



How to write your financial plan

Going to university is a big commitment, both in time and money. In order to be successful, you need to have a well thought-out, realistic financial plan. While you may be able to get some form of financial aid from Japan to attend university, we strongly recommend that you do not rely solely on scholarships. Your financial plan will be evaluated as part of your application, so a well thought-out financial plan can help improve your chances of successful entry.

Explore your options

The more finance you can secure, the easier it will be for you to successfully complete your program.

Does your country or local government have any programs which will pay for study at overseas universities? For example, students from Norway, Sweden, and Finland can use higher education funds globally.

Can you find a scholarship (e.g. MEXT scholarship) which you can apply for before you apply to the university? Check local Japanese societies to find options.

How much parental help can you expect? Try to make a budget, and explain to your parents how much help you might need. Try to get a specific commitment from them regarding funding.

Do you have savings / part time job? How much money do you have? How much can you save before leaving your home country?

Options in Japan

Although we recommend against relying solely on scholarships provided by the Japanese government, there are some sources of funds available.

Scholarships are possible for students with a high GPA and demonstrable financial need. However, these are not guaranteed, and you should be prepared for the possibility you won't get one. Some options can be found here (http://www.jasso.go.jp/study_j/scholarships_sfisij_e.html)

Tuition fees waivers are also possible for those with an excellent academic record, and demonstrable need.

If you can teach an in-demand language, or you can speak Japanese well, part time work may be possible. However, you should expect to be busy with your studies, and we do not recommend that students consider this as a major source of funding.

Writing your plan

When you write your plan, **list up your sources of income** (scholarships, loans, money from parents / relatives, savings, part-time work), **and your projected expenses** (tuition, rent, travel, food, entertainment). Try to be realistic with your estimates. We don't want students to have to drop out as a result of poor financial planning, so we will review your financial plan carefully. Although we can be flexible over details, we need to make sure you have fully explored your options, and are prepared to look after yourself while in Japan. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they have sufficient financial resources to complete their programme.