

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Forestry,
Graduate school of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Kagoshima University

Special Program (Master's Degree Program):

**" Training engineers for the progress in sustainable food
production in the tropics"**

April 2026 Entrance

Application Guidelines for Japanese Government
(MEXT: MONBUKAGAKUSHO) Scholarship

Graduate school of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Kagoshima University

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I. Overview

Kagoshima University has been selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to award "MONBUKAGAKUSHO Scholarships in FY 2025 (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.

For Kagoshima University's "**Training engineers for the progress in sustainable food production in the tropics**", Japanese Government (MONBUKAGAKUSHO) Scholars will be preferentially assigned for the next two (2) years (until FY 2027). The program is recruiting international students from Africa, Southeast Asia and Southwest 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, Graduate school of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kagoshima University. The department conforms to the traditional framework of agricultural science while responding to newly emerging social needs. The department consists of four courses: Plant Production Science, Animal Science, Forest Management, and Food and Agricultural Economics.

II. Application Qualifications and Requirements

Eligible applicants

1) Target

Research students: Academically outstanding international students from overseas who are newly accepted (*)

Undergraduate students: Academically outstanding international students from overseas who are newly enrolled (*)

① Your GPA calculated with ALL your academic years must be at least 2.30 (out of 3.00). If it is below 2.30, you are NOT eligible to apply for the scholarship. Besides, you need to keep this level during the scholarship period. The scholarship will be provided to students who meet one of the conditions described in "(6) Language Proficiency" below.

② Although nominees were limited to those newly enrolled from overseas previously, the special program adopted in FY2026 is now opened to foreign students who are not only from

abroad but also living in Japan. However, the number of domestic applicants must not exceed 40% of the total number of all applicants.

2) 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.

Africa, Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia

3) Age

Those who were born on or after April 2, 1991, 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.

4) 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 2026.
- ② have received or expected to receive a bachelor's degree by March 2026 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 2026 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 2026 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 2026 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 have reached 22 years old at the end of March 2026 (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.

5) Study area

The study area must be in the same field as the applicant has majored in at university or its related one. The field of study must be subjects available at Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Forestry, Graduate school of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kagoshima University. Specifically, it is desirable to acquire techniques to reduce the risk of climate change.

6) 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). Please note that the applicant must have taken one of the above tests after January 1, 2024.

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

7) Health

The applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at Kagoshima University in Japan.

8) Arrival in Japan

The applicant must be able to arrive in Japan on the dates designated by Kagoshima University in the period at the beginning of April, 2026. The applicant who cannot arrive in Japan within the designated period should decline the acceptance. Those who arrive in Japan before the designated date for personal reasons will NOT be provided traveling expenses to Japan.

9) 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 Kagoshima 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 FY2026;

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 Kagoshima University;

III. Scholarship and Travelling Expenses

1) Scholarship amount

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.

2) Period of scholarship

In principle, the scholarship money will be paid for a period of two years from April 2026.

- 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.

3) 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.

4) Transportation to Japan

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.

5) 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.

IV. Application Procedures and Screening Process

*All times and dates indicated in this application shall refer to Japan Standard Time.

1) Application documents

The documents must be written in Japanese or English, or translation in either of these languages should be attached. The submitted documents will not be returned.

	Documents	Remarks
①	Application form for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship	Download at the following address: https://ace1.agri.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/agrifish-en/etc/applicationguide2021/
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 the Application form digitally and then print it.
③	Proof of Nationality	A copy of the applicant’s passport is most preferable (Description page with name and photograph).
④	Academic transcript for all academic years of university attended	A transcript issued either by the university attended or by the applicant’s national government. A transcript should show <u>the grade scale applied</u> and the grades earned by the applicant in all the subjects studied for each year of study at the course attended.
⑤	Certification of graduation or degree certificate of the university attended	If the applicant has not yet graduated, submit a certificate of prospective graduation from the university. A copy of the graduation certificate or the degree certificate is acceptable if the copy is attested by an authorized official of the university.
⑥	A certificate of excellent academic performance from the last university attended	Must be written on a letterhead and have an official seal or a signature on it. <Recommended submission>

⑦	A recommendation letter from the president/dean of the last university attended.	Addressed 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	Certificate of English proficiency	Requirements are written in 5) Language proficiency (p.4)
⑨	Certificate of enrollment	For an applicant currently enrolled in a university
⑩	Field of study and research plan	Download at the following address: https://ace1.agri.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/agrifish-en/etc/applicationguide2021/ . The name of the professor whom you want to learn from should be included in this document.
⑪	Abstracts of theses	
⑫	Calculation Sheet for GPA	DATA only
⑬	GPA Criteria	DATA only

- Applicants must send all of the application documents above as electronic files by E-mail to the following address:

E-mail: nkgaku@kuas.kagoshima-u.ac.jp

From December 8 to 15, 2025 JST :

- **Each data must be named as below.**

Application form (each document's name)_Given name Family name

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

Mailing address;

Student Affairs Section, Graduate School of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Kagoshima University

Korimoto 1-21-24, Kagoshima, 890-8580, Japan

From December 8 to 15, 2025 postmark by deadline

(Except Saturdays, Sundays and Japanese Public Holidays)

We do NOT accept the original documents after this deadline in principle. If you cannot send the original documents within the date because of natural disaster etc, please let us know the situation as soon as possible.

2) Screening process

Based on all submitted documents, a Committee for Selection of Japanese Government-sponsored International Students, Graduate School of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,

Kagoshima University will select the qualified candidates for an interview and tell the results to each applicant until **January 5, 2026**. Those who are selected for the interview will be notified about the date of the interview by **January 5, 2026**. The interview will be conducted online system connecting the applicants' location and Kagoshima University. A tentative interview date is January 5, 2026, which could be extended to January 6, depending on the number of applicants. (*The interview date may be subject to change. If the interview date changes, we will contact the applicants.*)

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 2026.

- In addition to three Japanese government scholars, this program will accept privately-financed international students. For detailed information, please see the application guidelines for privately-financed international students in the Website of Kagoshima University.

V. Notes

- 1) English is the principal language used for giving classes and supervising students' research.
- 2) MEXT scholarship will be granted those who are willing 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.
- 3) Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- 4) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship Students (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, career path after completion of scholarship, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with other relevant government organizations for the purpose of utilization for international students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the international student system). Information regarding MEXT Scholarship Students (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be included in publicity

materials prepared by the Japanese Government for promoting the acceptance of international students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

VI. Contact Details for Inquiries

Student Affairs Section, Graduate School of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Kagoshima University

E-mail: nkgaku@kuas.kagoshima-u.ac.jp