

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**  
**JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026**  
**YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION)**

**I OUTLINE**

1. Objectives

The Young Leaders' Program (YLP) aims to contribute to the fostering of future national leaders in Asian and other countries. Moreover, the YLP seeks to contribute to the establishment of friendly relations among various countries and to improve policy planning activities by forming a network among national leaders thorough the deepening of their understanding of Japan. The YLP is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT\*) Scholarship Programs.

\*MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

2. Eligible Participants

Participants should be entrepreneurs, business managers, public officials and so on, who are expected to play active roles as future national leaders in their respective countries.

3. Host University

Hitotsubashi University Business School, School of International Corporate Strategy (Hitotsubashi ICS)

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at Hitotsubashi ICS is designed to prepare students for work in the business world. Courses focus on strategy, marketing, accounting/finance, etc. All classes are taught in English, and in contrast with other designated universities, YLP students at Hitotsubashi ICS are completely integrated into the regular program; in other words, they must follow the same academic calendar and meet exactly the same academic requirements as all other students. Course grades are rendered on a strict forced curve, and students must meet overall minimum grade standards in order to graduate.

4. Number of Students

Approximately 15 students (including entrepreneurs, business managers, public officials and so on).

5. Recruitment and Selection

(1) Method of Recruitment

The recruitment will be conducted through recommending authorities. Please ask the Japanese Embassy for further information.

(2) Screening Procedure

- ① First screening by the recommending authorities
- ② Second screening by each host university
- ③ Final screening by the YLP committee established by MEXT

6. Curriculum (please refer to the appendix "Curriculum Guidelines")

(1) Basic Concepts

The curriculum is suitable for developing national leaders in many fields. By utilizing the advantages of Japan's deep exchanges with Europe, the United States, and other Asian countries, and tapping into the school's local and global networks, students will explore the strengths of Japanese management practices as well as Western and Asian practices and create human networks through various activities such as special lectures and internships.

(2) Course Duration and Qualification

Course duration is one year, resulting in the conferring of a Master of Business Administration (MBA).

(3) Language

All instructions will be conducted in English.

7. Commencement of the Program  
September 2026

## II INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

MEXT will offer scholarships to foreign students who wish to study at Japanese universities as YLP students for the academic year 2026 under the MEXT Scholarship Program. The application conditions are described below.

1. Field of Study

Business Administration (Hitotsubashi University Business School, School of International Corporate Strategy (Hitotsubashi ICS))

2. Qualifications

- (1) Nationality: Applicants must be nationals of a country participating in the YLP Program. An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is 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).
- (2) Age: Applicants must be, in principle, under 40 years old as of September 1, 2026 (i.e., born on or after September 2, 1986), although exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis if such are consistent with the purposes and goals of the Scholarship Program and particular excellence is confirmed by the document screening.
- (3) Academic background: Applicants must be college graduates who have achieved excellent results.
- (4) English ability: A minimum TOEFL-iBT score of 100, TOEFL-PBT score of 600, TOEFL-CBT score of 250, IELTS Academic score of 7.0 or equivalent.
- (5) General aptitude for business studies: This is determined by the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) score (600 or above is expected), Graduate Management Admissions Test Focus Edition (GMAT Focus) score (555 or above is expected), the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score (160 or above on Quantitative Reasoning and 150 or above on Verbal Reasoning is expected) or other indicators. Although not strictly required, the submission of the GMAT or GRE score is highly desirable. A GMAT or GRE score taken within the past five years is one of several admissions criteria that helps the admissions committee determine the business aptitude of the applicant. Candidates who do not submit a GMAT or GRE score must take verbal and quantitative examinations on the interview day.
- (6) Professional experience: At least 2 years of full-time work experience as of September 1, 2026, and will continue to be employed at the same place of employment at the time of application and after enrollment in the university.
- (7) Health: Applicants must be judged to be physically able to pursue study in Japan by an examining physician, who must issue a prescribed certificate of health for the applicant.
- (8) Arrival in Japan: In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by the accepting university, usually within two weeks before or after the first day of the course conducted by the accepting university. If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the specified period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.
- (9) Visa requirement: Applicants shall, in principle, newly obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant’s country of nationality, and enter Japan with the status of residence as “Student.” If the applicant resides in Japan exceptionally before acceptance, the applicant must change or renew his/her status of residence to “Student” by the end of the month prior to the installment of the first scholarship payment. Even if the applicant originally held a status of residence such as “Permanent Resident” or “Long-term Resident”, he/she should be aware that the original status might not be necessarily regranted after the expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student.
- (10) Return to home country and resumption of work after the scholarship period: In accordance with the

