

Rotary Yoneyama Scholarship for Overseas Candidate

to enroll into a Japanese university or graduate school in **April / September /
October 2023**

The Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation

Japan's largest private scholarship organization,
both in terms of its program scale and the number of scholarships
awarded, supported by contributions of Rotarians throughout Japan.
Proudly supporting the overseas students' study in
Japan.

What Is Rotary?

Founded in Chicago in 1905, Rotary is a global network of people who are dedicated to contribute to social development and world peace through their various professions. Today, there are Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and regions of the world. The number of clubs reached 36,945 with 1,204,997 members as of April 20, 2022. Japan's first Rotary club was established in Tokyo in 1920. There are 2,224 clubs with 83,855 members in Japan as of the end of March 2022.

I Preface

1. Objective

The Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Scholarship Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the “Yoneyama Foundation”) supports international students to accomplish high academic achievements, and at the same time demonstrates the spirit of Rotary through interactions with counselors and the *sewa* clubs. The objective is to deepen mutual international understanding and develop bonds to grow into a bridge between the student’s mother country and Japan.

The scholarship qualifications therefore require enthusiasm and excellence in ①academic work, ②cross cultural understanding, and ③communication skills.

Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Scholars (hereinafter referred to as “Yoneyama Scholars”) are expected to learn the culture and customs of Japan, foster the awareness for social contribution and participation, and become a mature member of the society who can contribute to the Rotary’s ideal, creating and maintaining world peace.

① Academic work

Clarify the purpose and goal, deepen the research and studies, and make efforts to achieve results.

② Cross cultural understanding

Make efforts to understand different languages, cultures, and customs.

③ Communication skills

Develop harmonious relationships, be flexible in accepting others and grow a spirit of independence.

2. Significance

The Rotary Yoneyama Scholarship for Overseas Candidate is carried out as a special program to support overseas students from the most-difficult first years of their enrollment into Japanese universities and graduate schools. This system provides both financial and personal support (through counseling offered by Rotary members) to the Yoneyama Scholars upon their arrival in Japan.

Recently more and more universities offer admission to students prior to their arrival in Japan. These universities accept applications, determine acceptance, and permit admission prior to the applicant’s arrival in Japan. The Scholarship for Overseas Candidate is therefore suitable for international students who take entrance examinations without having to travel to Japan.

3. Characteristics

In addition to the financial support, personal support by counselors and the *sewa* clubs is also provided. The scholars are expected to attend their *sewa* club meetings at least once a month. Through engagement with the Rotary Club members (hereinafter referred to as “Rotarians”) at the meetings, the scholars can deepen mutual understanding, experience true international and cultural interaction, and learn the true Rotary spirit.

4. Obligations

1. Yoneyama Scholars must attend regular meetings of their *sewa* Rotary Club at least once a month.
2. Submit a report written in Japanese twice a year.
3. Give speeches at regular meetings, attend the *sewa* club and Rotary District activities, and make efforts to deepen mutual understanding throughout such interactions with Rotarians.

5. Alumni

After the Yoneyama Scholarship Period, scholars can expand their network through the Alumni association. Scholars are eligible to participate in various Rotary Clubs and Rotary activities. Yoneyama Alumni Association has 33 groups in Japan, as well as overseas groups in Taiwan, Korea, China, Thailand, Nepal, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Myanmar.

II Origin and History of Yoneyama Scholarship Program

1. Supported by Approx. 80,000 Rotarians

The Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Scholarship Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Yoneyama Scholarship Program") was established in commemoration of the achievements of Sir Umekichi Yoneyama, a businessman who contributed to the founding of Japan's first Rotary club. This project, which started at the Rotary Club of Tokyo in 1952, eventually developed into a joint project of all clubs in Japan, and in 1967, with the approval from the Ministry of Education (currently Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), became the Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Scholarship Foundation. On January 4, 2012, the Foundation became a public interest incorporated foundation when the new public interest incorporated foundation act went into effect. All Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Scholarships are supported by donations from the Japanese Rotarians.

2. Sir Umekichi Yoneyama, A Man of Service

Umekichi Yoneyama (1868-1946), who was given the title commemorating the Yoneyama Scholarship Program, lost his father at an early age and was raised by the single hand of his mother. When he turned 16, Umekichi moved to Tokyo from Nagaizumi Town, Shizuoka Prefecture, and worked hard to support his studies. He moved to the United States at the age of 20 and spent eight years studying abroad at Belmont Academy (California), Wesleyan University (Ohio), and Syracuse University (New York).

