

Shiga University of Medical Science

Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship 2026 for Research Student:

University Recommendation (General, Special)

*** Shiga University of Medical Science accepts applications only from those who wish to enter the Doctoral Course (4-year course) of the Graduate School of Medicine.**

*** Regarding the General Program, we have not yet received official notification of the application process from MEXT, there is a possibility that the recruitment may be canceled.**

*** Please also refer to the Application Guideline issued by MEXT.**

1. Qualification

1) Applicants must have nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government.

2) Applicants must be born on or after April 2, 1991.

3) Applicants must have the necessary qualifications to be admitted to graduate school.

[1] Those who have completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country (18 years for admission to a doctoral course in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and 6-year undergraduate-based pharmacy), including those who are expected graduation.

[2] Those who have reached the age of 22 (24 for admission to the doctoral program of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and 6-year undergraduate-based pharmacy) and recognized as having academic ability equal to or higher than that of university graduates by individual entrance qualification screening at the graduate school, including those who are expected graduation.

(Note) Includes those who are qualified to enter a Japanese graduate school with qualifications other than the above (including those who are expected graduation).

4) Applicants must be proficient in English or Japanese language and meet one of the following conditions:

【Japanese】

[1] Passed with N2 or higher in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the time of application.

* Our university will only accept JLPT scores from examinations taken in 2024 or later.

[2] Completed the curriculum that meets the entrance qualifications for the master's program or doctoral program in Japan, with Japanese as the main language.

[3] Have competency equivalent to [1]

【English】

[1] Passed or achieved scores in English language proficiency tests that correspond to B2 or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of application.

* Our university will only accept IELTS or TOEFL iBT scores from examinations taken in 2024 or later.

* All four skills must achieve a level of CEFR B2 or higher.

[2] Completed the curriculum that meets the entrance qualifications for the master's program or doctoral program in Japan, with English as the main language.

[3] Have competency equivalent to [1]

- 5) Applicants must, in principle, be able to arrive in Japan by a date specified by the accepting university which should be within two weeks before or after the first day of the semester (October 1) in the year specified by the accepting university.
- 6) Applicants who have already graduated from their latest degree program must have a final grade point of 2.30 or higher out of 3.0, as determined by the standards set by MEXT. Meanwhile, current students must have a grade point of 2.30 or higher for their current courses, and both are expected to maintain the same academic standards during the period of the scholarship program.
- 7) Please refer to the Application Guidelines issued by MEXT for more details.

2. Scholarship benefits

University covers the entrance examination fee, the entrance fee and the tuition fee.

About 150,000 yen monthly stipend will be given to each grantee during the period of graduate school enrollment and the period of enrollment as a research student (up to one and a half years), however the scholarship will be suspended if the grantee's academic performance is significantly poor.

3. Curriculum

Special program: "Global Leader Development Program for Medical Data Science Expanding from Asia to the World"

This special program trains international leaders who will contribute to medical care and medical research with knowledge and skills in epidemiology, medical statistics, evidence-based-medicine, as well as cutting-edge medical data science such as AI. In the third year, students take the Qualifying Examination (QE). After passing the QE, they engage in research on their respective themes, and aim to write a doctoral dissertation and obtain a degree.

General program: The "Advanced Medical Science Course" conducts medical research in the field of medicine from basic medicine to clinical medicine, the "Advanced Medicine for

Clinicians Course" mainly conducts clinical research, the "Interdisciplinary Medical Science and Innovation Course" conducts research on the creation of new academic fields and medical innovation by integrating medicine and other fields, and the "NCD Epidemiology Leader Course" conducts research on NCDs. All courses require students to take the Qualifying Examination (QE) in their third year, and after passing the exam, aim to write a doctoral dissertation and obtain a degree.

Please see the following website for further details about our curriculum.

<https://www.shiga-med.ac.jp/hqcera/en/index.html>

4. Selection Timetable

i Selection at SUMS

Our screening committee will choose top four candidates for Special Program and other several candidates for General Program in February 2026.

After the selection at SUMS, we recommend the candidates to MEXT.

ii Final Results

The final decision will be made by MEXT and our committee, the candidates will receive the results in June 2026.

5. Academic Calendar for Class of 2026

i Special Program

Arrival in Japan	Late September 2026
Doctoral Matriculation	October 2026
Completion of the Doctoral degree	September 2030

ii General Program Student

Arrival in Japan	Late September 2026
Accepted as a research student	October 2026
Doctoral Entrance Examination	December 2026
Doctoral Matriculation	April 2027
Completion of the Doctoral degree	March 2031

6. Notes when Applying

When applying, please give us the basic information of the applicants by email in advance of the submission. Applicants who have submitted documentation for the Special Program will be automatically considered as

having applied for the General Program as well if we get the quota. General Program information will be sent separately after we receive official notification from MEXT.

i. Email to provide applicant basic information

Deadline: 5 pm on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 (Japan Standard Time, strictly observed)

Required applicant information:

- (1) Name
- (2) Date of Birth
- (3) Nationality
- (4) Final Academic Background (Name of School, Graduation (or expected) Date)
- (5) Desired course and Supervisor
- (6) Current Status

ii . Application Submission

Deadline: 3 pm on Friday, December 19, 2025 (Japan Standard Time, strictly observed)

* Please refer to the checklist provided by our university to confirm the required documents.

* We will not accept any incomplete applications.

7 . Contact and Submission

【Contact ・ Application submission office】

Student Affairs Division, Student Support Unit at Shiga University of Medical Science

Address : Seta Tukinowa-cho, Otsu, Shiga, Japan 520-2192

Email : hqshogak@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp