

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies
Application Guideline 2012(University Recommendation)
(Monbukagakusho: MEXT Scholarship Student)

1. University Outline

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI) was founded on October 1, 1988 as one of the national universities of Japan. The basic idea of SOKENDAI is to develop a new system of postgraduate education in Japan. The characteristic features are as follows:

- 1) SOKENDAI offers a three-year and a five-year doctor program.
- 2) SOKENDAI consists of six schools with 21 departments operated by 18 Inter-University Research Institutes and Independent Administrative Institution (“parent institutes”).
- 3) Research and education are carried out in close cooperation with the parent institutes.
- 4) A broad and international vision is fostered by enhanced interchange among the departments of our schools and other universities in Japan and abroad.

The parent institutes provide Japanese and foreign scientists with opportunities of high-grade joint research in various branches of science. They are equipped with large-scale research facilities and high-quality approaches and function as centers for advanced studies. At present, they are cooperating in setting up high-grade postgraduate education in SOKENDAI.

2. Monbukagakusho: MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan) Scholarship

Please refer to enclosed “Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Research Student Scholarship for 2012(University Recommendation)”

3. How to apply

[Number of Successful Applicant]

The number to be accepted differs depending on each department. Applicants are requested to contact the department to get more information. In general, a few people will be admitted.

[Application Period]

The application period differs depending on each department. Applicants are requested to contact the department for the information about its application period.

All required documents including the application form must be submitted through the academic advisor who you wish to study with. Application without an academic advisor’s acceptance is not acceptable.

4. Selection Method

- 1) Examination: Screening is done by examining the application documents.
- 2) Face to face interview, or interview through internet/email
(Please contact each department)

5. Announcement of Acceptance

Preliminary admission and scholarship announcements will be mailed in March 2012. Final announcements will be mailed in May 2012.

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The Graduate University for Advanced Studies
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Application Guidelines for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Foreign Research Student Scholarship 2012 (University Recommendation)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers a Japanese government scholarship to foreign students who wish to study at Japanese universities (for foreign research students) by university recommendation as follows.

Memorandum

1. Qualifications and Conditions

(1) Applicants:

The scholarship is offered to new foreign students who have earned the equivalent level of a graduate with outstanding academic performance. The applicant must have a minimum GPA 2.3 or higher and are expected to maintain the equivalent level during the scholarship period.

(2) Nationality:

The applicant must hold a nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. The applicant who holds Japanese citizenship at the time of application is not eligible.

(3) Age:

The applicant must be under 35 years old as of April 1, 2012(that is, born on or after April 2, 1977).

(4) Academic Background:

The applicant must be a graduate of a Japanese university or have academic ability equal or superior to that of a university graduate.

A person will be deemed to have academic ability equal or superior to that of a university graduate, if he/she:

- [1] Has completed or will complete a 16-year school curriculum in a foreign country; or
- [2] Is or will be age 22 or older and has taken an individual entrance qualification examination and has been judged by Sokendai as being equal or superior in academic ability to a university graduate.

Note: Other than those above, eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to Sokendai.

(5) Study Area:

The study area must be in the same field as the applicant has studied or in a related one. The field of study must be the one available at Sokendai.

(6) Health:

The applicant must not be mentally or physically challenged in such a way that this would pose a serious obstacle to their ability to study.

(7) Japanese Language Ability:

In the fields in which Japanese language ability is necessary (Japanese linguistics, Japanese literature, Japanese history, Japanese law), the applicant must have sufficient Japanese ability to pursue his/her studies except under very special circumstances.

(8) Arrival in Japan:

The applicant must be able to arrive in Japan on the date(s) designated by Sokendai in the period between the middle of September and the beginning of October (the applicant who cannot arrive in Japan within the designated period should decline the acceptance. Those who arrive in Japan before the designated date for personal reasons will NOT be provided traveling expenses to Japan).

(9) Visa Requirement:

If selected, the applicant will be required to acquire a “College Student (ryuugaku)” visa prior to coming to Japan. Accepted applicants who are already in Japan under a different resident status must change their resident status to “College Student” by the end of September, 2012(an applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of “College Student” will NOT qualify for the Japanese government scholarship. Also, please note that an applicant who changes his/her resident status to any status other than “College Student” after entry into Japan will lose his/her status of a Japanese government scholarship student.)

(10) Other:

Students under the conditions stated below will NOT be considered as a candidate.

- [1] Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list are excluded.
- [2] Applicants who are not able to arrive in Japan on the appointed dates are excluded.
- [3] Applicants who have received the MEXT scholarship within the past three years are excluded (this restriction does not apply, however, to students who were enrolled as a scholarship student in Japanese language and culture program or as a scholarship student in the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Course for Science and Engineering).

- [4] Applications will not be accepted from those who have already won a scholarship from another institution (including the government of their home country) other than MEXT .
- [5] Applicants who have applied for the MEXT scholarship through another university or for the support system for foreign students by the MEXT and JASSO simultaneously are excluded (this restriction also applies to students who have been selected and are to be registered continuously through 2012 with the support system for foreign students conducted by MEXT and JASSO).
- [6] Applicants will not be eligible for this scholarship if they reside or will reside in Japan before October 2012 (e.g. those who will be enrolled in a Japanese university in 2012 as a privately-financed foreign student and are on the register continuously from October in 2012.)

2. Term of Scholarship

The term of scholarship will differ as follows, depending on the course a grantee takes in Japan.

