

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF THE RYUKYUS
Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program
(DOCTORAL PROGRAM)

(MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP, Special Program Recommendation)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program, which is organized jointly by the fields of Biosciences and Environmental Sciences, offers an opportunity for graduate study to students from abroad by instructing all courses in English.

Upon enrollment, candidates will be each assigned to an advisor who will direct their thesis research in the designated field of specialization. The degree of Doctor of Science/Philosophy will be awarded in recognition of thesis research and course work including seminars with a minimum of 12 credit hours. Some of the courses may include laboratory work and training.

Before deciding the field and the topic of research, applicants are encouraged and recommended to contact appropriate supervisor(s) listed in the Faculty Members.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION (October 2024)

1. Number of International Students for Admission

A total of 3 students, supported by the scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), will be accepted for enrollment under the Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program in the Graduate School of Engineering and Science.

2. Qualifications Required for Applicants

- (1) Prospective applicants are advised to contact a potential thesis advisor at the University of the Ryukyus for consultation on research themes and plans; applicants without an advisor's prior approval may not receive full consideration during the admission screening.
- (2) Nationality: Nationals of those nations recognized under the foreign scholarship program of MEXT, mainly those from ASEAN member states.
- (3) Age Limit: Applicants must be under 35 years of age as of April 1, 2024, i.e. born after April 2, 1989.
- (4) Education: Applicants for the Graduate Program leading to a Doctoral Degree should have or be receiving a Master's Degree or an equivalent degree, as of September 30, 2024.
Those who have completed 16 years of formal education at an institution of education located in a foreign country, have engaged in research at a university, a research institution, a research institute of a private company, or other research and development facilities for more than two years, and have been deemed to possess academic skills that are equivalent to, or of a higher level than that of a person who has been conferred a Master's degree through the research performance, by the application qualification screening conducted by the Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus*.
- (5) Health: Applicants should be physically and mentally able to pursue study at university.
- (6) Language Proficiency: Applicants should be fluent in English and must meet any of the following requirements.
 - a) Applicants must have achieved scores in an English language proficiency test that

correspond to B2 or higher level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing skills by the time of application.

- b) Applicants must have earned a master's degree or an equivalent degree that meets the requirements for admission in doctoral course at a Japanese graduate school, with the medium of instruction in English.
- (7) Time Limit for Arrival in Japan: Applicants should arrive in Japan within two weeks before and after October 1, 2024. Arrival dates may change at the direction of the MEXT based on the COVID-19 situation.
- (8) Those who can guarantee their admission to the university if they are accepted.

***About Application Qualification Screening**

If you do not have a Master's Degree or an equivalent degree, you need to have the Application Qualification Screening. Please contact us to the e-mail address shown at the bottom of this guideline by December 11, 2023 with the following documents/information.

- 1) Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Publication list for books, papers, and thesis, with the reprint or copy of each publication

Remarks:

- 1) Military personnel and civilians in military employ are not eligible for the MEXT scholarship if they remain on duty (applications by such persons will be rejected).
- 2) Those who do not arrive within the time limit will be subject to cancellation of their scholarships.
- 3) Applicants already with financial support from their government or other organizations are not eligible for the MEXT scholarship.
- 4) Applicants who failed to graduate by September 30, 2024 will be subject to cancellation of their scholarships and admission.
- 5) Foreign nationals who currently reside in Japan are also eligible for application as "domestic applicants". However, not more than 2 "domestic applicants" can be admitted to the program.

[Definition of "domestic applicants"]

- ① Those who are staying in Japan with a medium- to long-term resident status at the time of application. Those who have their base of residence in Japan, not including tourists and short-term visitors who are staying in Japan for the purpose of taking entrance examinations, etc. It is irrelevant whether the applicant is residing in Japan from the time of after application to the start of scholarship payments.
- ② Applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application, but will come to Japan as a privately financed international students before the start of receiving scholarship payments.
 - If you are or will be in Japan as a privately financed international student, you must complete your program at the school you are enrolled or plan to enroll in before receiving scholarship payments.
 - Travel expenses will not be paid for domestic applicants, regardless of the reasons stated in ① and ②. If applicants return to their country of nationality after applying under condition ①, however, there are no exceptions if students return to Japan before scholarship payments begin.

3. Scholarship and Expenses

- (1) A monthly stipend of 145,000* JPY for three years during Doctoral Program will be awarded. However, this may be suspended during periods of leave of absence or when a grantee remains off campus for prolonged periods without authorization.

*The monthly stipend mentioned above is the expected amount. It may change by the time of enrollment or while attending school.

- (2) Travel Expenses

- 1) Onward Travel: an economy class air ticket, from the international airport closest to the grantee's home to New Tokyo International Airport (or another international airport if more economical), will be given.
- 2) Return Travel: an economy class air ticket, from New Tokyo International Airport (or another international airport) to the closest international airport to the grantee's home, will be given to those who will be leaving after the scholarship period and before the expiry of the time limit designated by MEXT.

Remarks:

- 1) Domestic travels in the grantee's country and in Okinawa are the grantee's own expenses.
- 2) Fees for travel insurances of both onward and return trips should be paid by the grantee.
- 3) Onward travel expenses will not be given by MEXT to those who have already arrived in Japan as recipients of MEXT scholarship in the master's course at the time of application. In addition, travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid upon their successful extension of scholarship period to further education.

