

LL.M. Program

Japanese Government Scholarship & Self-Financing Students

Application Guidelines (October 2026 Admissions)

1. Introduction

Please read the following Application Guidelines carefully before submitting an application.

The *LL.M.* (Master of Laws) is a one-year degree program taught entirely in English. In 1994, the Graduate School of Law at Kyushu University established Japan's first Master's level program taught in English. Drawing upon faculty members with particular strengths in the fields of international economic and business law, the *LL.M.* program was designed to provide both Japanese and international students with the ability to confront the many challenges of law in a global society.

Since then, the program has grown in scale and scope and a wide selection of courses are now offered across the major fields of law. The diversity of both the faculty and student body ensures a unique educational experience at one of Japan's most prestigious public universities.

For further details on the *LL.M.* program, see the program website:

<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/>

If you are applying for a Japanese government scholarship, please read Sections 5 & 6 very carefully.

2. Program Duration

The *LL.M.* is taught on a full-time basis and takes 12 months for completion, beginning in October every year and ending in early September of the following year.

3. Admission Requirements

For admission to the *LL.M.*, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. A degree in Law from an accredited university.
2. A good command of English. A TOEFL score of 92+ (Internet-based), an IELTS score of over 7.0 or equivalent is required for non-native English speakers.
3. Sufficient financial support for the duration of the program. Further details on the costs of studying for the *LL.M.*, including tuition and other fees, are available at the program web site.

4. Application Materials

Applicants are requested to submit by registered airmail or equivalent (i.e., Federal Express, DHL etc.), **an original and one copy** of the following documents to the Faculty of Law, Kyushu University **before December 19, 2025** (applications arriving after that date cannot be accepted):

1. Completed ***LL.M. Application Form***. Please note: (1) It is very important that the name that you include in Section 1 of the Application Form is the same as the name in your passport. The Student Visa of successful applicants will be issued with the name provided in Section 1, and it can cause problems at immigration when entering Japan if the names are different. (2) Nationality. You must indicate on the Application Form if you have dual nationality or Japanese nationality.
2. A photocopy of the **Graduation Certificate** of the last university and graduate school attended, OR a **Certified Letter** from the university at which the applicant is currently attending, stating the expected graduation date.
3. An **Official School Transcript** of the last school from which the applicant graduated and that which the applicant is currently attending. A transcript from the undergraduate school is required even if you have already graduated a graduate school. Please note that good grades on the school transcript are required (ideally in the top 25% of the class) if you want a Japanese Government Scholarship. In order to verify this, please include an explanation sheet with information about the grading system of the university.

4. **Two Letters of Recommendation** from the Dean, the applicant's supervising professor or other teaching staff who have had direct contact with the applicant; or from a supervisor in the employing body with personal knowledge of the applicant (forms attached below). If you want a Japanese Government Scholarship, one Letter of Recommendation must be from the Dean addressed to the President of Kyushu University. (*Use the prescribed form.)

*A reference letter in Japanese or English is acceptable.

5. For non-native speakers, **proof of English proficiency** must be provided. A TOEFL score of 92+ (Internet-based), an IELTS score of over 7.0, or equivalent is required for non-native English speakers. If you want a Japanese Government Scholarship, the level of each of the four skills (i.e. Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing) must be above CEFR B2. Or, the certificate issued by the graduating university must clearly state that the medium of instruction was English.

Please note that for MEXT scholarship candidates, proof of English proficiency is compulsory and there is no waiver.

All application materials should be typed **in English** on the attached forms or additional sheets of A4 paper. In the event materials required above are in a language other than English or Japanese, a translation into one of these languages must be attached.

Application materials will **not** be returned to applicants.

5. Application Procedure & Notification of Result

Question 6 of the *LL.M.* Application Form asks whether an applicant wishes to receive a Japanese government scholarship.

Section 6 below describes the conditions of eligibility for the scholarship.

The application procedure is different depending on whether you are applying for a Japanese government scholarship or not:

i. Applicants NOT wishing to receive a Japanese Government Scholarship

After receiving the application Kyushu University **MAY** decide to hold an interview.

Interviews will be held either by Teams, phone or (if the candidate lives in Fukuoka) in person in mid-January 2026.

