

**JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2025**  
**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 Guidelines for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2025 – Degree Students (University Recommendation) are as follows:

\* MEXT will announce the guidelines for 2025 in December 2024. Should there be any changes to the application requirements, the University of Tsukuba will announce them to each applicant.

## **1. Qualifications and Conditions**

### **(1) Applicant**

Applicants must be international students of graduate school level who are newly coming to Japan or those already staying in Japan, and must have demonstrated excellent academic achievement with a Grade Point Average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above at their previous school, and the evaluation on the same level is expected during the scholarship payment period. And furthermore, applicants must satisfy one of the conditions of "(6) Language Proficiency" below. In addition, applicants must be able to make a firm commitment to enroll at University of Tsukuba if recommended as a MEXT scholarship student.

### **(2) Nationality**

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

### **(3) Age**

Applicants must be born on or after April 2, 1990. 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 exceptions. However, applicants from the Young Leaders Program can only apply for the doctoral program within five years after graduating from the same program.

#### (4) Academic Background

Applicants must meet one of the following requirements to be accepted in the Master's Program/Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation from April 2025.

##### **[Master's Program]**

- 1) Individuals who have completed 16 years of education in a foreign country and have earned a bachelor's degree, or who are expected to graduate and receive their bachelor's degree by April 2025.
- 2) Individuals who are 22 years of age or older as of April 2025, 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) Individuals who have a master's degree or who are expected to receive one by April 2025.
- 2) Individuals who have a specialized degree or expected to receive one by April 2025.
- 3) Individuals who have a master's degree or a specialized degree awarded by a university outside Japan as of April 2025.
- 4) Individuals who are 24 years of age or older as of April 2025, 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, persons who have completed a doctoral course may not apply unless they seek to obtain a degree.

#### (5) Field of Study and Number of Students to be Accepted

Master's Program in Materials Innovation: A few

Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation: A few

Recipients of the MEXT scholarship will be selected from those who pass the entrance examination of the MEXT scholarship program for 2025 degree students.

#### (6) Language Proficiency

Applicants 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 meets 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 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 meets 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 English language ability equivalent to or better than B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

(7) Health

Applicants must be physically and mentally fit enough to pursue study at a university.

## 2. Selection and Notification

(1) Selection

**[Application Time Schedule for July Examination]**

**Application Deadline**

**May 24, 2024 5:00 p.m. (JST)**

Submit the required documents shown in No. A-1 to No. A-7 (in PDF).

Please contact the following email address regarding the submission method.

<email address> [nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp) (Please replace #@# with @.)

We request the successful applicants to send the original documents after the examination.

Please prepare for them.



**Examination**

**July 4, 2024 – July 9, 2024**

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

- 1) The oral examination will be conducted between July 4, 2024 and July 9, 2024, via Zoom etc.
- 2) The oral examination (total 200 points)
  - English ability: 50 points
  - Ability to execute research: 150 points
- 3) Follow the instructions from the Materials Innovation program.
- 4) Each applicant will be asked about their research plan and related knowledge and skills.



## Notification

### **Examination Results: July 18, 2024**

The examination results will be announced individually after the oral examination. Successful applicants will be recommended to the MEXT as scholarship candidates. We will contact successful applicants regarding submission of application documents for MEXT scholarship students.

### **Official Notification from MEXT: Late February, 2025**

Recipients will be notified individually via email.



## Entrance

### **April 1, 2025**

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

Note: Successful applicants who are not selected as a MEXT scholarship student can enroll as a privately-sponsored international student if they have checked "Yes" to this at the time of application. In that case, they must pay the tuition fees.

## [Application Time Schedule for October Examination]

### Application Deadline

#### **September 5, 2024 5:00 p.m. (JST)**

Submit the required documents shown in No. A-1 to No. A-7 (in PDF).

Please contact the following email address regarding the submission method.

<email address> [nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp) (Please replace #@# with @.)

We request the successful applicants to send the original documents after the examination.

Please prepare for them.



## Examination

### **October 9, 2024 – October 16, 2024**

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

- 1) The oral examination will be conducted between October 9, 2024 and October 16, 2024, via Zoom etc.
- 2) The oral examination (total 200 points)
  - English ability: 50 points
  - Ability to execute research: 150 points
- 3) Follow the instructions from the Materials Innovation program.
- 4) Each applicant will be asked about their research plan and related knowledge and skills.



## Notification

### **Examination Results: October 31, 2024**

The examination results will be announced individually after the oral examination. Successful applicants will be recommended to the MEXT as scholarship candidates. We will contact successful applicants regarding submission of application documents for MEXT scholarship students.

