

**International Joint Education Program
for Science and Technology (IJEP)
Doctoral Course**

**Application Information for
Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) (MEXT)
Scholarship
Admission in 2017
< University Recommendation >**

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

**2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-Ku, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan
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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 (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship for those who wish to enroll in the Doctoral 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 Center for Japanese Language and Culture.

Research and Educational Fields

Science

Department: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Earth and Environments, Biological Sciences

New Frontier Sciences

Department: New Frontier Sciences

Advanced Technology

Department: Applied Chemistry and Biochemistry, Materials Science and Engineering, Advanced Mechanical Systems, Intelligent Mechanical Systems

Computer Science and Electrical Engineering

Department: Computer Science and Communication Engineering, Frontier Technology for Energy and Devices, Human and Environmental Informatics, Applied Mathematics

Architectural and Civil Engineering

Department: Environmental Conservation Engineering, Environmental Management and Planning, Architecture and Environment Planning, Building Materials and Structures

Qualifications of Applicants

- 1) Nationality: must have a nationality from a country which has diplomatic relations with Japan, and come to Japan from abroad as a student.
- 2) Age: must be younger than 35 years old as of April 1, 2017 (born on or after April 2, 1982).
- 3) Education:

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions from ① to ③

- ① Hold either a Master's degree or are expected to complete the degree by September 2017. Those who are graduating in September 2017 from a university in Japan are excluded.
- ② Conducted research for more than 2 years in a university or a research institute after completion of the 16 years of formal education outside of Japan and recognized to have an equivalent level of education to the Master's degree by the Graduate School of Science and Technology (GSST), Kumamoto University.
- ③ Are recognized by GSST to have attainments equal to or higher than Master's degree holders, and must be older than 24 years old as of September 30, 2017.

Note: When one's application is based on ② or ③, the qualification will be subjected to prior screening.

For application to prior screening, follow the guidelines shown below.

Furthermore, GPA of your grades in the last two years must be superior than 2.30 based on the calculation method below.

Calculation method (must be round to two decimal places)

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.

Note 2) It should exclude any evaluation other than ones in the table above such as “qualification”, “Pass” etc.

Note 3) If you have been enrolled for less than two years in your current university, which grades its students' scholastic performance every half year and the total number of your enrollment years at universities has a fraction which is less than one year because your previous university grades its students' scholastic performance every year, your GPA should be calculated based on your grades in the last two and a half years.

- 4) Health: must be in good physical and mental health.
- 5) Language: must have good English communication skills. The applicants should have an official score of either TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS. The preferred minimum scores are 530 for TOEFL-PBT (71 for TOEFL-iBT), 700 for TOEIC, and 6.0 for IELTS.
- 6) Time of arrival: must be able to arrive in Japan between September 25 and October 8, 2017. When it is not possible, the travel expense will not be paid.
- 7) Visa: must have a student visa when coming to Japan.

<Guidelines for prior screening for qualification for application>

In the case of applications based on the qualifications 3)-② or -③, prior screening is required. Contact the International Affairs Section (gsst-aas@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp) first before submitting the documents.

(1) Required documents

- ① Application form for the screening of the qualification for application (obtained from International Affairs Section)
- ② Certificates of Bachelor's degree and Master's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or copies of diplomas (original and English translation).
- ③ Official transcripts of academic records in English from each college and university attended, including information such as GPA and ranking.
- ④ Summaries of Bachelor's thesis and Master's thesis or equivalents in English.

(2) Period of application for the screening of the qualification for application

January 4-6, 2017

(3) Where to send

International Affairs Section
Administration Division 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

(4) Result of the screening

The result will be informed to the applicants as soon as after the screening.

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 Monbukagakusho 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.
- 4) Recipients of fellowships/scholarships from any other sources are not eligible.
- 5) Those who are currently enrolled in a Japanese university with a student visa (ryugaku) or going to become a private-funded student of a university in Japan in 2017 are not eligible. However, those who will go back to their home countries after completion of study in Japan and return to a Japanese university are not subjected to this rule.
- 6) Those who are expecting to receive scholarships from institutions (including home government) other than the Japanese Government (MEXT) or JASSO after arrival in Japan are not eligible. (Those who have been funded by MEXT or JASSO and continue to be funded as a student from October 2017 are not eligible)

- 7) The admission will be revoked if recipients fail to fulfill the educational requirements as stated by September 2017.
- 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 arrival in Japan are not eligible.
- 9) MEXT scholarship is for applicants who enroll in a Japanese university and conduct research activity in Japan. Therefore, those who wish to carry out fieldwork or internship abroad at the time of application are not eligible.

