

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2021
DEGREE STUDENTS
(UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION)
-Graduate School of Science and Technology –
Degree Programs in Pure and Applied Sciences
(Master's program in Materials Innovation / Doctoral program in Materials Innovation)

MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study as degree students at the Degree Programs in Pure and Applied Sciences (Master's Program in Materials Innovation and Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation) at the Graduate School of Science and Technology at the University of Tsukuba.

Application Guideline for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2021 – Degree Students (University Recommendation) is as follows:

*The new guidelines for the MEXT scholarship commencing in October 2021 will be published in December 2020. Should there be any changes to the application requirements, the University of Tsukuba will announce to each applicant.

1. Qualifications and Conditions

(1) Applicant

An applicant must be international students of graduate school level who are newly coming to Japan, and must have demonstrated excellent academic achievement with a Grade Point Average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above at the previous school, and the evaluation on the same level is expected during the scholarship payment period. And furthermore, an applicant must satisfy one of the conditions of "(6) Language ability" below.

(2) Nationality

Applicant must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with Japan. In principle, an applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application will not be eligible. However, persons with dual nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the foreign country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan.

(3) Age

Applicant must be born on or after April 2, 1986. Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to the situation or circumstances in the applicant's country (military service obligation, loss of educational opportunities due to disturbances of war, etc.) Personal circumstances (financial situation, family circumstances, state of health, circumstances related to applicant's university or place of employment, etc.) will not be considered for exceptions. However, the applicant from the Young Leaders Program can only apply for the doctoral program within 5 years graduated in the same program.

(4) Academic Background

An applicant must meet one of the following requirements to be accepted in the Master's Program/Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation from October 2021.

[Master's Program]

- 1) A person who has completed sixteen years of education in a foreign country and earned a bachelor's degree, or expected to graduate and receive the bachelor's degree by September 2021
- 2) A person who is 22 years of age or older as of September 2021, and whose qualification is recognized as equivalent to a bachelor's degree as the result of the eligibility screening conducted by the University of Tsukuba

[Doctoral Program]

- 1) A person who has a master's degree or expected to receive one by September 2021
- 2) A person who has a specialized degree or expected to receive one by September 2021
- 3) A person who has a master's degree or a specialized degree awarded by a university outside Japan as of September 2021
- 4) A person who is 24 years of age or older as of September 2021, and whose qualification is recognized as equivalent to a master's degree or a specialized degree as the result of the eligibility screening conducted by the University of Tsukuba

Note: As a general rule, a person who has completed a doctoral course may not apply unless he/she seeks to obtain a degree.

(5) Field of Study and Number of Students to be accepted

Master's Program in Materials Innovation: 2 students

Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation: 3 students

(6) Language Proficiency

An applicant must satisfy one of the following qualifications in Japanese or English:

○ Japanese

- 1) Have passed N2 or higher level of the Japanese language proficiency test (JLPT) by the time of enrollment in the regular course
- 2) Have completed a curriculum that meet the admission requirements for a master's course/doctoral course in Japan by using Japanese as the main language
- 3) Judged by the University of Tsukuba to have a Japanese language ability equivalent to or better than N2 of the Japanese language proficiency test (JLPT)

○ English

- 1) Have B2 or higher level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of enrollment in the regular course
- 2) Have completed a curriculum that meet the admission requirements for a master's course/doctoral

course in Japan by using English as the main language

- 3) Judged by the University of Tsukuba to have an English language ability equivalent to or better than B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

(7) Health

An applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue study at university.

2. Selection and Notification

(1) Selection

[Application Time Schedule]

Application Deadline

Application documents will be submitted in a two-step process.

1) December 18, 2020 5:00pm (JST)

Submit the required documents show in No. A-1 to No. A-7 via e-mail (in PDF).

Please contact following e-mail address about the submission method.

<e-mail address> nyushi-pas@un.tsukuba.ac.jp

2) December 25, 2020 5:00pm (JST)

Send the required documents by delivery service with tracking.

