

Scholarship Application Guidelines:
Scholarship Grant for Foreign Students <YKK Leaders 21>

May 2026
Yoshida Scholarship Foundation

1. Name of the Program, etc.

This scholarship grant is called the “Scholarship Grant for Foreign Students <YKK Leaders 21>”. In this program, a scholarship grant is awarded to foreign students specializing in the field of natural science while studying at a graduate school in Japan.

2. Candidates Sought

Yoshida Scholarship Foundation (YSF) requires that applicants for the <YKK Leaders 21> scholarship have:

- A high level of academic research capabilities;
- A clear objective of studying in Japan;
- The spirit of giving back to society through their fruit of study/research; and
- The qualities of a leader.

3. Countries within the Scope of Scholarship Grant

- Southeast Asian countries, South Asian countries, West Asian countries, Central Asian countries, African countries, Mongolia

4. Japanese Universities Designated by YSF

- [National] The University of Tokyo, Institute of Science Tokyo, Nagoya University, Kyoto University, The University of Osaka, Kyushu University
- [Private] Keio University, Waseda University, Doshisha University, Kwansei Gakuin University

5. Amount of Scholarship Grant

YSF will pay: living expenses in the amount of 200,000 yen per month throughout the term of scholarship; graduate school fees of up to 2,500,000 yen in total during the term of scholarship; family allowance (only if applicable); and round-trip travel expenses to Japan.

6. Term of Scholarship

The term of scholarship will be no more than two (2) years for students enrolled in a master’s course or three (3) years for students enrolled in the last three (3) years of a doctoral course from the month of being admitted to a graduate school in Japan.

7. Eligibility

A candidate must fulfill all of the following requirements.

- The candidate must be a national of a country within the scope of the Scholarship Grant.
- The candidate must be a graduate of a university in a country within the scope of the Scholarship Grant (which need not be located in the same country as the country of nationality) or have higher academic qualifications.
- The candidate must be seeking to enroll in a master’s course (with a standard course term of two years for which a master's degree is awarded to those who complete the course, including the first two (2) years of a doctoral course) or the last three (3) years of a doctoral course (with a standard course term of three years for which a doctoral degree is awarded to those who complete the course) or be transferred in the third year of an integrated doctoral course (with a standard course term of five years for which a doctoral degree is awarded to those who complete the course) at the graduate school of the Japanese university in autumn 2026 or spring 2027.
- The candidate must specialize in the field of natural science in the Japanese university.
- The candidate must not have arrived in Japan yet at the time of filing an application to YSF. If the candidate wishes to enroll in autumn, he/she must have lived in a country within the scope of the Scholarship Grant for one year or more on an ongoing basis as of April 1, 2026. If the candidate wishes to enroll in spring, he/she must have lived in a country within the scope of the Scholarship Grant for one year or more on an ongoing basis as of October 1, 2026.
- A candidate seeking to enroll in a master’s course must be no more than 30 years old and a candidate seeking to enroll in the last three (3) years of a doctoral course must be no more than 35 years old as of April 1, 2026.

8. Invitation Method

Invitation to apply for this Scholarship Grant will be extended through designated universities. YSF will request Japanese universities designated by YSF (Designated Universities) to recommend scholarship candidates, and will accept recommendation of one candidate per university.

No more than one student will simultaneously receive this Scholarship Grant per Japanese university.

YSF will accept a recommendation of one new candidate upon the expiry of the term of scholarship of the previous scholarship recipient from that university.

The method of invitation for scholarship candidates to apply at the Japanese university varies from university to university.

Please contact the staff in charge of scholarship grants for foreign students at the university in which you wish to enroll.

YSF does not accept applications filed directly by students.

9. Application Procedures

Applicants are required to submit the following documents to the Japanese university. Among these documents, please obtain the forms for the application and the letter of recommendation through the Japanese university:

- (i) Application form (No.1 Form C) (to be submitted in either Japanese or English);
- (ii) Letter of recommendation (No.2 Form C) (written by the advising professor in charge at the Japanese university);
- (iii) Letter of recommendation written in English by the university from which the applicant graduated; and
- (iv) A copy of the certificate or letter of acceptance from the graduate school of the Japanese university (if acceptance by the graduate school has been decided).

Japanese universities are required to submit the set of application documents concerning the respective scholarship candidates whom they have decided to recommend to YSF. If acceptance of the candidate at the graduate school is undecided at the time of submitting the application documents, please promptly submit a copy of the certificate or letter of acceptance as soon as the candidate's acceptance has been decided.

10. Changes after Application

If any material changes arise in the content of the application documents after recommending a candidate to YSF, the Japanese university is required to contact YSF promptly. Material changes include the following.

- Change in preferred university, graduate school or specialization
- Change in theme of research scheduled to be conducted after enrollment
- Change in advising professor (who wrote the letter of recommendation), etc.

11. Payment of Graduate School Entrance Examination Expenses

If a candidate recommended by the Japanese university needs to visit Japan temporarily to take an entrance examination of the graduate school, YSF will pay the following expenses:

- Travel expenses to Japan (round-trip economy-class airfare at cost);
- Entrance examination fee; and
- Travel expenses and accommodation expenses in Japan (for up to three nights).

Entrance examination expenses will be paid by transfer into the recommended candidate's bank account based on receipts and other evidence. The recommended candidate will not be required to pay back such expenses even if he/she is not accepted at the graduate school.

12. Scholarship Approval

Scholarship approval will be given to candidates recommended by each university after the content of their application documents are checked by the Managing Director of YSF (who also concurrently serves as a member of the scholarship screening committee). YSF will notify applicants of scholarship approval through the Japanese university.

13. Contact Information

Yoshida Scholarship Foundation's administration office
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