objectives of the YLP, after the scholarship period, applicants are expected to make efforts to build friendly relationships among various countries, including Japan, by creating human and intellectual networks among leaders in countries across the world. To this end, applicants should, in principle, return to their home countries by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and resume their work at the recommending authority or the organization designated by the recommending authorities among others.

(11) Non-Eligibility: Applicants who fall under any or all of the following categories are not eligible. If identified as doing so after acceptance of the scholarship grantees, the applicants will be required to withdraw from the scholarship.

- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period designated by accepting university;
- ③ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of “Student” or who are going to be enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university or other institution as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program in the applicant’s country until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university, verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, return to their home country at the time of the scholarship application, and newly acquire the “Student” residence status and come to Japan;
- ④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2025, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2026;
- ⑤ 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);
- ⑥ Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan;
- ⑦ Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others after the start of the scholarship payment period;
- ⑧ Those who plan, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, to 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.

### 3. Period of Scholarship

Eleven months from October 2026 to August 2027.

(The scholarship payments will begin in October 2026 as the first term of the program starts after September 2, 2026.)

### 4. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance: 242,000 yen per month. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government’s budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee while he/she takes a leave of absence or is long absent from the assigned university.

(2) Travel costs

- ① Transportation to Japan: In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport nearest to the grantee’s home address (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita or Haneda International Airport. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from his/her home address to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. The grantee shall also bear, at his/her own

expense, travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country in case there are no direct flights from the grantee's country of nationality to Narita or Haneda International Airport. In such cases, MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of nationality to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the host university. The present address in the country of the grantee's nationality stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home address". If, however, the address stated in the application form will be changed at the time of leaving from his/her country, the changed address will be regarded as the "home address". For cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket. If a grantee will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period stated in "2. (8) Arrival in Japan", travel expenses will not be paid.

- ② Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate from the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See "3. Period of Scholarship") designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from Narita International Airport or the international airport used for the normal route to and from the accepting university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence in Japan to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc.
- (3) Education Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition will be paid by MEXT.
- (4) Accommodations: If YLP students so desire, they may reside in single occupancy accommodations arranged or provided by Hitotsubashi University for a reasonable fee.

## 5. Suspension of Payment of Scholarship

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. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

- ① A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- ③ A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period of exceeding 1 year;
- ④ A grantee is suspended from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or his/her residence status changed to one other than "Student";
- ⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (a scholarship or fellowship from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship;
- ⑧ The request from the government and/or other state institutions of applicant's home country.

## 6. Selection

- (1) Based on the recommendations of authorities, the participating university will select initial candidates from among applicants through an interview and a review of the submitted documents. If it is impossible to hold an interview in the applicant's home country, an interview will be conducted by telephone or online.
- (2) Those who have been selected initially by the participating universities will be put forward to the YLP committee established by MEXT for the final selection.

## 7. Education at University

All lectures and practical training at university will be conducted in English in principle.

## 8. Application Procedure

Applicants must submit the following documents to their recommending authorities by the designated date.  
(The submitted documents will not be returned.)

