

**International Joint Education Program
for Science and Technology (IJEP)
Master's Course**

**Application Information for
Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship
Admission in 2026
< University Recommendation >**

**Graduate School of Science and Technology
Kumamoto University**

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<https://www.fast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/gsst-en/admissions/>**

The Graduate School of Science and Technology (GSST) at Kumamoto University offers the opportunity to apply for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for those who wish to enroll in the Master's Course of the International Joint Education Program for Science and Technology (IJEP). The main language used in this Program for classes and research is English. Basic Japanese language courses are offered at the Center for International Education.

Research and Educational Fields

Department of Science

Course: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Biological Sciences

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Architecture

Education program: Civil and Environmental Engineering, Urban and Regional Planning and Design, Architecture and Building Engineering

Department of Mechanical systems Engineering

Education program: Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Systems,

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Education program: Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering,

Department of Materials Science and Applied Chemistry

Education program: Chemistry and Bioscience, Chemistry and Materials, Materials Science and Engineering

Department of Semiconductor, Computer Science and Mathematics

Education program: Semiconductor Systems, Computer Science and Applied Mathematics

Qualifications of Applicants

- 1) **Nationality:** must have a nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japanese government, and will have a student visa when entering Japan.
- 2) **Age:** must have been born on or after April 2, 1991.
- 3) **Education:**

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions from ① to ④

When one's application is based on ③ or ④, qualification will be subjected to prior screening. For application to prior screening, follow the guidelines on page 4.

- ① Completed or are expected to complete 16 years of formal education outside of Japan by September 2026.
- ② Hold or are expected to complete a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a three-year or longer program at a foreign university or other foreign educational institution by September 2026. Universities or educational institutions from which applicants obtained or will obtain a degree must be accredited by a respective foreign government or someone certified by an appropriate foreign governmental agency, or so designated by MEXT.
- ③ Completed 15 years of formal education outside of Japan and are recognized to have excellent academic

records by GSST.

- ④ Are recognized by GSST to have attainments equal to or higher than university graduates, and must be aged 22 years old or older as of September 30, 2026.

- 4) **GPA:** GPA of your grades in the latest formal education program must be equal to or greater than 2.30 based on the calculation method below. Numbers must be rounded down to two decimal places.

Calculation method

Type of evaluation	Obtained score				
Pattern 1		優	良	可	不可
Pattern 2		A	B	C	F
Pattern 3		100~80 p	79~70 p	69~60 p	59 p~
Pattern 4	100~90 p	89~80 p	79~70 p	69~60 p	59 p~
Pattern 5	S	A	B	C	F
Pattern 6	A	B	C	D	F
Grade Point	3	3	2	1	0

After calculating the grade points, apply them to the following calculating formula.

[Calculating method]

$$\frac{(\text{Units of GP3} \times 3) + (\text{Units of GP2} \times 2) + (\text{Units of GP1} \times 1) + (\text{Units of GP0} \times 0)}{\text{All the registered units}}$$

All the registered units

Note:

1. If your grading system is not based on units, it can be replaced to the number of subjects.
2. It should exclude any evaluation other than ones in the table above such as “qualification”, “Pass” etc.

- 5) **Health:** must be in good physical and mental health.
- 6) **Language:** must have a score equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) B2 or higher on a test that can measure the four skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. In case of tests in which scores are calculated by the skills, the score for all skills must be equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher. In regard to TOEIC, both TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test and TOEIC® Speaking & Writing Test must be taken, and the score for all skills must be equivalent to CEFR B2 or higher.
- 7) **Time of arrival:** must be able to arrive in Japan between September 24 and October 7, 2026. When it is not possible, the travel expense will not be paid.
- 8) **Visa:** must have a student visa when coming to Japan.

Note:

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 received the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past have to have at least 3 years of experience in education and research before reapplying to the scholarship. However, those who returned to home countries and graduated from home universities after having finished the Program for

Japanese Studies Students, the Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Program for Students in Science and Engineering, or the Young Leaders' Program are not subjected to this rule. Those who received MEXT Honors Scholarship are also eligible.

