

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2018 (Thailand)
(RESEARCH STUDENTS)**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study in graduate courses at Japanese universities as research students (either non-degree or degree students) under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2018 as follows.

1. DEFINITION OF A “RESEARCH STUDENTS”

Those who are enrolled in a master’s course, a doctoral course, or a professional graduate course at a graduate school, or who are conducting research in a specialized field at an undergraduate department, graduate school, institute attached to a university, etc. without the aim of completing the course, or who are receiving preparatory education in the Japanese language and other subjects prior to placement at the university, etc. (Excluding the Young Leaders Program(YLP) students or teacher training students.)

2. FIELDS OF STUDY

Applicants should apply for the field of study they majored in at university or its related field. Moreover, the fields of study must be subjects which applicants will be able to study and research in graduate courses at Japanese universities.

Fields of study		Majors
R1 A	Social Sciences and Humanities	Law, Politics, Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology, Linguistics, Literature, History, Aesthetics, Music, Fine Arts, etc.
R1 B	Social Sciences and Humanities	Economics, Commerce, Business Administration, etc.
R2	Natural Sciences	Pure Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Fisheries, Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, Home Economics, etc.

A student who studies medicine, dentistry or welfare science will not be allowed to engage in clinical training such as medical care and operative surgery until he/she obtains a relevant license from the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare under applicable Japanese laws. Those studying traditional entertainment arts such as Kabuki and classical Japanese dances, or subjects that require practical training in specific technologies or techniques at factories or companies are excluded from this restriction.

3. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITION

MEXT is now accepting applications from international students for study in Japan. Our aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between the grantee’s country and Japan through study in Japan and who will contribute to the development of both countries and the wider world.

(1) Nationality: Applicants must have Thai nationality.

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 foreign country and give up their Japanese nationality by the date of their arrival in Japan. Applicant screening will be conducted at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

(2) Age: Applicants must be not more than 35 years old as of April 1, 2018. (born on or after April 2, 1983.)

(3) Academic Background: Applicants 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 16 years of school education in a foreign country (or 18 years of school education if he/she desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, or pharmacy which is based on a 6-year course in a department or faculty); or

- ② is or will be aged 22 or older and has taken an individual entrance qualification examination and has been judged by a Japanese graduate school as being equal or superior in academic ability to a university graduate (or 24 or older if he/she desires to enroll in a doctoral course in the field of medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, or pharmacy which is based on a 6-year course in a department or faculty).

Eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to a Japanese graduate school. As a general rule, a person who has completed a doctoral course may not apply unless he/she seeks to obtain a degree.

(4) Academic Records (GPA):

(A) Applicants who have completed an undergraduate degree of a university

Must have more than 3.25 in cumulative average credits at an undergraduate degree of a university.

Exception A:

- ① Those who have passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) administrated by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and the Japan Foundation, and have the following cumulative average credits at an undergraduate degree of a university.

More than 2.80 for Level 1 or N1

More than 3.00 for Level 2 or N2

More than 3.15 for Level 3 or N3 or N4

- ② Those who have passed the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) administrated by the Japan Students Services Organization (JASSO) and had a certain amount of score in two years, and have the following cumulative average credits at an undergraduate degree of a university. Applicants must choose one of the two options;

Option 1: Basic Academic Ability in Science, Mathematics and Liberal Arts

More than 2.80 for 240 by the total score of "Mathematics Course 1" and "Japan and the World or "Mathematics Course 2" and "Science"

Option 2: Japanese Language Skills

More than 2.80 for 240 by the score of "Japanese as a Foreign Language" (Excluding 'Writing' Score)

More than 3.00 for 200 by the score of "Japanese as a Foreign Language" (Excluding 'Writing' Score)

More than 3.15 for 160 by the score of "Japanese as a Foreign Language" (Excluding 'Writing' Score)

(B) Applicants who have completed a master degree of the university

Applicants must fall under either of the following items;

- ① Those who have more than 3.25 in cumulative average credits at an undergraduate degree of a university.
- ② Those who have more than 3.50 in cumulative average credits at a master's degree course (or more than 3.30 in cumulative average credits for those who major in Pharmacy) and have more than 2.80 in cumulative average credits at an undergraduate degree of a university.

