

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship for FY 2023 (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 2023.**

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 2024, October 2024, or April 2025.

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, 1988.

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.

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

[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.
3. Judged by OUAVM to have Japanese language ability equivalent to or better than N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

7. Health

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

8. Enrollment - Arrival in Japan

The period of enrollment will be scheduled in October 2023, and in principle, students must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan during the period set by OUAVM, 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 to arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above which decided by MEXT or OUAVM.

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. 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 the arrival in Japan). This does not apply to: 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; 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) 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 FY2023, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2023;
- 5) Individuals 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) 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;
- 7) Individuals 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 citizenship at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese citizenship by the time they arrive in Japan;
- 9) Individuals who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after they arrive in Japan;
- 10) 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;
- 11) Individuals who have completed a doctoral course and have no intention of obtaining a degree.

11. Others

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.

Term of Scholarship:

From October 2023 to March 2025 (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

2025. 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 2023 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:

OUAVM will select nominees based on submitted application documents. Nominees selected at OUAVM will be recommended 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 nomination will be announced in the middle of March 2023.

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.

Important Note:

- (1) All the documents must be 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.