Duration of the Scholarship: October 2017 September 2020 (3 years)

Scholarship Benefits

- 1) Stipend: 145,000 yen per month (subject to change).
- 2) Travel expenses are covered by MEXT
 - Travel to Japan: An economy class airfare from a nearest international airport to a recipient's residence in his/her country to Narita International Airport or to Fukuoka International Airport will be provided. Airport tax and special taxes related to the trip will not be covered.
 - Travel to a recipient's home country from Japan: At the time of returning to a home country by the designated completion date of the scholarship, an economy class airfare from Narita International Airport or from Fukuoka International Airport 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 enrollment and tuition will be exempted.

Date of Enrolment

October 1, 2017

Degrees

After successful fulfillment of the course requirements, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Engineering, or Doctor of Philosophy will be conferred.

Application Procedure

Step 1

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 application deadline.

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

https://www.fast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/gsst-en/res_act/

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

ask-gsst@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Step 2

After obtaining confirmation from the prospective supervisor in Step 1, please have interviews with the prospective supervisor and at least two more faculty members from the related field(s). When interviews in person are not possible, the applicants should have at least nine Internet interview sessions by three faculty members (three sessions each). Interviews must be completed within one year of the application deadline. For more detail about interview procedure, please contact your prospective supervisor.

Step 3

Submit following the documents to the International Affairs Section via express postal mail by **January 19, 2017.**

*Please note that hard copies of all the documents must arrive at the office by January 19, 2017.

Required Documents

- 1) Application Form for IJEP in the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University.
- 2) Application form for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship. Please make double-sided printouts.
- 3) Field of study and study program. Please make double-sided printouts.
- 4) Health certificate completed within the past 6 months of the date of application.
- 5) Statement of objectives describing reasons for application to the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University, 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 and a certificate of Master's degree (or a certificate of anticipation of completion), or a copy of a diploma (original and English translation).
- 7) Official transcripts in English of academic records from each college and university attended, including information such as GPA and ranking.
- 8) Summaries of Bachelor's thesis and Master's thesis or equivalents in English.
- 9) A copy of the applicant's passport, or an official certificate of citizenship (original and English translation).
- 10) A letter of recommendation in English from the head of the faculty or graduate school, or someone at a higher position of the university. **The letter should be addressed to the 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) A letter in English from the employer indicating knowledge and consent of this application, if the applicant is an employee.
- 13) An official score of TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS, if the applicant's native language is not English. Although official scores are preferred, institutional scores such as TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC-IP and TOEFL equivalent test administered in universities may be accepted. Scores are valid only if dated within two years of the application

deadline.

- 14) A letter from the applicant stating his/her commitment to the enrollment to Kumamoto University when selected for the scholarship.
- 15) Application Materials Checklist (format available on website)
Please make sure that you have all documents by using the Application Checklist before sending the documents.

Note:

- 1) It is recommended that applicants discuss about a research plan with their prospective supervisors beforehand.
- 2) All the documents should be typewritten on A4 size paper (21 x 29.5 cm).
- 3) Use the forms provided by Kumamoto University for the above documents 1) to 4).
- 4) Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- 5) All application materials will not be returned to the applicants.

<Where to Send the Documents>

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Administration Division of Science and Technology
Kumamoto University
2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan
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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 interviews by a prospective supervisor and at least two more faculty members from the related field(s). When interviews in person are not possible, the applicants should have at least nine Internet interview sessions by three faculty members (three sessions each). Interviews must be completed within one year of the application deadline.
- 2) The university level selection committee will select applicants. Selected applicants will be recommended to the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho, MEXT) for further review and selection.
- 3) The result of the university level selection will be informed to the applicants in late February, and the final decision from MEXT will be informed in May.

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 Monbukagakusho.
 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 from sources (including their own government) other than Monbukagakusho.
 7. 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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