- (5) Japanese Language Ability: Applicants must be willing to learn Japanese. Applicants must be interested in Japan and be willing to deepen their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. Applicants must also have the ability to do research and adapt to living in Japan.
- (6) Health: Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to pursue study in Japan.
- (7) Arrival in Japan: The applicant shall write in the Application Form either of the arrival periods specified below that he/she desires. In principle, a change in the arrival period is not permitted after the submission of the Application. If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan specified period below for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid. Excluding cases of unavoidable circumstances, if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the designated period the applicant must withdraw the offer.
- ① For international students who start their overseas study in Japan in April, the arrival date should be, in principle, during the period from 1 April to 7 April.
 - ② For international students starting their overseas study in September or October, the arrival date specified by the accepting university during the period within two weeks before the starting date of the relevant academic term for that year set by the accepting university.
- (8) Visa Requirement: The applicant shall receive a “Student” visa, as stipulated in Appended Table 1(4) of the Immigration Act, and enter Japan with the residence status of “Student.” In regards to the visa, it should, in principle, be issued at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.
- (9) 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 the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.
- (10) Any applicant who meets any or all of the following conditions is ineligible. If identified after the start of the scholarship period, the applicant will be required to withdraw from the scholarship.
- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan;
 - ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan during the period designated by MEXT or the accepting university;
 - ③ An applicant who is a previous recipient of a Japanese government scholarship, but does not have educational research experience exceeding more than three years from the first day of the month following the final payment of the previous scholarship to the beginning of the payment of this scholarship, as of April 1, 2015. This does not apply to the past recipients of Japanese studies scholarships and past participants in the Young Leaders Program;
 - ④ Those who are 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 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 those who, even though they are currently studying as a privately-financed student in Japan, verifiably complete their studies within the end of the fiscal year and return to their home country ;
 - ⑤ Those 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 arrival in Japan ;
 - 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; or
 - ⑧ Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan.
 - ⑨ Those wishing to engage in fieldwork or an internship in a country other than Japan after submission of Application.

4. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

- (1) Non-regular students (research students, credited auditors, auditors, etc.)
 In the case of research students, credited auditors, auditors, etc. (hereinafter, “research students” [non-regular students]):
- › In the case of arrival in April 2018: maximum of two years from April 2018 until the end of March 2020.
 - › In the case of arrival in September or October: From September or October 2018 until the end of March 2020.
- (In either case, the above-mentioned the period of scholarship includes a 6-month period of Japanese language training for grantees who require such training.) In cases of arrival in Japan other than those periods specified above, MEXT will decide such cases separately on a special basis.

(2) In the case of regular students enrolled in graduate school master's, doctoral, or professional graduate courses:

- Regardless of the date of arrival, the scholarship period shall be the necessary period for the completion of the regular program of the respective courses stipulated (see 12.(4) to (6) for the standard period of study for each course). For those requiring preparatory education, a 6-month preparatory education period will be separately added.

5. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP

For those wishing to advance to a regular course in a graduate school as a regular student from their status as a non-regular student (research student), or those wishing to proceed to a doctoral course from a master's course or a professional graduate course, an evaluation screening to consider the extension of the period of scholarship, contingent on the acceptance to the course, for students with particularly excellent academic records who have met the prescribed standards is sometimes conducted and the period of scholarship is extended. All applicants are not granted extensions. However, note the following:

- ① A grantee cannot have the period of his/her scholarship extended as a Research Student (non-degree) course.
- ② A person who is accepted for a higher-level course without receiving approval for the request of the extension of the period of scholarship will not be able to have his/her period of scholarship extended. (However, it is possible for a grantee to be accepted and enroll in the higher-level course as a privately-financed student.)
- ③ A Research Student (non-regular students) is not eligible to apply for an extension of the scholarship period if he/she cannot proceed to master's or doctoral course by the end of the term of the Research Student's scholarship. However, if he/she withdraw traveling costs (transportation from Japan), they are eligible to apply for an extension of the scholarship period. Regular students enrolled in master's or doctoral course in April 2020 and returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship can also apply 6. (3) ② for transportation costs to travel back to their home country as stated below.

6. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- (1) Allowance: 143,000yen (Research Students (non-regular students), 144,000yen (regular students in Master's courses or professional graduate courses), or 145,000yen (regular students in doctoral courses) per month. In case that the recipient research in a designated region, 2,000 or 3,000 yen per month will be added. The monetary amount each year may be subject to change due to budgetary reasons.

