

Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus Resilient Smart City Program (Master's Program)

MEXT Scholarship (University Recommendation) [Special Selection]

About the Program

The “Resilient Smart City Program” aims to enhance human resources to play an active role in cities' resilience and environmental issues. The program provides high quality courses dealing with resilience against serious disasters including those which are intensified by climate change.

Since the admission is in October and all the courses and student advising are in English, the program provides an excellent opportunity for international students.

This is a call for application to a two-year Master's Course for the academic years 2024-2026, sponsored by the Scholarship Program of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Monbukagakusho/MEXT).

Upon enrollment, candidates will each be assigned to an advisor who will direct their thesis research for two years in their designated field of specialization. The degree of Master of Engineering will be awarded in recognition of thesis research and course work including seminars, with a minimum of 30 credit hours.

Before deciding the field and the topic of research, applicants are encouraged and advised to contact appropriate advisor(s) listed in the List of Faculty Members and Research fields.

Guidelines for Application (Fall 2024)

1. Number of International Students for Admission

A total of 3 students, supported by the scholarships from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), will be accepted for enrollment under the Resilient Smart City Program, Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus.

2. Qualifications and Conditions

- (1) Eligibility: “International students with outstanding academic achievements” must have earned a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.30 out of 3.00 in their degree (for those who are employed) or currently enrolled courses, and be able to maintain that GPA while receiving the scholarship.
- (2) Language proficiency:
Applicants must pass or achieve scores in English language proficiency tests that correspond to B2 (TOEFL iBT 72 / IELTS 5.5) or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of application.
*All four skills (Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking) must score at least CEFR B2 equivalent.
* The score is valid only if the examination date is after November 24, 2021.
- (3) Nationality: Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. Applicants who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are not eligible. 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 (the acquisition of student status).
- (4) Age: Applicants must be born on or after April 2, 1989.
- (5) Academic Background: Applicants must satisfy the conditions for admission to a master's course at a Japanese graduate school. (Applicants who will certainly satisfy them at the time of enrollment are eligible.)
- (6) Health: Applicants have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study in Japan.
- (7) Arrival in Japan: Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by University of the Ryukyus within two weeks before and after the starting date (October 1) of the university's relevant academic term for that year.
- (8) Those who can guarantee their admission to the university if they are accepted.
- (9) Prospective applicants are advised to contact potential thesis advisors at the University of the Ryukyus for consultation on research themes and plans; applicants without an advisor's prior approval may not receive full consideration during the admission screening.

How to Calculate your GPA for the MEXT Scholarship.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{([\text{No. of GP3 Credits}] \times 3 \text{ points}) + ([\text{No. of GP2 Credits}] \times 2 \text{ points}) + ([\text{No. of GP1 Credits}] \times 1 \text{ Point})}{\text{Total No. of credits for all registered courses}}$$

Grading Scale

80-100 3 Grade Points

70- 79 2 Grade Points

60- 69 1 Grade Point

0- 59 0 Grade Point

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.

- 1) Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees;
- 2) Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the date specified by MEXT or University of the Ryukyus;
- 3) Those who are previous grantees of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship programs (including those who withdraw from the scholarship program after acquisition of student status).
- 4) Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2024;
- 5) 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 (the acquisition of student status);
- 6) Those who are expected to graduate at the time of application and cannot satisfy the condition of academic background by the deadline given;
- 7) 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 (the acquisition of student status);
- 8) 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 the university;
- 9) Those who have no intention to obtain a degree.

3. Scholarship and Expenses

(1) A monthly stipend of 144,000* JPY will be awarded for a year from October 2024. However, this may be suspended during periods of leave of absence or when the student remains off campus for prolonged periods without authorization.

*The monthly stipend mentioned above is the expected amount. It may change by the time of enrollment or while attending school.

(2) Travel Expenses

- 1) Onward Travel: an economy class air ticket, from the international airport* which is the closest to the grantee's home to New Tokyo International Airport (or another international airport if more economical), will be given.
- 2) Return Travel: an economy class air ticket, from New Tokyo International Airport (or another international airport) to the closest international airport* to the grantee's home, will be given to those who will be leaving after the scholarship period and before the expiry of the time limit designated by MEXT.
- 3) Applicants should use the International Airport in the country where they have their nationalities.

Remarks:

- 1) Domestic travels in the grantee's country and in Okinawa are the grantee's own expenses.
- 2) Fees for travel insurance of both onward and return trips should be paid by the student.
- 3) School Fees: Fees for entrance examinations, admission, and tuition will be waived.

