

Application Guide for 2026 MEXT Scholarship Program (University Recommendation) [As of November, 13 2025]

Please read the Application Guide carefully before applying.
This Application Guide is based on the AY2025 Application Guide by the (MEXT) last year.
As the AY2026 Application Guidelines have not yet been released, the contents are subject to change without prior notice. Thank you for your understanding.

1. Application Requirements

(1) Eligible applicants

International students with outstanding academic records (*) who wish to enter the University of Aizu (UoA) Graduate School as a new student from overseas in October, 2026.

(*) Applicants must have university grade points* of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above in their last attended (working professionals) or currently attending undergraduate or graduate school (current students) and be expected to maintain the same academic standards during the course of the scholarship program. (Grade points will be calculated according to a formula specified by MEXT.)

(2) Nationality

Applicants must have the nationality of a country with diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are ineligible. However, Japanese nationals that reside outside of Japan at the time of application, having dual citizenship with another country, and plan on relinquishing their Japanese nationality before arrival, may apply.

(3) Age

Applicants who were born on or after April 2, 1991

(4) Academic background

Applicants who have qualifications to enter our Master's or Doctoral program.

(5) Fields of study

Academic fields which applicants majored in at their university, or other related fields. (, Academic fields shall be limited to those for which UoA can provide educational and research instruction.)

(6) Language Proficiency ***The validity period of the language exam will be the score obtained within two years from the time of the start of the open call.**

Applicants must meet one of the requirements below in either Japanese or English.

<Japanese>

- a. Those who has passed N2 or higher level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) by the time of their enrollment in an official graduate program.
- b. Those who completed a curriculum conducted in Japanese as the main language which meets the entrance qualifications for the master's or doctoral course of a Japanese graduate school.
- c. Those evaluated by the host university to have Japanese proficiency equivalent to or superior to that detailed above.

<English>

- a. Those who have an English proficiency certification or test score equivalent or superior to a B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), such as TOEFL - iBT 72 or

more, IELTS 5.5 or more, **TOEIC L&R/S&W (L:400, R:385, S:160, W:150** or more).

- b. Those who completed a curriculum conducted in English as the main language which meets the entrance qualification for the master's or doctoral course of a Japanese graduate school.
- c. Those evaluated by the host university to have English proficiency equivalent to or superior to that detailed above.

(7) Health conditions

Applicants who are sound in both mind and body to pursue their studies and research at UoA

(8) Arrival dates

Applicants must be able to leave for and arrive in Japan on the date set by UoA, which is normally the end of September. (It must be within two weeks of the beginning of the 3rd Quarter on **October 1.**)

(9) Visa

An applicant must newly obtain a "College Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of "College Student." Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other residence status ("Permanent resident," "Long-term resident," etc.), the applicant must change it to the "College Student" status and re-enter Japan. Moreover, the applicant should be aware that after expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student and even if the student again applies 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 cancelled if he/she arrived in Japan without a newly obtained "College Student" visa.

(10) Applications who meet either of following conditions are not eligible:

- ① Those 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 Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the period designated by UoA.
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after the arrival in Japan), but do not have educational research experience of more than three years from the month following the final payment of the previous scholarship to the month when the payment of this scholarship begins. This does not apply to past grantees of Japanese Studies scholarship nor Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries and past participants in the Young Leaders Program. MEXT Honors Scholarship is not one of MEXT Scholarship Programs.
- ④ Those who are also applying for a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for another **AY2026** program.
- ⑤ **Those who are residing in Japan at the time of application**
- ⑥ Those who are planning to receive scholarship from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country) after arrival in Japan.
- ⑦ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions related to academic background by the deadline given.
- ⑧ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan.
- ⑨ Those 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 Those who do not aim to enter the master's or doctoral program as a regular student. Those who have completed a doctoral course and have no intention to obtain a degree.
- (11) MEXT Scholarship will be granted those who are willing to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in activities at schools and communities during their study in Japan while contributing to the internationalization of Japan. They shall also 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, and cooperating with relevant projects and events conducted by the Japanese diplomatic mission after they return to their home countries.
- (12) The policy of the Japanese Government pertaining to illegal export of materials and technology related to weapons of mass-destruction, etc. must be fully taken into account for recommendations. Therefore, in cases where there is a concern that an applicant's major fields might be related to production or development of weapons of mass-destruction, such an applicant shall not be recommended for this scholarship.

2. Recommendation Capacity (the maximum number of students to be recommended by the University of Aizu)

Two students

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance

- Students not having regular student status (i.e. research students, non-degree students, and audit students, etc.): 143,000 yen per month
- Master's students: 144,000 yen per month
- Doctoral students: 145,000 yen per month

(2) Tuition, admission, and application fees

Tuition, admission, and application fees for recipients of this scholarship shall be paid by UoA.

(3) Travel expenses

- Transportation to Japan:

MEXT will stipulate the travel schedule and route, and provides an airline ticket to grantees who will arrive in Japan. The airline ticket will be an economy-class ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to an international airport in Japan 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.

- Transportation from Japan:

Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by MEXT. MEXT shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from

the international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from the accepting university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) 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.