(1)	①Application for admission	1 Original (Prescribed form)
(2)	Photograph (6 x 4 cm, taken within the past 6 months, upper body/front view/hats off, should be affixed on the application form)	1 Original
(3)	②Recommendation letter from the recommending authority	1 Original (Free format)
(4)	③Certificate of graduation or a certified true copy of an official diploma from both undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the university the applicant attended	1 Original
(5)	④Official transcript or a certified true copy of an academic record from both undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the university the applicant attended	1 Original
(6)	⑤Essay explaining the applicant's aspirations and future plans after the completion of the YLP	1 Original (Free format)
(7)	⑥Answers to the Essay Questions (To be prepared as indicated in the Essay Questions sheet)	1 Original
(8)	⑦GMAT or GRE Score Report GMAT or GRE score received within the past five years is highly desirable although not strictly required. If the applicant has not taken the GMAT or GRE, we encourage the applicant to take the test no later than mid-September 2025. Scores of the online GMAT and GRE are also accepted.	1 Photocopy
(9)	⑧English Proficiency Scores (TOEFL or IELTS Academic Score Report. Optional)	1 Photocopy
(10)	⑨Two recommendation letters from the employer and/or from the supervising professor of the university the applicant attended	1 Original each (Prescribed form)
(11)	⑩Photocopy of the applicant's passport, a copy of the applicant's family register, or certificate of citizenship (any of these)	1 Photocopy
(12)	⑪Certificate of Health (To be issued by the medical institution designated by the Japanese Embassy)	1 Original (Prescribed form)

(13)	<p>Other notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use A4 paper as the standard for all submitted documents, which in principle should be typed. Handwritten documents should be written clearly.</li> <li>2. These documents should all be written in English. If written in another language, attach an English version translated by an official organization <del>public institution</del>. Caution is necessary as many applications are not written in English and do not come with an English translation, particularly recommendation letters and diplomas.</li> <li>3. Reason for application and future plans will be important factors in selection, so submit a short essay of two or three pages explaining as much as possible what you expect from this program and what kind of job you seek in the short- and long-terms.</li> <li>4. If you submit TOEFL or IELTS Academic test scores as English proficiency scores, please submit scores obtained roughly within the past two years. Test scores other than TOEFL or IELTS Academic, including certificates issued by universities, will not be accepted.</li> <li>5. Recommendation letters written by a workplace supervisor or an academic advisor from one's university should be written by two separate persons and must use the stipulated format. At least one and preferably two should be written by your supervisor or superior at work. Recommendation letters written on forms other than the stipulated format will not be accepted. Any content provided outside the stipulated format will not be considered for review.</li> <li>6. If you have written or published a book or a dissertation, submit a separate summary or abstract.</li> <li>7. Your application may be rejected if the submitted application is either incomplete or inaccurate, or if some documents are missing.</li> <li>8. Write the numbers ① through ⑪ in line with the item number for the items above on each document in the upper right corner.</li> <li>9. If there is a change in your health condition (including any serious changes relating to your life plan) after you have submitted your health certificate, please promptly notify the Japanese Embassy of the details since it concerns the acceptance system of the accepting university and Japanese medical institutions.</li> </ol>
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#### 9. Unavoidable Circumstances

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, the Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines herewithin, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable Circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including embassies and consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other foreign countries' government due to the outbreak of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike, or lockout.

#### 10. Notes

- (1) The grantees should learn, before departing for Japan, the Japanese language and acquire information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions of the university to be attended in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country.
- (2) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee is recommended to bring at least approximately US \$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (3) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account at Japan Post Bank (JP Bank) opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship payments to other

accounts.

- (4) Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis following a medical exam must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee's arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.
- (5) Grantees must enroll in the National Health Insurance program (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) at his/her own expense upon arrival in Japan.
- (6) It is suggested that grantees acquire an "Individual Number Card (My Number Card)" upon arrival in Japan.
- (7) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, career path after completion of scholarship, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with other relevant government organizations for the purpose of utilization by overseas students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the overseas student system).

Information regarding MEXT Scholarship Students (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be included in publicity materials prepared by the Japanese Government for promoting the acceptance of overseas students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

These terms and conditions are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Those who consent to this treatment will be admitted as MEXT Scholarship Student.