4. Selection and Admission

Applicants will be examined by the Screening Committee of the Program based on their submitted documents and online interviews. Only those who have a solid academic background, good research capabilities and a strong commitment to research will be contacted for online interviews. The online interview will be scheduled around January. The results of selection by the screening committee and the graduate school committee will be announced on our website in April 2024. The final decision by MEXT will be announced to candidates through University of the Ryukyus in July 2024.

Remarks:

- 1) Applicants selected by MEXT as grantee must enroll in the program. Refusal to enter the course after acceptance is not allowed.
- 2) Those who apply for University of the Ryukyus are not allowed to apply for any other universities as the MEXT scholarship student.

5. Enrollment

- (1) The official date of enrollment is **October 1, 2024**.
- (2) Scholarship grantees shall be enrolled as regular graduate students of University of the Ryukyus.

6. Application

All the following documents should be sent via e-mail. Applications must be received by the Graduate School of Engineering and Science of the University of the Ryukyus by the deadline.

- (1) Completed Application Form (please use requisite form).....Form I-1, II, III
- (2) Health Certificate (certified by a public hospital within the past 6 months).....Form IV
- (3) Certificate of Graduation or Copy of Diploma (undergraduate and/or graduate) or Certified Letter from the university at which the applicant is currently enrolled stating the expected graduation date.
- (4) Official Academic Transcript (undergraduate and/or graduate) with the relevant English translations.
- (5) A copy of applicant's passport (or a copy of a certificate of family register, certificate of citizenship or other identification issued by the government of his/her home country).
- (6) Recommendation letter from dean (or above) at the current university or other institutions (to the president of the university of the Ryukyus).....Form V
- (7) Letter(s) of reference from those familiar with the applicant's research /academic capabilities.
- (8) The photograph or digital image (close-up portrait of face and shoulders, no headgear against a plain background), 4.5cm×3.5cm in size, taken within 6 months of the application date. It should also be attached to the application form.
- (9) Documents of language proficiency at CEFR B2 level or above.
(ex.) Official score report of at least 72 on the TOEFL iBT or 5.5 on the IELTS.
- (10) Abstracts of theses (should be concise and to the point)
- (11) Those currently employed must submit a certificate or document from their employer stating approval for the applicant to attend the University of the Ryukyus in the event of program acceptance.
- (12) Document(s) attesting to the applicant's outstanding academic achievements at the last university attended.

Remarks:

- 1) All documents to be submitted should be written or typed in English on the requisite forms.
- 2) All documents are to be prepared in English. For those unable to complete the forms in English, separate English translations must be attached.
- 3) Letters of recommendation and references should indicate the English proficiency of applicants as excellent, good, or fair.
- 4) Information for documents (1), (2) and (6) must be written on the forms provided.
- 5) Applications will not be accepted if any of the above documents are incomplete, incorrect or lacking supporting evidence. They will not be accepted if they arrive after the stipulated deadline.
- 6) All submitted documents will be retained and will not be returned to applicants.
- 7) Those who apply for this MEXT scholarship should not apply for other scholarship programs at the same, and the opposite is also true.

7. Application Deadline

17:00, December 20, 2023 (Japan Standard Time)

8. Scholarship Conditions

An enrolled student will be subject to cancellation of his/her scholarship when:

- (1) A serious falsehood is found in the application documents (in this case, admission may be cancelled even after enrollment).
- (2) A student breaks the pledge declared to MEXT.
- (3) A student is subjected to a disciplinary action or is judged by the Faculty of Engineering as not being able to continue his/her research in the program.

9. Other Notes

- (1) 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.
- (2) Successful applicants are expected to study and understand the geography, climate, customs and habits of Okinawa as well as the general features and conditions of the University of the Ryukyus. It must be noted that English is not normally spoken among most people in Okinawa.
- (3) The Student Dormitory and International House may be available for accommodation at reasonable cost if there are vacancies.
- (4) Grantees are expected to complete their Master's Program within two years. No extension of the term of scholarship will be available.
- (5) It is recommended that accepted students be well acquainted with the Japanese language, culture, and customs. Knowledge of the Japanese language is necessary in daily life.

10. Security Export Control

University of the Ryukyus performs the Security Export Control under the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA)" in order to prevent from obstructing the maintenance of international peace and security due to the education and research content that provide to overseas students.

Applicants might be requested to change the content of their desired education or research.

Important Notice

Applications must be sent via e-mail.

All correspondence related to this application should be addressed to:

**Academic Affairs Unit (Faculty of Engineering)
Graduate School of Engineering and Science
University of the Ryukyus
1 Senbaru
Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213
Japan**

Phone: +81-98-895-8593

E-mail: kggakmu@acs.u-ryukyu.ac.jp