

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2025

INTERNATIONAL PRIORITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**A DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE FIELDS OF
PHOTONIC APPLICATION, IMAGING AND THEIR RELATED
TECHNOLOGIES**

*International cooperative education program with the universities
in middle-eastern Europe and Asia in the fields of
photonic application, imaging and their related technologies*



**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

SHIZUOKA UNIVERSITY

JAPAN

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International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP) for Students Granted by Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship

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Important Notice

We will accept the electronic data files only. Please keep your original documents with you. We will contact you in case some of your original copies are asked for submission.

The data files should be in Word or Portable Document Format (PDF).

Those forms provided by Shizuoka University must be filled out without changing their format.

1. International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP) for Students Granted by Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship

1. Number of Students for Admission

Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship international students: **8** students.

2. Qualifications and Conditions

MEXT accepts applications from international students for studying in Japan who satisfy the following qualifications and conditions. Its aim is to foster human resources who will become bridges of friendship between the grantee's country and Japan through study in Japan and who will contribute to the development of both countries and the wider world.

* From the viewpoint of attracting the best international students, it is possible to nominate international students presently residing in Japan for priority placement (hereinafter referred to as "domestic recommenders"). However, the number of domestic recommenders should not exceed 40% of total candidates.

[Definition of "domestic recommenders"]

(a) Those who are staying in Japan with a medium - to long-term resident status at the time of application. Those who have their base of residence in Japan, not including tourists and short-term visitors who are staying in Japan for the purpose of taking entrance examinations, etc. It is irrelevant whether the applicant is residing in Japan from the time of after application to the start of scholarship payments.

(b) Applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application, but will come to Japan as privately financed international students before the start of receiving scholarship payments.

* If you are or will be in Japan as a privately financed international student, you must complete your program at the school you are enrolled or plan to enroll in before receiving scholarship payments.

* Traveling expenses will not be paid for domestic recommenders, regardless of the reasons stated in (a) and (b). If applicants return to their country of nationality after applying under condition (a), however, there are no exceptions if students return to Japan before scholarship payments begin.

- (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.
- (2) Age:** Applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1990
- (3) Academic Background:**
 - (a)** Applicants who have been awarded with an overseas degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree by September 30, 2025.
 - (b)** Applicants who have graduated from universities and have been involved in

research study at universities or research centers (including overseas universities and research centers) for two years or more, and recognized as having academic competency equivalent to persons with a master's degree by Shizuoka University.

- (4) **Fields of Study:** Applicants should apply for the field of study they majored in at university or its related fields. Moreover, the fields of study must be subjects which applicants will be able to study and research in graduate courses at Shizuoka University.
- (5) **Language:** Applicants who possess a certificate of official Japanese or English qualification. Applicants must have sufficient knowledge and skills in either Japanese or English by meeting one of the following conditions:
 - (a) **Japanese**
 - (a-1) Passed N2 grade or higher of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) taken within the last 2 years.
 - (a-2) Applicants have completed or are currently taking courses of study that meet entry requirements to the doctoral course of graduate schools in Japan, using Japanese as a medium of instruction.
 - (a-3) The University recognizes an applicant's Japanese proficiency as equal or superior to the above (a-1) qualification.
 - (b) **English**
 - (b-1) Achieved an English language proficiency test score equivalent to the B2 CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) level and above taken within the last 2 years. (Test scores equivalent to the B2 CEFR level: TOEFL iBT 72 and above, IELTS 5.5 and above, TOEIC L&R+ (2.5 × TOEIC S&W) 1560 or higher, etc.)
※ Not only the overall score, but each of the all 4skills (Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing) must meet the scores equivalent to the B2 CEFR level.
 - (b-2) Applicants have completed or are currently taking courses of study that meet entry requirements to the doctoral course of graduate schools in Japan, using English as a medium of instruction.
 - (b-3) The University recognizes an applicant's English proficiency as equal or superior to the above (b-1) qualification.
- (6) **Health:** Applicants must submit a health certificate in the prescribed format signed by a physician attesting that the applicant has no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.
- (7) **Arrival in Japan:** Grantees must be able to arrive in Japan in the 4th week of September 2025. Excluding cases in which MEXT deems as unavoidable circumstances, the applicant must withdraw from this scholarship program if the applicant cannot arrive in Japan by the end of the specified period above which decided by MEXT or Shizuoka University.
- (8) **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." Please also note that if a grantee arrives in Japan without newly obtaining a "Student" visa, scholarship payments will be cancelled. Moreover, as the Japanese government requires pre- arrival tuberculosis screening for some countries, applicants obtaining a visa shall follow guidance at the overseas establishment of Japan located in the applicant's country of nationality.