4. Application

All of the following documents should be sent via e-mail to and must be received by the Graduate School of Engineering and Science of the University of the Ryukyus before the December 22, 2023 deadline.

- (1) Completed Application Form (use the form supplied) · · · Form I-1, II-1, III
- (2) Health Certificate (by public hospital within the past 6 months) · · · Form IV
- (3) Certificate of Graduation or Diploma (undergraduate and/or graduate) or Certified Letter from the university at which the applicant is currently enrolled stating the expected graduation date.
- (4) Official Academic Transcript (undergraduate and/or graduate) from the university with their English translation.

A GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) must be issued by the university authorities.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{A \times 3 \text{ points} \times \text{course credits} + B \times 3 \text{ points} \times \text{course credits} + C \times 2 \text{ points} \times \text{course credits} + D \times 1 \text{ point} \times \text{course credits}}{\text{Total Credits Earned}}$$

Grading Scale

A	.....	Excellent (90-100)	3 Points
B	.....	Good (80-89)	3 Points
C	.....	Average (70-79)	2 Points
D	.....	Passing (60-69)	1 Point
F	.....	Failure (0-59)	0 Points

- (5) Copy of an applicant's passport.
- (6) Letter of Recommendation, addressed to the president of the University of the Ryukyus, by the dean or the head of the university/institution. (Form V)
- (7) Letter(s) of Reference from the major professor and/or supervisor who has personal knowledge of the applicant.
- (8) Photograph (upper front figure without hat taken within 6 months, passport size 4.5cm × 3.5cm) with the applicant's name and nationality written on the reverse side and to be fixed on the specified part of the application form (an electronic data will be accepted).
- (9) AN OFFICIAL TOEFL SCORE of 72 (Internet-based Test) or IELTS SCORE of 5.5 or above or an equivalent or higher score on an equivalent test for an applicant whose instructional language at the home institution is NOT English. An original or a certified copy of an official score report is required to be submitted.

A certificate indicating the medium of instruction is English issued by the university authority

can be substituted for a TOEFL score for an applicant whose instructional language at the home institution is English.

(10) Publication list (Form VI)

State author's name(s), publication year, title, name of journal (vol. and no.), name and address (city name) of publisher (if a book or chapter), and page numbers. *Attach documents that can confirm the title, author's name(s) etc. E.g. the first page of the PDF of the paper, etc.

Remarks:

- 1) The above documents should be written or typed in English on the supplied forms.
- 2) All documents should be prepared in English. For documents that cannot be prepared in English, a separate English translation should be attached.
- 3) Letters of recommendation and reference should indicate English proficiency of the applicants as excellent, good, or fair. However, submission is not required if an applicant a recipient of MEXT scholarship in the master's program through Special Program Recommendation.
- 4) The information for documents (1), (2), (6) and (10) must be written on the forms provided.
- 5) Applications will not be accepted if any of the above documents are incomplete, incorrect, or lacking supporting evidence. They will not be accepted if they arrive after the deadline.
- 6) All submitted documents will be retained and will not be returned to applicants.
- 7) Those who apply for this MEXT scholarship should not apply for other scholarship programs at the same, and vice versa.

5. Application Deadline

17:00, December 22, 2023 (Japan Standard Time)

6. Selection and Admission

- (1) Applicants will be evaluated by the screening committee of the program based on their submitted documents and online interviews including a presentation. Only those who have a solid academic background and research capability will be contacted for online interviews. The online interview will be scheduled between 11th January and 12th January, 2024.
- (2) The results of selection by the screening committee and the graduate school committee will be announced to individuals in February 2024. The final decision by MEXT will be announced to candidates through the University of the Ryukyus in July 2024.

Remarks:

- 1) If an applicant is admitted as a MEXT scholarship student of the University of the Ryukyus and another university, MEXT will cancel the scholarship appointment for all universities.
- 2) Applicants selected by MEXT as grantee must enroll in the program.
- 3) Those who apply for University of the Ryukyus are not allowed to apply for any other universities as the MEXT scholarship student.

7. Scholarship Conditions

An enrolled student will be subject to cancellation of his/her scholarship when:

- (1) A serious falsehood is found in the application documents (in this case, admission may be cancelled even after enrollment).
- (2) A student breaks the pledge declared to MEXT.
- (3) A student is subjected to a disciplinary action or is judged by the Faculty of Science as not being able to continue his/her research in the program.

8. Other Notes

- (1) Successful applicants are expected to study and understand the geography, climate customs and habits of Okinawa as well as the general features and conditions of the University of the Ryukyus.
- (2) The International House and university dormitory may be available for accommodation at reasonable cost if there are vacancies.
- (3) The areas of research conducted by the faculty members and curricula of the program are outlined in the following section.
- (4) Grantees are expected to complete their Doctoral Program within three years. No extension of the term of scholarship will be available.

9. Security Export Control

The University of the Ryukyus adheres to the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA)" and thus conducts security export control in order to maintain international peace and security. Thus, research and education content of overseas students may be changed in certain cases to adhere to these regulations.

Correspondence

Applications must be sent via e-mail.

All correspondence related to this application should be addressed to:

Academic Affairs Unit (Faculty of Science)
Graduate School of Engineering and Science
University of the Ryukyus
1 Senbaru
Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213
Japan

Phone: +81-98-895-8595

E-mail: rggakmu@acs.u-ryukyu.ac.jp