

Rotary Yoneyama Scholarship for Overseas Candidate

to enroll into a Japanese university or graduate school in **April / September /
October 2025**

The Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation

The private organization that provides one of the largest international scholarships in Japan, both in terms of its program scale and the number of scholarships awarded, supported by contributions of Rotarians throughout Japan. Proudly support 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 36,983 with 1,184,368 members as of May 14, 2024. Japan's first Rotary club was established in Tokyo in 1920. There are 2,205 clubs with 83,895 members in Japan as of the end of April 2024.

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 (hereinafter referred to as “Overseas Scholarship”) was established as a special program to support overseas students from various countries and regions who are eager to study in Japan but cannot decide to do so for financial reasons. Also, the support for the overseas students starts from the first academic year after they arrive in Japan in order to alleviate their difficulties.

The Overseas Scholarship provides both financial and personal support (through counseling offered by the 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 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. Yoneyama Alumni Associations

After the Yoneyama Scholarship Period, Scholars can expand their network through the Yoneyama 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, Myanmar and Vietnam.

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 Scholarship Programs 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 24,000 scholarship recipients from 133 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. However, under the decision of the District Selection Committee, the committee may conduct online interviews with 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 2025, 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 enter Japan for study purposes and hold a “Student” visa status.
- ③ Those who reside outside of Japan 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 before the month the scholarship commences.

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

① If your previous stay in Japan has not exceeded 31 days in total before the month the scholarship commences.

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

(This applies only up to 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 2025 with the intention to pursue a degree by attending the regular courses. Those who have been issued an acceptance letter or an admission permit, or are planning to take the examination to enter the intended institution.

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

※ Those who plan to enter or transfer to the institution of higher

education other than universities are not eligible. Such institutions include junior colleges, vocational schools, technical colleges, preparatory courses, and so on.

(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 in Japan.

(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 enhance interaction with others as a Yoneyama Scholar.
(JLPT N4 level or above is desirable)

(7) Age limit

Applicant must be born after April 2, 1980. (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.

- ① You cannot receive the Yoneyama Scholarship at the same time as scholarships from other institutions or grants of the same type offered to individuals (hereinafter referred to as “other scholarships”). However, the following are not considered as other scholarships: study grants by the local government that all international students in Japan are eligible for; one-time rewards, incentives, or prizes for academic contributions; tuition waiver (reduction), entrance fee waiver (reduction), or equivalent scholarships by the university; and research grants that are used only for expenses directly related to the research. The scholarship for promotion of international students (“Program for the Promotion of Acceptance of International Students“ by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) is not considered as other scholarship, so the Scholar cannot receive it in conjunction with the Yoneyama Scholarship. Note that you can apply for the Yoneyama Scholarship even if you are receiving other scholarship at the time of application, but if you expect to receive double scholarships for the scholarship period, you must choose one or the other after you are accepted.
- ② Research grants that include non-direct expenses necessary for research, and university grants other than tuition waiver (reduction), entrance fee waiver (reduction), or other equivalent offerings will be judged based on the scholarship amount. The annual amount of less than 576,000 yen (less than the amount equivalent to the former Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's scholarship for international students under the “Program for the Promotion of Acceptance of International Students”) can be received by the university or graduate school in conjunction with the Yoneyama Scholarship. No more than this amount is allowed. If the Scholar receives multiple scholarships or grants, the total amount received will be considered.

- ③ Loan-type scholarships can be offered to the Yoneyama Scholar in conjunction with the Yoneyama Scholarship.
- ④ Compensation that the Scholar received for activities such as teaching assistant, research assistant, intern, or community activities by local international exchange associations are not considered double payments. However, the scholarship can be provided on condition that the Scholar fulfills the obligations as stipulated in the “Pledge”, and the scholarship will be terminated if the obligations are not met.
- ⑤ If the Scholar receives other scholarship at the same time as the Yoneyama Scholarship, qualification as the Yoneyama Scholar will be revoked, and the Scholar must pay back the full amount of the Scholarship for the overlapping period with other scholarship.

