MEXT Scholarship (Japanese Government) Guideline

Fully funded scholarship of Japan's Ministry of Education (MEXT) – with focus on Pakistani applicants

Please note: this guideline combines the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan's own MEXT page (2027 round) with scholarship guides quoting Study in Japan (JASSO) and other embassies. Amounts and dates change each year, so confirm them on the official pages listed at the end. **The 2027-entry embassy round in Pakistan has closed; the 2028-entry call had not been published at the time of writing.**

1. Overview

The Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship is run by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. It pays tuition, a return flight and a monthly allowance for international students to study in Japan. Most applicants apply through the Japanese embassy in their own country, which runs its own selection (written exam and interview). A smaller number are nominated directly by a Japanese university.

Funding body	MEXT, Government of Japan
Tuition	Exempted (no fees to pay)
Travel	Round-trip airfare provided
Monthly allowance (2027 figures)	Undergraduate: ¥117,000. Research students: ¥143,000 (non-degree), ¥144,000 (Master's), ¥145,000 (Doctoral). Amounts can change each year.
Application fee	None reported
Main route (Pakistan)	Embassy Recommendation (Embassy of Japan, Islamabad / Consulate General, Karachi)

2. MEXT Categories

Category	For	Age limit (in principle)
Research students	Master's, PhD or non-degree research	Under 35
Undergraduate students	A bachelor's degree after 12 years of school	Under 25
Teacher training	Serving teachers with 5+ years of experience	Under 35
Japanese studies	Undergraduates studying Japanese language/culture	18–29
College of technology	Engineering at a Japanese college of technology	Under 25

Category	For	Age limit (in principle)
Specialized training college	Vocational courses	Under 25
Young Leaders Program	Early-career public officials, one-year Master's (separate nomination)	Under 40 in principle

Not every embassy offers every category every year. For Pakistan, the embassy publishes the **Research (Master's and PhD)** and **Undergraduate** calls. The exact birth-date cut-off is set each year; for 2027 entry MEXT stated that undergraduate applicants must in principle have been born on or after 2 April 2002, and research applicants on or after 2 April 1992.

3. Two Routes: Embassy vs University

- **Embassy Recommendation:** open to anyone from a participating country who meets the criteria. You apply to the embassy, sit its test and interview, and only then find a Japanese university. For research students this usually means getting a letter of provisional acceptance from a professor after passing the embassy stages. This route gives the most places and needs no link to a Japanese university.
- **University Recommendation:** you apply to a Japanese university that has MEXT places and nominates its applicants (often for English-taught Master's/PhD programs). There is no embassy exam, but you must convince a professor to support you. Windows are set by each university and generally run from about **October 2026 to February 2027** (for example, one reported University of Tokyo deadline is 5 January 2027). Students on this route usually arrive in September or October.
- Pakistani students also receive MEXT scholarships each year through the university route, which is separate from the embassy route.

4. Important Dates (Pakistan)

Item	Date
2027 Research students (Master's/PhD): last date	26 May 2026 (closed; shortlisted candidates already contacted)
2027 Undergraduate: last date	5 June 2026 (closed)
Embassy test and interviews (2027 round)	Roughly June–August 2026
2028 entry: embassy call	**Not yet published.** Expected around April–May 2027; the embassy announces exact dates.
University Recommendation windows	Generally October 2026 to February 2027, varying by university
Final MEXT approval and placement	About March–May of the year before the start (approx.)

The embassy's pages checked in October 2026 still showed the 2027 call as closed with no 2028 announcement. Watch the embassy's MEXT pages from March 2027.

5. Eligibility

• Nationality of a participating country (Pakistan is an active MEXT-receiving country); Japanese nationals are not eligible.

• **Research students:** Bachelor's degree (for Master's) or Master's degree (for PhD) or equivalent; age under 35 in principle.

• **Undergraduates:** completed 12 years of school education; age under 25 in principle; applicants should in principle be willing to study in Japanese (Pakistan embassy note).

• **Grades:** there is no single MEXT-wide number for the embassy route and the Pakistan page does not publish a minimum; shortlisting is based on the mark-sheet form and attested transcripts. (For comparison, some other embassies ask for 70% in the bachelor's.) On the university route, Japanese universities apply MEXT's rule of a GPA of at least 2.30 on MEXT's own 3-point scale, converted with MEXT's chart.

• IELTS or TOEFL is **not required** to apply; language certificates (JLPT, TOEFL, IELTS) are optional but can help. The embassy's own written test replaces them. The accepting Japanese university may set its own language requirement.

