No Repayment Required

Scholarship Application Guideline

Spring 2027 Recruitment

【Scholarship Amount】120,000 JPY per month
【Duration】1.5 years or 2 years
・For students enrolling in October 2026: April 2027 – September 2028
・For students enrolling in April 2027: April 2027 – March 2029
【Eligibility (Academic Year)】
・Master's students enrolling in October 2026 (1st year)
・Those expected to enroll in a Master's program in April 2027
【Number of Recipients】3~4
【Eligible Nationalities】
Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, United States

▼Application Period▼
October 5, 2026 (Mon) – December 7, 2026 (Mon)
Applications must be submitted directly by the student.

Frances and Sachio Semmoto Foundation

1. Overview of the Program

The Frances & Sachio Semmoto Foundation, a public interest incorporated foundation, was established with the mission of providing financial assistance to outstanding young individuals from Asia-Pacific countries who face economic hardship, enabling them to pursue study and research at universities in Japan. Through this support, the Foundation aims to foster future leaders in each country and to contribute to the deepening of mutual understanding between Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.
To achieve these objectives, the Foundation provides **non-repayable scholarships** to privately funded international students from the Asia-Pacific region. **In particular, we seek individuals who possess an entrepreneurial spirit and a strong commitment to social contribution, and who aspire to become a bridge between their home country and Japan in the future.**

2. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Nationality and Visa Status

Applicants must currently reside in Japan with the "Student" residence status for academic study and must hold one of the following nationalities:

Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, United States

(2) Enrollment Status

At the time of application, applicants must meet one of the following conditions:
Enrolled in a Master's program at one of the designated universities in October 2026; or
Expected to enroll in a Master's program at one of the designated universities from April 2027.

Designated Universities (Graduate Schools):
Osaka University, Ochanomizu University, Kyushu University, Kyoto University, Keio University, Kobe University, Akita International University, International Christian University, Sophia University, University of Tsukuba, University of Tokyo, Tokyo Institute of Science, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo University of Science, Tohoku University, Nagoya University, Nara Women's University, Hitotsubashi University, Hokkaido University, Yokohama National University, Yokohama City University, Waseda University

(3) Academic Performance and Health

Applicants must have an excellent academic record, demonstrate interest in cross-cultural understanding and communication skills, show a sincere commitment toward their goals, and be mentally and physically capable of pursuing studies abroad.

(4) Financial Need

Applicants must have difficulty covering the full cost of study abroad for financial reasons.

(5) Age

Applicants must have been born on or after April 1, 1998 (i.e., under 29 years of age as of March 31, 2027).

3. Number of Scholarships Available

3～4 recipients

4. Scholarship Details

(1) Amount

120,000 JPY per month *(non-repayable)*

(2) Duration

For students enrolling in October 2026: April 2027 – September 2028 (1.5 years)
For students enrolling in April 2027: April 2027 – March 2029 (2 years)

(3) Method of Payment

In principle, the monthly scholarship amount will be transferred to the student's designated bank account on the 10th of each month.
If the 10th falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday, payment will be made on the preceding business day.

(4) Obligations of Scholarship Recipients

Participation in this foundation events (approximately once or twice per year)
Submission of scholarship reports (once every two months)
Cooperation with publicity activities (publication of name, university, photograph, and scholarship reports in this foundation materials)
Submission of academic transcripts and related documents (once every six months)
Submission of required notifications to this foundation in the following cases:

Notification of Status Change: Leave of absence, repeating a year, suspension, transfer, withdrawal, scholarship withdrawal, change of address or name, changes concerning household head/guardian or emergency contact (death, relocation, name change, etc.), or loss of "Student" residence status.
Notification of Part-time Employment: Beginning, changing, or suspending a part-time job.
Notification of Overseas Travel: Temporary departure from Japan.
Notification of Other Important Matters: Any other significant changes in circumstances.

Compliance with Japanese law and the regulations of the enrolled university.

5. From Application to Scholarship Award

To apply for the scholarship, applicants must complete **both** of the following procedures:
Submission of application documents by post
Submission of the required essay online
Applications will not be accepted if only one of the above is completed. Please ensure that both the postal submission and the online submission are completed.

❶ Application Period: October 5, 2026 (Mon) – December 7, 2026 (Mon)

Postal Submission of Application Documents

Online Essay Submission

Please make sure to complete both the postal submission and the online submission

❷ First Screening (Application Documents Review)

❸ Notification of First Screening Results

The submitted application documents will be reviewed, and in principle, no more than nine applicants will be selected as successful candidates in the first screening.
The results of the selection will be directly notified to each applicant by **Friday, December 25, 2026**.
For those who pass the first screening, information regarding the schedule and venue of the second screening (interview) will be provided together with the notification of results.

❹ Second Screening (Interview at the Foundation Headquarters)

Online interviews will be held via Zoom on **Sunday, January 24, 2027, from 13:30 to 17:00**. The interview will be conducted in either Japanese or English, matching the language used for your application documents.

❺ Notification of Second Screening Results

The results of the second screening will be directly notified to each applicant by **Friday, February 12, 2027**.
Successful applicants must confirm their acceptance of the scholarship and complete the registration of their contact information by **Friday, February 26, 2027**.