Applicants will be informed of the result of their application to the *LL.M.*, by end-March 2026.

ii. Applicants wishing to receive a Japanese Government Scholarship

If the *LL.M.* Admissions Committee decides to award a scholarship, then the applicant will be informed ***by mid-January 2026.***

A student who has been awarded a scholarship will then be required to submit the additional Japanese Government Scholarship Application Form and supporting materials. This form will be provided to all successful candidates by e-mail when they are informed their application for a scholarship has been successful.

The completed Scholarship Application Form and all supporting documents must be submitted before **February 6, 2026.**

Successful candidates must also complete a brief “e-mail interview” in mid-January, 2026.

Formal confirmation of the award of the scholarship will be informed to the candidate by end-March 2026.

6. Conditions of Eligibility for the Japanese Government Scholarship

To be eligible for a Japanese Government Scholarship, a candidate must meet **all** of the following conditions:

- (1) **Nationality:** Applicants must be citizens of a nation recognized under the foreign scholarship program of the Japanese Ministry of Education and be resident in that nation until they come to Japan after they are awarded the scholarship. Anyone holding Japanese nationality is not eligible to receive a scholarship.

- (2) **Education:** Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree in Law from an accredited University. In the event they are currently studying law at a university, graduation should take place **before October 1, 2026** in order to be eligible.
- (3) **Age:** All applicants must be under 35 years of old as of April 2, 2026. i.e., Any candidate born before April 1, 1991, is not eligible for a Japanese government scholarship.
- (4) **Military personnel** are not eligible for this scholarship if they remain on active duty.
- (5) **Existing financial support:** Persons already receiving financial support from their home government or other organization are ineligible for this scholarship.
- (6) **Research Topic:** Applicants, who would like to apply for a Japanese Government Scholarship should choose a research topic related to the theme of "Cultural Conflict." Please consult the curriculum document below for additional information on the type of topic that is appropriate for the program. The courses listed in Section VII provide a good indication, although other related fields are acceptable.

*Please note that if you are **not** applying for a Japanese Government Scholarship, there is no need for the thesis topic to be in the area of law and cultural conflict, and a proposal on any law-related topic is acceptable.

7. Tuition & Fees

Students receiving a Japanese government scholarship do not have to pay any fees.

On enrollment, all incoming self-funded students must pay an Examination Fee and Entrance Fee, in addition to the Tuition Fees.

For the academic year 2025-2026, the fees were as follows:

Tuition Fees (for one year): ¥535,800

Registration Fee: ¥30,000

Entrance Fee: ¥282,000

Please note that this amount is subject to annual review. The final amount for 2026-27 is available upon request from *admission@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp*.

A fee waiver scheme operates for self-funded students demonstrating a high level of academic performance. Please note that it is rare for students to receive a waiver on the Entrance Fee, and for the Tuition Fee successful candidates normally only receive a remission of up to 50%.

8. Warning

(1) Successful applicants will have their enrollment at Kyushu University withdrawn immediately in the event of **any** of the following:

- If the applicant is found to have made false statements on his/her application.
- If the applicant is subject to disciplinary measures or has been found to have no promise for academic achievement by the University.
- If the applicant is absent from the University for a prolonged period of time without permission.
- If the student has insufficient resources to finance their studies in Kyushu University.

9. Inquiries

Inquiries by phone cannot be accepted. Written inquiries regarding this program and submitted materials should be addressed to:

Admission Office of the LL.M. Program,
Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University,
East Zone 2
744 Motooka, Nishi-ku,
Fukuoka 819-0395, Japan.

Alternatively, candidates may correspond by fax or e-mail:

Fax: +81[Japan]-92-802-5407

E-mail: *admission@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp*

LL.M. & LL.D. Programs (Curriculum)

I. Purpose

The curriculum of the LL.M. and LL.D. programs aims to foster next-generation legal experts possessing the skills to navigate the multiple “cultural conflicts” characterizing today’s world. The program creates an education and research environment where individuals from different countries can co-learn, develop their problem-solving skills, and constantly improve and re-train their abilities.

The one-year **master’s program (LL.M.)** aims to create an education and research curriculum that combines advanced, multi-disciplinary, and principled content by combining core subjects, elective subjects, and foundational subjects. Students in the master’s program (LL.M.) must take the required credits (20 coursework credits in total) from the “Core Courses,” “Elective Courses,” and “Foundational Courses,” as well as write a master’s thesis (50 or more pages) (10 thesis credits).