6. Documents (Pakistan Embassy, Research Students)

Submit in this order before the deadline (from the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan page):

1. **Mark Sheet Form** (downloadable from the embassy page)
2. **Application Form** (1 original)
3. **Research Plan**
4. **Attested copy of degree and transcripts** from the last universities attended (attestation by the respective university is mandatory)
5. **Attested certificate of graduation or degree certificate** (1 copy with original attestation); the exact documents depend on your academic status (graduated, prospective graduate, or pursuing a graduate degree)
6. **Recommendation letter** from the president/dean or academic advisor at the current or last university (1 original)
7. **Abstract of theses** (if applicable) (1 original)
8. **Recommendation letter from the present employer** (if applicable) (1 original)

Undergraduate applicants submit: Mark Sheet Form, Application Form (1 original), and academic mark sheets of Secondary and Higher Secondary school (Matric/O Levels, Intermediate/A Levels), one copy each with original attestation (schools/colleges can attest). A research plan is for graduate applications only.

Rules: documents are not returned; print on A4 and assemble with a paper clip, not staples; no other certificates will be considered; only complete applications are considered.

Where to send

• **Islamabad (Punjab, KP and others):** "MEXT Research Scholarship Application", Public Affairs Section, Embassy of Japan, 53-70, Ramna 5/4, Diplomatic Enclave 1, Islamabad 44000. Tel: +92

(51) 9072500; email: culture@ib.mofa.go.jp

- **Karachi (Karachi, Balochistan and Quetta):** “MEXT Research Scholarship Application”, Consulate General of Japan, 6/2 Civil Lines, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi. Tel: +92 (21) 3522-0800

Due to the large number of applications, the embassy cannot confirm receipt, only shortlisted candidates are contacted for the test and interview, and it does not explain why someone was not shortlisted.

7. Selection Process (Embassy Route)

1. **Document screening** of the application.

2. **Written exam:** undergraduates usually sit Mathematics, English and Japanese (science candidates also Chemistry and Physics or Biology); research candidates sit a Japanese and/or English test depending on the embassy. Past MEXT qualifying exams are published as samples by Study in Japan.

3. **Interview:** in Islamabad or Karachi; expect questions on your research plan, why Japan and your plans afterwards.

4. **University placement:** successful research candidates obtain a letter of provisional acceptance from a Japanese professor; MEXT makes the final decision, and you start in April or September/October of the following year.

For reference, the embassy announced 11 MEXT research scholarships for Pakistani students for 2026, so the embassy route is very competitive.

8. Do You Need to Speak Japanese?

Not for every program. Many research students join English-taught Master’s/PhD programs, and the scholarship may include a six-month Japanese course before the degree begins. Undergraduates spend their first year on preparatory study including Japanese, so the undergraduate award lasts five years in principle (up to seven for medicine and related fields). Some Japanese helps your interview and daily life in both cases.

9. Preparation Tips

- Gather your attested degree and transcripts, research plan and recommendation letters before the 2028 call opens.
- Write a tight, realistic, specific research plan yourself; it carries the most weight in the research category.
- Make a list of professors whose work matches yours and email them early, since a professor’s support is needed for the university route and for placement.
- Start basic Japanese study; it strengthens embassy applications, especially for undergraduates.
- Practise using the past MEXT exam papers published by Study in Japan and the embassy.
- Check the university route in parallel: windows from October 2026 to February 2027 may still be open for 2027/2028 entry at some universities.

10. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is IELTS required for MEXT?

No. MEXT does not require IELTS or TOEFL to apply; the embassy test replaces them, and optional certificates can help.

Q. How much CGPA is required?

No single figure for the embassy route; the Pakistan page publishes no minimum. On the university route MEXT's rule is a GPA of at least 2.30 on its 3-point scale.

Q. Do I need an admission offer before applying through the embassy?

No. You are selected first, then research students arrange a letter of provisional acceptance from a Japanese professor.

Q. Is MEXT fully funded?

Largely yes: tuition exempted, round-trip flight and a monthly allowance. You still pay for things such as housing, which the allowance is meant to cover.

Q. When is the next deadline for Pakistan?

The 2028-entry call has not been announced. Expect April–May 2027 and confirm on the embassy's page.

Q. Can I still apply for 2027/2028 entry?

The embassy route is closed, but the University Recommendation route runs on separate timelines (about October 2026 to February 2027, depending on the university).

11. Official Links

- Embassy of Japan in Pakistan: MEXT Research Scholarship page (pk.emb-japan.go.jp, Education section)
- Embassy of Japan in Pakistan: MEXT Undergraduate Scholarship page
- Study in Japan (JASSO): MEXT scholarships, guidelines, application forms and past exam questions (studyinjapan.go.jp)
- MEXT: Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Student programs (mext.go.jp)

Compiled on 19 November 2026 from the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan's 2027 MEXT pages and scholarship guides quoting Study in Japan (JASSO) and other embassies. Allowances, age limits, dates and requirements are set by MEXT and change each year; always verify on the official embassy and Study in Japan websites.