

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP
(University Recommendation)
October 2025 enrolment
Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to study as degree students at the Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences (Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies) at University of Tsukuba(UT).

Note:

The official scholarship application conditions are scheduled to be announced by MEXT in December 2024. Therefore, scholarship conditions and other information in this application guidelines are subject to change. UT will notify the applicants if there are any changes to the information provided in the guidelines

1. Qualifications and Conditions

(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.

Note: See Appendix 1 to calculate your GPA yourself

(2) Nationality

Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible. However, persons with dual nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan.

(3) Age

Applicants, in principle, must have been born on or after April 2, 1990. 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 of 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 for exceptions.

(4) Academic Background

Applicants must satisfy any one of the following conditions for admission to be accepted in the Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies from October 2025. (Applicants who will certainly satisfy any of the following conditions by the time of enrollment are eligible.)

[Master's Programs]

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 September 2025.

(5) Number of Students to be accepted

The number of candidates that UT can recommend to MEXT is 3.

(6) Language Proficiency

Applicants must satisfy either of the following conditions:

[English]

- 1) Those who have passed/achieved a score in a language proficiency test that corresponds to B2 or higher level 4 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of enrolment.
- 2) Those who have completed an undergraduate course in which English was the main language of study.
- 3) Those who are regarded by UT to have an English language ability equivalent to or better than B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

(7) Health

An applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue study at university.

(8) Arrival in Japan

The date of enrollment will be in late September 2025. In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan on the date set by UT, which is normally in late September. Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above which decided by MEXT or UT.

(9) Visa Requirement

An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student." Accordingly, even if the applicant already has other residence status ("Permanent resident," "Long-term resident," etc.), the applicant must change it to the "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 "Student" visa.

(10) Non-eligibility

Any applicant who meets even one 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:

1) The Applicant is an active member of the military or a civilian employed by the military during the arrival of Japan or the period of receiving scholarship

2) The Applicant is unable to travel to Japan within the dates set by the receiving university or MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).

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). This does not apply to: those 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 MEXT Honors Scholarship is not one of the MEXT Scholarship Programs, so applicant who received the MEXT Honors Scholarship can still apply.

4) The applicant is already enrolled in a Japanese university with a residence status of "Student," or who are enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university as a privately-financed international student between the time of application and the start of the MEXT scholarship period.

However, this stipulation does not apply to applicants who are living in Japan at the time of application.

5) The Applicant is already the recipient of a scholarship from an organization (including a governmental organization in his/her country of origin) other than the Japanese government (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - MEXT).

6) Applicants 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.

7) 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.

8) Those wishing to engage in research activities (fieldwork or an internship) or being absence from school for a long term in a country other than Japan after submission of Application.

9) Those who apply for duplication with the program of commencing another scholarship in 2024 under MEXT scholarship.

10) The applicant who has no intention to obtain a degree.

2. Period of Scholarship

2 years (From October 2025 until the end of September 2027)

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance

Each grantee will be provided monthly with 144,000 yen

However, these amounts are 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 his/her university.

(2) Traveling Costs

1) Transportation to Japan

In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class air ticket for the flight from the recipient's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or to any other international airport 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, expenses related to baggage, unaccompanied baggage 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 embassy of Japan in his/her country or there is no direct flight from his/her home country. In principle, MEXT or the university will only provide an economy class ticket to the international airport that the host university will use in the domestic route on ordinary routes from the visiting country. However, MEXT will not provide the air ticket in cases when the grantee arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality due to the personal issues that had moved to the country before the arrival in Japan.

("Residence place" of foreign students is in principle the 「current address」 stated in the application form. However, if the student moved to another place in the country of nationality before arrival, the new address stated in the application form "address" column will be referred as "residence place").

2) Transportation from Japan

Grantees 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. Based on the Application by the grantee, MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class air ticket from Narita International Airport or the international airport 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 recipient's address in Japanese. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence 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, expenses related to baggage, unaccompanied baggage etc.

3) Tuition and Other Fees

Grantee gets full tuition fee and admission fee coverage from the university

4. Application schedule for 2025 (subject to change)

Application Period	December 2 – 12 December 12, 2024, 15:00(JST),
Submission of documents	December 13, 2024 Note: Original copies of the documents need to be received by the above date.
Oral examination (Zoom interview)	January 29 – 30, 2025 Note: Prospective applicants will be contacted via e-mail after the preliminary screening based on the submitted documents.
Announcement of results from UT	February 14, 2025 on University's website
Scholarship recommendation to MEXT	March – June, 2025 For applicants who succeeded in the admission process
Official Announcement of acceptance from MEXT	June – July, 2025 Will be announced individually via e-mail
Immigration procedures	July – September, 2025
Arrival in japan	late September, 2025

*Application documents will be uploaded, soon.

5. Required documents (Forms available on our website)

All the documents must be in ENGLISH or JAPANESE, preferably in typed and printed format. (If documents are written in a language other than Japanese or English, please attach a Japanese or English translation.)

	Required documents	Via email File Format	By post Original/ Certified copy
1	Application Sheet with a facial photo	XLSX	
2	(Expected) Graduation Certificate	PDF	✓
3	Degree Certificate	PDF	✓
4	Academic Transcript	PDF	✓

5	TOEIC / TOEFL / IELTS Official score record *	PDF	✓
6	Research Plan (for UT)	PDF	
7	Field of Research and Study Plan (for MEXT)	PDF	
8	Letter of Recommendation	PDF	✓
9	Motivation Letter	PDF	
10	Thesis Abstract	PDF	
11	Admission Examination Slip	PDF	

* If applicable

(1) Application Sheet

Use the prescribed form with a JPEG photograph of the applicant's face attached.