Note: The deadline is strictly observed. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.



Examination

January 28, 2021 – February 2, 2021

Recipient will be selected based on screening of the application documents and oral examination.

- 1) The oral examination will be conducted between January 28, 2021 – February 2, 2021, with a Zoom etc.

- 2) The Oral examination (total 200 points)

English abilities: 50 points

Ability to execute research: 150 points

- 2) Follow the instruction by the Materials Innovation program.

- 3) Each applicant will be asked about his/her research plan and related knowledge and skills.

Note: Prospective applicant will be contacted via e-mail after the preliminary screening of the submitted documents.



Notification

Examination Result: February 19, 2021

The result of examination will be announced individually after the oral examination. The successful applicants will be recommended to the MEXT as the scholarship candidates. Prepare in advance so that you can submit the documents shown in No. B-1 to No. B-7 by the deadline.

Official Notification from MEXT: Late-June, 2021

Recipients will be notified individually via e-mail.



Entrance

October 1, 2021

Note: Date of transportation to Japan will be designated by University of Tsukuba.

Note: A successful applicant who is not selected as a MEXT scholarship student can enroll as a privately-sponsored international student if he/she has checked "Yes" to this at the time of application. In that case, he/she must pay the tuition fees.

(2) Required Documents

The required documents for application are as follows.

1) Submission Deadline

[PDF format] December 18, 2020 5:00pm (JST) **[Original]** December 25, 2020 5:00pm (JST)

No.	Documents	Instructions
A-1	Application Checklist	Use the prescribed form (both-sides printing).
A-2	Application Form (for the University of Tsukuba)	Use the prescribed form. * Before you apply, you have to contact a prospective supervisor (a faculty member from whom you wish to receive academic instruction) and obtain his/her consent to your application in advance. 〈 Master's Program in Materials Innovation 〉 Faculty member list. pdf 〈 Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation 〉 Faculty member list. pdf

A-3	Academic transcript of each academic year of the last university	<p>Submit an academic transcript (the official transcript of records) issued by a university or other educational institution that meets requirements for admission to the Master's program/ Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation. If any credits were transferred from other school(s), academic transcript(s) issued by the other school is also required. (All documents must be in English or in Japanese.)</p> <p>*You must also submit (an) official document(s) that specifies and explains the grading system(s) if it is not indicated in your transcript.</p>
A-4	Graduation certificate and degree certificate of the last university	<p>1) Applicants who graduated from a foreign university must submit documents (certificate of graduation or certificate of expected graduation and degree certificate) to certify that they have a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree.</p> <p>2) Applicants who completed a master's program at a foreign university must submit documents (certificate of graduation or certificate of expected graduation and degree certificate) to certify that they have a degree equivalent to a master's degree.</p>
A-5	Summary of Research and Future Research Plans	Write it in English by using the designated form.
A-6	Documents to certify the language proficiency	<p>Japanese: Certificate for passing the exam of N2 or higher level of JLPT</p> <p>English: Score report of a language proficiency test that corresponds to B2 or higher level of CEFR</p> <p>*An applicant who have graduated or will graduate from university or a graduate school where English or Japanese is the main language should submit an official document issued by the university.</p>
A-7	Examination Admission Slip	<p>Print the prescribed form.</p> <p>The photo must be: sized 4.5 x 3.5 cm; taken within the last 6 months; upper body; hat off; front side. Attach it as electronic data.</p>

2) Submission Deadline

[PDF format] January 29, 2021 5:00pm (JST) [Original] February 12, 2021 5:00pm (JST)

No.	Documents	Instructions
B-1	Application Checklist	Use the prescribed form (both-sides printing).
B-2	Application Form (for the MEXT scholarship)	Use the prescribed form (both-sides printing). The applicant's photograph to be attached to the Application Form should be of clear quality, taken within six months of submission, and printed on paper specially for photographs. The photograph should be 4.5 x 3.5 cm. upper-body, full-faced, no hats. Please write applicant's name and nationality on the back of the photograph. The photograph data can be pasted to the Application Form and printed out.
B-3	Field of Study and Research Plan (for the MEXT scholarship)	Use the prescribed form. * both-sides printing
B-4	Degree Thesis Abstract	If you have written a degree thesis, a brief summary of the content (both-sides printing) will be required. If there are books, academic papers, reports or presentation materials of academic conference that show your achievements and abilities in research, the list of publication will be also required.