After returning to Japan, aspired to be a writer, Umekichi studied under Katsu Kaishu, but at the recommendation of a friend, joined Mitsui Bank and became a managing director. Later he founded Mitsui Trust Co., Ltd. and became president. As soon as the Trust Business Law was enacted, he established a trust company, pioneered new fields, and set the purpose as "contribution to society", laying the foundation for today's philanthropy *. In his later years, he became the chairman of the Mitsui Hoonkai Foundation, and served in many social and medical programs such as funding leprosy, tuberculosis, and cancer research.

He also invested his own money for the education of children and established an elementary school with his wife Haru. "Do what you want people to do" These words were the wish of Umekichi Yoneyama and also the way of his life. Practicing the spirit of "Compassion and help for others", Umekichi was a man who spoke little and served great through quiet salvation.

* The word "philanthropy", which comes from the Greek words "philein (to love)" and "anthrōpos (mankind)", can be translated as humanitarianism and service to society.

3. The Hope for World Peace

In 1952, during the reconstruction of the country after the defeat of the war, the Tokyo Rotary Club members suggested to establish the Yoneyama Fund. Fundraising started in hope to promote and gain understanding of a "peaceful Japan" to the world. This action that started from the Tokyo Rotary Club has evolved into a joint action of all Rotary clubs in Japan.

The Yoneyama Scholarship project, which started with "Spare a box of cigarettes a month and donate for scholarships," as the slogan, now has exceeded 20,000 scholarship recipients from 129 countries and regions since its establishment.

III Application Guidelines

1. Application and Screening Procedures

(1) Applying

The recruitment and application for overseas application scholarships will be handled by the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat. Recruitment starts from early October.

(2) Screening

Japan's Rotary organization consists of 34 districts, and each district has a Rotary Yoneyama selection committee.

Applicants will be judged by the selection committee of the Rotary district where the university to be enrolled is located (hereinafter referred to as the "District Selection Committee"), and by the Foundation's own selection committee. The results will be determined basically by documentation review.

However, under the decision of the District Selection Committee, the committee may conduct direct or online interviews to applicants and/or supervisors, and hearings via telephone and/or email.

2. Number of Awardees

Approximately fifteen persons.

*Additionally, a maximum of one awardee per district is allowed outside of this framework.

It is the district's decision to determine the number of awardees within the allocated framework.

3. Qualified Candidates

Those who meet the following requirements.

- ① Foreign students scheduled to enroll or transfer into the Japanese universities or graduate schools under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in April, September or October 2023, and attend the regular courses.
- ② Students pursuing a degree at the Japanese universities or graduate schools.
- ③ Non-degree students, such as those under long-term student system, trainees, research students or exchange students are not eligible.

4. Eligibility

Those who meet the following requirements.

(1) Citizenship, visa status and place of residence

① Those who hold citizenship of countries other than Japan at the point of entry. Dual nationality holders not including the Japanese citizenship, and/or stateless persons will be considered as non-Japanese citizens.

② Those who will enter Japan for study purposes, and hold a “Student” visa status.

③ Those who will reside overseas until entering Japan to enroll into the institution.

※ In case you do not meet the requirements ① and ② at the time of application, you may apply for the scholarship on condition that the requirements will be met by the time you arrive in Japan.

(2) History of residency in Japan

Those who do not have a history of staying in Japan until the month the scholarship commences.

However, if any of the following applies, the application qualification will be acknowledged.

① If your stay in Japan has not exceeded 31 days in total.

② If your stay in Japan was due to family reasons.

(This applies only until the completion of compulsory education.)

③ If you resided in Japan under the Rotary Youth Exchange program during high school.

※ Eligibility is extended to the above applicants to deepen the understanding and relationship with Rotary.

(3) Academic institution and admission

Those who plan to enter or transfer into the Japanese universities or graduate schools under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan in April, September or October 2023 with the intention to pursue a degree by attending the regular courses.

Those who have been issued a letter of acceptance or an admission permit, or are planning to take the examination at the intended institution.

※ Students enrolled in double degree programs must have their scholarship period for two or more years.

