

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
Master's Program, Department of Dryland Science
Graduate School of Sustainability Science, Tottori University
Special Program in Dryland Agricultural Sciences with Reference to SDGs for 2020

The Department of Dryland Science of the Graduate School of Sustainability Science, Tottori University (Special Program in Dryland Agricultural Sciences with Reference to SDGs) has created the following application for international students who wish to study dryland agriculture under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program.

I. PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM

The Special Program in Dryland Agricultural Sciences with Reference to SDGs cultivates human resources capable of contributing to the country's development under our educational research system from agriculture and environmental conservation in drylands to the regional developments based on SDGs.

II. OUTLINE OF THE CURRICULUM

The students of this program belong to the Special Program in English of the Department of Dryland Science (a two-year Master's program). They must earn at least 30 credit units, complete the Master's thesis and pass the thesis evaluation and the final examination to obtain Master of Agriculture or Master of Science.

All of the lectures as well as research guidance from faculty members are provided in English.

III. FIELDS OF STUDY AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO BE ADMITTED

1. Fields of Study

Each applicant must select his/her field of study and primary supervisor from the List of Fields of Education and Research.

2. Number of Students to be admitted

MEXT Scholarship students by university recommendation - Three students

IV. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITION

1. Eligibility

MEXT scholarship applicants who have academic ability equal or superior to that of a Japanese university graduate and who can start their overseas study in Japan.

2. Nationality

Applicants under MEXT Scholarship must have the nationality of a country which has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government.

3. Age

Applicants under the MEXT Scholarship must have been born on or after April 2, 1985.

4. Arrival in Japan

Applicants under MEXT Scholarship must be able to arrive in Japan from October 1 to 7, 2020.

5. Academic Background

Applicants must meet any one of the following criteria.

- (1) Graduated or expected to graduate from a four-year university program on or before the end of September 2020.
- (2) Awarded or expected to be awarded a bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education following the School Education Law Article 104 Clause 4 on or before the end of September 2020.
- (3) Have finished or expected to finish 16 years of formal education in a foreign country on or before the end of September 2020.
- (4) Have finished or expected to finish 16 years of formal education of a foreign country on or before the end of September 2020 by completing Correspondence Education courses provided by the country in question while residing in Japan.
- (5) Have finished or expected to complete a program provided by an educational institution which owns degree programs offered in foreign countries (only the program that grants the diploma for 16 years of formal education in the said foreign country) which is also recognized as a formal educational institution in the said county while authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on or before the end of September 2020.
- (6) Have been awarded or expected to be awarded a degree equivalent to bachelor's by completing program duration of which is more than 3 years (includes the case of finishing 16 years of formal education of a foreign country by completing Correspondence Education courses provided by the country in question while residing in Japan, and the case of obtaining degree specified by when graduating from an educational institution recognized by the foreign country in question) at a university or other form of school in a foreign country (limited to the institutions with their educational quality such as education and research activities recognized by the evaluators approved by the government of the foreign country in question or other relevant authorities, or institutions specifically recognized by its equivalent by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) on or before the end of September 2020.
- (7) Have finished upper-level course of a specialized training college (limited to the course duration of which is more than 4 years and meets other requirements provided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), which is specially approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, after the date provided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or be expected to finish above mentioned course before the end of September 2020.
- (8) Specially recommended by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Public notice Item 5 by Ministry of Education in 1953)
- (9) Reach or have reached 22 years old on or before the end of September 2020 whose

qualification is recognized to be equivalent or higher than those who graduated from a four year university program by individual qualification evaluation at the Graduate School of Sustainability Science

- (10) Admitted to a graduate school by the School Education Law Article 102 Clause 2, and one's academic performance is recognized to be suitable for the Graduate School of Sustainability Science.

Applicants who are applying under (9) or (10) category must get an application form for qualification evaluation from their prospective primary supervisors to take qualification evaluation before application. The form should be submitted no later than January 27, 2020. The result of evaluation will be announced by January 31, 2020.

6. Health

Applicants have no physical or mental conditions hindering the applicant's study at the university.

7. Language Proficiency

Since the research guidance etc. is conducted in English, applicants must have the English ability.

