

Special Program for International Graduate Students
Doctoral Course
Application Guidelines for
Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho/MEXT) Scholarship
Admission in October 2026

"Educational Program for the Next Generation Researchers in Advanced Stem Cell Biology Fields"

Graduate School of Medical Sciences

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The Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University offers an opportunity to apply for the Japanese Government (the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, Sports, and Culture (MEXT/Monbukagakusho)) Scholarship for those who wish to enroll in the Doctoral Course of the Special Program for International Graduate Students. The main language used for classes and research instructions in this program is English.

Educational Program for Scholarship Recipients

"Educational Program for the Next Generation Researchers in Advanced Stem Cell Biology Fields" operated by the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University.

Number of Scholarship Recipients: 6 persons

Eligibility

- 1) **Those who make a firm commitment to enroll in Kumamoto University in the case of having passed the examination.**
***Declination of enrollment by a successful applicant causes significant amount of inconvenience to unsuccessful applicants, institutions concerned and others.**
- 2) **Those who have a grade index of 2.3 or higher (specified in page 7), and will be able to maintain the equivalent level while receiving the scholarship.**
- 3) Those who have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with Japan, **and enter Japan from abroad as a student for the first time**, in principle.
- 4) Those who are under the age of 35 as of April 1, 2026 (born on or after April 2, 1991).
- 5) Those who:
 - have been granted a bachelor's degree or an equivalent by completing a five-year or longer course of a medical, dental, pharmaceutical, or veterinary college or university outside of Japan, or are expected to obtain such degree by September 2026.
 - have graduated from a 4-year medical, dental, pharmaceutical, or veterinary college of university outside of Japan then conducted research for more than 2 years in a university or a research institute outside of Japan, or are expected to complete such education and research by September 2026.
 - have been granted a master's degree from a 2-year educational institution outside of Japan after completing 16 years of school education or are expected to obtain such degree by September 2026.
 - have conducted research for more than 2 years in a university or a research institute after completing 16 years of school education outside of Japan and are recognized as having academic ability equivalent to that of a master's degree holder in Japan.
 - are determined by the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University to have academic ability equal or superior to that of a master's degree holder in Japan.
- 6) Those who are in good physical and mental health.
- 7) Those who have sufficient ability of English communication.
- 8) Those who are able to arrive in Japan between October 1 and 10, 2026.

- 9) Those who will have a student visa when entering Japan.

Notes:

- 1) Military personnel and military civilian employees are excluded.
- 2) The admission will be revoked if recipients fail to arrive in Japan during the designated period.
- 3) Those who have received the MEXT Scholarship within the last 3 years are excluded.
- 4) Those who are receiving fellowships/scholarships from other sources are excluded.
- 5) Those who are applying for the MEXT Scholarship through other universities concurrently, or are going to apply for the MEXT Scholarship as Embassy Recommendation applicants, or are going to apply for the JASSO Student Exchange Support Program Scholarship in Academic Year 2026 are excluded.
- 6) Those who are going to be a privately-funded student of a university in Japan in Academic Year 2026 are excluded, in principle.
- 7) Those who wish to conduct a field study abroad are excluded.
- 8) The admission will be revoked if recipients fail to fulfill the educational requirements stated in “Eligibility” by September 2026.

Duration of Scholarship: October 2026 – September 2030 (4 years)

Scholarship Benefits

- 1) Stipend: JPY145,000 per month (subject to change).
- 2) Travel expenses:
 - Travel expenses to Japan: The economy class airfare from the international airport nearest the recipient's residence in his/her country to an international airport in Japan will be provided. The travel expenses from the port of entry in Japan to Kumamoto University, airport tax and other taxes related to the trip will not be provided.
 - Travel expenses to the recipient's home country from Japan: at the time of returning to his/her home country by the designated completion date of the scholarship, the economy class airfare from an international airport in Japan to the international airport nearest the recipient's residence in his/her home country will be provided.
- 3) Fees for enrollment and tuition will be exempted.

Selection Procedure

- 1) The applicant must choose one of the research leaders in the Graduate School of Medical Sciences as his/her prospective supervisor and obtain permission to apply for this special program from the supervisor beforehand.
- 2) The applicant must download all the application information and forms from the website described below and submit all the required documents and recommendation letters via email to the prospective supervisor.
- 3) The prospective supervisor must submit all the application documents sent by the applicant to the selection committee of the special program by the application deadline.
- 4) The committee will conduct examinations for the applicants. The evaluation will be based on the submitted documents that indicate the applicant's English language proficiency, the written test conducted in English,

and the interview.

- 5) The committee will conduct the written test and the interview by three committee members.
- 6) Selection of successful applicants shall be based on a comprehensive evaluation of the applicant's performance in the written test, interview, and English test score.
- 7) **The committee will contact successful applicants by e-mail to confirm their will to enroll in Kumamoto University. The committee will reject those who fail to respond in time. Successful applicants who express their desire to enroll in Kumamoto University will be nominated to MEXT as candidates for the MEXT Scholarship.**

Note: All applicants must be ready to respond by email between 5:00 p.m. on January 15 (Thu.), 2026 and 5:00 p.m. on January 16 (Fri.) 2026 (Japan time).

- 8) MEXT will review applications and select scholarship recipients.

Announcement of Results

Kumamoto University will notify the applicants of the results of their applications around late June 2026. The scholarship recipients will be registered as a regular doctoral student of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University.

Date of Enrollment

October 1, 2026

Degree

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy will be conferred upon fulfilling the course requirements.