❻ Start of Scholarship: April 2027

6. Application Guidelines

❶ Submit Application Documents by Post

Please prepare and enclose the required documents as specified in the table below, and send them **by post directly from the applicant** to the address indicated below.
The application form for scholarship applicants can be downloaded from:
https://semmoto.or.jp/scholarship-system
Please note that applications must be posted directly by the applicant and **not** through a university or Japanese language school.

Required Documents	Applicants expected to enroll in a Master's program from the following April	First-year Master's student
① **Application Form (Form A)** Download and print. Attach a photo (4.0 cm × 3.0 cm). Handwritten signature required.	○	○
②**Certificate of Enrollment**	○（through a university or Japanese language school.）	○
③**Academic Transcript** *Issued within one month; must be sealed by the issuing institution.*	○（through a university or Japanese language school.）	○ （Undergraduate Degree Certificate）
④Photocopy of Residence Card (front and back)	○	○
⑤Photocopy of the Certificate of Admission issued by one of the 22 designated graduate schools	△ If admission has been granted, submission is required.	×
⑥Recommendation Letter from Supervising Professor (Form B)	○（through a university or Japanese language school.）	○

【Mailing Address】
The Frances & Sachio Semmoto Foundation – Scholarship Applications Office
Shibuya Hikarie 32F, 2-21-1 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8510, Japan
【Application Deadline】
Applications must be postmarked no later than **Monday, December 7, 2026**.

❷ Submit the Required Essay Online

Please access the online submission form via the link provided on the Foundation's website (https://semmoto.or.jp/en-scholarship-system) and submit the required essay.
【Submission Period】
From **9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 5, 2026**
to **4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2026**
【Inquiries】
The Frances & Sachio Semmoto Foundation
Contact: Eriko Akagi
Tel: +81-3-6820-4673

【Note】 Please be sure to complete both the postal submission and the online submission.

7. Handling of Personal Information

In conducting the scholarship selection process, the Foundation complies with the *Act on the Protection of Personal Information* and related guidelines issued by the Personal Information Protection Commission, and has established the "The Frances & Sachio Semmoto Foundation Rules on the Handling of Personal Information" to ensure the proper management of personal data.

(1) Purpose of Use of Personal Information
The personal information obtained by the Foundation will be used only within the following purposes:
Recruitment and selection of scholarship students
Disbursement of scholarships
Operation of the alumni association
Other activities necessary to achieve the objectives of the Foundation

(2) Use of Personal Information
If the Foundation provides personal information obtained to a third party beyond the stated purposes of use, the Foundation will first announce or notify the new purpose of use and obtain the individual's consent. However, personal information may be provided without the individual's consent in the following cases:
When required by law or regulation
When necessary to protect the vital interests (life, health, property, etc.) of the individual or the public
When personal information is aggregated into statistical data that does not identify individuals, and such statistical data is provided to third parties

(3) Disposal of Retained Personal Information
Application documents of applicants who are not selected for the scholarship will be promptly disposed of. Application documents will not be returned.

(4) Contact for Inquiries Regarding the Handling of Personal Information
For inquiries regarding the handling of personal information, please contact:
The Frances & Sachio Semmoto Foundation Secretariat
Shibuya Hikarie 32F, 2-21-1 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8510, Japan
Tel: +81-3-6820-4673

8. Overview of the Foundation

Purpose of the Foundation

① This foundation aims to foster individuals who will become leaders in their home countries and contribute to national development as well as the deepening of mutual understanding between Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. To this end, it provides non-repayable scholarships to outstanding students from Asia-Pacific countries who aspire to pursue university education but face financial hardship.
② This foundation also aims to encourage entrepreneurial activities in the following fields and to recognize individuals or organizations with particularly outstanding plans.
(1) AI and Semiconductor Fields
(2) Green and Social Fields

Activities of the Foundation

(1) Provision of scholarships to students from Asia-Pacific countries.
(2) Guidance and development of students who receive scholarships.
(3) Support for exchanges among scholarship recipients.
(4) Recognition of individuals or organizations engaged in entrepreneurial activities in the fields of AI and semiconductors, as well as in green and social fields.
(5) Other activities necessary to achieve the purposes of the Foundation.



Message from the Founder



The Frances & Sachio Semmoto Foundation aims to provide financial assistance to talented students of demonstrated financial need from Asia Pacific nations, who seek to pursue postsecondary education in Japan. We aim to provide the means by which such students may grow to become the future leaders of their nations, thereby fostering mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and our Asia Pacific neighbors.

During the 1960's when overseas higher education remained out of reach for the vast majority of Japanese students, I was fortunate enough to study abroad in the United States as a part of the Fulbright Scholar Program. Through this experience, I encountered a globally minded ethos of social consciousness that was deeply rooted in liberal American values. The formative experiences during this time strongly informed my own values and philosophy and contributed significantly to my decision to found DDI Corporation (Currently KDDI Corporation and one of the leading Japanese telecom companies), as well as several other companies.

I strongly believe that Japan, a nation that has benefitted enormously from the world's goodwill during its postwar reconstruction, and more recently, following the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, holds a responsibility to give back to the global community. It is with this purpose that we have founded the Frances & Sachio Semmoto Foundation to provide students from Asia Pacific nations, who otherwise would not have the means to fulfill their educational goals, access to postsecondary education in Japan.

It is my hope and desire, that these students will have such formative experiences as I did during my studies as a Fulbright scholar, and that they will grow to become global leaders with strong ties to, and a deep understanding of Japan.