://jglobal.jst.go.jp/en>

3. Test and Interview Process



What kind of tests do I have to take after the document screening?

Undergraduate:

- Written tests (Math, Physics, English, etc.) depending on the major chosen, for detail please check the guideline.
(If you want to take a look at exams from previous years, please ask your Embassy of Japan for access.)
- Interview at the Embassy

Research:

- Written tests of English and Japanese to evaluate language proficiency
- (If you want to take a look at exams from previous years, please ask your Embassy of Japan for access.)
- Interview at the Embassy



Do I need to be able to speak Japanese to get the MEXT scholarship?

No, this is not an absolute requirement, but you have to take a Japanese language test at the first screening. It's one of the elements considered in the selection process. Furthermore, you should be willing to learn Japanese to enjoy living and studying in Japan.

Undergraduate students: You will be given a preparatory course, which is a one-year intensive course in Japanese language and other subjects necessary for proceeding to university.



**Ambassade du Japon
au Luxembourg**

See the previous point: **“What does the application process look like?”** and consult the official guideline.



Can I take the test/interview online?

No. You must come to the Embassy in Luxembourg and take the tests in person. It is a mandatory rule.

4. In Japan



Where will I stay in Japan? What will my accommodation be?

Some universities have residence halls for international students. Please check with the university you are applying to.



Are there cases where scholarship payment will be cancelled?

There are some cases where the payment of the scholarship will be cancelled. For the whole list, please consult the guideline.

For further information, please consult the guideline and contact the Cultural Section of the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg:

Email: culture.embjapan@lx.mofa.go.jp

Website: <https://www.lu.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Telephone: +352 46 41 51 51

More information about studying in Japan can also be found here:



**Ambassade du Japon
au Luxembourg**

JASSO

Japan Student Services Organization



<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/>

<https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/smap-stopj-applications-research.html>

MEXT

Study in Japan Official Website