B-5	Letter of Recommendation from the dean or above of the university	The letter of recommendation should be dated and addressed to the attention of the President of the University of Tsukuba, and the recommender's name and Title/Position must be stated therein. If the academic performance cannot be quantified, it should be indicated in the letter of recommendation that the applicant's grade ranking at the university/faculty, or graduate school is considered to be within the top 30%.
B-6	Photocopy of your passport	* If you do not have a passport yet, you are required to submit a certificate of family register or a certificate of citizenship issued by the government of your home country.
B-7	Any certificate indicating the applicant's academic excellence at the previous university, such as GPA, class rank.	* The certificate must be the latest version and issued by an academic institution. * You may omit the document if the necessary information (i.e. GPA or class rank) is included in your academic transcript.

Note:

1. If your current name is different from that on the documents you submit (for example, because of marriage), you will be required to submit proof of your name change (e.g., copy of marriage license).
2. All the documents except for specified official documents must be created in A4 size paper (same size as the application form) in Japanese or English, preferably in typed and printed format.
3. All the documents should be originals except No. A-6 and No. B-6.
4. Submitted documents will not be returned.
5. Your application will not be evaluated if the above documents are incomplete or not accurately completed. Applications received after the deadline will not be processed.
6. Before you apply, you have to contact a prospective supervisor (a faculty member from whom you wish to receive academic instruction) and obtain his/her consent to your application in advance.

3. Notes

(1) Enrollment - Arrival in Japan

The period of enrollment will be scheduled in October 2021, and in principle, the student must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan during the period set by the University of Tsukuba, which is in the period of two weeks before and after the starting day of the fall semester (October 1).

Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, the student must withdraw from this scholarship program if the student cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above which decided by MEXT or the UT.

(2) Visa Requirement

An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant’s country of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of “Student.”

Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other residence status (“Permanent resident,” “Long-term resident,” etc.), the applicant must change it to the “Student” status and re-enter Japan. Moreover, the applicant should be aware that after expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student and even if the student again applies for their original resident status of “Permanent resident” or “Long-term resident,” such resident statuses might not be necessarily granted. The applicant should also be aware that the scholarship will be cancelled if he/she arrived in Japan without a newly obtained “Student” visa.

(3) Non-eligibility

Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship.

- 1) Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;
- 2) Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT or the accepting university;
- 3) Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan). This does not apply to: those who have educational or work experience exceeding more than three years from the following month of the period of the previous scholarship to the estimated first month of the payment of this scholarship; and the past grantees of Japanese Studies Students program who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Young Leaders’ Program. The Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs;
- 4) Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2020, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2021;
- 5) Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of “Student,” or who are going to be enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university or other institution as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program in the applicant’s country until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT scholarship.

However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university or other institution, verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, return to their home country at the time of the scholarship application, and newly acquire the “Student” residence status and come to Japan;

- 6) Those who are planning to receive scholarship money from an organization other than MEXT

(including a government organization of the applicant's country) on top of the scholarship money provided by MEXT after the start of the scholarship payment period;

- 7) Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
- 8) Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan;
- 9) Those who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after their arrival in Japan;
- 10) Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the university;
- 11) Those who have completed a doctoral course and have no intention to obtain a degree.

4. Term of Scholarship

The scholarship will be paid during the standard training period of each program in Japan.

Master's program: 2 years

Doctoral program: 3 years

5. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance

The amounts listed below shall be paid depending on the course enrolled in. A supplemental regional allowance of 2,000 yen or 3,000 yen per month will be added to the monthly scholarship amount for the grantees studying or conducting research in specially designated regions. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. If a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

Master's program: 144,000 yen per month

Doctoral program: 145,000 yen per month.