- (8) In principle, receiving another scholarship from an organization (including a government organization of the home country) other than the Japanese government (MEXT or other Japanese government organization) is permitted. However, applicants should consult with the Japanese Embassy in the home country in advance, since some scholarships may not be combined.
- (9) If an applicant is judged not to meet the conditions for landing in Japan, he/she may be rejected.
- (10) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for complementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.
- (11) If there are any questions about the content of the written text in this Application Guideline or any other matters, applicants/grantees should inquire at the Japanese diplomatic mission in the applicant's country and follow their instructions.
- (12) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this Application Guideline, any regulations that are necessary to implement for the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese Government.

## **YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

### **I Basic Concepts**

1. The YLP in Business Administration is built around the vision of seeking the "Best of the Two Worlds" in management methods, one that was developed in Japan and the other developed in Europe and the United States. Its objectives include learning about "Knowledge Management" and "Operations Research" led by Japan, and also "Entrepreneurship" and "Corporate Finance," fields in which the West is the current leader. The ultimate aim is to construct a globalized universal management model.
2. The YLP will be a forum where future business leaders of Asian and other countries can interact with students from Japan, Europe, and the United States. The learning method will incorporate case studies, exercises, simulations, and experiments which are popular in the West, as well as small-group seminars with professors, which are Japanese strong points. In addition, the students will go out into the real business world by visiting companies, utilizing the latest technologies, participating as business professionals, and other such types of action learning.
3. A one-year MBA program has been established that is in line with global standards, with graduation requirements similar to those of the two-year MBA program. YLP students in Business Administration fall under the one-year MBA program and are required to take a minimum of 57 credits in order to meet graduation requirements.

### **II Participants**

It is necessary for the participants to have at least 2 years of work experience. This work experience can be in a wide range of fields, but has to be full-time. The classes will all be in English, so it is necessary to have a good command of the language. Selection will be based on an overall evaluation of a candidate's work experience, academic aptitude (as measured, for example, by the GMAT, GRE or other aptitude test), English ability, quality of the essays, recommendations from superiors, and an interview.

### **III Courses (As of 1 April, 2024)**

**\*Changes to the number of credits and course titles are planned. Please check the details upon enrollment in September.**

1. Required Courses (34 credits)
  - Accounting I
  - Capstone Project
  - Corporate Finance I
  - Economics for Managers
  - Global Virtual Teams
  - Japanese Business and Economy
  - Knowledge Management
  - Leadership Development Journey
  - Marketing I
  - Operations Management
  - Organizational Behavior I
  - Quantitative Business Analytics
  - Rethinking Business & Management
  - Seminar I-1
  - Seminar I-2
  - Strategy
  - Strategy Simulation Week
  - Wise Leadership



## 2. Elective Courses (minimum 20 credits)

- Accounting II
- Capital Markets
- Customer Behavior
- Design Thinking
- Doing Business in Asia
- Entrepreneurial Management
- General Management
- Global Business
- Geopolitics, Geoeconomics
- Global Network Course I
- Global Network Course II
- Global Network Week
- Human Resource Management
- Independent Research
- Industry Transformation
- Japanese Society and Culture
- Marketing II
- Negotiation
- Organizational Behavior II
- Service Management
- Strategy as a Story
- Topics in Business Ethics I
- Topics in Operation I
- Topics in Organizational Behavior I

## 3. Optional Courses

- Intensive Writing
- Japanese Business Practicum
- Japanese Language, Basic 1
- Japanese Language, Basic 2
- Japanese Language, Basic 3
- Japanese Language, Basic 4
- Japanese Language, Intermediate 1
- Japanese Language, Intermediate 2
- Japanese Language, Intermediate 3
- Japanese Language, Intermediate 4

## IV Further information

To obtain information about Hitotsubashi University Business School, School of International Corporate Strategy (Hitotsubashi ICS), please access the Web site at <http://www.ics.hub.hit-u.ac.jp/>  
All inquiries must be submitted via e-mail ([ics-opencampus@ics.hub.hit-u.ac.jp](mailto:ics-opencampus@ics.hub.hit-u.ac.jp)) .