Further details can be found on the curriculum in Sections III to VII below.

Students in the three-year **doctoral program (LL.D.)** must participate in a Comprehensive Research Seminar and Research Training as compulsory core courses, take 5 credits from the “Elective Subject Group,” and write a doctoral thesis (about 300 pages).

II. Background

Many social problems, divisions, and exclusions of modern society arise from so-called “cultural conflict.” Cultural differences between countries, regions, communities, genders, and generations have historically created conflicts and destabilized society. However, such conflicts have become increasingly serious and intensified in recent years, giving rise to so-called “culture wars,” which make regulatory design and enforcement increasingly challenging. Rapid technological innovation and the challenges of achieving social acceptance of new technologies have added to the challenge, as technologies have a major impact on our way of life across all domains, both domestically and internationally, while making cultural conflicts between various human groups increasingly complex.

This program examines the challenges of designing and enforcing laws and other regulatory instruments in the context of such cultural conflict.

In particular, three primary sites of cultural conflict are the focus of the programs, namely **Mobility**, **Memory**, and **Machine**.

Mobility relates to our ability to move, the possibility of the free movement of goods, capital, services, and information, as well as means of transportation. The gain or loss of mobility directly affects our access to resources essential for survival and opportunities for self-realization. In modern society, people, goods, capital, and information move globally, and after the COVID-19 pandemic, remote and virtual solutions have penetrated various aspects of daily life, partially replacing our physical movement.

Possible thesis topics related to this theme might include legal issues related to urban mobility, smart cities, the global supply chain, or digital information.

Memory refers to the function of retaining experiences and reproducing them in some way and relates to our personal and collective memories. Beyond debates over historical recognition that transcend national borders and issues of cultural property restitution, we see instances where sensitive information continues to drift online without being erased due to ICT development, making “forgetting” difficult, as seen in issues like the right to be forgotten in the context of data protection.

Possible thesis topics related to this theme might include legal issues related to cultural heritage or data protection and data governance.

Machine refers to the totality of hardware, software, and technologies that increasingly connect us to the world, mediating and structuring our relationship with the natural and social environment. With molecular robots and brain-machine interfaces, cyborgs—human-machine integrated bodies where machines work as autonomous regulatory systems without conscious awareness—are no longer science fiction but are a social reality.

Possible thesis topics related to this theme might include legal issues related to robotics, automation, the metaverse, or healthcare technologies and bioethics.

We invite applications that seek to explore topics in these or related areas of law in a world of heightened cultural conflict.

III. LL.M. Core Courses (3 credits required)

In the “Core Subject Group,” courses are assigned to help students independently identify issues related to “cultural conflict” and develop the ability to solve these problems proactively while

collaborating with others.

In the **Legal Studies Primer**, students will learn about the economic analysis of law, comparative institutional analysis, behavioral economics, and the selection and combination of regulatory methods, to provide students enrolled on this program with a strong theoretical perspective on the role that the legal system should play in social regulation, more generally.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy examines the three elements—Mobility, Memory, and Machine—that intensify “cultural conflicts” in contemporary society, focusing on their technological innovations and the nature of their social acceptance. The course is also open to students from natural science faculties and schools at Kyushu University, fostering an environment for interdisciplinary exploration that bridges the sciences and humanities.

Cultural Conflict Camp will bring together students enrolled in this program and graduate students enrolled in the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology at Kyushu University to discuss cutting-edge social issues in a cultural conflict and combine their different skills to work together to create and solve social problems.

The core courses, we offer are marked © in the class list in Section VII below.

IV. LL.M. Elective Courses (12 credits required)

Courses are offered to examine issues related to “cultural conflict.” These courses are categorized based on three elements—Mobility, Memory, and Machine—that exacerbate “cultural conflicts” in contemporary society. Students enrolled in this program are expected to select and take courses not only aligned with their research interests but also relevant to the themes of their master’s or doctoral dissertation.

In the elective courses, we offer courses marked ○ in the class list “Mobility, Memory, Machine” of Section VII below.

V. LL.M. Foundational Courses (5 credits required)

This group includes courses designed to provide a fundamental perspective and skills necessary for examining issues related to “cultural conflict” across contemporary settings. Addressing these challenges in the humanities and social sciences requires principled reflection grounded in fundamental understandings. Therefore, the courses emphasize learning from philosophical and historical perspectives, particularly in foundational subjects related to law and political

science, which are essential for such inquiry.