(2) Traveling Costs

1) Transportation to Japan

In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class air ticket for the flight from the recipient's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport on the normal route to the accepting university. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the grantee's residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, expenses related to baggage, unaccompanied baggage etc. The grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country if the grantee must travel to a third country before coming to Japan for visa purposes because there is no embassy of Japan in his/her country or there is no direct flight from his/her home country. In principle, MEXT or the university will only provide an economy class ticket to the international airport that the host university will use in the domestic route on ordinary routes from the visiting country. However, MEXT

will not provide the air ticket in cases when the grantee arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality due to the personal issues that had moved to the country before the arrival in Japan.

("Residence place" of foreign students is in principle the 「current address」 stated in the application form. However, if the student moved to another place in the country of nationality before arrival, the new address stated in the application form "address " column will be referred as "residence place").

2) Transportation from Japan

Grantees shall graduate the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by MEXT. Based on the Application by the grantee, MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class air ticket from Narita International Airport or the international airport used for the normal route to and from the accepting university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, expenses related to baggage, unaccompanied baggage etc. Due to personal reasons and the reason of "3. Scholarship Benefits (4) Suspension of Payment of Scholarship", if you return from Japan before the end of the scholarship period, you will not be provided with the return travel expenses. In addition, if you continue to stay in Japan after the scholarship payment period ends (for example, going to school or employment in Japan), you will not be provided with the return travel expenses when you return to Japan temporarily.

(3) Tuition and Other Fees

The recipient gets full tuition fee, examination fee and admission fee coverage from the University of Tsukuba. However, if you lose your status as a national scholarship student after enrolling, you will be charged the tuition fees from that semester.

(4) Suspension of Payment of Scholarship

Scholarship will be cancelled for a grantee in the following cases. Furthermore, if scholarship payments were made during the period the following cases applied, the grantee may be ordered to return scholarship payments received during that period. The scholarship payment may be suspended until the disposition is decided.

- 1) When a false statement is detected in the information provided on the application or other documents.
- 2) When a grantee has violated his or her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- 3) When the recipient violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to imprisonment with or without work for life or for a period of exceeding 1 year.
- 4) A grantee is suspended from his/her university or preparatory educational institution or receives

other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution.

- 5) When a grantee is deemed not able to complete his or her study during the standard duration program due to deficiencies in academic performance or suspension.
- 6) When a grantee has changed his or her status of residence from “College Student (ryuugaku 留学)” or has come to Japan without acquiring a new residence status of “College Student (ryuugaku 留学)” which is defined in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.
- 7) When a grantee has been awarded a different scholarship (excluding grants designated for research expenses).
- 8) When, following selection, a grantee has advanced to a higher program of study without obtaining permission for an extension of the scholarship award period.
- 9) When a grantee has dropped out of the host university or transferred to a different graduate school.
- 10) When the annually Grade Point Average (GPA) is below 2.30 or below the grading standard set by the university.

6. Enrollment Procedures

- (1) Successful applicants will receive a packet of Admission Procedure Documents (which contain documents to be submitted before entrance). The documents will be sent in late June, 2021. Follow the instructions in the documents.

(Note) Successful applicants need to notify us in advance via email at

nyushi-pas@un.tsukuba.ac.jp, if they are moving permanently before the date above or going away when the documents are expected to be delivered.

7. Security Export Control

The University of Tsukuba has established the University of Tsukuba Rules on Security Export Control in accordance with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, and conducts strict examinations for acceptance of international students. International applicants who fall under any of the conditions set out in said regulations may be unable to enter their desired course or program.

Please review all of the documents carefully and submit them to the address below:

<Mailing Address>

Graduate School Affairs, Academic Service Office for Pure and Applied Sciences Area,
University of Tsukuba

1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8571, JAPAN