

## **Call for Japanese Government (MONBUKAGAKUSHO) Scholarship Applications for April 2021**

### **I. Overview**

Kagoshima University was selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to award "MONBUKAGAKUSHO Scholarships in FY 2021(Special Admissions for Graduate Students for Master)".

The purpose of this Special Admission is to designate preferentially Japanese Government Scholars to the national, public or private universities that have existing international programs, which the Japanese government has selected beforehand as being internationally appealing. This is the first time the Special Admission for graduate students has been offered, though there have been admissions of graduate students in the GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES of Kagoshima University.

For Kagoshima University's "Program for Training Engineers of Food Production Systems to Avoid Global Climate Change Risks", Japanese Government (MONBUKAGAKUSHO) Scholars will be preferentially assigned for the next three (3) years (until FY 2023). The program is recruiting international students from coastal countries in Southeast Asia, where global climate change risk is high and food problems are likely to become more prominent. Furthermore, this program contributes to the stabilization of food production system in the region by acquiring the advanced technology necessary to eliminate the fragility of food production in the target area. This program will be conducted in line with the department of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Forestry. The department conforms to the traditional framework of agricultural science while responding to newly emerging social needs. The department is consisted of Plant Production Science, Animal Science, Forest Management, and Food and Agricultural Economics.

### **II. Application Qualifications and Requirements**

#### **Eligible applicants**

##### **1) Nationality**

Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible, in principle. However, persons with dual nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the

date of their arrival in Japan.

Priority is given to international students from the following regions of focus.

**Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei, East Timor, Singapore and Indonesia**

2) Age

**Those who were born on or after April 2, 1986, in principle.**

Exceptions are limited to cases in which MEXT deems that the applicant could not apply within the eligible age limit due to the situation or circumstances of the applicant's country (military service obligation, loss of educational opportunities due to disturbances of war, etc.)

Personal circumstances (financial situation, family circumstances, state of health, circumstances related to applicant's university or place of employment, etc.) will not be considered for exceptions.

3) Academic background

Applicants eligible for this Special Admission are foreign nationals (who already have or are expected to have the status of residence necessary for enrolment) and have one of the following qualifications:

- ① have graduated or are expected to graduate from a university by March 2021.
- ② have received or expected to receive a bachelor's degree by March 2021 in accordance with the stipulation in Paragraph 7, Article 104 of the School Education Law.
- ③ have completed or are expected to complete by March 2021 a sixteen-year school education program abroad.
- ④ have completed or are expected to complete a sixteen-year school education program in a country other than Japan by completing a correspondence course conducted by a school in the said country while residing in Japan.
- ⑤ have completed or are expected to complete in Japan by March 2021 a foreign university curriculum which certifies that graduates have completed a sixteen-year school education program of the foreign country provided by an educational facility whose curriculum has been accredited separately by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- ⑥ have completed on or after the date designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or are expected to complete by March 2021 an advanced professional course designated separately by the Ministry at a higher vocational school (only those that provide courses 4 years long or longer and meet other qualifications designated by the Ministry).
- ⑦ have been designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Notification No.5 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of 1953).

- ⑧ have been recognized by the Graduate School through the Special Application Eligibility Screening as having scholastic ability equal or higher than that of university graduates and will be 22 years old at the end of March 2021 (See the 'Note' below).
- ⑨ have completed a curriculum of 3 years or longer (including one in which graduation credits are attainable by completing a correspondence course provided by an overseas school while residing in Japan and one provided by an overseas educational institution given the status of an educational institution in the education system of the foreign government and designated by the foregoing qualification (5)) at an overseas university or other educational institution (but only those whose educational and research activities and overall status have been recognized by the government of the foreign country or personnel certified by related government agencies or designated separately as such by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and been accorded a degree equal to bachelor's degree.

(Note) The Special Application Eligibility Screening mentioned in the foregoing qualification (8) assesses if applicants who have graduated from a junior college, technical college, specialized training college, schools of miscellaneous category or from other types of educational institutions, but not graduated from a university, have academic abilities equal or higher than those of university graduates. If this method is chosen, a special pre-screening is necessary.