(4) Scholastic and health requirements

Those who have an enthusiasm to study, clear future goal, and awareness and respect for cultural differences. Also, those who can express oneself correctly, communicate smoothly, strive to deeply understand the mission of the Yoneyama Scholarship program, and take concrete actions. Good physical and mental health is also required for students who seek to study abroad.

(5) Field of study

All fields are eligible.

(6) Japanese language proficiency

The ability to understand basic Japanese is expected. After arriving in Japan, scholars are required to make efforts to communicate in Japanese in order to widely interact as a Yoneyama Scholar. (Above JPLT N4 level is desirable)

(7) Age limit

Applicant must be born after April 2, 1978. (Under 45 years of age as of April 1 of the year the scholarship is awarded)

(8) Prohibition of dual scholarships

It is prohibited to receive scholarships or grants of the same nature that are offered to individuals by other institutions.

If you wish to receive other scholarships after having been awarded the Yoneyama Memorial scholarship, you must decline the Yoneyama Memorial Scholarship by the following deadline:

I. If the expected enrollment is April 2023, the deadline is March 1, 2023

II. If the expected enrollment is September/October 2023, the deadline is August 1, 2023

(9) Ineligibility of previous Yoneyama Scholars

Those who have received the Yoneyama Scholarship in the past are not eligible to apply again.

5. Scholarships, Subsidies and Scholarship Period

This scholarship is a benefit type scholarship. The period is as stated below and there is no subsidy such as entrance fee and/or tuition,

(1) Scholarship amounts

- Undergraduates: ¥100,000 per month
- Master's students: ¥140,000 per month
- Doctoral students: ¥140,000 per month

(2) Supplemental for airfare

For successful applicants, up to 250,000 yen in Japanese yen will be subsidized for actual expenses.

● Range of assistance

Travel expenses for the first visit to Japan after selected as a scholar, including connecting flight ticket fares from home country to Japan,

domestic travel expenses both in home country and Japan, accommodation on the first day in Japan, and visa fees. The travel expenses are regulated to economy class fees only.

- After arrival in Japan, successful applicants must promptly submit all receipts, etc. that show the cost incurred to the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat.
- After arrival in Japan, all subsidies will be provided by the sewa club.

(3) Scholarship period

April 2023 enrollment

- ① Undergraduates: Two years (April 2023 - March 2025)
- ② Graduate students: Two years (April 2023 - March 2025)

September / October 2023 enrollment

- ① Undergraduates: Two years
(September / October 2023 - August / September/2025)
- ② Graduate students: Two years
(September / October 2023 - August / September/2025)

6. Application Documents

- Applicants short of required documents will not be accepted.
- Application documents must be written in either Japanese or English.
Write in Japanese if the applicant can do so.
- If applying for more than one university/graduate schools, a full set of documents from (1) to (7) is required per university/graduate school.
- After the application deadline, the school, course, faculty, graduate school, and admission month stated in the application form cannot be changed.
- If the application documents are found to be false or fraudulent, the application will be disqualified, and the selection result will also be rescinded. If the documents are found to be false or fraudulent after the scholar starts to receive the scholarship, the payment of the scholarship will be cancelled and the return of partial or full scholarship up to that point may be required.

(1) Application form (prescribed form with photograph)

University/graduate school name, major/field course, faculty advisor or admission office you are applying to must be clearly mentioned.

(2) Copy of submitted admission application form for the intended university / graduate school.

● Applicants who have not submitted the forms to the university / graduate school will not be accepted.

● If unable to apply to the intended university/graduate school due to the institution's application schedules, a copy of submitted application form for admission must be presented promptly after applying to the intended university/institution. If a copy of application is not presented, the applicant will be disqualified.

(3) Research plan (prescribed form)

Must be submitted by both undergraduate and graduate students.

Theme : Undergraduate students

“What I want to study at the university or my study plan”

Graduate students

“Plans of research at the graduate school • Current status of research”

(4) Scholarship essay “Objective for studying in Japan” (prescribed form).

(5) Letter of recommendation (prescribed form).

Letters of recommendation from applicant or family members will not be accepted.

Letters without a hand-written signature of the recommender will not be accepted.

【Undergraduate】

One recommendation letter from the (i)~(iii) below must be submitted.

(i) The school you were enrolled in most recently in your country

(ii) Most recent workplace in your country

(iii) Teacher/staff member of your intended university in Japan

【Graduate】

A letter of recommendation from a prospective supervisor of your intended graduate school must be submitted.