For the foundational courses, we offer courses are marked ○ in the class list in Section VII below.

VI. LL.M. Thesis Requirement (10 credits required)

Master's program students are required to earn the necessary credits from the Core, Elective, and Foundational Subject Groups and write a master's thesis (50 or more A4 pages). Doctoral program students must complete courses from the Core and Elective Subject Groups and produce a doctoral dissertation (approximately 300 A4 pages).

Students in this program are also expected to present their progress in the *Research Workshop on Cultural Conflict, Law, and Policy*, where they receive critical feedback from faculty and peers, refining the content of their theses or dissertations through this iterative process.

VII. Indicative Course List

CLASS NAME	MOBILITY (13)	MEMORY (15)	MACHINE (13)	FOUNDATIONAL (29)
Algorithms & the Law	○		○	
Big Tech & Competition Law			○	
Bioethics & the Law			○	
Borders & Development in Asia	○	○		
Comparative Corporate Law				○
Comprehensive Research Seminar (LL.D.)				○
Creative Economy & Cultural Diversity	○	○		
Creative Thinking (AI)		○	○	
CSPA Academic Literacy				○
CSPA Research Methodology				○
CSPA Thesis Workshop				○
Cultural Conflict Camp	◎	◎	◎	
Cultural Heritage Law	○	○		
Diplomatic Documents		○		
Effective Legal Writing				○
EU Technology Law			○	
Fintech & the Law			○	
Global Governance		○		
Global Value Chains & Law	○			
Globalization & Commercial Law	○			
Governance and Democracy				○
Implementation and Operation of the Hague Conventions				○
International Commercial Arbitration				○
International Conference Presentation Practices				○
International Criminal Law	○	○		
International Financial Law & Regulation				○
International Law in Today's World				○
International Maritime Law	○			
International Relations & Human Rights	○			
International Tax Law				○
Introduction to EU Law				○
Introduction to Japanese Law				○
Introduction to Roman Law & Civil Law Tradition				○
Japan's Development in Context		○		
Japanese Constitutional & Administrative Law		○		
Japanese Diplomacy		○		
Japanese Intellectual Property Law in Practice			○	
JICA Internship				○
Law & Development: Busines & Economic History		○		
Legal Research Methodology & Writing				○
Legal Studies Primer				◎
Legal Tech, Legal Design & Technology			○	
Mediation & Other Conflict Management Approaches				○
Perspectives in International Relations				○
Platforms & the Law	○		○	
Politics & Governance in Japan				○
Political Studies Primer				◎
Postwar Diplomatic History of Japan		○		
Private International Law				○
Public Policy & Philosophy			○	
Resolution of Transnational Commercial Disputes				○
Science, Technology & Innovation Policy	◎	◎	◎	
Smart Cities, Urban Planning and Law	○		○	
Secured Transaction Law				○
Political Theories & Concepts				○
Understanding Regionalism		○		
White Collar & Corporate Crime				○
YLP Internship				○



LL.M. Application Form

NO. ____

IMPORTANT: Only apply if you are fully committed to accepting this scholarship.

Do not apply if you:

- Are still considering offers from other universities
- Are uncertain about receiving the MEXT Scholarship
- Might need to withdraw your acceptance for any reason

Withdrawing after accepting this scholarship will prevent another qualified candidate from receiving the opportunity. It could also jeopardize future scholarships from the Ministry of Education.

I understand.
(Please click
below)

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name		First		Middle	
Contact Address					
Nationality		E-mail			
Phone			Please paste a passport sized photo here		
Age					
Date of Birth					
Gender	M F				

2. EDUCATION HISTORY

Elementary School	
Attended From – To	
Secondary School (1)	
Attended From – To	

Candidate Application Checklist: 1. Completed Application Form 2. Proof of English Proficiency

Date: _____ 3. TWO Recommendation Letters 4. Transcript from University 5. Degree Certificate

Secondary School (2)			
Attended From - To			
Higher Education			
Attended From-To		Degree Awarded	
Higher Education			
Attended From-To		Degree Awarded	
Total Years of Schooling	____ Years		
3. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY			
Name & Address of Employer			
From - To		Position	
Name & Address of Employer			
From - To		Position	

