66 MARCO POLO VOYAGE

INTERNATIONAL BIO-EDUCATION PROGRAM

at the GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOSTUDIES,
Kyoto University

seeks motivated, adventurous students from Asian countries to pursue a Masters or PhD in biological science in Kyoto, JAPAN

This program aims to support young scientists who, in the spirit of Marco Polo, seek to make discoveries in new and unexplored research fields

Students accepted to the program have all tuition fees waived and receive a monthly stipend of at least ¥147000 for the duration of their Masters or PhD

The deadline for application to the program is December 20th, 2023. Please scan the QR code to start your application or visit: www.marcopolostudyprogram.org

To apply to the MARCO POLO VOYAGE PROGRAM scan here: For general inquiries: 150kyomu@adm.lif.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Dear "the respective institutions/persons' name",

By way of introduction, my name is Emiko Nishimoto, Student Affairs Staff at Graduate School of Biostudies (GSB), Kyoto University. I am writing to promote our degree programs that are financially supported by the Japanese Government Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) at our graduate school.

Our scholarship program, named "Marco Polo Voyage International Bio-Education Program", seeks 4 ASEAN students per year (two Master's and two Doctoral students) between 2024 – 2026, once the program receives final approval by MEXT.

The GSB can recommend 4 candidates for the first of these MEXT scholarships in February - March, 2024, for matriculation in October, 2024. Therefore, we would like you to please publicize this opportunity, especially if you have an outstanding candidate in your institution who is hoping to pursue postgraduate study in Japan next year.

The program does not require Japanese language proficiency, but a minimal TOEFL iBT score of 72 or IELTS band score of 5.5 is required.

For more details, please refer to the attached flyer and our website: Scholarship Program: https://www.lif.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/

Application deadline: December 20 (Wed), 2023 Contact/Enquiry: GSB Student Affairs Section Email: 150kyomu@adm.lif.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Matching a prospective applicant with a lab and the respective lab head are very important. Therefore, before applying, we request that applicants contact the head of the lab that they would like to join at GSB, and discuss availability and potential research activities there. After receiving the lab head's consent for application, applicants should submit all the required documents to the GSB Student Affairs Section (150kyomu@adm.lif.kyoto-u.ac.jp) by **December 20 (Wed), 2023.**

Successful applicants who pass the primary screening (document screening) will be interviewed by the GSB selection committee in early January.

If you could share the attached flyer with your students and relevant departments in your institution, it would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you very much for your attention and kind consideration.

Yours sincerely, Emiko Nishimoto (GSB Student Affairs Section Staff)

On Behalf of:

Prof. Takeshi Nakano (GSB International Education Committee Chair)
Associate Prof. Peter Carlton (GSB International Education Committee member)
Associate Prof. Adam Guy (GSB International Education Committee member)
Emeritus Prof. James Hejna (GSB International Education Committee member)

Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship 2024 Research Students (University Recommendation)

Marco Polo Voyage International Bio-Education Program Provisional Application Guidelines (as of November 6, 2023) Graduate School of Biostudies (GSB), Kyoto University

This scholarship is available to students who will enroll in programs that have been selected for the "Japanese Government (MEXT) Special Scholarship Program."

"Marco Polo Voyage International Bio-Education Program" seeks 4 ASEAN students per year (two Master's and two Doctoral students) between 2024 – 2026, once the program receives final approval by MEXT.

Students who apply for this scholarship through the "university recommendation" process will often receive inquiries about their eligibility, etc., from prospective host professors in emails or during online interviews. Please be sure to answer such questions carefully.

Please read the following information carefully, and submit all required documents by the deadline in accordance with the instructions of your prospective host professor.

1. Eligibility and Requirements

1. Eligibility

Students with excellent academic records*1 who will newly come from overseas to enroll as international students at graduate schools in Japan.

*1 "Students with excellent academic records" means: students with an academic performance coefficient of 2.30 or higher in their currently enrolled program in the case of current students, or in their final academic record in the case of those who are not currently students, and who are expected to maintain that standard of performance during the scholarship period. The academic performance coefficient is calculated based on the grades in their academic transcript.