*** Visa requirements and status of residence for domestic recommenders**

For those whose current status of residence is not "Student," applicants must change their status of residence to " Student" at the local Immigration Services Agency in Japan by time of registration as students at the accepting university . Even in cases of having other statuses of residence ("Permanent Resident," "Long Term Resident", etc.), applicants must change their status to "Student" and begin their courses of study as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students. It is important to note that applications for "Permanent Resident" or "Long Term Resident" status after status of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship student ends, may not be granted as a matter of course. Also, if studies as Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students begin without changing status of residence to "Student," scholarships will be canceled. For those whose current status of residence is "Student," they must complete the renewal procedures before the expiration of their periods of stay. Additionally, in the event of changes in school enrollment notification must be submitted pursuant to the provisions of Article 19-16 of the Immigration-Control and Refugee-Recognition Act.

- (9) Non-eligibility:** Those who meet any one of the following conditions are ineligible. If identified ineligible after being selected as a scholarship student, he/she must withdraw from the scholarship.
- (a)** 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
 - (b)** Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period specified by MEXT or Shizuoka University
 - (c)** Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship programs
 - (d)** Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system
 - (e)** Those who are planning to receive scholarship from an organization other than MEXT (including a government organization of the applicant's country)
 - (f)** Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given
 - (g)** 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

- (h) Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan
 - (i) Those who plan to, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from Shizuoka University
 - (j) Those who have completed a doctoral course and have no intention to obtain a degree
- (10) **Others:** 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 the home country and Japan by maintaining close relations with the university attended 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.

※ Applicants from the universities with an agreement of exchange program with Shizuoka University have priority in evaluation process.

3. Period of Scholarship

The Scholarship period will last from October 2025 until the end of September 2028

4. Scholarship and Benefits

- (1) **Allowance:** Under the fiscal 2024 budget, each grantee is expected to be provided monthly with 145,000 yen (tentative).

(Supplemental regional allowance of 2,000 yen per month will be added to the monthly scholarship amount for the grantees studying in Shizuoka Campus.)

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 is absent from the university for an extended period, the scholarship shall be suspended for that period.

- (2) **Traveling expenses:**

Transportation to Japan: MEXT will stipulate the travel schedule and route, and provides an airline ticket to grantees who will arrive in Japan during the specified period. An economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee’s residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to the New Tokyo International Airport (or, if more economical, Chubu Centrair International Airport) will

be provided. 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 mission 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 Shizuoka 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. If a grantee will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period, travel expenses will not be paid.

Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate the Shizuoka University and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by MEXT. An economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the New Tokyo International Airport (or Chubu Centrair International Airport) to the closest international airport to the returning grantee's residence will be provided. 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, travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. If a grantee returns to the home country before the end of period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, MEXT will not pay for the returning 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, continuing to register at the university), travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid.

✕ Any aviation and accident insurance to and from Japan shall be paid for by the grantee. For domestic recommenders travel expenses will not be paid with any reasons.

- (3) **Education fees:** Fees for entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition at university will be exempted.

5. Suspension of Payment of Scholarship

Payment of scholarship and the admission will be cancelled any time after enrollment for the reasons given below. Should any of the above reasons apply, the grantee may be ordered to return a part of, 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 MEXT.
- (3) A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period for a period exceeding one year
- (4) A grantee is suspended from his/her university or preparatory educational institution or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment; as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution
- (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 or suspension or absence from the 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 proceeds to a more advanced level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the period of the scholarship
- (9) A grantee withdraws from Shizuoka University or transfers to another university
- (10) He/she has been subjected to a disciplinary action or judged by Shizuoka University to be unable to continue the program.
- (11) A grantee's annual GPA (Grade Point Average) falls below 2.30 at Shizuoka University.

6. Description of the International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP)

- (1) Supervising professors of these programs should be in the Departments of Nanovision Technology, Optoelectronics-and-Nanostructure Science, Information Science-and-Technology and Environment-and-Energy Systems in Hamamatsu campus of Shizuoka University.
- (2) Thesis work in supervising professor's laboratory is to be carried out in English.
- (3) All the lectures in the course will be offered in English with a few exceptions if one or more PGP students take the lecture.
- (4) Students will be expected to write a thesis based on research carried out during the course and submit it to examiners in the Graduate School of Science and Technology (GSST), Shizuoka University for evaluation. A student will be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy,

if he or she has passed the examination of thesis.