4. ENGLISH ABILITY (Please indicate your TOEFL [or equivalent] score)**5. THESIS PROPOSAL** (In less than 1,000 words, please write a research proposal for a topic that is suitable for an LL.M. program. For further instructions, please see Section 3 on the web page of each program.)**PROPOSED THESIS TITLE:****SUMMARY:**

6. SCHOLARSHIP			
Do you wish to be considered for a Japanese Government Scholarship?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If you do not receive a Japanese Government Scholarship, are you willing to privately finance your studies at Kyushu University?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
7. DECLARATION & SIGNATURE			
<p>I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.</p> <p>I have read and understood the Privacy Policy for Students Applying for Admission at Kyushu University available at: http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/website/privacypolicy/internationalstudents</p> <p>If this application leads to my enrolling at Kyushu University, I understand that false or misleading information in this application may result in my enrollment at Kyushu University being terminated.</p>			
SIGNATURE		DATE	

(Optional) Could you please indicate how you became aware of the *LL.M.* program at Kyushu University? (e.g. Internet, friend, poster, pamphlet etc.)

RECOMMENDATION (1)

To: President of Kyushu University

※To the RECOMMENDER: Please write a statement concerning the applicant, stating how long and in what connection you have known him/her, your evaluation of his/her character, your speculation on the applicant's potential for success as a graduate student and his/her potential for independent research (use space below)

On behalf of

(Name of Applicant): _____, _____, _____
Family First Middle

CONFIDENTIAL

IMPORTANT: Please evaluate the applicant's qualification, compared with the last 5 years students, by checking the appropriate space below, and specifying first the group with which you have compared him/her.

QUALIFICATION	Excellent (upper 5%)	Good (6-20%)	Satisfactory (21-50%)	Average or below (lower 50)	No basis for judgement
①KNOWLEDGE					
Intellectual ability					
Knowledge in subject of proposed study					
General knowledge					
②GOOD JUDGEMENT & EXPRESSION					
Imagination					
Oral Expression					
Written Expression					
③COMMON SENSE					
Industry and Perseverance					
Emotional stability					
Inquisitiveness & independence					
④CONCLUSION(Overall potential as)					
Teacher					
Scholar (research fellow)					
LL.M. holder					
LL.D. holder					

Signature_____ Date_____

Name_____

Position_____

Institution_____

Relationship to Applicant_____

Address_____

Phone Number_____ Fax Number_____

E-mail_____

We appreciate the time and effort that you have taken to provide us with these comments.
Please return this letter directly to Kyushu University OR place in a sealed envelope and return to the candidate.

Address: Admission Office of International Programs
Faculty of Law, Kyushu University
744 Motooka, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka, 819-0395 JAPAN

RECOMMENDATION (2)

To: President of Kyushu University

※To the RECOMMENDER: Please write a statement concerning the applicant, stating how long and in what connection you have known him/her, your evaluation of his/her character, your speculation on the applicant's potential for success as a graduate student and his/her potential for independent research (use space below)

On behalf of

(Name of Applicant): _____, _____, _____
Family First Middle

CONFIDENTIAL

IMPORTANT: Please evaluate the applicant's qualification, compared with the last 5 years students, by checking the appropriate space below, and specifying first the group with which you have compared him/her.

QUALIFICATION	Excellent (upper 5%)	Good (6-20%)	Satisfactory (21-50%)	Average or below (lower 50)	No basis for judgement
①KNOWLEDGE					
Intellectual ability					
Knowledge in subject of proposed study					
General knowledge					
②GOOD JUDGEMENT & EXPRESSION					
Imagination					
Oral Expression					
Written Expression					
③COMMON SENSE					
Industry and Perseverance					
Emotional stability					
Inquisitiveness & independence					
④CONCLUSION(Overall potential as)					
Teacher					
Scholar (research fellow)					
LL.M. holder					
LL.D. holder					

Signature_____ Date_____

Name_____

Position_____

Institution_____

Relationship to Applicant_____

Address_____

Phone Number_____ Fax Number_____

E-mail_____

We appreciate the time and effort that you have taken to provide us with these comments.
Please return this letter directly to Kyushu University OR place in a sealed envelope and return to the candidate.

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Faculty of Law, Kyushu University
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