

2026 Application Guidelines for the Special Entrance Examination

— Graduate School of Science and Technology —

Degree Programs in Pure and Applied Sciences

(Master's Program in Materials Innovation / Doctoral Program in Materials Innovation)

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION)

These guidelines are for the entrance examination for the MEXT scholarship program.

From among those who pass the entrance examination, candidates for recommendation to MEXT will be selected.

* MEXT will announce the guidelines for 2026 in December 2025. Should there be any changes to the application requirements, the University of Tsukuba will announce them to each applicant.

1. Qualifications and Conditions

University of Tsukuba and MEXT accept applications from international students of graduate school level who are newly coming to Japan or those already staying in Japan and satisfy the following qualifications and conditions. Applicants must commit to enrolling in the University of Tsukuba if they are accepted.

(1) Academic Performance

Applicants 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.

(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, 1991. 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 2026.

[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 2026.
- 2) Individuals who are 22 years of age or older as of April 2026, 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 2026.
- 2) Individuals who have a specialized degree or expected to receive one by April 2026.
- 3) Individuals who have a master's degree or a specialized degree awarded by a university outside Japan as of April 2026.
- 4) Individuals who are 24 years of age or older as of April 2026, 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 2026 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.

(8) 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 your desired faculty advisor and ask them to implement export control procedures.

2. Selection and Notification

(1) Selection

Application

Deadline: September 4, 2025, 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 (Please replace #@# with @.)

We request the successful applicants to send the original documents after the examination.
Please prepare for them.



Examination

October 14, 2025 – October 16, 2025

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

- 1) The oral examination will be conducted between October 14, 2025 and October 16, 2025, 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

October 31, 2025

Examination results will be individually communicated after the oral examination. Notification regarding recommendation for the MEXT scholarship will also be provided at that time.



Successful applicant **selected as a recommended candidate for the MEXT Scholarship**

Application for Scholarship

Deadline: Early December 2025(TBA)

Successful applicants selected as a recommended candidate for the MEXT Scholarship are required to submit the scholarship application documents. Details of the application procedure will be sent by email to the relevant individuals.

***Official Notification from MEXT**

Early March 2026

Recipients will be notified individually via email.

Successful applicant **not selected as a recommended candidate for the MEXT Scholarship**

Successful applicants not selected as a recommended candidate for the MEXT Scholarship can enroll as a privately sponsored student. In that case, they must pay the admission and tuition fee. Please inform us of your decision as to whether you intend to enroll as a privately sponsored student or decline the offer of admission.



Receive Enrollment Procedure Guidelines

Mid-January to Mid-February 2026

The information on Admission Procedures will be sent to successful applicants to the email address registered for the application. Please follow the instructions in that email to conduct the admission procedures.



Admission Procedure to Confirm Enrollment

Deadline: Early March 2026

You need to complete the procedure via the website by the deadline. Some are requested to submit additional certificates via postal mail. Please follow the instructions.

Note: Even if you wish to decline admission, you are required to access the admission procedure website and inform us of your withdrawal through the website.



Entrance

April 1, 2026

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

(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> 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 attended	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.) <u>* You must have excellent academic achievement with a Grade Point Average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above at your previous school.</u> <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>
A-4	Graduation certificate and degree certificate from the last university attended	[Master's Programs] Submit the certificate of [expected] graduation and degree certificate to certify that you have or are expected to achieve a bachelor's degree. [Doctoral Programs] Submit the certificate of [expected] graduation and degree certificate to certify that you have or are expected to achieve a master's degree or specialized degree.
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.)	Japanese: <u>Certificate for passing N2 or higher level of JLPT</u> English: <u>Score report of language proficiency test that corresponds to B2 or higher level of CEFR</u> * 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.
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.

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. Examination Fee

The examination fee for this special entrance examination will be waived.

4. Scholarship Information

For comprehensive information regarding the scholarship, please refer to the application guidelines published by MEXT.

URL: https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20241115-mxt_kotokoku01-000038802_2.pdf

Note:

- As of June 2025, the guidelines accessible via the above URL pertain to the 2025 academic year. Updated information for applicants entering the 2026 academic year is expected to be published around December.
- Although these application guidelines include information regarding October admission, the Program in Materials Innovation accepts applications only for enrollment in April.
- Applicants who pass the entrance examination and are selected for scholarship recommendation will be provided with detailed information and instructions regarding the necessary documentation for the scholarship application later.

5. Contact

If you have any questions about these 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 (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.