*Color facial photo (upper body, without a hat or cap, facing front, no background, taken within last 6 months and 4.5 cm long × 3.5 cm wide

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.

Faculty member list. Pdf

(2) (Expected) Graduation Certificate

Submit a graduation certificate (or an attested document certifying that you will graduate) issued by a university or another educational institution that meets the application requirements.

Note: Even if you have already earned a master's or a doctoral degree, you need to submit a graduation certificate issued by the university for which you have earned a bachelor's degree.

(3) Degree Certificate

If you graduated from a university or another educational institution outside Japan, submit a degree certificate for your bachelor's degree. All documents must be in English or Japanese.

Note: Even if you have already earned a master's or a doctoral degree, you need to submit a degree certificate issued by the university for which you have earned a bachelor's degree.

(4) Academic Transcript

Academic Transcript must be issued by the higher education institution which meets the application criteria.

*** You must have demonstrated excellent academic achievement with a Grade Point Average of 2.30 (out of 3.00) or above at their previous school.**

*** You must also submit (an) official document(s) that specifies and explains the grading system(s) if it is not indicated in your transcript.**

(5) TOEIC / TOEFL / IELTS Official score record *

English: Score report of the above language proficiency test that corresponds to B2 or higher level of CEFR. The above certificates must be taken in or after January 2023, and we do not accept any scores taken in or before December 2022.

If you are unable to submit the original on the application, you must submit the original by the exam day.

* 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.

(6) Research Plan (for UT)

Summarize plans in English in approximately 800 words in the prescribed form.

(7) Field of Research and Study Plan (for MEXT)

Fill out the required fields and submit the completed form as digital data.

(8) Letter of Recommendation

Should be written by the Dean or President of the current or former school of your university and must be addressed to the attention of the President of the University of Tsukuba

Addressee: To the attention of the President of University of Tsukuba.

Referee: The date and referee's name along with the academic appointment are required. Referee is limited to a Dean or President of your school.

*If GPA cannot be calculated from your academic transcript (Document A-4), the letter of recommendation must clearly state that the applicant's grade ranking at the university/faculty or graduate school is within the top 30%.

*A recommendation letter that doesn't meet the above requirements will not be accepted.

(9) Motivation Letter

Fill out the required fields and submit the completed form as digital data.

(10) Thesis Abstract

If you have written a thesis, submit a summary of its content.

If there are books, academic papers, reports or presentation materials of academic conferences that show your achievements and research abilities, attach a list of publications. Printed documents not required

(11) Examination Admission Slip

Use the prescribed form with a JPEG photo. 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.

<How to Submit>

Via email

Send to:

Office for Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies, University of Tsukuba

email: tias-admin@un.tsukuba.ac.jp

All the documents except for specified official documents must be submitted via email in A4 size paper (the same size as the application form) either in Japanese or English, preferably in typed and printed format.

Mailing Address

Send to:

Office for Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies, University of Tsukuba

1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8574 JAPAN

When sending originals or certified copies of the documents, please send them by registered mail or courier service which can be tracked down afterwards.

6. Handling of Personal Information

Applicants' personal information obtained from the application documents and the results of the entrance examination will be used for the affairs concerning admission and screening. UT may also process the information so that it is not personally identifiable and use it for research and study aimed at improvement of the admission procedure and the university education.

7. 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. Applicants who fall under any of the conditions set out in the said regulations may be unable to enter their desired program

8. Contact

Office for Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies, University of Tsukuba

email: tias-admin@un.tsukuba.ac.jp

Appendix1: How to Calculate Your GPA for the MEXT Scholarship

To be eligible for the MEXT scholarship for graduate students, you need to have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.30 (out of 3.0) or above at the previous school, and the evaluation on the same level is expected during the scholarship payment period. Using the MEXT-specified grade conversion chart and GPA calculation formula below, please check your eligibility.

<Grade Conversion Chart>

Grading System	Grades				
Type 1: (4-point scale)		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Type 2: (4-point scale)		A	B	C	F
Type 3: (4-point scale)		100-80	79-70	69-60	below 59
Type 4: (5-point scale)	S	A	B	C	F
Type 5: (5-point scale)	A	B	C	D	F
Type 6: (5-point scale)	100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	below 59
Grade Point	3	3	2	1	0

GPA Calculation Formula

$$\frac{([\text{No. of GP3 Credits}] \times 3) + ([\text{No. of GP2 Credits}] \times 2) + ([\text{No. of GP1 Credits}] \times 1) + ([\text{No. of GP0 Credits}] \times 0)}{\text{Total No. of credits for all registered courses}}$$

Total No. of credits for all registered courses

References: No. = Number GP = Grade Point

Note: If the courses do not go by the credit system, replace the "number of credits" with "number of courses" registered.

Example: If your institution uses a typical North American grading system (A, B, C, D, and F) or a system comparable to it, you may use the 5-level scale.

Course Title	Grade	No. of credits	Grade Point (above)	Total Point
Japanese 1	A	3	3	9
Japanese 2	B	3	3	9
Intro to Japanese History	B	3	3	9
Intro to Business	D	3	1	3
Total		12		30

$$\frac{(9 \times 3) + (0 \times 2) + (3 \times 1) + (0 \times 0)}{12} = \frac{30}{12} = 2.5$$