4. Those who are currently applying for another scholarship program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) are not eligible.
5. Those who are staying in Japan at the time of application are not eligible.
6. Those who are expecting to receive scholarships from institutions (including home government) other than the Japanese Government (MEXT) after arrival in Japan are not eligible.
7. The admission will be revoked if recipients fail to fulfill the educational requirements as stated by September 2026.
8. Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who fail to demonstrate that they have given up Japanese nationality by the time of registration as a student are not eligible.
9. Those who are planning to carry out research activities abroad (fieldwork, internship, etc) or to take an extended leave of absence at the time of application are not eligible.

Prior Screening

<Guidelines for prior screening for qualification for application>

When your educational qualification is based on ③ or ④ on page 2, prior screening is required. Contact the Academic / International Affairs Section (gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp) first and then submit the required documents via email during the submission period indicated below. If you pass the screening, submit the application documents on page 6 and 7 during the application period.

(1) Required documents for prior screening

- ① Application Form for the screening of the qualification for application (obtained from Academic / International Affairs Section).
- ② A certificate of Bachelor's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or a copy of a diploma.
- ③ Official transcripts of academic records in English from each college and university attended, including information such as GPA and ranking.
- ④ A summary of Bachelor's thesis or an equivalent in English. An interim report is acceptable for applicants who have not yet graduated at the time of application.

(2) Application period for the prior screening

December 24-26, 2025

(3) Where to send

Academic / International Affairs Section
Graduate School of Science and Technology
Kumamoto University
Email: gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

(4) Result of the screening

The results will be informed to applicants after the screening.

Duration of the Scholarship: October 2026 – September 2028 (2 years)

Scholarship Benefits

- 1) **Stipend:** 144,000 yen per month (subject to change).
- 2) **Travel expenses**
 - **Travel to Japan:** An economy class airline ticket from a nearest international airport of a recipient's residence in his/her country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the accepting university will be provided. Airport tax and special taxes related to the trip will not be covered.
 - **Travel from Japan:** At the time of returning to a home country by the designated completion date of the scholarship, an economy class airline ticket from an international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from the accepting university to an international airport in his/her home country will be provided.

Note:

1. If a recipient returns home despite of having applied for extension of scholarship period, in principle, he/she will not receive travel expenses to return home.
 2. Insurance premiums for travel to/from Japan shall be borne by the recipient.
 3. If a recipient continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, he/she will not receive travel expenses to return home temporarily.
- 3) Fees for examination, enrollment and tuition will be exempted.

Date of Enrollment: October 1, 2026

Degrees

Master of Science, Master of Engineering, Master of Informatics, or Master of Philosophy will be conferred.

Application Procedure

Step 1

Check whether you fulfill the qualifications of applicants (See on page 2 and 3). When your educational qualification is based on ③ or ④, prior screening must be conducted. For application to prior screening, follow the guidelines on page 4. If you are not sure whether you need prior screening or not, please contact us at gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp.

Step 2

Contact a prospective supervisor in Kumamoto University and ask whether you can apply for MEXT scholarship under his/her supervision. It is highly recommended that applicants contact the prospective supervisor at least three weeks before the application deadline.

Please refer following website when you search for a prospective supervisor;

<https://www.fast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/div1/>

If you have a problem contacting a prospective supervisor, please contact following email address;

ask-gsst@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Step 3

After obtaining confirmation from the prospective supervisor in Step 2, please have face-to-face interviews with the prospective supervisor and at least two more faculty members from the related field(s). Online interviews are acceptable. Interviews must be completed within one year prior to the application deadline. For more details about interview procedure, please contact your prospective supervisor.

Step 4

First, please convert the following documents into PDF format and send them by email to the Academic/ International Affairs Section. Once you receive a reply, submit the original documents via express postal mail. If someone other than the applicant submits the original documents in person to the Academic/ International Affairs Section, we may request their name and contact information.

Application deadline: January 15, 2026

*Please note that all the original documents must arrive at the office by the application deadline.