The scholarship is cancelled in principle if the recipient is absent from the university for an extended period. The scholarship will be also cancelled in principle in the following situations. If the recipient has been receiving the scholarship despite his/her falling under any of the following situations, the recipient will be ordered to return the amount of scholarship that he/she received during the period wherein he/she was involved with any of the following situations.

- ① The recipient is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
 - ② The recipient violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
 - ③ The recipient violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to imprisonment with or without work for life or for a period of exceeding 1 year.
 - ④ The recipient is expelled from his/her university or preparatory educational institution or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; (The scholarship payment may be stopped during the period up until punishment is decided by the university, etc.)
 - ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for the recipient to complete the training course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absent from the university;
 - ⑥ The recipient's residence status has changed to one other than Student as defined in the Appended Table I-4 of the Immigration Act;
 - ⑦ The recipient has received a scholarship from another institution (excluding those specified for research expenditures).
 - ⑧ If he/she proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship.
- (2) Tuition and Other Fees:
Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by MEXT. The entrance examination fee will not be paid by MEXT if the recipient cannot proceed to the master's or doctoral course or cannot be admitted by the university.

(3) Traveling Costs

- ① Transportation 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 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, etc. In principle, MEXT will not provide the airline ticket in cases when the grantee arrives in Japan from a country other than the country of nationality because the grantee had moved to the country before the arrival in Japan.
- 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 (Section 4 above) designated by MEXT. Based on the Application by the grantee, MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline 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 residence.

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, etc.

Note 1: In principle, transportation costs to return to home country are not paid if the student who wish for admission in April 2020 and failed or withdrew to proceed to a regular graduate course for a degree from a Research Student (non-degree) course, or to a doctoral course from a master's course or a professional graduate course, despite applying for extension of the period of the scholarship, as stated "5. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP ③," so please note this when applying for such an extension.

Note 2: Should the grantee return to the home country before the end of period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons (1) ①~⑧ above, MEXT will not pay for the return travel expenses.

Note 3: If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return to the home country for a temporary return.

7. FIRST SCREENING

- (1) The Embassy of Japan in Thailand will conduct the First Screening of applicants by means of submitted application documents, written examinations (language) and interviews.
- (2) Written examinations will be English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Japanese language tests. The English language examinations must be taken by all applicants.
- (3) The following policy will apply to each stage of screening:
 - ① Application documents: Must show that the applicant's academic achievement at the university he/she last graduated from equaled or exceeded the minimum specified level, and state the applicant's desired research program in a detailed and concrete manner.
 - ② Written examination: Must show that the applicant obtained scores that cleared the fixed cut-off level in either Japanese or English.
 - ③ Interview: Must reveal that the applicant has a clear sense of purpose relating to his/her study in Japan and has gathered information about Japanese universities. The interview must also reveal that the applicant has sufficient Japanese or English language ability to communicate with his/her adviser in Japan.

If the applicant desires to study a subject that requires advanced Japanese language proficiency, the interview must show that the applicant has a considerable degree of Japanese language proficiency.

- (4) The date and time of the notification of the results of the First Screening will be designated by the Embassy of Japan in Thailand; the reasons for the results of the screening will not be announced. Those who pass the First Screening will not necessarily be selected as recipients of the MEXT Scholarship.

8. APPLICATION PROCEDURE IN THAILAND

The Embassy of Japan will select preliminary candidates from among applicants by means of review of the submitted documents, written examination and interview.

(1) Announcement of Application

Date: 9 May, 2017 (Tue.)

Place: Embassy of Japan in Thailand's homepage (<http://www.th.emb-japan.go.jp>)

Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai's homepage (<http://www.chiangmai.th.emb-japan.go.jp>)

(2) Distribution of Application Form

Date: 9 May, 2017 (Tue.) – 9 June, 2017 (Fri.) *Except Saturday, Sunday and National holiday

Place: Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand and on the homepage

(on website: <http://www.th.emb-japan.go.jp>)

Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai and on the homepage

(on website: <http://www.chiangmai.th.emb-japan.go.jp>)

(3) Submitting of Application Form

Date: 5 – 9 June, 2017 (Mon.-Fri.)

Time: 09:00 – 11:30 hrs.

