



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

(Higher Education Division)

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO: MEXT) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2026 (RESEARCH STUDENTS-PhD)

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for selection of suitable candidates to be nominated for postgraduate (PhD) scholarships offered by the Government of Japan.

All the Candidates are informed to read the attached guidelines thoroughly before applying to the Scholarship program.

(01) General eligibility requirements:

- (a) All applicants should be citizens of Sri Lanka.
- (b) Applicant should be born **on or after April 2, 1991**
- (c) Should possess a Bachelor's Degree of 4 years or more with a Second-Class Upper Division or above and a Master's degree in the relevant field, in a recognized university/ Higher Education Institute by UGC, Sri Lanka

(For those who are willing to study Doctoral courses in faculties of medicine, dentistry, veterinary sciences, and certain parts of pharmaceutical fields; please refer to paragraph "C" in the Qualification and Conditions Section in the attached Guideline)

- (d) The bachelor's degree should be obtained from any of the following universities /Higher Educational Institute (HEI)
 - A State University of Sri Lanka
 - Higher Education Institute that is monitored by the Non-State Higher Education Section of this Ministry
- (e) Should have passed GCE A/L English Language with a minimum of "C" "pass
- (f) Basic knowledge of Japanese Language is an added advantage
- (g) The government sector employees, should submit their applications through the Head of the institute.

(02) Fields of Study:

Applicants should apply for the fields of study they majored in a university or its related fields. Moreover, the fields of study must be subjects that applicants will be able to study and research in graduate courses at Japanese universities. Traditional entertainment arts such as Kabuki and Traditional Japanese dances or subjects that require practical training in specific technologies/ techniques at factories or companies are not included under this program

(03) Terms of Award:a) **Allowance:**

PhD: 145,000 yen per month. A supplemental regional allowance of 2,000 or 3,000 yen per month will be added to the monthly scholarship amount for the grantees studying or conducting research in specially designated regions. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government budget, the amount of payment may be subject to changes in each fiscal year.

b) **Education Fees:** Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at universities will be paid by MEXT.

c) **Expenses:****(I) Transportation to Japan**

MEXT will provide an Economy-class air ticket to grantees who will arrive in Japan during the specified period and the student shall bear his/her expenses related to domestic travel.

(II) Transportation from Japan:

MEXT will provide an Economy class air ticket to grantees who shall graduate from the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the scholarship period.

(III) Expenses relating to accommodation should be borne by the grantee.

Notes:

- Period of scholarship for regular students enrolled in doctoral or professional graduate courses;

Regardless of the date of arrival, the scholarship period shall be the necessary period for the completion of the respective regular course. For those requiring preparatory education, a 6-month preparatory education period will be separately added prior to the regular degree course.

- Scholars are recommended to bring approximately at least US\$ 2000 to cover immediate expenses just after arrival in Japan as the first installment of the Scholarship payment will be paid from one month to one and half months after they arrived in Japan.
- The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence or is long absent from the assigned University or the preparatory Japanese-teaching institution.

(04) Non Eligibility:

Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship.

- a) Those who are military personnel or military civilian employee at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship.
- b) Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT for the accepting university
- c) Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs. (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status)
- d) Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a resident status of “student “or who are to be enrolled, or plan to be enrolled, in a Japanese or other institution 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.

(05) Special notes:

- a) Award of the scholarship conditions laid down in this notification may vary as per the criteria imposed by the Japanese Government authorities without prior notice.
- b) Candidates who received scholarships would select the higher educational institutes recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.
- c) **If any student declines the offer after the selection process, he/she shall not be considered for any of the scholarships offered by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education.**
- d) Extension of the period of the scholarship will not be recommended by this Ministry.
- e) You are advised to visit the following website for past papers of the qualifying examination

<https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/planning/scholarships/mext-scholarships/examination.html>

(06) Applications:

- a) Online application is available at: <https://foreignscholarships.mohe.gov.lk/>
- b) **The deadline of the submission of the application is 13th May 2025**
- c) **Applicants should submit only one application via the online portal and not required to send it by post.**
- d) **Applications from permanent employees of the government sector, universities, or state corporations will not be considered unless they are submitted with the recommendation of the head of the respective institution**
- e) Any statement in the application, which is found to be incorrect/false will liable to disqualification at any time and will lead to the withdrawal of the award. Incomplete in any respect or received late, will be rejected

(07) Nominations & Selections:

- a) All the eligible candidates should sit for a written test which will held in coordination with this Ministry and Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka, for the academic examination of **English Language and Japanese Language**. The structured interviews will be conducted by this Ministry.
- b) The final selections will be made by the Government of Japan and the applicants will be informed of the final selection results by the Japanese Embassy in Sri Lanka by the end of January 2026.
- c) No candidate should treat his/her nomination for this scholarship as the confirmation of award is a matter entirely within the discretion of the awarding authority.
- d) Any form of canvassing either written or verbal will be considered as a disqualification for a scholarship.

Secretary
Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education
Higher Education Division
No.18, Ward Place
Colombo 07

25/04/2025