

FAQs for MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation), nomination through the e3 program

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](#)".

[Qualifications]

Q1: I am a non-Japanese national, and I am currently attending a university in Japan. After I graduate, I want to continue my studies at Hokkaido University and apply for the MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation). Am I eligible to apply?

| A1: No, we don't accept any applications from applicants residing in Japan.

Q2: I live in Japan now, but I plan to return to my home country. I will not be residing in Japan before admission and plan to obtain a student visa as a new applicant. Am I eligible to apply?

| A2: If applicants return the visa and go back to their home country before the first screening, they are eligible to apply. However, applicants who hold a valid visa to stay in Japan and reside in Japan at the time of the first screening are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Q3: I have dual citizenship with both a foreign and a Japanese passport. Can I apply?

| A3: No. Individuals who hold Japanese nationality are not eligible to apply. However, those who have renounced their Japanese nationality may be eligible. In such cases, applicants must submit an official document certifying the renunciation of Japanese nationality. Please contact the e3 program office well in advance of the first screening for further guidance.

Q4: I have been selected as a MEXT University Recommendation Scholarship recipient and enrolled at the Graduate School of Engineering. Due to certain circumstances, I wish to change my visa status from "Student" to a different one. Is this possible?

| A4: If the recipient of this scholarship changes his/her residence status to one other than "Student", payment of the scholarship will be cancelled.

Q5: I would like to receive the MEXT Scholarship and enroll in April. Is it possible?

| A5: No, the MEXT scholarship (University Recommendation) is only available for October enrollment. If you wish to enroll in April, please consider the MEXT Scholarship (Embassy Recommendation).

[Selection Process]

Q6: What is the selection process for the MEXT scholarship (University Recommendation)?

First Screening

- I. Applicants must prepare all required documents in accordance with the Application Guidelines and upload the documents to the e3 online system during the designated period. The e3 program office will review the submitted documents and may request corrections or additional documents if necessary.
- II. Once all required documents have been confirmed, the application materials will be forwarded to the prospective supervisor selected by the applicant.
- III. If the prospective supervisor is interested in accepting the applicant, he/she will contact the applicant for an online interview.
- IV. If the professor is still positive about acceptance after the interview, the professor will submit a recommendation to the e3 program office.
- V. 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

VI. The shortlisted candidates submit additional documents and are interviewed online by the e3 Scholarship Selection Committee.

VII. 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. (Please also see Q23 and A23.)

Q7: Is there an application fee for the MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation)?

A7: No, there is no application fee.

[Multiple Application]

Q8: Can I apply for both the MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation) and the MEXT Scholarship (Embassy Recommendation)?

A8: No. The MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation) and the MEXT Scholarship (Embassy Recommendation) are different categories of the MEXT Scholarship. Applicants may not apply to both categories at the same time.

Q9: The application guidelines state that applicants who are currently applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system are not eligible. Does this include applying to another university under the University Recommendation category?

A9: No. This restriction generally applies to applications across different MEXT scholarship categories, such as the MEXT Scholarship (Embassy Recommendation). In contrast, applicants may apply to multiple universities under the University Recommendation category during the initial application stage. However, if nominated by more than one university, they must choose only one university by the designated deadline. (Please also see Q10 and A10.)

Q10: What happens if I am nominated by more than one university under the University Recommendation category?

A10: If you are nominated by more than one university, you must select one university and decline all other nominations by the designated deadline. If multiple universities submit your nomination to MEXT, all of your applications may be disqualified. Please indicate any other universities to which you are applying on the application form.

Q11: 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?

A11: We will inform shortlisted applicants about the dates by which 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.

[Selecting a Prospective Supervisor]

Q12: How many prospective supervisors can I select?

A12: You can select ONE prospective supervisor for MEXT scholarship (University Recommendation) selection.

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[Required Documents]

Q13: I took the TOEIC Listening & Reading test. Can I apply using only my TOEIC L&R score?

A13: No. Applicants must submit scores for all four language skills. If submitting TOEIC scores, both TOEIC L&R and TOEIC S&W scores are required.

Q14: 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?

A14: TOEFL, IELTS, and TOEIC scores must meet the minimum required score for each of the four language skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). For details, please refer to the Application Guidelines. If the minimum requirement is not met in any one of the four skills, the test score will not be accepted.

Q15: Can I submit a Medium of Instruction (MI) Certificate instead of an English language proficiency test score report?

A15: Yes. Applicants may submit **either** an English language proficiency test score report (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, or TOEIC) **or** a MI Certificate issued by their university. To be accepted, the MI Certificate must clearly state that the entire degree program was conducted in English.

Q16: Can I submit my English language proficiency test score report after the first screening document upload deadline if the score report is delayed?

A16: No. All required application documents, including score reports for any accepted English language proficiency test, must be uploaded by the deadline for uploading documents for the first screening. Applications with missing documents cannot be accepted.

Q17: How many recommendation letters do I need to submit for the first screening?

A17: ONE recommendation letter from the applicant's thesis/research supervisor is required.

Q18: I have received a hard-copy recommendation letter bearing my recommender's wet signature. How should I submit it for the first screening?

A18: Please scan the original hard-copy recommendation letter bearing your recommender's wet signature and upload it through the e3 online system. Submission of the uploaded PDF is sufficient for the first screening, and the original hard copy is not required at this stage.

Q19: I have already graduated and started working. Is a recommendation letter from my employer acceptable?

A19: 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 thesis/research supervisor at the university from which they most recently graduated.

Q20: 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?

A20: 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.

Q21: How long should the "Motivation & Research Plan" be?

A21: The length must not exceed 2 pages, including figures and illustrations (except for section 2.3: references and section 3: your research achievements).

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Q22: Do I need to send hard copies of the application documents?

A22: 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.

[Enrollment in the Graduate School of Engineering]

Q23: I have been selected as an MEXT Scholarship candidate. Am I able to enroll in graduate school automatically?

A23: 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.

Q24: 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?

A24: As mentioned in Q23&A23, it is necessary to apply for the e3 Special Selection for enrollment in the Graduate School. When filling out the various information in 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.