Type of scholarship	Other scholarships acceptable?
a. Other scholarships	× Not acceptable regardless of the scholarship amount. The scholarship for promotion of international students (“Program for the Promotion of Acceptance of International Students” offered by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) is

Type of scholarship	Other scholarships acceptable?
	considered as other scholarship, thus not acceptable.
b. Study grants by the local government that all international students in Japan are eligible for	○ Acceptable
c. Study grants by the local government that the selected international students in Japan are eligible for	× Not acceptable
d. Tuition waiver (reduction), entrance fee waiver (reduction), or equivalent scholarships	○ Acceptable
e. One-time rewards, incentives, or prizes for academic contributions	○ Acceptable
f. Research grants that are used only for expenses directly related to the research	○ Acceptable
g. University's research grants and scholarships (other than d, e, and f)	△ Will be judged based on the scholarship amount. ○ Less than 576,000 yen × Equal to or more than 576,000 yen
h. Loan-type scholarships	○ Acceptable. Scholarships with a clear repayment obligation are

Type of scholarship	Other scholarships acceptable?
	acceptable.
<p>i. Compensation that the Scholar received for activities such as teaching assistant, research assistant, intern, or community activities by local international exchange associations</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Acceptable on condition that the Scholar fulfills the obligations as stipulated in the "Pledge". The Scholarship will be terminated if the obligations are not met.</p>

Financial support in case of emergencies such as epidemics, natural disasters, and political instability may not be applicable to the above conditions. Contact the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat for details.

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

I. If the expected enrollment is April 2025, the deadline is
March 1, 2025

II. If the expected enrollment is September/October 2025, the deadline is August 1, 2025

(9) Ineligibility of previous Yoneyama Scholars

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

(10) Obligations of Yoneyama Scholars

Yoneyama Scholars are required to fulfill the following obligations:

- ① Attend the *sewa* club regular meetings in the sponsor district at least once a month.
- ② Submit a scholar's report twice a year in Japanese.
- ③ Give speeches at the *sewa* club regular meetings. Also, enhance mutual understanding with Rotarians by actively engaging in the club and district activities.
- ④ Abide by the requirements specified in the "Pledge".

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 amount

- ① Undergraduates: 100,000 yen per month
- ② Master's students: 140,000 yen per month
- ③ Doctoral students: 140,000 yen per month

(2) Supplemental payment for airfare

For successful applicants, up to 250,000 yen will be subsidized for actual expenses. After arrival in Japan, successful applicants must promptly submit all receipts, etc. that show the cost incurred to the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat. Travel expenses to Japan will be provided by the *sewa* club.

Supplemental payment covers:

- ① Economy class airfare (one-way)
- ② Travel expenses in home country and Japan
- ③ Visa fees
- ④ Accommodation on the first day in Japan (up to 10,000 yen).

Airfare may include connecting flight ticket fares in home country and Japan.

※Travel expenses include public transportation but exclude taxi fares in principle.

※Excess baggage fees are not covered by the Scholarship.

(3) Scholarship period

April 2025 enrollment

Two years (April 2025 – March 2027)

September / October 2025 enrollment

Two years (September 2025 –August 2027 OR
October 2025 –September 2027)

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 to more than one university/graduate school, you must submit a full set of documents from (1) to (8) for each 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 reimbursement of partial or full scholarship up to that point may be required.

(1) Application form (prescribed form with a photograph)

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

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

- Applicants who have not submitted the admission application form or the examination ticket 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 schedule, you must state the examination schedule in the application document and provide a copy of the application form that you submitted to the university within two weeks after the application deadline. If a copy of application form is not presented, the applicant will be disqualified.

(3) Application guidelines of the prospective university

Submit the university's application guidelines along with a copy of the application form or the examination ticket.

(4) 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

“Research plan at the graduate school or the current status of my research”

(5) Essay “Why I chose to study in Japan. My future plan after studying in Japan.” (prescribed form)

(6) Recommendation letter (prescribed form)

【Undergraduate】

At least one recommendation letter from (i)~(iii) below must be submitted.

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

(ii) Most recent employer in your country

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

【Graduate】

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

If a recommendation letter from a supervisor cannot be obtained because the supervisor will be appointed after you enter the graduate school, you may submit a recommendation letter from (i)~(iii) as shown above for the undergraduate students. If you submit other form of recommendation letter, it will be disqualified.

Recommendation letter from applicant or family members will not be accepted. Letters without a hand-written signature of the recommender will not be accepted.

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

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

I. April 2025 enrollment: March 25, 2025

II. September/October 2025 enrollment: August 25, 2025

(8) Copy of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) certificate, if applicable

Those who have taken the Japanese Language Proficiency Test must submit a copy of the results.

- It is not necessary for those who have not taken the test to provide the above documents.
- A copy of the results on the English proficiency test is not required.

