

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT(MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2021 (RESEARCH STUDENT) with university's recommendation

Recipient of the Monbukagakusho (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology - MEXT) Scholarship will enroll in Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (OUAVM) **as a Research Student starting from October 2021.**

Scholarship recipient who has demonstrated excellent academic achievement and who has passed the entrance examination during his/her Research Student status period will be eligible to enroll in OUAVM's Master's or Doctoral Programs and extend the duration of his/her MEXT Scholarship under certain conditions, as noted herein:

Recipient may advance to OUAVM's Master's Program or Doctoral Program, provided that he/she successfully passes the entrance examination. In this case the student is eligible to apply for a MEXT Scholarship extension. The time of enrollment in Master's or Doctoral Programs should be one of the following options as follows: April 2022, October 2022, or April 2023.

In principle, an applicant who has either obtained an official recommendation from a university with which OUAVM has a formal agreement for academic cooperation or an official recommendation from the president or equivalent official (e.g. director or dean) of a university with which OUAVM has established bilateral activities is eligible to apply for this program.

Qualifications:

1. Eligibility

Applicant, **not residing in Japan, who has excellent academic achievements** as a graduate-level student, is eligible.

2. Nationality

Applicant must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. Applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application will not be eligible. However, applicants of dual nationality who reside outside of Japan is eligible only if they will renounce Japanese nationality by the time of arrival in Japan. Screening of applicants will be made at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the country of applicants' nationality.

3. Age

Applicant must have been born on or after April 2, 1986.

4. Academic Background

Applicant must be a graduate from 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

(2) is or will be aged 22 or older and has taken an individual entrance qualification examination and has been judged by OUAVM as being equal or superior in academic ability to a university graduate.

Note: Eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to a Japanese graduate school.

5. Major Field of Study

Applicant should apply for the field of study he/she studied at the previous university or any related field. Applicant must choose a field on which he/she can receive education and perform research at OUAVM.

6. Language Proficiency

Applicants must meet one of the language requirements in either English or in Japanese as described below:

[English]

1. Holds an English proficiency test score equivalent to B2 or above on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale (e.g. TOEFL iBT 72 or above, IELTS 5.5 or above).
* To see what counts as "B2 or above on the CEFR scale", please refer to the CEFR Equivalency Chart.
2. Has completed an educational program whose primary language of instruction is English that satisfies the entrance requirements to the Master's Program or Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of OUAVM.

[Japanese]

1. Has passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) with a score of N2 or higher.
2. Has completed an educational program whose primary language of instruction is Japanese that satisfies the entrance requirements to the Master's Program or Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of OUAVM.

7. Health

Applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue study at OUAVM.

8. Arrival in Japan

Applicant must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan within the stated period set by OUAVM. **The arrival date should be between 17 September and 14 October 2021.**

Note: If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by this set period, his/her enrollment status may be cancelled. Travel expenses will not be provided if the applicant chooses to travel to Japan except the set period above.

9. Visa Requirement

The selected applicant must obtain a "Student" (ryuugaku 留学) visa prior to his/her arrival in Japan. An applicant who is already in Japan under a visa other than "Student" is required to change it to "Student" by the end of the month preceding the start of the scholarship. (An applicant who arrives in Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of "Student" will not qualify for a MEXT Scholarship. An applicant who changes his/her resident status to any status other than "Student" after his/her arrival in Japan will immediately lose his/her status as a MEXT Scholarship student.)

10. Others

(1) While the applicant is studying in Japan, he/she shall contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and the home country by participating in activities at schools and communities with the aim of contributing to the internationalization of Japan. The applicant shall make efforts to promote relations between the home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended after graduation, cooperating with the conducting of surveys and questionnaires after the return home, and cooperating with

all relevant projects and events conducted by Japanese diplomatic missions in the applicant's home country.

(2) Applicant who meets any or all of the following conditions is not eligible. If identified after the start of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship:

(a) Those who are military personnel or a civilian employed by the military at their time of arrival in Japan.

(b) Those who are unable to travel to Japan within the dates set by OUAVM.

(c) Those who received MEXT Scholarship in the past, and, do not have educational research experience more than three years from the first day of the month following the final payment of the previous scholarship to the beginning of the payment of this scholarship, as of October 1, 2021. This does not apply to the past recipient of 日研&日韓共同理工 scholarships who have graduated or are to graduate their universities in their countries and the past students under Yang Leaders Program.

(d) Those who are currently enrolled in a Japanese university or other types of school with the resident status of "Student", or will be enrolled in a Japanese university, etc. as another source or self-financed international student between the time of application for this scholarship in his/her country and the time the scholarship period is due to begin. This does not apply to current self-financed international students at Japanese universities who will complete their courses of study and return to their countries before the end of the current fiscal year.

(e) Recipients of a scholarship from organizations (including a governmental organization in his/her country of origin) other than MEXT.

(f) Applicants who are expected to graduate at the time of application and, cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions of academic background by the deadline given.

(g) Applicants of dual nationality who cannot prove their expatriation of the Japanese nationality by the time of arrival.

(h) Applicants who wish, from the time of application, to conduct fieldwork or internship outside of Japan, since this scholarship program is intended for overseas students who wish to enroll in a Japanese university and do graduate research in Japan.