7. Application Documents

A set of the following documents must be sent back to us in the same format. Before submission, the applicant must have the approval of the prospective host professors supervising him/her for the proposed research plan. Deadline of the application is **December 25, 2024 (tentative)**.

- (1) Application Form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship:
[001_Application_form]
- (2) Photograph: Paste the photograph data to the Application Form. ONLY clear quality, 150dpi or higher image resolution is acceptable. Must be a front-facing bust portrait with headwear removed, and taken within the last six months. The photograph should be fitted in the size of 4.5cm (H) × 3.5cm (W). Additionally data of the photograph itself also needs to be sent as a separate data.
- (3) Field of Study and Research Plan: [002_Field of Study and Research Plan]
- (4) Letter of Pledge: [003_Pledge]
- (5) Medical Certificate issued by a public hospital within the last six months:
[004_Certificate of Health]
- (6) Original of Master's Degree Certificate and Bachelor's Degree Certificate or a certified letter from the postgraduate school at which the applicant is currently enrolled, stating the expected graduation date:
- (7) Official Academic Transcript of undergraduate and graduate school records: For those who are currently working on the master program, please submit the latest transcript or a letter certifying the current academic condition with the most recent GPA (Grade point average) from his/her master program. This can be included in a letter of recommendation by your dean [7(10)]. Applicants need to fulfill an academic GPA 2.30 or higher in 3.00 points scale (which is designated by MEXT) in a transcript. For the GPA calculation, please refer to the Appendix, Page 11. While each university assigns different values, be sure to also submit the grade assessment standards at university attended. To calculate the applicant's GPA fairly, the grade assessment standards requested should include clear evaluation scales (e.g., S=90-100, A=80-89, B=70-79, C=60-69) for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. If there is no evaluation scales and only raw score is available, the information of full marks and the lowest raw score to get a course credit are required.
- (8) A photocopy of Master's thesis: If the thesis is not written in English, please attach a summary in English, on A4-size paper, to the thesis. Please make sure that an applicant's name should be on the paper. Copies of any academic research publications in English, if any, should also be submitted. An applicant who was not required to write a thesis for the master's degree must state this in his/her application form and submit a copy of any academic research papers instead of

the thesis.

- (9) Certificate of Citizenship or Proof of Residence in the applicant's home country or other positive proof of citizenship, or a color copy of passport and declaration of citizenship:
- (10) Letter of recommendation from the Dean or head of the institution/employing body addressed to the President of Shizuoka University: Another recommendation letter from, preferably, the applicant's supervising professor, other teaching staff, or supervisor in the employing body with a personal knowledge of the applicant. The letter "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" will not be accepted.
- (11) Certificate of official language proficiency such as TOEFL, TOEIC (L&R+S&W), IELTS, Cambridge, etc.: Applicants who do not have the test score, submit a letter certifying the applicant's master's degree was taught using English as a medium of instruction. (Applicants from non-English native countries only)
Applicants who do not have the test score and wasn't taught using English as a medium of instruction in his/her master program must submit a letter of recommendation for English language proficiency by dean from the latest university an applicant attended or is attending. A letter should specify the applicant have an enough English skills in all 4(Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing) and meets the B2 level.
- (12) Letter of Approval from the Government, if necessary: (Nationals of Indonesia are required to, while those of The People's Republic of China are advised to confirm the approval of their respective immigration authorities well in advance).
- (13) Presentation in the internet interview should cover the following A and B:

A. Research or study in the Master's course and/or most recent research

B. Future research plan

Presentation time will be around **20 min**. A corresponding presentation file should be submitted in advance by **December 25, 2024 (tentative)**, in ppt file by E-mail addressed to: **souzou-jimu-hgakumu@lists.gsest.shizuoka.ac.jp**

※**Additional materials to be submitted**: Applicants who wish to enroll in the Double Degree Program (DDP) should also submit the recommendation letter from the supervisor of applicant's university.