8. Notes

(1) 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 at the time of their arrival in Japan.
- 2) Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the date the host university designated.
- 3) Those who are grantees of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship in the past and have not had at least three (3) years of research or teaching experience at the time of adopting the new scholarship after the completion of their previous scholarship.

This condition does not apply to former "Japanese-studies" Scholarship students who graduated from their universities after returning to home country, and the students under "Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments" and "Young Leaders Program".

- 4) Those who concurrently apply for other Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship program, such as "Teacher Training Students" etc.
- 5) Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university, etc. under the "Student" visa, or who are enrolled or plan to be enrolled in a Japanese university, etc. as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the start of receiving this scholarship.

However, this condition does not apply to privately-financed international students studying in Japan who have completed their studies and will return to their home county before the start of receiving the scholarship.

- 6) Those who plan to receive the Japanese Government (MEXT) or the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) or private (including any governmental organization of his/her own country) scholarships.

- 7) Those who are expected to graduate and, cannot satisfy the qualifications and the conditions of academic background by the designated date.
 - 8) Applicants of dual nationality who cannot prove their expatriation of the Japanese nationality at the time of application.
 - 9) Those who wish to conduct fieldwork or participate in an internship outside of Japan at the time of application.
- (2) Applicants who are willing to proceed to the doctoral course of Tottori University are preferred. However, regardless of their will, those who could not finish their master's course with high marks cannot proceed to the doctoral course.

V. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Application Period

Applicants must submit the following documents during the period of February 3 to February 21, 2020. All documents must be sent by registered mail to the prospective primary supervisor.

2. Application Documents

- (1) Application Form for The Special Program in Dryland Agricultural Sciences with Reference to SDGs, 2020 [For MEXT Scholarship Applicants] 【a prescribed form】
- (2) Application Form for JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP
※Two-side printing 【a prescribed form】
- (3) Field of Study and Research Plan 【a prescribed form】
- (4) CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH completed by the examining physician within six months of the application date
- (5) A Written Pledge 【a prescribed form】
- (6) Certified grade transcript from the last university attended
- (7) Graduation certificate or degree certificate of the last university attended
- (8) A copy of certificate of citizenship such as passport or certificate of family register
- (9) Recommendation letter from the dean of the applicant's university or graduate school addressed to the President of Tottori University
- (10) Personal recommendation letter (A recommendation letter from an applicant's supervisor of his/her under-graduate program)
- (11) Three copies of passport size photographs (4.5 x 3.5 cm), upper body part taken from the right front, without hats/caps within 6 months of the application date with the applicant's name and nationality on the reverse side. (They must be pasted on the designated places on the application forms).
- (12) A letter clearly describing the applicant's academic performance at the last university attended such as being in the top 5% or absolute rank in the class including the total number of students in the class, GPA, etc.
- (13) Thesis for Bachelor degree etc.
 - 1) A copy of thesis for Bachelor degree if an applicant has written a thesis.

- 2) A research progress report if he/she is still at university.
 - 3) A reprint of his/her published paper or copy of manuscripts submitted to journals.
 - 4) Summary of items 1) and 3).
- (14) Copy(ies) of a record of English proficiency test such as TOEFL iBT, TOEIC L&R/TOEIC S&W, IELTS, GTEC, University of Cambridge ESOL, TEAP, TEAP CBT, The EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency.

The applicant planning to submit a score sheet proving his/her English ability other than the above documents must consult with the Academic Affairs Section of Faculty of Agriculture before his/her application.

3. Notes

- (1) Applicants must participate in an oral examination using Internet etc. The examination will be conducted during the period of February 3 to February 21, 2020.
- (2) The above documents should either be typewritten or printed neatly in English or Japanese on A4 size sheets of paper.
- (3) Applications will not be accepted unless all documents mentioned above are fully and correctly completed and delivered to Tottori University by February 21, 2020.
- (4) Applicants must select their prospective primary supervisor from the List of Fields of Education and Research. Applications without nominated a professor as primary supervisor will not be accepted.
- (5) Applicants must contact their prospective primary supervisor and secondary supervisors in advance during preparation of application documents.
- (6) Applicant's English proficiency will be evaluated based on the submitted documents.
- (7) The recommendation letter and personal recommendation letter must include the writer's assessment of the applicant's English proficiency within the categories of Excellent, Good, or Poor.
- (8) The submitted documents will not be returned.

