

The Toshiozo Watanabe International Scholarship

Application Guidelines for FY2026

Application Deadline 5th (Mon) Jan 2026, 11:59pm



公益財団法人

パスウェイズ・ジャパン

PATHWAYS JAPAN

1. Overview of this Scholarship Program

The Toshizo Watanabe International Scholarship Program is a scholarship funded by Pathways Japan, a general public interest incorporated foundation, based on a donation from Mr. Toshizo Watanabe, to support young people from refugee backgrounds to pursue higher education. The purpose of this scholarship is to support young people who have gone through the difficult experience of becoming refugees, but who continue to study and strive to contribute to society in the future. Among them, the scholarship is mainly targeted to those with limited time visa status who have traditionally had limited opportunities to apply for scholarships in Japan, and we support them to live and work in Japanese society in the future with self-dignity through further education and employment.

2. Eligibility for Application: A person who meets all of the following criteria

- ❖ A person with a refugee background who is living in Japan with a status of residence such as Student, Designated Activities, Engineering/Humanities/International Service, or accompanied family etc.

(A person who falls into one of the following categories)

- Persons who have been recognized as refugees or granted international protection by a foreign government or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) outside of Japan.
 - Those admitted to Japan through the Complementary Pathways Program.
 - Those who are unable to return to their home country due to conflict or political upheaval.
- ❖ Completion of 12 years of formal education in a foreign country or Japan, or expected to complete such education by March of the year of admission, or those who are recognized by the scholarship selection committee as having equivalent or better qualifications.
 - ❖ Those who have difficulty attending higher education in Japan due to financial reasons*.
 - ❖ Applicants must have the basic Japanese language and other language skills necessary for employment after graduation from higher education.
 - Undergraduate applicants whose academic language medium is in Japanese: EJU (Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students) or JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) required subjects for university exams.
 - Undergraduate applicants whose academic language medium is in English: Tests proving the required English proficiency and JLPT N5-4 level or higher (or equivalent proof)
 - Graduate applicants: Test score to prove the required English proficiency and JLPT N5-4 level or higher (or equivalent proof)

- Those who have been accepted to a university or graduate school in Japan, whether before or after being selected as a scholarship recipient for this scholarship.

*This scholarship does not apply to those who are eligible for the “New Student Support System for Higher Education (修学支援新制度)” by the Japanese government、etc.

3. Number of scholars

- ❖ About 7 scholars (depending on the number of students who receive scholarships in combination with other scholarships, etc.)

4. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Tuition and Fees

1,700,000 yen or less per year (Other expenses required by the educational institution, such as facility management and maintenance fees, laboratory training fees, etc., will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the financial situation).

*The amount of the scholarship will be determined after taking into consideration the applicant's financial situation at the time of application and receipt of other scholarships, etc.

(2) Subsidy for living expenses in accordance with regulations

- ❖ 1-2 years of undergraduate study: up to 70,000 yen per month
- ❖ Undergraduate 3 years: up to 60,000 yen/month
- ❖ Undergraduate 4 years and graduate: up to 50,000 yen per month

*The amount of the scholarship will be determined after taking into consideration the applicant's financial situation at the time of application and receipt of other scholarships, etc.

*Not required to repay the scholarship as it is a benefit-type scholarship.

*Combination with other scholarships: Combination is possible. This scholarship covers the difference between the amount of support provided by other scholarships and the amount specified by our foundation's standards. Efforts to obtain other scholarships, etc. will be encouraged and evaluated.

(3) Benefit period

- ❖ Up to 4 years from FY2026 (April 2026 - March 2027) (within graduation requirement years for graduate students)

(4) Benefit method

- ❖ Depending on the determined benefit amount, the Foundation will pay the full amount of the enrollment and tuition fees directly to the educational institution.
- ❖ Depending on the determined benefit amount, monthly living expense assistance will be provided in accordance with the regulations.

5. Application requirements

- ❖ Possess the academic and language skills necessary for study and research at the university, and expect to improve them thereafter and graduate within four years (or the prescribed number of years for graduate school).
- ❖ Have a strong will to study and a clear field of interest.
- ❖ Have ambitious and achievable goals for the future and a spirit of contribution and service to society
- ❖ Those who are in a more vulnerable situation in terms of finances, status of residence, family situation, etc. (Based on the above, applicants for undergraduate study will be given priority over those for graduate study.)

6. How to apply

Please fill in the required information on the "The Toshizo Watanabe International Scholarship" web form and upload and submit the following documents 1) to 8). (1) through (7) are mandatory documents to be submitted, and (8) is optional.

1) Application Form *Required Download the prescribed application form and submit the completed data by uploading it via the dedicated "The Toshizo Watanabe International Scholarship" web form.