2. Nationality

Eligible applicants must be nationals of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. As a general rule, students who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are not eligible for this scholarship. However, students who have dual nationality, including Japanese nationality, and who are living abroad at the time of application may be eligible. In this case, the student is required to select the foreign nationality and renounce their Japanese nationality by the time of their arrival Japan (by the time they enroll at the university).

3. Age

Those born on or after April 2, 1989 (in principle)

Exceptions to the above age requirements may be made in the case of persons who are acknowledged by MEXT as having been unable to apply when they were of eligible age for reasons specific to circumstances in their country (such as mandatory military service, loss of educational opportunities due to war, etc.). However, no exceptions will be made for personal reasons (including financial difficulty, family situation, health condition, or university/employer's circumstances).

However, in the case that persons who have completed the Young Leaders' Program do not meet the above age requirement but wish to advance to a doctoral program, they are permitted to apply within five years from the completion of the Young Leaders' Program.

4. Academic Background

Those who meet the requirements for admission to a master's, professional, doctoral, or five-year doctoral degree program at a Japanese university.*2

*2 including those who are certain to meet the above requirements by the time of admission.

5. Language Proficiency

Eligible applicants must have either of the following language proficiency qualifications in English or Japanese.

Japanese

- ① Those who have passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level **N2** or higher at the time of admission to a regular program.
- ② Those who have completed a program of education with Japanese as the primary language of instruction that meets the requirements for admission to a master's, professional, doctoral, or five-year doctoral degree program at a Japanese university (including those who are anticipated to complete their current program prior to admission).
- ③ Those who are recognized by Kyoto University to have Japanese language proficiency equivalent to ①, above.

English

- ① Those who have Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) score of B2 or higher*3 in English at the time of admission to a regular program.
- 2 Those who have completed a program of education with English as the primary language of instruction that meets the requirements for admission to a master's, professional, doctoral, or five-year doctoral degree program at a Japanese university (including those who are anticipated to complete their current program prior to admission.)
- 3 Those who are recognized by Kyoto University to have English language proficiency equivalent to ①, above.
- *3 IELTS 5.5 or higher, TOEFL iBT 72 or higher, (TOEIC Listening: 400 or higher and Reading: 385 or higher), etc. For more details, please see the following website:

 https://www.mext.go.jp/component/a_menu/education/micro_detail/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2019/09/24/1420
 500 3.pdf (in Japanese only)

6. Health Condition

Those who are recognized by Kyoto University to be sufficiently physically and mentally healthy to study in Japan.

7. Date of Arrival in Japan

Those who are able to arrive in Japan on a designated date during the period two weeks before and after October 1, 2024 when the second semester begins at Kyoto University (September 17–October 15, 2024).

If they are unable to arrive in Japan by the last day of the above period, they must decline the scholarship, except in cases that MEXT determines to be unavoidable circumstances*4. If they arrive in Japan prior to the above period for personal reasons, the cost of their flight to Japan shall not be covered.

*4 if entry restrictions are implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic, etc., the date of arrival in Japan may be delayed. In this case, the student must arrive in Japan by a date separately designated by MEXT.

8. Student Visa

Students must obtain a "Student" visa at a diplomatic mission in their country of residence prior to departure (as a general rule), and must enter Japan with the "Student" status of residence. Please note that if they enter Japan without obtaining a "Student" visa, their scholarship will be suspended.

If they already have a different status of residence ("Permanent Resident," "Long Term Resident," etc.), they are required to change it to "Student" status before arriving in Japan. Please note that if such persons apply for "Permanent Resident" or "Long-Term Resident" status of residence again after the MEXT Scholarship period, it may not be granted.

9. Ineligibility

Those to whom any of the following items apply are not eligible for the scholarship. Applicants must decline the scholarship if they discover that any of the following items apply to them after they have been selected.