#### 4) Language proficiency

Those who have proficiency in English, and who also meet one of the following requirements.

**A) Those who have obtained qualifications or a proficiency test score that is equivalent to or higher than level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of their enrollment in the regular program.**

B) Those who have completed a course whose completion qualifies them to enroll in a Master's degree program of graduate school in Japan, using English as the principal language.

#### 5) Working language

English is the principal language used for giving classes and supervising students' research.

#### 6) Visa requirement

An applicant shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student." Accordingly, if the applicant already has another residence status ("Permanent Resident," "Long-Term Resident," etc.), the applicant must change their status to "Student" and re-enter Japan. After expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student

and even if the student again applies for their original resident status of “Permanent Resident” or “Long-Term Resident,” such resident statuses might not be necessarily granted. The scholarship will be cancelled if he/she arrived in Japan without a newly obtained “Student” visa.

### **Non-eligibility**

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

- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT or the accepting university;
- ③ Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs (including those who withdrew from the scholarship program after arrival in Japan). This does not apply, however, to Research Students who have educational or work experience exceeding more than three years from the following month of the period of the previous scholarship to the estimated first month of the payment of this scholarship; and Research Students whose last scholarship from the Japanese government (MEXT) was one under either the Japanese Studies Students program limited to those who have graduated or are going to graduate from universities in their home countries after returning to the countries, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments, or the Young Leaders’ Program. The MEXT Honors Scholarship is not included in the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs. Accordingly, past grantees of this scholarship are eligible to apply;
- ④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system, for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2021;
- ⑤ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of “Student,” or who are going to be enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university or other institution as a privately-financed international student from the time of application until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students, even though they are currently enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution or are planning to enroll in one at present, if it is definite at the time of the scholarship application that they will complete their studies and return to their home country before the start of the scholarship payment period and they will newly acquire the “Student” residence status and come to

Japan;

- ⑥ Those who are planning to receive scholarship money from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country) on top of the scholarship money provided by MEXT after the start of the scholarship payment period;
- ⑦ Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
- ⑧ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan;
- ⑨ Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or an internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from Tokai University;

Others

Those who will strive to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in activities at schools and communities during their study in Japan while contributing to the internationalization of Japan. They shall also make efforts to promote relations between their home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with Kagoshima University after graduation, cooperating with the conducting of surveys and questionnaires, and cooperating with relevant projects and events conducted by the Japanese diplomatic mission after they return to their home countries.

### III. Period of Scholarship

In principle, the scholarship money will be paid for a period of two years from April 2021.

\*Certain conditions must be fulfilled to receive the payment.

\*It takes one to 1.5 months after arrival in Japan before the scholarship begins to be paid. Accordingly, grantees are advised to prepare at least 2,000 US dollars for living expenses that will be needed before the commencement of payments.

### IV. Scholarship and Travelling Expenses

#### 1) Scholarship

A grantee enrolled in the Master's degree program will be paid 144,000 yen per month. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. If a grantee takes a leave of absence from Kagoshima University or otherwise remains absent from Kagoshima University for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

Suspension of payment of scholarship

Payment of the scholarship will be terminated for the reasons given below. Should any of the following reasons apply, the grantee may be ordered to return a part or all of the scholarship paid up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

- ① A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- ③ A grantee violates any Japanese law and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period exceeding 1 year;
- ④ A grantee is suspended from Kagoshima University or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with regulations of Kagoshima University;
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard period of study because of poor academic grades, suspension, or absence from Kagoshima University;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the “Student” residence status, or changed his/her residence status to one other than “Student”;
- ⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (excluding those specified for research expenditures);
- ⑧ A grantee has withdrawn from Kagoshima University or transferred to other university’s graduate school;
- ⑨ **A grantee’s annual grade point average has fallen below 2.30.**

## 2) Travelling expenses

- ① Transportation to Japan In principle, MEXT will provide an airline ticket for the travel schedule and route which it specifies. The airline ticket will be an economy-class ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee’s residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to Kagoshima University. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the grantee’s residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. The grantee shall also bear at his/her own expense travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country if the grantee must travel to a third country before

coming to Japan for visa purposes because there are no Japanese diplomatic missions in his/her country, or if there are no direct flights from the grantee's country of residence to Japan. MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of residence to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to Kagoshima University. In principle, the address given in the space for "Your address before departure for Japan" on the application form shall be recognized as the "residence," and the airline ticket will be arranged for a flight from the international airport nearest to that address. Except for cases when the grantee must travel to a third country to obtain a visa, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket for cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances.