NOTE

- (1) All applicants should note that they must keep in close contact with the prospective supervisory professor at Shizuoka University in order to formulate a research plan which must be submitted for approval by MEXT.
- (2) The above documents should be type-written in English.
- (3) Applications will not be accepted if any of the above documents are incomplete, incorrect or lacking supporting evidence. Applications arriving after the deadline will not be accepted.
- (4) All documents once submitted will not be returned.

8. Process of Application and Selection

- (1) Shizuoka University will select a few candidates for recommendation to MEXT, by total consideration for their applications and results of the evaluation process below. The internet-interview will be held, only when a face-to-face interview cannot be done.

(a) Interview:

- (a-1) When an applicant makes presentation on his/her research in international conferences organized by Shizuoka University (for example, Inter-Academia), his/her scholastic ability, research ability, research motivation and English ability will be evaluated through discussions by professors who belong to GSST. Also, during the period of the conference, an interview will be separately done.
- (a-2) When an applicant and professors of GSST attend any of other international conferences and make presentations, evaluation through discussions and an interview will be done in the same manner as in (a-1).

(b) Internet-interview:

The Interview is planning to be held in **the middle-end of January 2025 (tentative)**. Three professors of GSST for each applicant will be assigned as the committee for evaluation, and they ask questions to the applicant, based on his/her Master's Thesis, research plan, Academic Transcript of undergraduate and graduate school records, and other application documents. His/her scholastic ability, research ability, research motivation, and English ability will be evaluated through a presentation and discussions (see 7. (13)). Internet-interview will take for about one hour, including the presentation (about 20 minutes).

(c) English ability:

International certificate of English qualification, such as TOEFL, TOEIC(L&R+S&W), IELTS, Cambridge Certificate, etc. will be referred to.

(d) Academic transcript of school records:

School records, preferably explicitly indicating his/her grade among students, will be referred to, considering the level of the university evaluated from an international view.

(e) Others:

When an applicant and his/her prospective supervising professor have known each other through academic communication, evaluation by the professor will be referred to.

- (2) Shizuoka University recommends eight candidates from all the applicants to MEXT by screening through the above evaluation process (1).
- (3) Based on the recommendation of Shizuoka University, MEXT will screen and authorize admission of candidates as international students to be supported by the scholarship.
- (4) Applicants will be notified of the results of their application by the mid-end of June in 2025 (tentative). Grantees will be allowed to enroll in GSST, Shizuoka University as full-time graduate students.

9. Note

- (1) The grantees are advised to learn and understand the Japanese geography, climate, customs, university education and habits in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her country before departing for Japan. Thesis work is to be carried out in English, but grantees are expected to understand Japanese for daily use.
- (2) Grantees must enroll in National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) upon arrival in Japan.
- (3) As the first installment of the scholarship payment cannot be provided immediately upon the grantee's arrival, the grantee is recommended to bring at least approximately US \$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (4) Information regarding MEXT Scholarship Students (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university, field of specialty, period of enrollment, 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.
- (5) Security Export Control: Shizuoka University has established "Shizuoka University Security Export Control regulations" in accordance with "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act", and rigorously screens potential international students on the basis of these regulations. International applicants who fall under any of the conditions set out in said regulations may be unable to enter their desired course or program.
<https://reiki.adb.shizuoka.ac.jp/act/frame/frame110000032.htm> (Japanese)
- (6) An application may be rejected if it arouses proliferation concerns including those over weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related items, e.g. a case where it is highly possible that the applicant will receive the technology that is controlled pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution, or that any WMD-related technologies will be transferred to an applicant who belongs to (an) organization(s) on the End User List published by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "Security Export Control in Japan"
<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/englishpage.html>

Appendix

Grade evaluation criteria

	Grade Evaluation				
1: 4-grade evaluation		A	B	C	F
2: 4-grade evaluation		100-80	79-70	69-60	59-0
3: 5-grade evaluation (Shizuoka University scale)	100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	59-0
4: 5-grade evaluation	S	A	B	C	F
5: 5-grade evaluation	A	B	C	D	F
※Grade point average (GPA)	3	3	2	1	0

【Calculating your Grade point average (GPA)】

$$(\text{Credits of GPA 3}) \times 3 + (\text{Credits of GPA 2}) \times 2 + (\text{Credits of GPA 1}) \times 1 + (\text{Credits of GPA 0}) \times 0$$

Total credits attempted

Graduate School of Science and Technology

Shizuoka University

3-5-1 Johoku, Chuo-ku, Hamamatsu

432-8561 Japan

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静岡大学

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