

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship for FY 2025 (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 2025.**

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 2025, October 2025, or April 2026.

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.

1. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Eligibility

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

“Applicant with outstanding academic achievements” must have earned a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.30 or above for current degree program as calculated by MEXT's formula (or most recently attended degree program for persons not currently enrolled.), and be able to maintain that GPA while receiving the scholarship.

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, 1990.

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 Requirement

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. Holds the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) with a score of N2 or higher at the time of entering a regular course.
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 2024, 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).

If you are unable to travel to Japan by the last day of the designated period, you must decline the offer of MEXT scholarship, unless MEXT determines that there are unavoidable circumstances. If a student travels to Japan outside of the above specified period for his/her own reasons, he/she will not be reimbursed for travel expenses.

9. Visa Requirement

Applicants must obtain a "Student" (ryuugaku 留学) visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country of nationality and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student". Also, please note that as an exception, if a grantee were residing in Japan with a residence status other than "Student" at the time of selection, the grantee will need to change the grantee's residence status to "Student" by the end of the month before the month in which scholarship payment is scheduled to start. Applicants should be aware that, in cases where they re-apply for their original resident status of "Permanent resident" or "Long term resident" after expiration of their status as a MEXT Scholarship student, acceptance of their application cannot be guaranteed. Moreover, as the Japanese government requires pre-arrival tuberculosis screening for some countries, applicants obtaining a visa shall follow guidance at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant's country of nationality.

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). However, this does not apply to those who 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.
 - those who have at least three years of educational or work experience following the end of payment of the previous scholarship and the start 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 Leader's 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 apply to more than one university for programs commencing in 2025 through the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship system;
(NOTE) Duplicate nominations by multiple universities for the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarships for Research Students (University Recommendation) for fiscal year 2025 for the same person, as well as concurrent nominations for the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) and Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) support programs for international students (International Student Exchange Support Program) are not permitted. If a duplicate application or dual scholarship is found, all recommendations for that candidate will not be accepted.
- 5) Individuals who are already in Japan between the time of application and the start of the MEXT scholarship period.
- 6) Individuals who are planning to receive scholarship money from an organization or MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country) 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.

2.PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

From October 2025 to March 2027 (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 2027. Please note that OUAVM Recommended MEXT Scholarship students **cannot** advance to a graduate school of a university other than OUAVM.

3.SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS:

1. Allowance

Under the fiscal 2025 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.

2. Traveling Costs

(1) Travel expenses to come to Japan:

In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to the international airport used 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, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, 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 are no Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country, or if there are no direct flights from the grantee's country of residence to Japan. MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of residence to the said third country, and from the third country to the international airport used on the normal route to the grantee's university. In principle, the address given in the space for "Residence before arrival in Japan" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence," and the airplane ticket will be arranged for a flight from the international airport nearest to that address. Except for cases when the grantee must travel to a third country to obtain a visa, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances. Also, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for individuals who are unable to arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT or the accepting company.

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

(2) Travel expenses to return home country:

Based on their Application, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees graduating from their university and returning to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (Section 3 above) designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport used for the normal route to and from the grantee's university to the international airport 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 in Japan 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, carry-on luggage, or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. The returning travel expenses will not be provided by MEXT in case a grantee returns to the home country before the end of scholarship due

to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in “4 SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP”. If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, for instance, going to school, gaining employment in Japan, continue to be enrolled at school as a private funded international student -he/she will not be paid for the travel expenses.

(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.

4.SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Payment of the scholarship will be stopped in the following cases. Should any of the following apply, the grantee may also be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

- (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 he/she enter Japan without newly obtaining “Student” visa or his/her resident status of "Student" changes to any other status;
- (7) If he/she is provided with another scholarship that does not allow for concurrent receipt with this scholarship (i.g. organization or MEXT including a government organization of the applicant’s country); or
- (8) If he/she proceeds to a regular graduate program without receiving approval for an extension of the term of the scholarship.
- (9) If he/she leaves the university or transfers to another graduate school/university.

5.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 at the beginning of March 2025.

6.APPLICATION PROCEDURES

(1) Contact a Supervisor (Academic Advisor)

Prior to submitting application materials, 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.

(2) Documents to be Submitted

Please refer to the Checklist for Application Documents.

<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.

(3) Application Deadline

20 January, 2025 (Japan Time)

(4) Inquiries

Student Affairs Section, International Student Office,
Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine
Email: rgk@obihiro.ac.jp

*Applicants are required to thoroughly read the application guidelines before asking questions.

*To review the applicants' inquiries, please allow 2-3 business days to respond.

*In the event of any discrepancy between the English version and the Japanese version of the terms of these Application Guidelines, the Japanese version shall prevail.