

FAQs for MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation)

Please note that only the matters related to MEXT (University Recommendation) are covered in this part. For matters not listed here, please refer to the FAQs for the [“e3 Special Selection”](#) or the [“e3 program”](#).

[1] Qualifications

1-1) I am a non-Japanese national, and I work in Japan. Am I eligible to apply?

No, we don't accept any applications from applicants residing in Japan.

1-2) I have dual citizenship with both a foreign and a Japanese passport. Can I apply?

No, if you have a Japanese nationality, you are not eligible. In case you were to choose a foreign nationality and give up your Japanese citizenship, there is a possibility that you could apply, so you should contact the e3 program office in advance.

1-3) I would like to receive the MEXT scholarship and enroll in April. Is it possible?

No, MEXT scholarship (university recommendation) is only available for October enrollment. If you wish to enroll in April, please consider MEXT scholarship (embassy recommendation).

[2] Selection Process

What is the selection process for the MEXT scholarship (university recommendation)?

[First Screening]

- I. Once submitted online, documents will be sent to a chosen supervisor.*
- II. If the professor is interested in accepting, he/she will contact the applicant for an online interview.*
- III. If the professor is still positive about acceptance after the interview, the professor will submit a recommendation to the e3 program office.*
- IV. The e3 Scholarship Selection Committee will choose the candidates who will proceed to the final interview from the candidates for whom the professor submits a recommendation.*

[Second Screening]

- V. The shortlisted candidates submit additional documents and are interviewed online by the e3 Scholarship Selection Committee.*
- VI. After the final interview, the e3 Scholarship Selection Committee will determine the nominees for MEXT Scholarship (university recommendation).*

After the final results are announced, the nominees must apply for the e3 Special Selection to be admitted to the Graduate School of Engineering.

[3] Multiple Application

3-1) I'm also applying for MEXT scholarship at another university. What would happen if I were nominated by more than one university?

On the application form, please indicate which other universities you are applying to.

If you receive offers from more than one university, be sure to select one university and decline all the other offers by the specified deadline. If you retain all offers from multiple universities and they submit your data to MEXT at the same time, all of your applications will be disqualified.

3-2) After the selection at Hokkaido University, I received a confirmed offer from another university. When is the last day an applicant can decline the offer from Hokkaido University?

We will inform shortlisted applicants about the dates before they should make a final decision.

We expect you to make a careful choice. If an applicant decides to decline our offer after the nomination list has been submitted to MEXT, the e3 program will lose one scholarship slot.

3-3) I'd like to apply for both MEXT scholarships (university recommendation and embassy recommendation). Is this possible?

No, applying to multiple MEXT scholarship programs simultaneously is not allowed. If multiple applications have been identified, the applicants will be disqualified.

[4] Selecting a Prospective Supervisor

4-1) How many prospective supervisors can I select?

You can select ONE prospective supervisor for MEXT scholarship (university recommendation) selection.

[5] Required Documents

5-1) I took TOEIC Listening & Reading test. Can I apply with only TOEIC L&R score?

For MEXT Scholarship (university recommendation), applicants must have scores for all four skills (TOEIC L&R and TOEIC S&W).

5-2) My overall IELTS band score is over 6.0, but one of the four skill areas scored less than 5.5 (CEFR B2 level). Do I meet the English proficiency requirement?

If you are using IELTS or TOEIC scores, the score for each of the four skills must be at the CEFR B2 level or higher.

5-3) I have already graduated and started working. Is a recommendation letter from my employer acceptable?

No, a recommendation letter from your employer is not acceptable. At the first screening stage, applicants are required to submit one recommendation letter from their research supervisor at the university from which they most recently graduated.

5-4) I have been selected as a shortlisted candidate, but I cannot prepare a recommendation letter from the Dean (Head of School or Faculty) of my university. May I submit a letter from the Head of Department instead?

No, all shortlisted candidates must submit a recommendation letter from the Dean or someone in a higher-ranked position. Failure to submit a recommendation letter from the Dean will result in disqualification.

5-5) How long should the "Motivation & Research Plan" be?

The length must not exceed 2 pages, including figures and illustrations (except for section 2.3: references and section 3: your research achievements).

5-6) Do I need to send hard copies of the application documents?

For the first screening, all application documents need to be submitted via the e3 online system.

Once you have been approved as a MEXT Scholarship recipient, you must send the pledge which is addressed to the Minister of MEXT by postal mail.

[6] Enrollment in the Graduate School of Engineering

6-1) I have been selected as a MEXT Scholarship candidate. Am I able to enroll in graduate school automatically?

No, scholarship selection and graduate school admission are two separate processes. Even if you are selected as an MEXT scholarship candidate, you must still apply for the e3 Special Selection. Be sure to start by uploading your documents during the Matching Check period.

6-2) I have not been selected as a nominee for the MEXT scholarship, but I would like to apply for the e3 program as a self-supported student. What should I do?

As mentioned in 6-1, it is necessary to apply for the e3 Special Selection for enrollment in the Graduate School. When filling out the various information into the e3 online submission system, please tick the "I will primarily bear all the expenses by myself" box in the "Scholarship and Funding Plan" section.