Place: Multipurpose Hall, Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand

Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Embassy of Japan in Thailand or Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai. (only for those who would like to take an examination in Chiang Mai)

**** If sending by post, these documents must reach the Japan Information Service, the Embassy of Japan in Thailand or Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai by Friday, June 9, 2017.**

	Documents	Amount
1	Application form(by the prescribed form)	1 original
2	Admission form (by the prescribed form)	1 original
3	Field of Study and Study Program (prescribed form) สาขาวิชาที่จะศึกษา และแผนการศึกษา (ตามแบบฟอร์มที่กำหนดให้)	1 original
4	Photograph (4.5×3.5 cm, taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced, uncapped. Write your name and nationality on its back and paste it on the application form and admission form)	3 photographs
5	Academic transcript of each academic of the university attended (issue by the university attended) ใบประมวลผลการศึกษาในระดับปริญญาตรี และ (ถ้ามี)ปริญญาโท ซึ่งออกโดยมหาวิทยาลัยที่กำลังศึกษา หรือเคยศึกษา	1 original
6	Graduation certificate or degree certificate of the university attended (or an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the school, where applicable) หนังสือรับรองคุณวุฒิตะดับปริญญาตรี และ (ถ้ามี)ปริญญาโท หรือเอกสารที่รับรองว่าผู้สมัครจะจบจากสถานนั้นๆ	1 copy
7	Test Result or Certificate of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) issued by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and the Japan Foundation (If any)	1 copy
8	Score Report of the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) issued by JASSO (If any)	1 copy

*** All documents must be written in either Japanese or English, or accompanied by a translation in either of these languages. No application will be accepted unless all the documents mentioned below are fully and correctly completed. The documents submitted will not be returned.**

(4) Written Examination

(A) Date and Place

Date: 25 June, 2017 (Sun.)

Time: 08:30 – 16:00 hrs.

Place: Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok)
Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University (Chiang Mai)
Faculty of Education, Khon Kaen University (Khon Kaen)
Faculty of Engineering, Prince of Songkla University (Songkla)

(B) Subjects for Written Examination: all subjects of examination are written in English.

Fields of Study		Subjects for Examination
R1 A	Social Sciences & Humanities	English
R1 B	Social Sciences & Humanities	English and Mathematics (A)
R2	Natural Sciences	English, Mathematics (B), and 1 optional subject *Choose 1 subject from <u>Chemistry, Physics, and Biology</u> .

(C) Japanese language test: applicants who will study in Japan in the field of Japanese studies (language, literature, culture, history, education, etc.) must sit for Japanese language test.

**Those who would like to be evaluated their Japanese language skills can also sit for Japanese language test.

(D) Examination Schedule

Time	Social Sciences & Humanities (R1 A)	Social Sciences & Humanities (R1 B)	Natural Sciences (R2)
08:30 – 09:30	English	English	English
09:40 – 10:40	-	Mathematics (A)	Mathematics (B)
10:50 – 11:50	-	-	Chemistry
12:00 – 13:00	-	-	Physics or Biology
14:00 – 16:00	Japanese (if chosen)	Japanese (if chosen)	Japanese (if chosen)

(5) Announcement of the Result of the written examination

Date: 7 July, 2017 (Fri.)

Time: 16:00 hrs.

Place: Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand,
(on website: <http://www.th.emb-japan.go.jp>)

(6) Interview: Interview will be given in English (and/or in Japanese to those who have knowledge of Japanese language.)

(A) Social Sciences and Humanities (R1 A and R1 B)

Date: 13 – 14 July 2017 (Thu. - Fri.)

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 hrs.

Place: Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand

(B) Natural Sciences (R2)

Date: 18 – 19 July, 2017 (Tue. - Wed.)

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 hrs.

Place: Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand

(7) Announcement of Interview Result

Date: 25 July, 2017 (Tue.)

Time: 16:00 hrs.