Application Deadline

All the application documents and materials listed in “Required Documents” must be submitted to the office of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences by the prospective supervisor of the applicant **by December 8 (Mon.), 2025 (Japan time).**

Date of Written Test and Interview

January 15 (Thu.), 2026 (Japan time)

Required Documents

【Documents to be submitted by the applicant】

The applicant must send soft copies (as Word, Excel or PDF file) of all the documents to the prospective supervisor by email.

- 1) Application for Special Program for International Graduate Students in Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University [Form 1]
- 2) Application Form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship [Form 2]
- 3) Field of Study and Research Plan [Form 3]
- 4) A health certificate issued within 6 months prior to the date of application [Form 4]

- 5) An ID photo (4.5×3.5cm, taken in the last six months, upper body, full-faced, uncapped. Paste it on the application form.)
 - 6) A certificate of nationality (e.g., a copy of passport)
 - 7) A letter of recommendation from the dean, graduate school dean, or other higher-level personnel at the applicant's most recent affiliation. **The letter should be addressed to the President of Kumamoto University.**
***If the grade index cannot be calculated as specified in page 7, the recommendation letter must clearly state that the applicant's grade is in the top 30% of his/her undergraduate or graduate school.**
 - 8) A letter of recommendation from a professor or a research supervisor who can evaluate the applicant's ability in study and research. ***The letter must also state that the recommender has confirmed with the applicant that he/she will not decline the admission if he/she passes the examination.**
 - 9) A statement which describes reasons for choosing and applying to the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University (such as qualifications to become a graduate student and academic and professional goals)
 - 10) Abstracts of the applicant's all publications (including the applicant's thesis)
 - 11) Official academic transcripts (rankings, etc.) in English from the applicant's college/university (and graduate school). A copy of the grading criteria should be attached.
 - 12) A certificate of (expected) bachelor's degree of medicine or a certificate of bachelor's degree of the other field, and a certificate of (expected) master's degree.
 - 13) Applicants who have been granted a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree by graduating from a 5-year medical, dental, pharmaceutical, or veterinary college or university in a country other than Japan shall submit a certificate of the (expected) bachelor's degree issued by the head of the university or school, and a certificate of the result of the evaluation of the university or school (*1), from which applicants have received the degree, issued by the evaluation organization or the head of the university.
 - 14) **Applicants must submit one of the following documents to indicate their English language proficiency.**
 - (A) Official score reports of at least one of TOEFL-iBT, TOEFL-PBT, IELTS or TOEIC taken in the last two years from December 2025.
 - (B) A certificate of completion of a course of study that meets the requirements for admission to a doctoral course with English as the primary language of instruction.
 - 15) **A written pledge that states that the applicant, if accepted, will not decline admission to Kumamoto University with applicant's signature on it.**
 - 16) A letter of consent for the application from the employer, if the applicant is currently employed.
- (*1) Evaluation of the general education/research activities of universities and other schools by governments or related organizations for certification

Notes:

- 1) It is recommended that applicants discuss and plan their research well with their prospective supervisors beforehand. The plan has to be submitted to MEXT when applicants are selected for the scholarship.
- 2) All the documents must be printed on A4 size papers (21 x 29.5 cm).
- 3) Download Forms 1 to 4 from the following website for application.

http://www.medphas.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/medgrad/en/admissions/entrance_exam_classes/

- 4) Incomplete applications or submissions after the deadline will not be accepted.
- 5) Any of the application materials will not be returned to the applicants.

Attention

- 1) The recipients will lose the scholarship when:
 1. Their applications have been found to contain false statements.
 2. They have failed to keep the pledge to MEXT.
 3. They have been expelled or dismissed from the Kumamoto University for violating the rules and regulations of the University, or deemed difficult to complete academic requirements.
 4. They have withdrawn from Kumamoto University voluntarily or transferred to another university.
 5. Their residence status has been changed from ‘Student’ to other types.
 6. They have received a scholarship other than the MEXT scholarship (including those from their own governments).
 7. Their yearly grade index has fallen below 2.30.
- 2) When recipients are absent from school for an extended period, take a leave of absence, or stay outside of Japan for fieldwork, the scholarship will be suspended.
- 3) Applicants are advised to become familiar with the Japanese culture, customs, climate, and the University system, before coming to Japan. Japanese language skills for daily life would be advantageous.

For further information, please contact:

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Note: The Japanese translation of the “Special Program for International Graduate Students Doctoral Course” written in English has been prepared by the Education Committee of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences as an aid in understanding this program. If there is any discrepancy between the interpretation of the English text and the Japanese translation, the English text shall be considered correct.

[How to calculate your GPA for the MEXT scholarship]

Use the table below to convert your grades into grade points. Then use the formula below to calculate your GPA.

Types	Grades				
4-level scale (type 1)		Excellent	Good	Fair	Fail
4-level scale (type 2)		A	B	C	F
4-level scale (type 3)		100 – 80 points	79 – 70 points	69 – 60 points	59 points or lower
5-level scale (type 1)	S	A	B	C	F
5-level scale (type 2)	A	B	C	D	F
5-level scale (type 3)	100 – 90 points	89 – 80 points	79 – 70 points	69 – 60 points	59 points or lower
Grade Point (GP)	3	3	2	1	0

(GPA Calculation Formula)

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

*Only grades of regular courses shall be used for the calculation. Grades earned as a non-regular research student or at a Japanese language school shall be excluded.

*Working adult applicants shall use the grades from their last schools attended for the calculation. Student applicants shall use the grades from their current schools.

(Note 1) If your courses are not on a credit system, replace the number of credits in the formula with the number of courses registered.

(Note 2) If you are a transfer student, use the number of credits after the transfer.

(Note 3) Any descriptions of grades other than those in the table above (such as “qualified,” “pass,” etc.) are not applicable for the calculation.

(Note 4) Round down to the 2nd digit from the decimal point, if the calculated GPA has fraction.