In case the postal service is delayed by unavoidable reasons, please email us the softcopy of your documents by the deadline as well.

Required Documents

- 1) Application form for IJEP in GSST (format available on website). The applicant's signature must be handwritten. Printed or electronic signatures will not be accepted.
- 2) Application form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (format available on website).
- 3) Field of study and research plan (format available on website).
- 4) Health certificate completed within the past 6 months of the date of application (format available on website).
- 5) Statement of objectives describing reasons for application to the Graduate School, how the applicant qualifies to be a graduate student, and the applicant's academic, research, and professional goals.
- 6) A certificate of Bachelor's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or a copy of a diploma (original and English translation. Photocopies need to be attested by an authorized person of the university).
- 7) Certified official transcripts of academic records in English from each college and university attended, including

information such as GPA and ranking. The transcript should show the grade scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant in all the subjects studied for each year of study at the college and/or the university.

- 8) A summary of Bachelor's thesis or an equivalent in English. An interim report is acceptable for the applicants who have not yet graduated at the time of application.
- 9) A score of an English test that evaluates the four skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing (see No.6 in Qualifications of Applicants). Scores are valid only if dated within two years of the application deadline. Submission of a score may be exempt if the applicant completed a Bachelor's degree or other advanced degree where English is the primary language of instruction. An official document from the university for confirmation may be requested. However, those who have submitted their scores will be more advantageous at the time of evaluation than those who have not.
- 10) A letter of recommendation in English from the head of the faculty or graduate school, or someone at a higher position of the applicant's home university or institution. **The letter should be addressed to "President of Kumamoto University".**
- 11) A letter of recommendation in English from a professor or a research supervisor who can evaluate the applicant's ability in study and research.
- 12) List of research papers and awards, if any (format available on website).
- 13) A copy of the applicant's passport, or an official certificate of citizenship (original and English translation).
- 14) Application Materials Checklist (format available on website)

Please make sure to confirm that you have all documents by using the checklist before sending the documents.

Note:

1. Applicants are advised to discuss research plans with their prospective supervisors beforehand.
2. All the documents should be typewritten on A4 size paper (21 x 29.5 cm).
3. Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
4. Application materials will not be returned to the applicants.
5. There is no specified format for recommendation letters. However, the letter should be dated and include affiliation, position, signature or seal of the recommender. Each letter must include the recommender's handwritten signature. Scanned, printed or electronic signatures will not be accepted.
6. Admission may be revoked if it is determined that the applicant has made any false statement in the application.

<Where to Send the Documents>

Academic / International Affairs Section
Graduate School of Science and Technology
Kumamoto University
2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan
Phone: +81-96-342-3982
Email: gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Selection Procedure

- 1) The GSST selection committee will examine the application materials and the result of the interview to select applicants to recommend to the university level selection (no limit to the number of recommendation). Applicants should have face-to-face interviews with the prospective supervisor and at least two more faculty members from the related field(s). Online interviews are acceptable. Interviews must be completed within one year prior to the application deadline.
- 2) The university level selection committee will select applicants. Selected applicants will be recommended to the Japanese Government (MEXT) for further review and selection.
- 3) The result of the university level selection will be informed to the applicants in late March, and the final decision from MEXT will be informed in July.

Attention

- 1) Scholarship may be repealed in the following cases.
 1. There are false statements in the application.
 2. Students fail to follow the pledge to MEXT.
 3. Students fail to follow any Japanese laws.
 4. Students are expelled or dismissed from the university as a disciplinary measure, or judged to be difficult to complete academic requirements.
 5. The status of student visa is changed to other types of visa.
 6. Students receive scholarship that is not allowed to be combined with MEXT scholarship.
 7. Students proceed to the doctoral course without receiving approval for an extension of the term of the scholarship.
 8. Students leave the university or transfer to another university.
- 2) When recipients are absent from school for an extended period, take a leave of absence, or stay outside of Japan for fieldwork, the payment of scholarship will be stopped.
- 3) Applicants are advised to become familiar with 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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