- 1 Those who are registered as active duty military personnel or civilians in military employ at the time of entry to Japan or during the scholarship period.
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the date designated by MEXT or Kyoto University.
- Those who have previously been Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students (including those who declined the scholarship after the student's enrollment in the university). However, this stipulation does not apply to those who have at least three years of academic or work experience in the period between the month following the last month of the previous MEXT scholarship and the first month of the current MEXT scholarship, and those who have previously received the MEXT Scholarship as an international student enrolled in the Japanese Language and Culture Course (limited to those who have graduated or are expected to graduate from their university after returning to their home country), the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Science and Engineering Program, or the Young Leaders' Program. As those who have received MEXT Honors Scholarship are not deemed to be international MEXT scholarship students, they are still permitted to apply for the scholarship.
- 4 Those who are applying for another Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship in 2024.
- Those who are residing in Japan at the time of application (including those who are already enrolled at a Japanese university with "Student" resident status, or who are already enrolled or will be enrolled at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student during the period from the time of application until the beginning of the scholarship period).
- Those who, during the period of this scholarship, will receive a scholarship from an organization other than the Japanese Government (MEXT), including the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) or their home country's government. Those who will receive a scholarship from the Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (of the Japan Science and Technology Agency) or from private scholarship foundations are also not eligible to apply for this scholarship at Kyoto University.
- Those who are anticipated to complete their current program, but do not meet the academic qualifications and requirements by the time of their enrollment.
- 8 Those who have dual nationality at the time of application, but cannot provide evidence that they have renounced their Japanese nationality prior to arrival in Japan.
- Those who, at the time of application, are planning to engage in long-term research activities (including internship and fieldwork) in a country other than Japan, or take a long-term leave of absence.
- 10 Those who do not intend to obtain a degree from Kyoto University.

10. Other matters

Scholarship recipients will be expected to:

- Proactively participate in a wide range of local school and community activities to contribute to the internationalization of Japan and mutual understanding between Japan and their home country.
- Maintain close communication with Kyoto University even after graduation, and cooperate in surveys and other activities conducted by the university and by MEXT.

• After returning to their home country, cooperate with projects conducted by diplomatic missions to enhance the relationship between Japan and their home country.

2. Scholarship Period and Amount

1. Scholarship period

From October 2024 until the end of the period required to complete the program (the regular term of study of the program)

• In the case of the five-year doctoral programs selected for the MEXT Special Scholarship Program, the period from the first to second year is treated as a master's program, and the period from the third to fifth year is treated as a doctoral program. Therefore, the scholarship period ends at the end of the second year. However, prior to advancing to the third-year, the students are eligible to apply for an extension of the scholarship period.

In the case of master's and doctoral programs selected for the MEXT Special Scholarship Program as a "set," **students are eligible to apply for an extension of the scholarship period** to advance to

the doctoral program using the preferential placement framework.

• In the case of programs other than the above (a bachelor's or master's program only) selected for the MEXT Special Scholarship Program, students are not eligible to apply for extension of the scholarship period.

2. Monthly scholarship amount

Master's, professional, five-year doctoral students (first and second year): JPY 144,000 per month*5 Doctoral and five-year doctoral students (third to fifth year): JPY 145,000 per month*5

*5 If the recipient's place of study is Yoshida Campus 3,000 yen shall be added to the above amount.

MEXT Scholarship students shall be also exempt from admission fees, application fees, and tuition fees during the scholarship period.

The above monthly scholarship amounts may change in each fiscal year, depending on the budget circumstances of the Japanese government.

3. Travel expenses to Japan

As a general rule, MEXT shall decide the international student's travel itinerary and route and issue a flight ticket to them. In principle, the flight ticket issued by MEXT shall be an economy class ticket from an international airport near the international student's area of residence (within their country of nationality) to Kansai International Airport.*6 Domestic travel expenses from their place of residence to the international airport, airport taxes, airport-usage charges, special taxes for travel, travel expenses after arrival in Japan (including Japanese domestic flights), travel insurance premiums, and expenses related to personal belongings and unaccompanied baggage must be covered by the international student. International students who do not have a diplomatic mission in their country of nationality and need to travel to a third country to apply for a visa, or who do not have direct flights from their country of nationality, are required to cover the costs of domestic travel and accommodation in the third country. In this case, MEXT shall issue economy class flight tickets from the student's country of nationality to the third country, and from the third country to Kansai International Airport. As a general rule, the student's "place of residence" is deemed to be the address entered in the "current address" field in their application form. However, if the international student moves to a different address within their country of nationality prior to departure, the address entered in the "address before departure" field in the application form shall be deemed to be their "place of residence," and an airline ticket from an international airport near the address shall be provided. Except in the case of traveling to a third country to apply for a visa, if international students depart from a country other than their country of nationality for personal reasons, MEXT shall not issue a flight ticket for them.