### **Official Notification from MEXT: Late February, 2025**

Recipients will be notified individually via email.



## Entrance

### **April 1, 2025**

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

Note: Successful applicants who are not selected as a MEXT scholarship student can enroll as a privately-sponsored international student if they have checked "Yes" to this at the time of application. In that case, they must pay the tuition fees.

## (2) Required Documents

The required documents for application are as follows.

No.	Documents	Instructions
A-1	Application Checklist	Use the prescribed form.
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 their consent to your application in advance.  <Master's Program in Materials Innovation> <a href="#">Faculty member list. pdf</a>  <Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation> <a href="#">Faculty member list. pdf</a>

A-3	Academic transcript of each academic year of the last university attended	<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><b><u>* You must have demonstrated excellent academic achievement with a Grade Point Average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above at their previous school.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>* You must also submit (an) official document(s) that specifies and explains the grading system(s) if it is not indicated in your transcript.</u></b></p>
A-4	Graduation certificate and degree certificate from the last university attended	<p>1) Applicants who graduated from a university outside Japan 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 university outside Japan 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 language proficiency (Applicants only need to meet either Japanese or English.)	<p>Japanese: <b><u>Certificate for passing N2 or higher level of JLPT</u></b></p> <p>English: <b><u>Score report of language proficiency test that corresponds to B2 or higher level of CEFR</u></b></p> <p>* Applicants who have graduated or will graduate from a university or 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	Use the prescribed form. The size of the photo must be 4.5 x 3.5 cm; taken within the last 6 months; upper body; hat off; front side. Attach it as electronic data.
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**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.
3. 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.
4. Before you apply, you have to contact a prospective supervisor (a faculty member from whom you wish to receive academic instruction) and obtain their consent to your application in advance.

**3. Notes**

(1) Enrollment - Arrival in Japan

The period of enrollment will be scheduled in April 2025, and in principle, students 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 spring semester (April 1).

Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, students must withdraw from this scholarship program if they are unable to arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above which decided by MEXT or the University of Tsukuba.

(2) Visa Requirement

Applicants shall, in principle, newly obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the their country of citizenship, 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.), they must change it to the “Student” status. Moreover, the applicant should be aware that after expiration of the status as a MEXT scholarship student and even if the student applies again 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 canceled if begin without changing status of residence to "Student" visa.

(3) Non-eligibility

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

- 1) Individuals 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) Individuals who are unable to arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT or the accepting university;

- 3) Individuals who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). This does not apply to those who wish to apply for Research Students program and meet any one of the following conditions. In addition, since the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students does not apply to the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs, the previous grantees can apply.
- individuals 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;
  - 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;
  - those who have obtained or are expected to obtain a degree as undergraduate students of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (university recommendation/special selection).
- 4) Individuals 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 FY2024, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2025;
- 5) Individuals 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 (the acquisition of student status);
- 6) Individuals who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
- 7) Holders of dual citizenship at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese citizenship by the time they arrive in Japan (the acquisition of student status);
- 8) Individuals who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after they arrive in Japan;
- 9) Individuals 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;
- 10) Individuals who have no intention of obtaining 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 citizenship) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport on the normal route to the accepting university. The grantee shall bear at their 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 their 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 their country or there is no direct flight from their 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 citizenship due to personal issues that had moved to the country before their 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 citizenship 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 from the accepting university and return to their 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 citizenship) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The grantee shall bear at their 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 citizenship (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, expenses related to baggage, unaccompanied baggage, etc. Due to personal reasons and the reason of "5. 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 receives 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

The scholarship will be canceled 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 their 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 one year.
- 4) A grantee is suspended from their 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 unable to complete their study during the standard duration program due to deficiencies in academic performance or suspension.
- 6) When a grantee has changed their 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 annual 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 February 2025. Follow the instructions in the documents.

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

[nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp), if they are moving permanently before the date above or will be away when the documents are expected to be delivered. (Please replace #@# with @.)

## 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.

**Prior to application, contact with your desired faculty advisor and ask them to implement export control procedures.**

## 8. Contact

If you have any questions about this application guidelines, please contact us:

Graduate School Affairs, Academic Service Office for Pure and Applied Sciences Area,  
University of Tsukuba  
1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8571, JAPAN

[nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:nyushi-pas#@un.tsukuba.ac.jp) (Please replace #@# with @.)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday except for on national holidays and during our summer break and winter break.