Place: Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand,

(on website: <http://www.th.emb-japan.go.jp>)

9. ACQUISITION OF ADMISSIONS LETTER

- (1) The applicants who pass the First Screening shall directly contact the Japanese universities they wish to apply to (maximum of three) after the notification of the First Screening results by August 31 (Thurs.) in order to request the issuance of the admissions letter as a regular student at a graduate school or a non-regular student (research student), and the acceptance agreement (hereinafter, admissions letter) as a regular student at a graduate school or a non-regular student (research student). (A request to the Japanese university for issuance of the admissions letter made on September 1 or after is not permitted. Moreover, since August 31 is not the deadline for the issuance of the acceptance letter, a request to the university for the issuance may not be made.) Regarding the obtaining of the admissions letter, applicants may receive information from the Embassy of Japan in Thailand on contact addresses for the departments in charge of overseas universities at the various universities, the websites of universities and researchers, and so on.
- (2) When requesting the letter of admission from the university, please directly submit to the university the complete set of documents submitted to the Embassy of Japan (application, transcript of grades at own university, statement of applicant's major field and research plan, etc.; documents will stamped by the Embassy of Japan and returned) and the certificate verifying passage of the First Screening. Please submit any other necessary documents requested by the university.
- (3) Please always report the response from the universities to the Embassy of Japan in Thailand. Moreover, submit the final Placement Reference Form based on the responses from the universities to the Embassy of Japan in Thailand by the specified date.

10. RECOMMENDATION TO MEXT

The Embassy of Japan will recommend the candidates who have passed the first screening to MEXT.

(1) Meeting for Recommendation Procedure to MEXT

Date: 27 July, 2017 (Thu.)

Time: 14:00 hrs.

Place: Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand

(2) Submitting of Formal Application to MEXT

Date: 9 August, 2017 (Wed.)

Time: 09:30 – 12:00 hrs.

Place: Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand

(3) Japanese Language Examination

This examination is given to those who passed the interview.

Date: 18 August, 2017 (Fri.)

Time: 14:30-16:30 hrs.

Place: Japan Foundation, Bangkok

Note: The result of the Japanese language examination will be used as reference data for Japanese-language education to be provided upon the applicant's arrival in Japan.

* MEXT will conduct a final selection based on the results of the First Screening, and select as Japanese government scholarship grantees those applicants who have been accepted by a Japanese university. Therefore, applicants who have passed the First Screening at the Embassy of Japan are not automatically accepted as scholarship grantees.

11. SECOND SCREENING AND PLACEMENT AT UNIVERSITY

- (1) MEXT conducts the Second Screening based on the results of the First Screening conducted by the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, and selects the recipients of the MEXT Scholarship who have decided the university to which they wish to be placed. An application may be rejected if it arouses concern over proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related items, e.g. a case where it is highly possible that the applicant will receive the technology that is controlled pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolutions, or that any WMD-related technologies will be transferred to an applicant who belongs to (an) organization(s) on the End User List published by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI).
- (2) Candidates who successfully pass the Second Screening will, in principle, be placed at the university from which the candidate has received an admissions letter. MEXT will hold consultations with the three preferred universities listed in the applicant's Placement Reference Form. The grantee will be placed at the university that approves the admittance of the grantee as result of the consultation. However, should the candidate wish to enter either a public or a private university and not a national university, the candidate's preference specified in the Placement Preference Form may not be met due to restrictions on the Japanese government's budget preventing the covering of higher tuition and other costs at such universities. Any objection by the candidate to the decision on the university placement will not be accepted.
- (3) Candidates who receive an acceptance letter for admittance to the regular course at a graduate school will be directly placed in the said regular course without going through the period of the non-regular student (research student).
- (4) If a grantee is judged by the accepting university not to have adequate Japanese language proficiency to understand lectures or research guidance for experiments or practical training at the university, the grantee will be placed in a Japanese-language training course at an institution designated by the university of placement or MEXT for the first six-month period after the arrival in Japan. Upon completion of the Japanese language training, the grantee will enter the university of placement for advanced education. However, if the grantee's record of achievement in the language course is poor and the grantee is judged to be incapable of receiving advanced education, the scholarship payment will be stopped. (See 4. PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP.)
- (5) If a grantee is deemed by the accepting university to possess sufficient Japanese language proficiency to conduct his/her research, the grantee may directly enter the university of placement as a regular student or a non-regular student (research student, etc.)
- (6) Applicants will be notified by the Embassy of Japan of the final results of the Second Screening and the result of the university placement for successful candidates from November to February the following year. Moreover, any objections to the decision on the university of placement will not be accepted.