*6 If there are no flights arriving at Kansai International Airport due to the COVID-19 pandemic, etc., MEXT may provide tickets for flights arriving at Narita Airport or Haneda Airport.

4. Travel expenses for returning to the student's home country

As a general rule, MEXT will issue a flight ticket to international students who have graduated or completed their studies and will return to their home country during the last month of the scholarship period as specified in "1 Scholarship period," above. In principle, the flight ticket issued by MEXT shall be an economy class ticket from Kansai International Airport to an international airport near the student's place of residence (in their country of nationality). Domestic travel expenses from the student's place of residence in Japan to Kansai International Airport, airport taxes, airport-usage charges, special taxes for travel, travel expenses after arrival (including domestic flights) in the student's home country, travel insurance premiums, and expenses related to personal belongings and unaccompanied baggage must be covered by the international student. If an international student returns to their home country prior to the last month of the scholarship period for personal reasons or any of the reasons specified in "7. Suspension of Scholarship" below, MEXT shall not cover the cost of the flight. If an international student will continue to stay in Japan after the scholarship period (e.g. for further study or employment), MEXT shall not cover the cost of flights to temporarily return to their home country.

3. Application Documents

I. 2024 Provisional Application Form

- * Please attach a facial photograph (taken within the past six months, 4.5×3.5 cm in size, upper body, front facing, without a hat). Write your nationality and name on the back of the photograph. The photograph data may be attached to the "Photograph" field in the application form.
- * Chinese students are requested to enter their name in both **Chinese characters** and Roman alphabet in the "Name" field.
- * Please sign your name by hand in the "Signature" field, and submit a copy of the form as an electronic data file by December 20 (Wed), 2023.
- * Successful applicants in the selection by GSB will be required to make an official application form as provided by MEXT.
- II. Field of Study and Research Plan
 - * Two pages or more are acceptable.
- III. Proof of Nationality
 - * A copy of the student's passport, a copy of the student's family register in their country, etc.
- IV. Official academic transcript issued by the university (faculty or graduate school) last attended by the student
- V. Certificate of (expected) graduation or certificate of degree from the university (faculty or graduate school) last attended by the student
- VI. Academic achievements that demonstrate the student's excellent academic records (if any) (e.g. records of awards received in fields related to the student's research)
- VII. Letter of recommendation from the dean of the graduate school of the student's university (addressed to the President of Kyoto University)
 - *If the student's academic performance coefficient cannot be calculated, a statement that the student's academic performance is ranked in the top 30% of the university (faculty or graduate school) is required.
- VIII. Summary of academic paper, etc.
 - *A brief summary of the academic paper that the student has written or is writing.
- IX. Proof of Language Proficiency, as detailed in 1.5
 - *E.g. score of IELTS, TOEFL, etc.

- At any time before or after the notification of acceptance, the schedule for travel to Japan may be changed
 due to unavoidable occurrences, the scholarship may be canceled, or the contents of these application
 guidelines may be changed.
- Students, who are selected as candidates from Kyoto University cannot be selected as candidates for a
 MEXT scholarship from another university. In the case of students selected by two universities, neither
 application shall be accepted.
- As it will take one to one and a half months after arrival in Japan until the scholarship payments begin, students selected as scholarship recipients are requested to prepare at least 200,000 yen (approximately 2,000 US dollars) to cover their initial living costs in Japan.
- Scholarship recipients are required to confirm their enrollment by signing a document at the designated office every month. If they are unable to do so due to overseas travel or for other reasons, they will not be permitted to receive the scholarship for that month.
- Information about scholarship recipients (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, host university/graduate school/faculty, major field of study, period of enrollment, career path after completion of the program, and contact information [address, telephone number, email address]) shall be shared with relevant government organizations for use in the Japanese government's international student projects (including support during study abroad, follow-up for students who have completed their studies, and improvement of the system for international students).

In addition, information about scholarship recipients (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be published in public relations materials prepared by the Japanese government to promote study in Japan by international students, particularly in articles about former MEXT Scholarship students who are internationally active.

Except in special circumstances, all MEXT Scholarship recipients must agree to these conditions regarding the handling of information. The conditions are included in the pledge that must be submitted by all scholarship recipients.