(1) If a grantee will enroll as a research student, non-degree student, or auditor, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “Research Student”) after coming to Japan, his/her scholarship will be payable for 18 months from October 2012 through March 2014.

(2) If a grantee will directly enroll in a three-year doctoral course after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for three years (standard course term) (starting October 2012 and finishing September 2015).

(3) If a grantee will directly enroll in a five-year doctoral course after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for two years (the first two years of the standard course term) (starting October 2012 and finishing September 2014). In order for the term of his/her scholarship to be extended till the end of the standard course term(that is, till September 2017), he/she should make an application for the extension of the scholarship and approved by MEXT. Please note that depending on the budget condition, not all the application will be approved.

(4)A grantee who desires to proceed to from a Research Student course to a regular graduate course may have the term of his/her scholarship extended upon approval by MEXT, provided that he/she has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement that meets specified criteria. Please note that depending on the budget condition, not all the application will be approved.

*An applicant who proceeds to a regular graduate course from a Research Student course may NOT move to another university.

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Scholarship amount:

The scholarship amount for 2012 has not been fixed yet.

For reference, the scholarship amount for 2011 was as follows.

JPY150,000~JPY156,000 (depending on the course and place where a grantee studies.)

Amounts for 2012 may change depending on the budget conditions.

The scholarship will NOT be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence from the university or does not attend classes for an extended period of time.

(2) Transportation to Japan:

The grantee will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, an economy class air ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address to the international airport in Japan nearest to the campus of Sokendai where the grantee is placed. Other expenses, such as inland transportation from his/her place of residence to the international airport, airport tax, and any special taxes on overseas travel, will NOT be provided (the address stated in the application is considered as “home address of the grantee”).

* No air ticket will be issued to a grantee for a route from any country other than the country of his/her nationality.

(3) Transportation from Japan:

For a grantee who returns to his/her home country by a specified date after the period of his/her scholarship has ended, MEXT will pay for an economy class air ticket from the international airport in Japan nearest to the campus of Sokendai where the grantee is placed to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.

* The grantee should buy air travel insurance at his/her own expense.

* The airports for departure and return should be in the country of the grantee’s nationality.

(4) Tuition: Sokendai will provide all the tuition.

4. Recommendation and Selection

(1) Recommendation:

The president of Sokendai, after screening in Sokendai, recommends an applicant or applicants who have shown academic excellence and need the scholarship, to the Minister of MEXT.

(2) Selection:

Candidates are screened and selected by the selection committee from a pool of applicants recommended by president of universities, and, based on the result of screening and selection by the committee, MEXT selects grantees and their term of scholarship.

(3) Documents to be Submitted

	(Original)	(Copy)
a. Application for Japanese Government (MEXT) Foreign Research Student Scholarship 2012 (Double-side printing)	...	
Field of Study and Study Program	...1	
b. Proof of nationality(A copy of the applicant's passport is most preferable)	...	1
c. Dean's recommendation letter from the home institution, addressed to Dr. Naoyuki TAKAHATA, president of Sokendai	...1	
d. Passport photographs or digital images (size 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm) taken within the past six months (Full-faced photograph from the waist up. When photographed, the applicant must not wear a hat or cap hiding a part of his/her face or head. The applicant must write his/her name and nationality on the back of each photograph and paste them on the application forms.)	... 1	
e. Certified academic records of each academic year of the last university attended (issued by the university attended)	...1	
f. Diploma or degree certificate of the last university attended (or an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the school by September 2012, where applicable)	...1	
g. Proof of the applicant's academic level, such as the academic ranking in his/her previous university (GPA, ABC grading, ranking of academic achievement, etc.)	...1	
h. Abstracts of theses	...	1
i. Qualifications that prove the applicant's language skill (such as TOEFL, TOEIC) and specific knowledge of his/her field.	...1	
j. Survey on Entry into Japan	...1	

(4) Additional considerations

- 1) The documents above must be prepared in Japanese or English using word-processing software (if possible). Print all required documents on

A4 size paper (for documents prepared in languages other than Japanese or English, attach a Japanese translation to each document.)

- 2) Submitted documents will not be returned.
- 3) Prepare and attach abstracts summarizing the contents of theses.
- 4) All required documents must be prepared completely and correctly and a complete set of attachments must be submitted in order for the application to be considered.

5. Notification of the Result

The applicant will be informed of the result of the first screening by the end of April. Notification of the final result will be made in the beginning of May.

6. Notes

(1) A recipient of the MEXT scholarship may have his/her scholarships revoked in the following cases. In case a recipient wrongly receives the scholarship under the following circumstances, he/she may be required to return the scholarship for the period.

- [1] When the recipient has made false statements on the application.
- [2] When the recipient violates his/her contractual agreement with MEXT.
- [3] When it becomes definitive that the recipient will not be able to graduate (or complete the course) within the standard course term because of his/her poor academic achievement or suspension.
- [4] When the recipient has been the subject of disciplinary action at Sokendai.
- [5] When the recipient withdraws from Sokendai or transfers to a different graduate school.
- [6] When the recipient changes his/her "College Student" visa status to some other status of residence.
- [7] When the recipient gets other scholarship (excluding grants for specific research projects).
- [8] When the recipient proceed to the higher courses without the approval for the extension of scholarship by MEXT.

(2) If a recipient takes a leave of absence from Sokendai or does not attend classes for an extended period of time, he/she will NOT receive scholarship payments during the period.