

FAQs for e3 Special Selection

For matters not listed here, please refer to the FAQs for the [“MEXT Scholarship \(University Recommendation\)”](#) or the [“e3 program”](#).

[1] Nationality

1-1) I have dual citizenship (foreign and Japanese). 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 please contact the e3 program office.

[2] Prospective Supervisor

2-1) How many prospective supervisors can I select for e3 Special Selection?

*You can select **two** prospective supervisors at most.*

2-2) Do I have to put the names of two prospective supervisors on my application form? May I select only one professor?

We recommend applicants select two prospective supervisors to ensure a proper placement; however, if you are certain that the professor you have selected best matches your research interest and/or is the only choice suitable in your field, you may put only one name.

2-3) I have tried to send an email to a professor on my own, but haven't received a reply. What shall I do?

Professors are very busy and often do not reply to direct inquiries from potential applicants, particularly to those mass-mailed to multiple institutions. Please carefully gather information about the laboratory of your interest, prepare a proposal, and the rest of the application documents to upload them before the deadline for the Matching Check.

[3] Preliminary Screening of Qualifications

3-1) What is the “Preliminary Screening of Qualifications”?

Preliminary screening of qualifications is a prescreening to check whether the applicant is eligible to apply as stipulated in the application guidelines.

For example, an applicant who has a research career at a company or a research institute wishes to enter a doctoral course without a master's degree is subject to the preliminary screening of qualifications.

Please note that applicants who are subject to the preliminary screening for eligibility but do not undergo the preliminary screening for eligibility may NOT be able to submit a further application.

3-2) I will graduate and be awarded my Bachelor's [Master's] degree, and I am applying for the Master's [Doctoral] degree program. Do I need to undergo the “Preliminary Screening of Qualifications”?

No, you don't need to apply for the “Preliminary Screening of Qualifications”.

[4] Matching Check

4-1) What is the “Matching Check”?

The purpose of the Matching Check is to ensure whether the prospective supervisor's field of study and the applicant's research theme match before submitting the hard copy of the application documents for the admission screening. All applicants are required to undergo the Matching Check.

4-2) How can I submit the application documents for the Matching Check?

Please upload all the necessary documents on the e3 online submission system during the Matching Check period.

4-3) The Matching Check period has passed and the e3 online submission system has been closed. Is it okay to email my documents directly to the e3 program office?

No, applicants must create an account on the e3 online submission system and complete uploading all the necessary documents during the Matching Check period. Late applications will not be accepted. If, for any reason, you are unable to upload your documents into the system, please contact the e3 program office before the deadline of the Matching Check period.

[5] Submission of Hard Copy Application

5-1) I've submitted all the necessary documents online for the Matching Check. Do I have to send the documents by postal mail again?

Yes, all applicants whose matchings are successful must send the original documents (hard copy) by postal mail. The documents must be delivered to the e3 program office before the deadline for submission of the hard copy application.

5-2) I would like to send hard copies of my documents as soon as possible, as it may take some time to get them in the mail. If the hard copy documents arrive before the submission period, will they still be accepted?

Yes, if the hard copy documents arrive earlier than the start date of the submission period, we will accept them.

5-3) For the Matching Check, I have uploaded a scanned copy of my diploma. There is only one original copy of my diploma, and I don't want to submit it by postal mail. What should I do?

If any of the documents cannot be reissued, please submit a certified copy (documents certified by the university as copies of the originals). A photocopy of an original document WITHOUT any official certification or a document signed by the applicant as a certified original will not be accepted.

5-4) I cannot prepare a certified copy by the hard copy document submission deadline. Can I submit the original and have it replaced with a certified copy later?

No, once accepted, any documents cannot be changed or replaced later. In addition, submitted documents are not returnable to the applicants for any reason.

[6] Admission Screening

6-1) Is a written test required for admission screening?

No, the admission screening process involves an application document screening and an interview by the division to which you are applying.

6-2) I have already had an interview [interviews] with my prospective supervisor. Do I need to have another interview for the admission screening?

Yes, the interview for admission screening should be conducted by the division you are applying to.