7. Application Procedure

(1) Application forms may be downloaded from the Yoneyama

Scholarship secretariat website

<https://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 the submitted admission application form or the examination ticket for the intended university/graduate school (mandatory)
- ③ Application guidelines of the prospective university
- ④ Research plan (mandatory)
- ⑤ Essay (mandatory)
- ⑥ Recommendation letter (mandatory)
- ⑦ Copy of the acceptance letter (mandatory, to be submitted by the deadline)
- ⑧ Copy of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test Results

- ⑦ If acceptance by the intended institution is scheduled to be announced after the deadline for the Yoneyama Scholarship application, such application will be accepted only if the institution's scheduled announcement date is specified in the application form. After the acceptance is announced, you must promptly submit a copy of the admission letter.
- ⑧ is not required if you have not taken the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

- (3) Your application number will be notified by the Yoneyama Scholarship secretariat by return email.

This number must be used in order to submit additional documents, when required, or to make further inquiries.

- (4) An email notifying that your application has been received will not be sent. Application is complete when all the application forms have been uploaded.

8. Application Period

From: 13:00 JST, October 1, 2024

To: 13:00 JST, October 31, 2024

9. Selections

- 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 2025

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 2025.

If the admission decision has not been made by the intended institution in Japan, a 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.

Your previous stay in Japan must not exceed 31 days in total before the month the scholarship commences.

※Even after the Scholarship is granted, you must abide by 4-(2) “History of residency in Japan”. Also, you will be disqualified if you do not attend the district orientations.

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 Foundation secretariat 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 on behalf of the students.

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: STUDY IN JAPAN Basic Guide

by Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study_j/sgtj.html

12. Contact Information

For inquiries on application details and qualifications, please contact the Yoneyama Foundation secretariat at:

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

奨学生番号:

奨学生氏名:

所属地区	
学校・課程・学年	
奨学金支給期間	
奨学金種類・金額	

確 約 書 PLEDGE

As a Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Scholar (Scholar), I honor international understanding, friendship, and peace, which are the core values of the Rotary and the Yoneyama Memorial Foundation (Foundation), while sincerely observing the obligations and responsibilities of the Scholars. I pledge to understand and observe the points listed below.

- 1 I perform the following obligations as a Scholar. If I fail to do so without a valid reason, I agree that my scholarship will be withdrawn.
 - (1) Attend my *sewa* club's regular meetings at least once a month to interact with the club members.
 - (2) Respond to the Foundation, the Rotary district, my *sewa* club or my counselor promptly when contacted by them.
 - (3) Submit my Yoneyama Scholar's Activity Report in September and the following February every year.
 - (4) Give a scheduled speech (*takuwa*) in a sincere manner at a regular club meeting when requested to do so.
 - (5) Attend the Rotary district and the *sewa* club events.
- 2 I follow the following rules as a Scholar, which was established by the Foundation. I also agree that my scholarship will be withdrawn if one or more of the following conditions apply. I fully understand these rules which were explained during the orientation.
 - (1) Violate the Foundation's rules on leaving Japan. (The number of days allowed to leave Japan is up to 60 days per year. If there is a compelling reason, you must submit a request to the Foundation so that you will be allowed to leave Japan for up to 90 days per year.)
 - (2) Violate the Foundation's rules on leave of absence (Leave of absence from school is allowed up to 185 days, except for military service or other special reasons.)
 - (3) Violate the Foundation's rules on overseas study. (Up to 185 days may be approved.)
- 3 I agree that my scholarship will terminate if one or more of the following conditions apply:
 - (1) Change the school, course, or department that I am enrolled in.
 - (2) Get suspended or expelled from school.
 - (3) Fail to advance to the next academic year due to poor academic performance.
 - (4) Receive a scholarship or similar academic grant from another organization. (The Yoneyama stipend must be returned for the period of double scholarships.)
 - (5) Behave inappropriately as a Scholar.
 - (6) Find employment and start working.
 - (7) Lose the "Student" visa status (including the "Trainee" or "Cultural Activities" visa for the District Support Scholars), or the "Refugee" status. However, this is not limited to cases where the Scholar changes status of residence for the purpose of employment and is not paid during the scholarship period.
 - (8) I complete the course or obtain the degree during my tenure.
- 4 I will keep a close bond with the Rotary and maintain a lasting relationship with my *sewa* club and my counselor after the scholarship is completed. I will post any changes in my contact information on the Foundation's dedicated website.

20 年 月 日

公益財団法人ロータリー米山記念奨学会 御中
奨学生署名(日本語でご記入ください)