- Students who apply for a "Student" visa to a diplomatic mission in their country of nationality do not require a certificate of eligibility because MEXT will request the diplomatic mission to adopt exceptional measures.
- In addition to the above, all matters necessary for the MEXT Scholarship Program shall be determined separately by the Japanese Government.

Enquiry/Contact:

GSB Student Affairs Section

Email: 150kyomu@adm.lif.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Phone: +81-75-753-9424

Program Website: https://www.marcopolostudyprogram.org/

School Homepage: https://www.lif.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/

~ Provisional Application Form for GSB Marco Polo Voyage International Bio-Education Program ~

2024年度日本政府(文部科学省)奨学金留学生申請書(研究留学生)[特別枠]

2024 APPLICATION FORM FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP (RESEARCH STUDENTS)

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10.(1) 本制度による奨学金と重複し、日本政府(文部科学省)以外の機関(自国政府機関を含む)から奨学金 等を受給、または受給予定であるか。 Are you receiving or scheduled to be receiving any scholarship from any organization other than the Japanese Government (MEXT) (including an organization of your home country government) together with the MEXT Scholarship?									
	※「はい」の場合、本奨学金と他の奨学金の併給は認められないため、本制度に採用後は他の奨学金の 受給を停止しなければならないことを理解しているか。 If 'YES', do you understand that you must cancel other scholarships after being selected as a MEXT Scholarship YES Student, since it is not allowed to receive other scholarships together with the MEXT Scholarship?								
(2) 他の奨学金に応募又は他の奨学金を受給している場合は、その名前、期間、金額等を記すこと。 If you are receiving or applying for other scholarships, please specify the name of the sponsor, scholarship period, scholarship amount, etc.									
	奨学金の内容 Describe the scholarship								

12.過去に専攻した専門分野(で Field of specialization studied in the						
13.過去に論文を執筆したことが Have you ever written a thesis?	□ある)	/ES	口ない NO			
14.著書、論文(卒業論文を含む。 State the titles or subjects of books a the date of publication.				を記入すること。 any, with the name, address of publisher and		
15.日本における最初の入学希覧 The first course you plan to take in J		□修士課程 □博士課程 □専門職学位課程 Master's degree course Doctoral course Professional graduate course				
16.日本における最終的な希望貿 Term you wish to study in Japan	Up to the c	口修士課程修了まで 口博士課程修了まで Up to the completion of master's degree program doctoral program doctoral graduate program				
17.現職の有無 口いいえ Do you currently have a job? NO		ロはい - YES	→ 勤務先名 Employer's name			
18.職歴(直近2つまで記入するこ Employment record: Write your 2 mo			art-time work.			
勤務先及び所在地 Name and location of organization		務期間 f employment	役職名 Position	職務内容 Type of work		
	From					
	То					
	From			•		
	То					

専攻分野及び研究計画

Field of Study and Research Plan

Name in full,			
in your native language			
(姓名(自国語))		,	
	(Surname)	(Given name)	(Middle name)
Name in Danier and Latter			
Name in Roman capital letters			
(姓名 (ローマ字))		9	
	(Surname)	(Given name)	(Middle name)
Nationality			
(国籍)			
	-		

Proposed study program in Japan (Outline your field of study on this side and the specific of your study program on the reverse side of this sheet. This section is one of the most important references for selection. The statement must be typewritten or written in block letters. Additional sheets of paper may be attached if necessary. If plagiarism or fraud is discovered after selection, the selection will be cancelled retroactively.)

(日本での研究計画;この研究計画は,選考の重要な参考となるので,表面に専攻分野の概要を,裏面に研究計画の詳細を具体に記入すること。記入はタイプ又は楷書によるものとし,必要な場合は別紙を追加してもよい。なお、採用後に不正、盗用等が判明した場合は遡って採用を取り消す。)

If you have Japanese language ability, write in Japanese. (相当の日本語能力を有する者は, 日本語により記入すること。)

1 Present field of study (現在の専攻分野)

2 Your research topic in Japan: Describe articulately the research you wish to carry out in Japan. (渡日後の研究テーマ:日本においてどういった研究がしたいかを明確に記入すること)