(4) Period of Scholarship

- Students not having regular student status

For one year and six months (from October, 2026 to March, 2028)

- Master's/Doctoral students

The standard period necessary for completion of the relevant graduate school programs starting from October in AY2026.

*<Note> If the grantee wishes to advance to a regular program in a graduate school as a regular student, or to proceed to a doctoral program from a master's program, he/she may apply for an evaluation screening for the extension of the scholarship period for advanced study if he/she meets the prescribed standards with outstanding academic records. Note that extension is not guaranteed for all who apply.

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 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 A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to MEXT;
- ③ A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period exceeding 1 year;
- ④ A grantee is suspended from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment;
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than "College Student";
- ⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures);
- ⑧ A grantee proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship;
- ⑨ A grantee leaves the university or transfers to another graduate school/university.

5. Application Documents

- (A) Check Sheet for Application for MEXT scholarship 2026
- (B) Application Form (Single-sided printing, original)
- (C) Field of Study and Research Plan
- (D) Recommendation letter addressed to the President of the University of Aizu from the president of the university or dean of the undergraduate/graduate school at the current or last university attended.
- (E) An applicant's photograph taken within six months of submission, and printed on paper specially for

photographs. The photograph should be 4.5 x 3.5 cm. upper-body, full-faced, no hats. Please write applicant's name and nationality on the back of the photograph. A photograph in electronic data format is also acceptable

- (F) A copy of the applicant's passport (the page(s) with applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, photo)
- (G) An original of academic transcripts of the last two academic years or more. If the enrollment period of the last school is less than two years, the academic transcript of the previous school must be submitted, too. The academic transcripts must indicate which term and year the applicants took the courses as well as the grades and/or scores, and the number of credits of each course (if applicable)..(h) An original certificate of graduation (or expected graduation) from the applicant's undergraduate school and graduate school.
- (H) An original certificate of graduation (or expected graduation) from the applicant's undergraduate school and graduate school.
- (I) A document certifying that the applicant is/was at high academic level at the university the applicant currently attending or most recently attended (e.g. GPA, ABC rankings, actual rankings in academic performance (XXth ranking within YY students))
- (J) List of academic papers (Copy of each academic paper must be attached.)
- (K) Documents objectively prove the applicant's language proficiency (e.g. score sheet of TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS, GEPT, CET, etc.)
- (L) Comprehensive Performance Evaluation Report (This report should be filled in English by the applicant's prospective research advisor at UoA after having an interview with the applicant.)

Note:

<For applicants>

- Please use the prescribed forms for (A), (B),(C), (J) and (L) above.

Forms are available at; <https://u-aizu.ac.jp/en/current/international/#mext>

- All documents listed in "5. Application Documents" should be prepared in English using word processing software in A4 sized paper format (29.7 cm long and 21.0 cm wide).

- Applicants must send all application documents to Student Affairs Division and your prospective research advisor of UoA by E-mail.

If you are not able to connect internet, please send all documents via post mail.

* Documents [(J) List of academic papers] and (L) Comprehensive Performance Evaluation Report should be sent in paper form to the Student Affairs Division by prospective research advisor.

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Email: student-support@u-aizu.ac.jp

(Email Title: **AY2026** MEXT Scholarship Program (University Recommendation).)

<For applicants' prospective research advisors>

- Faculty members who are planning to recommend applicants for this scholarship are required to have an interview with the relevant applicants in person. If a face-to-face interview is not possible, an online interview (**Zoom**, etc.) can substitute for face-to-face interview. Online interviews must be conducted by at least two faculty members who are affiliated with the graduate school department.

- Please fill in the form (L) "Comprehensive Performance Evaluation Report" with results of the interviews and submit it along with other application documents.

- Please check whether the papers are major journal and the first author, put a “○” on the corresponding part in the form (J) “List of academic papers and submit to Student Affairs Division”
- In case the applicant recommended by the university cancel to receive this scholarship, the university cannot recommend another applicant to fill the vacancy, means that resulting we will lose the slot assigned to the university. As such, please confirm whether the applicant you are recommending satisfies the requirements stipulated in “1. Application Requirements” above and communicate with them to confirm their intentions to come to Japan.
- Please check the application documents you have received from the applicant before submitting them to SAD.

6. Application Deadline

For Student 17:00, Wednesday, December 17, 2025

For Research Advisor, 17:00, Friday, December 19, 2025

7 Selection and Notification of Results

Graduate School Academic Affairs Committee will select a candidate and recommend to MEXT.

Notification of the final results by MEXT will be in June, 2026.

8. Note for the application

Please note applicants might be requested to resubmit application documents if the application format is revised by the MEXT.

9. Application for Admission to the University of Aizu Graduate School

Please note that acceptance of application for this scholarship does NOT mean the applicant will be automatically admitted to UoA. The applicant must apply for admission to UoA separately from this scholarship and pass the entrance examination.

For details of the application process for admission, please see URL blow or contact Student Recruiting Section at the following address:

<https://www.u-aizu.ac.jp/en/admissions/graduate/>

[Student Recruiting Section]

Phone: 0242-37-2723 (International call: +81-242-37-2723)

E-mail: admission@u-aizu.ac.jp