

19 December 2014

In 2014, MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan) launched a scholarship programme for university students\*, initially selecting 323 individuals with a further 500 to be chosen by February 2015. Following the successful launch of these scholarships, MEXT now plans to introduce a new scholarship programme targeted at senior high school students. This market report provides a brief overview of the new scholarship scheme.

\*Please visit <http://britishcouncil.or.jp/data/tobitate-ryugaku-scholarship.pdf> for more details on the scholarships for university students.

## **Background**

“Tobitate Ryugaku Japan” (“トビタテ! 留学 Japan” in Japanese) is a major media campaign run by MEXT to encourage Japanese university and senior high school students to study abroad as part of a strategy to double the number of students studying overseas by 2020. The government has set a clear target of doubling the number of students studying abroad from the current 60,000 to 120,000 for university students, and 30,000 to 60,000 for senior high school students.

As part of this campaign, MEXT has launched a special scholarship programme - “Japan Public-Private Partnership Student Study Abroad Program TOBITATE! Young Ambassador Programme” (官民協働海外留学支援制度 トビタテ! 留学 JAPAN 日本代表プログラム in Japanese) – with a budget of JPY8.8 billion (50 million GBP) matched by JPY20 billion (116 million GBP) worth of funding from the corporate sector in 2014. The scholarship aims to fund 10,000 Japanese students by 2020.

## **Scholarships for Senior High School (SHS) Students Overview**

*\*As the budget for the scholarship has not been confirmed and the details of the scholarship are subject to change, we recommend the information below be used for reference only.*

### **1. How does the TOBITATE! Scholarship compare to existing government scholarships for SHS students?**

	<b>Existing government scholarship</b>		<b>TOBITATE! Scholarship 2014</b>
1. Allocation	Long-term: 300 Short-term: 1,300	⇒	300 (4 categories)
2. Period of study supported	Long-term: 1 year Short-term: 2 weeks – less than 1 year	⇒	14 days – less than 3 months (more than 1 month recommended)
3. Funding	Long-term: 300,000JPY per person Short-term: 100,000JPY per person	⇒	Monthly allowance: 80,000JPY to 140,000JPY Air fare: 200,000JPY Tuition fees: Max 300,000JPY
4. Selection based on	Academic performance and programme content		Study plan, quality of applicant

## 2. Programme Categories

### **Academic:**

Supporting study abroad experiences such as summer schools and science programmes offered by universities. Students are expected to participate together with local students.

Desired qualities:

- Students who demonstrate intellectual curiosity
- Students with the potential to achieve academic excellence

Number of students: 150

### **[Example provided by MEXT]**

#### Stanford High School Summer College

“High School Summer College participants enrol as visiting undergraduates in Stanford’s Summer Quarter and take the same courses as matriculated Stanford students taught by Stanford faculty. Students interact with peers from across the U.S. and around the world, and have ample opportunity to explore the unique recreational activities available on campus and in the culturally rich San Francisco Bay Area. “

Course duration: 8 weeks (20 June -16 August 2015)

Eligibility: 16-19 years old

### **Sports & Art:**

Supporting opportunities to learn from world leading athletes / artists and to interact with young athletes / artists in settings such as training centres, international camps, world championships and international competitions.

Desired qualities:

- Students who demonstrate ambition
- Students who have the potential to achieve excellence in a sport / art related activity

Number of students: 50

### **[Example provided by MEXT]**

#### English study plus NIKE sports camp

Participants attend English class (15 hours per week) in the morning and join the Nike Camp (softball, volleyball, basketball, soccer and tennis) in the afternoon to receive intensive sports training.

Course duration: 3 weeks

Eligibility: 13-17 years old

*\*English Plus Courses that include sports/art activities may meet the requirements for this category*

**Professional:**

Supporting learning / training opportunities in a technical area such as tourism, IT, culinary arts and mechanics.

Desired qualities:

- Students interested in a professional career

\*Particularly those who belong to a technical high school, National College of Technology (Year1-3) or Upper Secondary Specialized Training School

Number of students: 50

**[Example provided by MEXT]**

French study plus cooking lesson at Lenotre

Participants attend cooking classes (8 hours a week) at a famous delicatessen in Paris while taking French lessons in the morning.

Course duration: 8-29 days

*\*English Plus Courses that include training elements may meet the requirements for this category*

**International Volunteer:**

Supporting research on global issues. Students are expected to explore possible solutions to a specific problem through interacting with local students, NPOs and NGOs.

Desired qualities:

- Students who have a strong interest in contributing to society

Number of students: 50

*\*Japanese students who visit the UK on a Student Visitor visa are not permitted to engage in work whether it is paid or unpaid. Therefore this category may not be applicable to UK institutions.*

### 3. Eligibility:

- Study must commence during the period between late June 2015 and late March 2016
- The length of study should be from 14 days to a maximum of 3 months<sup>1</sup> (more than 1 month is recommended)
- A host institution should be arranged prior to application
- The study plan needs to be prepared or accepted by the applicant's home institution as part of the formal curriculum
- Japanese citizens / permanent residents
- Students who belong to their school as a regular student

### 4. Grants

Monthly allowance: 80,000JPY (430GBP) to 140,000\* JPY (755GBP)

\*Depending on place of study

40,000JPY to 70,000JPY for programmes shorter than 28 days

Contribution to return air fare: 200,000JPY (1,080GBP)

Tuition fees:

Maximum allowance: 300,000JPY (1,620GBP)

\*The grants cannot be used for commission fees for agents.

### 5. Application

Each school prepares a study abroad plan or approves their student's plan as part of the formal curriculum. Study plans need to be submitted through prefectural governments to the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

Supporting documents:

- Personal statement
- Reference from the Head of the school
- Academic transcripts

### 6. Selection

Selection will be made by a committee of experts based on the applicant's study abroad plan and their respective qualities (e.g. achievements, skills, motivation and interest in contributing to society)

### 7. Schedule

October 2014 - : Scholarship promotion starts

Early January 2015: Application period opens

Early March 2015: Application period closes

Early March – early May 2015: Application screening

Mid-May 2015: Results announced

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<sup>1</sup> According to MEXT, the majority of students will be participating in 2 – 4 week programmes during the Summer (end July to end August) and Spring (March) holidays.

Early June 2015: Pre-departure training  
Late June 2015 - : Study abroad programme starts