2) Documents proving or explaining that you have a refugee background (certificate of recognition of refugee status or international protection outside Japan, documents proving that you are eligible for Complementary Pathways Program support, statement issued by a NGO, a letter explaining the difficulty of returning to the home country etc.) *Required

3) Final Academic Diploma/certificate (high school certificate, university undergraduate or graduate diploma or prospective certificate, or proof of equivalent status) *English or Japanese translation should be attached for documents in other languages. *Required

4) Final Academic transcript (high school, university undergraduate, university graduate or proof of equivalent status) *English or Japanese translation should be attached for documents in other languages *Required

5) ① Documents proving Japanese language proficiency (If necessary for the university examination, scores of EJU or JLPT required subjects, If taking examination in English, proof of current proficiency such as JLPT or other scores, study record at a Japanese language institute or explanatory documents from a Japanese language teacher)(JLPT N5-4 level or higher, or equivalent) *Required ② Documents proving English language proficiency (If required for the university examination, TOEFL, IELTS, or other scores. If not required for examination, submit a score that proves your current proficiency when available.)
★Required for applicants who will apply for undergraduate/graduate course in English medium. ★

6) Documents explaining that the household is in a difficult financial situation (tax certificate slip, pay slip, income statement etc.) *Required*.

7) 1-2 letters of recommendation (from one to two persons other than a family member or relative, such as a teacher or principal at a university or high school, a language teacher, a guarantor, or someone involved in volunteer activities.) *Required*.

8) Other documents for reference (social contribution activities, awards, proof of language proficiency, IT or other skills, past research achievements, art, music or sports prominent achievements, etc.) (optional)

*If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, you will be asked to submit the original application documents at a later stage.

*As a rule, application materials will not be returned.

*The personal information will be properly managed and disposed of in accordance with the Foundation's personal information protection regulations.

7. Recruitment schedule

- ❖ Application period: 27th Oct 2025 (Mon) – 5th Jan 2026(Mon) 11:59pm (deadline)
- ❖ Interview screening: 1st Feb 2026 (only for those who pass the document screening) (planned)
- ❖ Notification of final decision: Around 9th Feb 2026
- ❖ Scholarship benefits begin in April 2026 or later. (Entrance in Sep or Oct 2026 is also acceptable.)
 - *In case the tuition payment to the university needs to be made before the above mentioned date, please contact us for further consultation.
- ❖ Award ceremony: 18th Apr 2026 (Sat)

8. Selection Final decisions will be made after an initial screening of documents by the

- ❖ Foundation's selection committee and a second round of interviews following the document screening.
- ❖ The results of the first round of document screening and information about the interview screening for those who pass the first round will be sent to the e-mail address registered at the time of application.
- ❖ Notification of the final decision will be sent to the e-mail address registered at the time of application.
- ❖ The interview panel is expected to be held in person on 1st February 2025 (planned). The Foundation will cover the interview expenses (transportation, etc.).

9. Disqualification and Suspension Requirements for Scholarship Eligibility

- ❖ If you are not accepted to any of the universities you have been notified that you will be applying to, even if you have been notified that you have been selected.
- ❖ When falsehoods are found in documents submitted to Pathways Japan
- ❖ When a student transfers to another university, is expelled, or is suspended from university (However, unavoidable circumstances such as illness or accident will be taken into consideration.)

- ❖ When it is judged that the applicant is unlikely to succeed in his/her academic performance
- ❖ When the reason for receiving the scholarship has ceased to exist
- ❖ Other cases in which the Foundation deems the applicant to be inappropriate as a scholarship recipient.
- ❖ When a person fails to fulfill his or her obligations as stipulated by Pathways Japan

10. Scholars' obligations

- ❖ Notify Pathways Japan promptly when a scholar fails in academic requirement of a year, withdraws from university, takes a long leave of absence, or is suspended from university; when there is a change in name, address, contact information, or other important information; or when there is a reason to withdraw from status or scholarship eligibility.
- ❖ Provide a phone number and e-mail address where one can be reached.
- ❖ When applying for the monthly living assistance allowance, provide a brief report on the current status of your studies and living situation.
- ❖ Submit a copy of each semester's academic record and report on recent developments in your studies and life after meeting with a monitoring staff.
- ❖ If you receive scholarships or other financial aid from other institutions, notify us of the fund name and amount. Additionally, promptly notify us if you receive benefits such as tuition waivers under special student programs or new scholarships (in such cases, the amount of our scholarship will be reduced in proportion to the amount received or waived in other programs or institutions).
- ❖ Participate in the program's training and social events.
- ❖ To cooperate in activities to raise awareness of higher education and admission of people with refugee backgrounds into Japan, at least on one lecture, interview, or media coverage. (The scope of personal information to be disclosed will be determined by the scholar.)