

**JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP**  
**(University Recommendation)**  
**October 2026 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).

## **1. Qualifications and Conditions**

### **(1) Academic Performance**

International students with outstanding academic achievements of graduate school level who enter Japan as new students or those already staying in Japan.

Applicants must have earned a G

rade Point Average (GPA) of 2.30 or above in their degreed (for those who are employed) or currently enrolled courses, and be able to maintain that GPA while receiving the scholarship.

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. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are 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 (the acquisition of student status).

### **(3) Age**

Applicants, in principle, must have been born on or after April 2, 1991.

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 2026. (Applicants who will certainly satisfy any of the following conditions by the time of enrolment 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 2026.

#### **(5) Number of Students to be accepted**

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

\*Successful applicants who are not selected as recommended candidates for MEXT scholarship may receive offered spots within general selection, as privately funded students.

#### **(6) Language Proficiency**

Applicants must satisfy either of the following conditions:

[English]

- 1) Applicants must pass or achieve scores in English language proficiency tests that correspond to B2 or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of application.
- 2) Applicants must complete school curriculums that meet the conditions for admission in masters' or doctoral courses at a Japanese graduate school by using English as the main language.
- 3) Applicants are regarded by the accepting universities as having English language ability equivalent to or better than 1).

#### **(7) Health**

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

#### **(8) Arrival in Japan**

The date of enrolment will be in late September 2026. In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by UT within two weeks before and after the starting date of UT's fall semester for 2026. 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. If an applicant will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period due to personal circumstances, travel expenses will not be paid.

#### **(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."

Please also note that if a grantee arrives in Japan without newly obtaining a "Student" visa, scholarship payments will be cancelled.

\* Visa requirements and status of residence for domestic recommenders

For those whose current status of residence is not "Student," applicants must change their status of residence to "Student" at the local Immigration Services Agency in Japan by time of registration as students at the accepting university. Even in cases of having other statuses of residence ("Permanent Resident," "Long Term Resident", etc.), applicants must change their status to "Student" and begin their courses of study as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students. It is important to note that

applications for "Permanent Resident" or "Long Term Resident" status after status of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship student ends, may not be granted as a matter of course. Also, if studies as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students begin without changing status of residence to "Student," scholarships will be cancelled.

For those whose current status of residence is "Student," they must complete the renewal procedures before the expiration of their periods of stay. Additionally, in the event of changes in school enrolment, notification must be submitted pursuant to the provisions of Article 19-16 of the Immigration-Control and Refugee-Recognition Act.

#### **(10) Non-eligibility**

Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, an applicant must withdraw from the scholarship.:

- 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 date specified by MEXT or UT;.
- 3) Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status). However, this does not apply to those who wish to apply for Research Students program and 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 the 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 Leaders' 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) Those 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 FY2026.
- 5) Those who are planning to receive scholarship or fellowships from Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization and others after the start of the scholarship payment period;
- 6) Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of 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 (the acquisition of student status);
- 8) 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 UT.
- 9) Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.

## **(11) Others**

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.

## **2. Period of Scholarship**

2 years (From October 2026 until the end of September 2028)

## **3. Scholarship Benefits**

### **(1) Allowance**

Regular students enrolled in master's degree courses: 144,000 yen per month

Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. If a grantee is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

### **(2) Traveling Costs**

#### **1) Transportation to Japan**

MEXT will stipulate the travel schedule and route, and provide an airline ticket. However, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of domestic recommenders. 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. 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, and the Japanese diplomatic mission is closed 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 an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting university. In principle, the address given in the space for "Your address before departure for Japan" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence," and the airline 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.

## **2) Transportation from Japan**

Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate or complete the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See "2. 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. If a grantee returns to the home country before the end of period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "4. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP," MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended (ex. proceeding to further education or being employed in Japan), travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid.