(i) Applicants who do not wish to advance to OUAVM's Master's Program or Doctoral Program.

Term of Scholarship:

From October 2021 to March 2023 (18 months)

Note: Grantee will proceed to a regular graduate program from the Research Student Program, if he/she may have the term of his/her scholarship extended upon successful examination by MEXT provided that he/she has outstanding academic achievement that meets certain criteria. An extension of the term of the scholarship will not be approved if he/she fails to pass the entrance examination to a regular graduate program by March 2023. Please note that OUAVM Recommended MEXT Scholarship students **cannot** advance to a graduate school of a university other than OUAVM.

Scholarship Benefits:

1. Allowance

Under the fiscal 2021 budget, each grantee will be provided monthly with **143,000 JPY**. However, this amount is subject to change depending on the annual budget of each year. The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence or is long absent from OUAVM.

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.

- (1) If any of his/her application documents is found to be falsely stated;
- (2) If he/she is in breach of his/her pledge made to the Minister of Monbukagakusho (MEXT);
- (3) If he/she is subjected to disciplinary action, such as expulsion or removal from register, taken by OUAVM;
- (4) If it becomes definitive that the grantee will not be able to complete his/her course within the standard course term because of his/her poor academic achievement or suspension;

- (5) If he/she withdraws from OUAVM or is transferred to other university;
- (6) If his/her resident status of "Student" as provided for in Paragraph 1-4 of Appendix to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act changes to any other status;
- (7) If he/she is provided with another scholarship (except for a scholarship designated for research expenses); or
- (8) If he/she proceeds to a regular graduate program without receiving approval for an extension of the term of the scholarship.

2. Traveling Costs

(1) Transportation to Japan

Each grantee will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy class air ticket from the international airport closest to his/her place of residence to Narita, Haneda or Chitose International Airport. Expenses such as inland transportation from his/her place of residence to the nearest international airport, airport tax, airport usage charges, special taxes on overseas travel and travel expenses within Japan will be borne by the grantee (the place of the residence of the grantee shall be the address stated in the application form). Air travel from a country other than the grantee's nationality will not be covered.

* The address in the country of the grantee's nationality stated in the application form is regarded as the recipient's "home address."

Note: Those who cannot arrive on the day that is described in "Qualification 8 Arrival in Japan" shall not be paid the travel expenses coming to Japan.

(2) Transportation from Japan

The grantee who returns to his/her home country within the last-payment month of his/her scholarship will be provided, upon application, with an economy class air ticket for a flight from Narita, Haneda or Chitose International Airport to the international airport closest to his/her place of return.

Note1: If a grantee returns home without an extension though having applied for extension of scholarship period, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return home in general.

Note2: Insurance premiums for travel to/from Japan shall be borne by the grantee.

Note3: If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return home as the temporary return.

(3) School Fees

Fees for matriculation, tuition and entrance examinations at a university will be paid by OUAVM. If the grantee moves on to higher education as a non-degree student or fails the entrance examinations, he/she will pay for entrance examinations.

Screening Method:

Applicants will be screened based on submitted application documents by OUAVM. If applicants are successful in this initial screening, OUAVM will recommend them to Monbukagakusho (MEXT). Monbukagakusho will make the final determination as to whether or not to award the applicant a scholarship, based on their own, separate screening.

※The result of initial screening will be announced during March 2021.

Application Procedures:

■ Contact a Supervisor (Academic Advisor)

Prior to submitting application materials, **applicant must arrange for an OUAVM faculty member to serve as a supervisor and undergo an initial interview before the stated application deadline.** Applicant is required to communicate directly with his/her intended supervisor at OUAVM and obtain the consent of the desired faculty member to serve in this capacity. Applicant needs to directly contact the intended supervisor and have interviews via internet and provide a self-introductory statement, intent for his/her period of study, study plan at OUAVM and so on.

■ Documents to be submitted

Please refer to the List of Application Documents.

■ Due Date / How to Submit the Documents

1. Submit all application documents (soft copy) by email by **February 5, 2021**.
Email address: rgk@obihiro.ac.jp
2. Completed application documents (hard copy) must reach your supervisor **no later than February 19, 2021** by registered mail, courier service or a similar service.

Please note that the supervisor may require the submission of documents before the stated deadline.

Important Note:

(1) All the documents except for specified official documents must be submitted in A4 size paper (same size as the application form) and written in either Japanese or English. A document written in any other language must be attached with a Japanese or English translation.

(2) OUAVM will not accept any documents received after the stated deadline or any incomplete applications.

(3) If submitted documents are not correctly prepared, or attached documents are not complete, such application will not be placed for examination.

(4) OUAVM cannot respond to any inquiries regarding receipt of individual application documents. Applicant is responsible for the tracking and receipt of all materials. OUAVM strongly encourages sending the documents by registered mail, courier service or a similar service that provides tracking numbers and receipt verification services.

(5) Submitted documents will not be returned under any circumstances. OUAVM will not provide photocopies of the submitted documents. Please keep a copy of all documents for personal reference. In case a document cannot be re-issued, please submit a certified copy instead.

(6) Offer of admission may be withdrawn at any time, even after enrollment, if the application documents are found to be invalid or containing any false information.