6-3) What questions will be asked in the interview? Are there any past questions?

We are unable to provide details about the content of the interview. However, you should at least be prepared to describe yourself, your academic background, and the research you wish to pursue.

Any questions regarding the interview, including the schedule, please ask your prospective supervisor.

[7] GPA

7-1) My CGPA is ●●/4.0. Am I eligible to apply for the e3 Special Selection?

We do not answer individual questions about grades. As stated in the guidelines, in most cases, applicants should have a high academic performance (e.g., 80%, or 3.0 on a 4.0-point GPA Scale) to qualify for the e3 Special Selection.

[8] Research Proposal

8-1) What is the role of a research proposal?

The research proposal shows the applicant's ability to prepare a research plan, research interest, and understanding of the research field of the laboratory the applicant applies.

8-2) Do I have to use the e3-designated research proposal format?

Yes, please use the e3-designated format titled "Research Proposal".

(If you are a candidate nominated for MEXT scholarship, you may use the MEXT format.)

8-3) Is there a word limit on the research proposal?

Yes, please check the notes on the form for word limits and/or page count rules before preparing your research proposal.

[9] Abstract of Graduation Thesis & Publications

9-1) My study is still ongoing, and I just started my graduation project/thesis. What shall I write in the abstract of my graduation thesis?

Please submit a plan and summary of the intended graduation project or thesis you are planning to conduct.

9-2) I'm a bachelor's student and have not yet published any papers. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you are eligible to apply without any papers published. Having a published paper is an advantage during the selection process, as it shows your research ability, but it's not a mandatory requirement.

[10] Transcript & Graduation Certificate

10-1) I already have a master's degree, but I am applying for a master's program. In this case, do I have to submit the graduation certificate and transcripts from my bachelor's and master's programs? Is it sufficient to submit only the documents from my bachelor's program?

If you already have a master's degree or are currently enrolled in a master's program and expect to graduate, you need to submit documents from both your bachelor's and master's programs.

10-2) I obtained a master's degree and entered a doctoral program at a university, but I withdrew from the doctoral program. In this case, do I need to submit only the documents for the master's program?

As well as documents from your bachelor's and master's programs, please submit transcripts received during your time in the doctoral program and proof of your withdrawal from the doctoral program.

[11] Recommendation Letter

11-1) I have already graduated and started working. Can I submit a recommendation letter from my employer?

A recommendation letter from your employer cannot be accepted. You are required to submit a recommendation letter prepared by your research supervisor.

11-2) Is it acceptable if my research supervisor sends my recommendation letter directly to the e3 program office?

Yes, a recommendation letter sent by your research supervisor directly to the e3 program office is acceptable. If sent by email, please have it sent via an email address that can be identified as coming from a university.

11-3) If my research supervisor sends my recommendation letter via email directly to the e3 program office, is the hard copy of the letter still required to be sent by my supervisor?

No, if the e3 program office receives a recommendation letter directly from the recommender via email, it will be considered as the original, so submission of a hard copy of the letter is not required.

[12] English Score Certificate

12-1) Do I need to request ETS to send my TOEFL test score directly to the e3 program office? What is the institutional code for the e3 program?

*Yes, you need to request ETS a paper copy of Institutional Score Report and have it sent directly to the e3 program office. The institutional code is **8648**. This request must be made by the deadline for the Matching Check.*

For the Matching Check, please upload a scanned score report or a downloaded Test Taker Score Report.

12-2) I took a designated English test, but my score will not be available by the Matching Check deadline. Can I submit my English score later since I have uploaded all the other documents?

If you cannot upload your English test score report by the deadline for the Matching Check, your application will be denied, even if all other documents are complete.

12-3) Do you accept the Duolingo English Test (DET)?

No, the score of DET is not accepted. The details, such as the accepted tests and scores, are listed in the guidelines, so please check the guidelines.

12-4) I have received my higher education in English, but do I still need to submit my English test scores?

By submitting a Medium of Instruction Certificate from your most recently graduated or expected to graduate university, you do not need to submit an English test score.