## **3) Tuition and Other Fees**

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

#### 4. Application schedule for 2026 (subject to change)

Application Period	9 – 23 December, 2025
Submission of documents	24 December, 2025 Note: Original copies of the documents need to be received by the above date.
Oral examination (Zoom interview)	28 – 29 January, 2026
Announcement of results from UT	13 February, 2026 Examination results will be individually communicated after the oral examination. Successful applicants will be recommended to the MEXT as scholarship candidates. Successful applicants who are not selected as recommended candidates for MEXT scholarship may receive offered spots within general selection, as privately funded students.
Scholarship recommendation to MEXT	March, 2026 For applicants who succeeded in the admission process
Official Announcement of acceptance from MEXT	June – July, 2026 Will be announced individually via e-mail
Immigration procedures	July – September, 2026
Arrival in Japan	late September, 2026

#### 5. Required documents (Forms available on our website)

-All the documents except for specified official documents must be submitted in A4 size (same size as the application form) either 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.)

-Incomplete or inaccurately completed applications, as well as those submitted after the deadline, will not be evaluated or accepted.

-Submitted documents will not be returned.

		Via email	By post
	Required documents	File Format	Original/ Certified copy
1	Checklist	XLSX	
2	Application Sheet with a facial photo	XLSX	
3	(Expected) Graduation Certificate	PDF	✓
4	Degree Certificate	PDF	✓
5	Academic Transcript	PDF	✓
6	Document indicating your English proficiency	PDF	✓
7	Research Plan (for UT)	PDF	
8	Field of Research and Study Plan (for MEXT)	PDF	
9	Letter of Recommendation	PDF	✓
10	Motivation Letter	PDF	
11	Thesis Abstract	PDF	
12	Photocopy of your passport	PDF	
13	Self-Declaration on Specific Categories	PDF	
14	Admission Examination Slip	PDF	

#### (1) Checklist

Use the prescribed form.

#### (2) Application Sheet with a facial photo

Use the prescribed form with a JPEG photograph.

\* Attach a digital image of your face photo to the first page of the application form. The photo must be a color portrait (upper body, no hat or cap, front-facing, plain background, taken within last 6 months).

If it is difficult to put photo data on the form, please submit image data of the photo separately.

#### (3) (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.

#### (4) 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.

#### (5) 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.

#### (6) Document indicating your English proficiency, such as TOEFL/ IELTS

English: Official score sheet of an English proficiency test that corresponds to B2 or a higher level of CEFR. The above certificates must be issued less than 2 years before the first day of the application period. Also, the score sheet must be a certificate proving English proficiency in all 4 skills (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing) and it is invalid if even one of the four skills doesn't reach B2 level.

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

If any of the above is not applicable, please consult the office for Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies.

And applicants must submit a certificate proves that you finished curriculum taught in English at the most recent academic institution.

#### (7) Research Plan (for UT)

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

Enter the name of the faculty member you wish to have as your supervisor\*.

\*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](#)

#### (8) Field of Research and Study Plan (for MEXT)

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

#### (9) 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 express that your grades are within the top 30% of your university, graduate school, or department.

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



(10) Motivation Letter

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

(11) Thesis Abstract

If an applicant has written a thesis, submit a summary of its content.

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

(12) Photocopy of your passport

A copy of applicant's passport (or a copy of a certificate of family register, certificate of citizenship or other identification issued by the government of applicant's home country)

(13) Self-Declaration on Specific Categories

Fill out the first page only. Type your name, sign and select your category, then submit it as digital data. Refer to the sample pdf.

(14) 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](mailto:tias-admin@un.tsukuba.ac.jp)

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. Scholarship Information**

For comprehensive information regarding the scholarship, please refer to the application guidelines published by MEXT.

[https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20251205-mxt\\_kotokoku01-000046164\\_2.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20251205-mxt_kotokoku01-000046164_2.pdf)

## **9. Contact**

Office for Master's Program in Sport and Olympic Studies, University of Tsukuba  
email: [tias-admin@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto: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
<b>Grade Point</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

### GPA Calculation Formula

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

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
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>30</b>

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