

The Toshiozo Watanabe International Scholarship

Application Guidelines for FY2027

Application Deadline 14th (Mon) Dec 2026, 11:59pm(JST)



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: Persons who meet all of the following criteria

- ❖ Persons with a refugee background who are living in Japan with a status of residence such as Student, Designated Activities, Engineering/Humanities/International Service, or accompanied family etc.
- ❖ Those who fall into one of the following categories)
 - Those 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.
 - who were admitted to Japan through the Complementary Pathways Program.(*1)
 - who are unable to return to their home country due to conflict or political upheaval. (*2)
- ❖ Have completed 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.
- ❖ Have difficulties attending higher education in Japan due to financial reasons. (*3)
- ❖ Have Japanese and other language skills required for higher education and for career building in Japan after graduation, and can submit their exam scores or certificates.
 - Undergraduate applicants whose academic language medium is Japanese: EJU (Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students) or JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) required for entering the desired universities.
 - Undergraduate applicants whose academic language medium is English: English proficiency test score required for entering the desired universities and JLPT N4 level or higher (or equivalent proof) required for employment after graduation (*4)
 - Graduate applicants: English proficiency test score required for entering the desired universities and JLPT N4 level or higher (or equivalent proof) required for employment after graduation
- ❖ Have been accepted to a university or graduate school in Japan, whether before or after being selected as a scholarship recipient for this scholarship (or current

students.

(*1): Examples of the Complementary Pathways Program include “Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees” by JICA as well as “Language School Pathways” and “University Pathways” by Pathways Japan.

(*2): Examples of “Those who are unable to return to their home country due to conflict or political upheaval” include Afghans and Myanmar nationals who came to Japan as Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) government-sponsored students, participants in JICA study abroad programs, or privately funded students, and who are now unable to return home due to political upheaval or other circumstances in their home countries.

(*3): For individuals eligible to receive support under “New Student Support System for Higher Education (修学支援新制度)” administered by the government and the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), we will provide assistance to cover the difference between the amount they receive under that program and the total cost.

(*4): Applicants will not be eligible for support if it is determined that, based on applicants’ Japanese proficiency at the time of application, it would be difficult for them to find employment in Japan utilizing their degree even if they graduated from an undergraduate or graduate program in English medium.

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 and tuition waivers and reductions, etc. 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 in principle.
- ❖ 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.

★Required ★

*Applicants are eligible for scholarship support only if they enroll in (or are currently attending) one of the universities or graduate schools listed as their top three choices on the application 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 ★
*If applicants are unable to obtain documents from external organizations, please prepare and submit a document themselves explaining their background as a refugee.

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 ★

*If applicants are currently enrolled in a university, please submit their high school transcript and transcript from the current university.

5) ① For those wishing to enter an undergraduate program: EJU scores or proof of JLPT results; ② For those wishing to enter an undergraduate program via the English-language entrance exam or a graduate program: TOEFL or IELTS score reports and proof of Japanese language proficiency (JLPT N4 or higher, or equivalent).

★Required ★

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

★Required ★

*These are documents explaining the household finances of the applicant (and their family, if applicable) residing in Japan. Please submit documents that show the financial situation in Japan, rather than documents regarding family members in applicants' home country.

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: 28th Sep 2026 (Mon) – 14th Dec 2026(Mon) 11:59pm (deadline)
- ❖ Interview screening: 30th (Sat) or 31st (Sun) Jan 2027 (only for those who pass the document screening) (planned)
- ❖ Notification of final decision: Around 12th Feb 2026 (Fri)
- ❖ Scholarship benefits begin in April 2027 or later. (Entrance in Sep or Oct 2027 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: 17th Apr 2027 (Sat)

8. Selection

- ❖ Final decisions will be made after an initial screening of documents by our 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 30th (Sat) or 31st (Sun) Jan 2027 (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 listed in the application, 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. And promptly notify us if you receive benefits such as tuition waivers under special student programs or new scholarships(In the above cases, the scholarship award amount will be reviewed based on the amount of any other funding received or exemptions granted.)
- ❖ 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)