4. Scholarship Benefits

- (1) The amount of payment is 144,000 yen per month.
- (2) The period of scholarship is from October 2020 until the end of March 2022.
- (3) Traveling Expenses:
 - 1) Transportation to Japan: Each grantee will be supplied in general, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, with an economy-class airplane ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address to the New Tokyo (Narita) International Airport or any other international airport that the assigned university usually uses. Expenses such as domestic transportation from his/her home address to the international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, special taxes on travel, or travel expenses within Japan will NOT be supplied.
 - 2) Transportation from Japan: The grantee who returns to his/her home country within the fixed period after the expiration of his/her scholarship will be supplied, in general, upon application, with an economy-class airplane ticket for the travel from the New Tokyo (Narita) International

Airport (or any other international airport that the assigned university uses as a normal route) to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.

(Note 1) Insurance premiums for travel to/from Japan shall be borne by the grantee.

(Note 2) If a grantee continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period has ended, he/she will not be paid travel expenses to return home as the temporary return.

(4) School fees including application fee, admission fee and tuition fee will not be charged.

(5) Students of Tottori University are required to be covered by the Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (“Gakkensai”) and the Comprehensive Insurance for Students Lives Coupled with PAS for International Students (“Insurance for International Students”).

[Compensation contents and Insurance premiums]

1) Gakkensai : This is an accident insurance which covers injuries occurred as a result of a sudden accident while insured students are participating in regular or extracurricular activities, being on campus, or commuting to school.

Insurance premiums (2 years): 1,750 yen

Department in charge: Health Science Center (E-mail: hokekan-jimu@ml.adm.tottori-u.ac.jp)

2) Insurance for International Students (Type B) : This insurance covers (1) in case of causing injury to another person or damaging the property of others, (2) compensate for the payment of transportation and accommodation expenses in case family members come to Japan to support the insured if he/she is hospitalized due to injury or illness for more than 3 days. (Unlike "Gakkensai", there is no restriction on time and place)

Insurance premiums (2 years): 3,260 yen

Department in charge: International Affairs Division (E-mail: kokuko-gaku@adm.tottori-u.ac.jp)

For more details, please contact each department.

(6) Payment of the scholarship will be stopped for the reasons given below. Should any of the following reasons apply, the grantee may be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid up to that time.

1) If any of his/her application documents is found to be falsely stated

2) If he/she is in breach of his/her pledge made to the Minister of MEXT

3) If he/she violates Japan’s laws and regulations and is sentenced to imprisonment of more than one year

4) If he/she is subjected to disciplinary action such as expulsion or removal from register by his/her university (The scholarship payment may be stopped during the period up until punishment is decided by the university)

5) If it becomes definitive that the grantee will not be able to graduate (or complete his/her course) within the standard course term because of his/her poor academic achievement or suspension or leaving school

6) If his/her resident status of “Student” as provided for in Paragraph 1-4 of Appendix to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act changes to any other status

- 7) If he/she is provided with another scholarship (except for a scholarship designated for research expenses)
- 8) If he/she proceeds to a higher level of education without receiving approval for an extension of the term of the scholarship
- 9) If he/she withdraws from Tottori University or transfers to another university

5. Screening Procedures etc.

(1) Applicant Screening

- 1) Applicant screening will be made based on submitted documents.
- 2) Candidates recommended by Tottori University will be evaluated by MEXT. MEXT will notify the result to Tottori University after scholarship recipients are determined.

(2) Announcement of Successful Applicants

Based on the determination by MEXT, Tottori University will send the Certificate of Acceptance to each successful applicant by the beginning of August.

VI. NOTES

1. Upon enrollment, the new students are advised to become well informed about Japanese climate, customs, manners, and other cultural aspects in general before coming to Japan. It is strongly advisable that they study Japanese language. Knowledge of the Japanese language is very helpful in Japan.
2. If identified false statements in the submitted documents, admission shall be canceled even after enrolling in the graduate school.