## ② Transportation from Japan

Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to a grantee who has completed a program at the Graduate School of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and returns to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship, in principle. MEXT shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to Kagoshima University to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence in Japan to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. If a grantee returns to their home country before the end of the period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in the "Suspension of payment of scholarship" section above, MEXT will not pay for the return travel expenses. If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended (ex. proceeding to further education or being employed in Japan), travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid.

## V. Application Procedures and Screening Process

1) Documents: Application Japanese Government (Monbukagakusyo: MEXT) Scholarship for 2021

### ① Application Form

Downloadable at the following address:

<https://ace1.agri.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/agrifish-en/jyuken/youkou.html>

② Photograph (4.5 × 3.5 cm, taken within the past six months, upper body, full faced,

uncapped. Write your name and nationality on the reverse side and paste it onto the Application Form). It is acceptable to add a photo on each application form digitally and then print it.

③ A copy of the passport (description page with name and photograph), copy of family register or proof of citizenship of the applicant's country

④ Transcript of records of each academic year of the last upper secondary school (undergraduate school) attended issued by the school or the university which the applicant attend

⑤ Graduation certificate or degree certificate of the last school attended or an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the school, where applicable

⑥ A certificate of excellent academic performance from the last university attended.

Must be written on a letterhead, be in a sealed envelope, and have an official seal or a signature on it.

⑦ **Recommendation letter from the president/dean of the last university/graduate school attended.**

A recommendation letter written in English to the President of Kagoshima University. Must be written on the letterhead of the university to which the president or dean belongs, have an official seal or a signature on it.

⑧ Qualifications that meets language ability for English such as TOEFL, IELTS and etc.

⑨ Certificate of enrollment (for an applicant currently enrolled in a university)

⑩ Academic transcript (for an applicant currently enrolled in a university)

⑪ Research plan

Downloadable at the following address:

<https://ace1.agri.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/agrifish-en/jyuken/youkou.html>

⑫ Undergraduate thesis summary

**Applicants must send their digital data of application documents of ① to ⑫ by E-mail to the following address:**

**Digital data documents (All documents): From December 10 to 21, 2020**

**E-mail: [nkgakuk@kuas.kagoshima-u.ac.jp](mailto:nkgakuk@kuas.kagoshima-u.ac.jp)**

**Applicants must send their original application documents by registered airmail or express mail service (DHL, EMS, FedEx, OCS, etc.) to the following address:**

**Original documents (All documents): From December 10 to 25, 2020 (Except Saturdays, Sundays and Japanese Public Holidays)**

**MONBUKAGAKUSHO Scholarship (Special Admissions for Graduate Students)**  
**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, Kagoshima**  
**University**  
**Student Affairs Section**  
**Faculty of Agriculture, Kagoshima University**  
**Korimoto 1-21-24, Kagoshima, 890-8580, Japan**

## 2) Screening Process

Based on all submitted documents, Kagoshima University will select the qualified candidates for an interview and tells the results to each applicant until **December 24, 2020**. Those who are selected for the interview will be notified about the date of the interview by **January 5, 2021**. The interview will be conducted online system connecting the applicants' location and Kagoshima University. Kagoshima University will forward the results to the MEXT, who will conduct the final screening process. The Admission results will be announced to the applicants on February 2021.

## Others

In addition to 4 Japanese government scholars, this Program will accept 4 privately-financed international students. For detailed information, please see the application guidelines for privately-financed international students.

<https://ace1.agri.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/agrifish-en/jyuken/youkou.html>

For inquiries, please contact:

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