If a letter of recommendation from a supervisor cannot be obtained because the supervisor will be appointed after you enter the graduate school, you must notify the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat in advance. If you submit, without notifying the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat, a letter of recommendation written by a person other than the supervisor, this application will be disqualified.

(6) Copy of letter of acceptance by the prospective Japanese institution

* If the acceptance letter has not been issued at the time of application, it will only be accepted by the following deadline.

I. Applicants for April 2023: March 25, 2023

II. Applicants for September/October/ 2023: August 25, 2023

- (7) Copy of the document certifying Japanese language proficiency
Those who have undertaken the Japanese Language Proficiency Test or similar Japanese language proficiency tests must submit a copy of the result notification.
- It is not necessary for those who have not undertaken the test to provide the above documents.
 - A notification copy of the test results on English proficiency is not required.

7. Application Procedure

- (1) Application forms may be downloaded from the Yoneyama Scholarship secretariat website
<http://www.rotary-yoneyama.or.jp/english/overseas>
- (2) Enter information on the dedicated forms on the Yoneyama Scholarship secretariat website and upload the application documentation.

- ① Application form (mandatory)
- ② Copy of submitted admission application form for the intended university/graduate school (mandatory)
- ③ Research plan (mandatory)
- ④ Scholarship essay (mandatory)
- ⑤ Letter of recommendation (mandatory)
- ⑥ Copy of letter of acceptance (mandatory, to be submitted by the deadline)
- ⑦ Copy of the document certifying Japanese language proficiency

- Those who have not undertaken the Japanese Language Proficiency Test do not need to submit ⑦.
 - If acceptance by the intended institution is scheduled to be announced after the application deadline, the application will be accepted only if the scheduled announcement date is specified in the application form. After the acceptance is announced, you must promptly submit a copy of the admission letter.
- (3) Your application number will be notified by the Yoneyama Scholarship secretariat by return email. An email notifying that your application has been received will not be sent. This number must be used in order to submit additional documents when required or to make further inquiries.

8. Application Period

From: 13:00 JST on Saturday, October 1, 2022

To: 13:00 JST on Monday, October 31, 2022

9. Selections

Generally, selections are performed based on the document review. However, it is the District Selection Committee's decision to take further procedures, such as online interviews, telephone and/or email questionings to the applicant and/or the supervisor.

- Incomplete application documents will not be considered valid for the selection.
- If a candidate fails to enter the intended university, or if the appropriate enrollment procedures are not taken, the applicant loses eligibility for application.
- If a successful candidate (or a tentatively successful candidate) declines to receive the scholarship, another candidate on a waiting list may become entitled to receive the scholarship. However, the deadline for this advancement is the district orientation date (in April).

10. Selection Results

To Be Notified by the Middle of March 2023

Selection results will be notified to the applicants by email, and a certificate of eligibility will be issued to the successful applicants by the end of March 2023.

If the admission decision has not been made by the intended institution in Japan, the conditional selection result will be notified to the successful applicants.

Inquiries on the results will not be responded.

11. Arrival in Japan and Payment of Scholarship

Successful applicants must arrive in Japan prior to the last day of the month before the designated month of admission.

In general, changes to the arrival schedule to Japan are not accepted.

If not entering in Japan by the designated date, the applicant will lose the eligibility automatically.

However, if there is any difficulty in doing so, you must notify the Yoneyama Scholarship Foundation in advance.

- i April enrollment: Arrive in Japan by March 31
(Scholarship commences on April 1.)
- ii September enrollment: Arrive in Japan by August 31
(Scholarship commences on September 1.)
- iii October enrollment: Arrive in Japan by September 30
(Scholarship commences on October 1.)

Yoneyama Foundation secretariat does not undertake procedures for entry into Japan.

It is your responsibility to contact the intended institution and check procedures to apply for the “Certificate of Eligibility”.

To successful applicants, a notification including monthly scholarships, subsidies and scholarship terms will be issued from the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat by the end of March. This document proves your ability to pay the expenses, and it may be submitted to the intended institution if necessary.

Reference: “Student Guide to Japan” 2021-2022”
by Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)
https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study_j/sgtj.html

12. Contact Information

Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation

Please contact us through the inquiry form found in the below website.

<http://www.rotary-yoneyama.or.jp/english/overseas#inquiry>