12. UNIVERSITY ADMISSION AND ACQUIRING OF DEGREES

- (1) If a grantee desires to move on to a regular course for a degree from a Research Student (non-degree) course, or to a doctoral course from a master's course or a professional graduate course, he/she needs to take an entrance examination administered by the relevant university and pass it. To continue receiving the MEXT scholarship after advancing to a higher level, the grantee must undergo another screening examination and be awarded an extension of the scholarship. (See 5. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIP.) A grantee cannot apply for an extension of the scholarship period while enrolled in a Research Student (non-degree) course.
- (2) If a grantee desires to advance to a regular course for a degree from a Research Student (non-degree) course, in principle, he/she must move on to the graduate school of the university at which he/she is studying as a Research Student. If proceeding to the graduate school is deemed to be inappropriate given the grantee's major field or ability, he/she may be allowed to transfer to another graduate school, provided that, he/she is admitted to it.

- (3) Although the entrance examinations to graduate school vary depending on the university, assessment of the applicant's foreign language competence, grasp of the specialized subject for study, plans for the graduation thesis, etc. are normally included.
- (4) Under the educational system of Japan, a typical master's degree course lasts for two years subsequent to graduation from a university (i.e. after completion of 16 years of school education), and a typical doctoral degree course lasts for three years after completion of a master's course. If a student has completed such a two-, or three-year course, obtained the necessary credits, and passed the final examination after submitting his/her graduation thesis, he/she will be granted the relevant degree.
- (5) In the fields of medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and pharmacy which is based on a 6-year course at a department or faculty, most of the universities offer only 4-year doctoral courses. For admission to such a doctoral course an applicant is required to have completed 18 years of school education. If an applicant completed 16 years of school education, he/she is required to have engaged for two or more years in research activities at universities or research institutions subsequent to completion of the 16 years of education, and to be deemed by a graduate school in Japan as being academically equal to an applicant who completed 18 years of formal education.
- (6) Professional graduate schools were opened in 2003 with the aim of developing individuals with deep knowledge and outstanding ability in their field in order to support professions that require sophisticated expertise. The standard required duration of study is two years. In some fields of study, the duration is less than two years but more than one year. Upon completion of the course a master's degree (specialized occupation) is conferred. Among the professional graduate schools are "graduate schools of law." These schools require a standard duration of study of three years. Upon completion of the course a student will be granted the degree of "Doctor of Law (specialized occupation)."

13. NOTES

- (1) The recipient is advised to learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and to acquire some information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country.
- (2) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee should bring at least approximately US\$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (3) Recipient must enroll in National Health Insurance (NHI) upon arrival in Japan.
- (4) Accommodations:
 - ① Residence halls for international students provided by universities.
Some universities have residence halls for international students. The recipients enrolled at such universities may reside at these residence halls under certain conditions. However, due to the limited number of rooms, some of these facilities may be unavailable.
 - ② Private boarding houses or apartments:
Those who are unable to find accommodation in the aforementioned facilities may live in regular dormitories of the university or in private boarding houses/apartments. It is difficult for recipients with dependents to find appropriate housing in Japan. The recipient is requested to arrive in Japan alone first to secure housing before having his/her spouse and/or family come to Japan.
- (5) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, career path after completion of scholarship, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with other relevant government organizations for the purpose of utilization for international students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the international student system). Former recipients of MEXT Scholarships are asked to cooperate with any possible requests from the Japanese Government for the provision of relevant information after the recipient's graduation in Japan.
Information regarding MEXT Scholarship recipients (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be included in publicity materials prepared by the Japanese Government for promoting the acceptance of international students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship recipients who are playing active roles in countries around the world. These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Excluding exceptional circumstances, only those concurring with these conditions will be accepted as MEXT Scholarship recipients and will be granted the Scholarship.

(6) The English texts attached to the Application Guideline and the Application Form are for convenience only. The Japanese versions of the Application Guideline and the Application Form take precedence, and any English expressions do not change the Japanese content so if there are any questions about the content of the written text, those should be inquired at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

(7) More detailed information on this scholarship program is available at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

(8) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this guideline, those that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship are determined by the Japanese government.

14. REFERENCES

(1) Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Thailand (สอบถามข้อมูลและที่อยู่ส่งใบสมัคร)

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Fax: 02-207-8512
URL: <http://www.th.emb-japan.go.jp>

(Working Hour: 09:00 – 12:00 hrs. and 13:30 – 16.30 hrs.)

(2) Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai (สอบถามข้อมูลสำหรับผู้คัดเลือกสนามสอบที่จังหวัดเชียงใหม่)

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