

October 2025

Asian Future Leaders Scholarship Program Application Guidelines

Kyoto University

1. Purpose

The Asian Future Leaders Scholarship Program (AFLSP) provides young Asian scholars the opportunity to study abroad at one of six Partner Universities (including Kyoto University) located across five cities in East Asia. The Program was established in 2014 by Mr. Ronald K.Y. Chao (Vice Chairman of Novel Holdings Ltd. in Hong Kong), and is administered by Bai Xian Asia Institute (BXAI). With a vision to develop future leaders who embrace cultural diversity and play an active role in creating harmony among nations, BXAI grants up to around 100 AFLSP scholarships to elite students in Asia each year. Each Partner University operates independent selection process for the AFLSP.

2. Scholarship amount and payment method

Monthly amount: Approximately 150,000 – 220,000 Japanese yen

An amount equivalent to 535,800 Japanese yen to cover tuition for one year and 282,000 Japanese yen to cover admission fees shall be paid separately.

- * As the scholarship shall be paid in Japanese yen, the actual amount received may vary depending on the exchange rate, etc.
- * The monthly stipend shall be paid into the recipient's bank account in monthly installments.
- * The payment to cover the tuition and admission fees shall be made as a reimbursement after Kyoto University confirms the payment of those fees through receipts.
- * The scholarship shall not be paid until a confirmation of enrollment (invoice) has been submitted to the designated administration office each month. The scholarship shall be paid only to the recipient whose confirmation of enrollment (invoice) was submitted. As a rule, the scholarship shall not be paid if the recipient is absent from the university from the beginning until the end of the month, takes a leave of absence, or is absent for a significant period.

3. Scholarship term

Maximum of two years (extension not possible).

- * Note: The continued payment of the scholarship for the second year shall be decided by BXAI and the university based on a comprehensive assessment of the recipient's reports, academic performance, conduct, etc.

4. Number of recipients

[General Slot] and [Kyoto University special slot]: Approximately three to five awards in total.

- [General Slot]: Those who have obtained (or are expected to obtain) a bachelor's degree from a university other than Kyoto University and who plan to enroll in a master's degree program, professional degree program, or five-year doctoral degree program at Kyoto University.
- [Kyoto University Special Slot]: Those who have obtained (or are expected to obtain) a bachelor's degree from Kyoto University and who plan to enroll in a master's degree program, professional degree program, or five-year doctoral degree program at Kyoto University.

Please note that only a small portion of the total number of recipients will be awarded the scholarship through the [Kyoto University Special Slot].*

5. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Only applicants who meet all of the following criteria shall be considered:

- (1) Aligned with the mission and philosophy of BXAI and the purposes of the AFLSP, has strong personal integrity, has an interest in international and intercultural understanding and goodwill, is interested in addressing issues relevant to the Asian region, and has the potential to become a future leader who can contribute to good international relations and development in Asia and the world.
- (2) Citizenship of one of the following countries or regions, and prospective status of residence in Japan of “Student” at the time the scholarship is awarded (those with multiple citizenship of Japan and other country(ies) are not eligible).

China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thai, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, East Timor, Philippines, Bhutan, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Maldives, Mongolia, Laos

- (3) Under 35 years of age at the time of application.
- (4) High proficiency in English (English proficiency at a level roughly equivalent to a TOEFL iBT score of 90 or more is preferred) and presentation skills.
- (5) Meet one of criteria ① or ②, below:

① Currently enrolled in a bachelor's degree or have already obtained a bachelor's degree at one of the designated institutions listed below (in the case of a university in mainland China, it must be a “full-time undergraduate program” [全日制本科]), and have already qualified to enroll in a Kyoto University master's degree program, professional degree program, or five-year doctoral degree program, or expected to do so by the beginning of the scholarship period.

② Have passed the entrance examination for admission in October 2025 to a Kyoto University master's degree program, professional degree program, or five-year doctoral degree program.

Japan: Kyoto University (Kyoto University Special Slot) *See item “4. Number of recipients” above

China: Peking University, Tsinghua University (in Beijing), Fudan University, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Xi'an Jiao Tong University, Nanjing University, University of Science and Technology of China, Nankai University, Wuhan University, China Agricultural University

Hong Kong: The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong,

- Taiwan: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, City University of Hong Kong
National Taiwan University, National Tsing Hua University, National Chiao Tung University, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, National Chengchi University, National Cheng Kung University, National Chung Hsing University, National Taiwan Normal University
- South Korea: Seoul National University, Korea University, Yonsei University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Pohang University of Science and Technology, Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU)
- Singapore: National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University
- Vietnam: Vietnam National University, Hanoi, The University of Danang, Hue University, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City
- Brunei: Universiti Brunei Darussalam
- Indonesia: Institut Teknologi Bandung, University of Indonesia, Universitas Gadjah Mada, IPB University
- Malaysia: University of Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
- Philippines: University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas
- Thailand: Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Thammasat University, Kasetsart University
- India: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB), Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR), Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), Indian Institute of Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University, University of Delhi, Anna University
- Sri Lanka: University of Colombo
- Myanmar: University of Yangon, Yangon Technological University, Yezin Agricultural University, Mandalay Technological University, University of Forestry and Environmental Science
- (6) Expecting to enroll in a master's degree program as a regular (degree-seeking) student at a graduate school of Kyoto University in October 2025 and remain enrolled at Kyoto University as a full-time student for the duration of participation in the AFLSP.
 - (7) Recommended by a supervising university professor or other person of equivalent status. [For more details, see: 7. Application documents (4)]
 - (8) Never previously received an AFLSP Scholarship.
 - (9) In need of financial support.
 - (10) In sound physical and mental health, with high moral standards, and an outstanding academic record.

- (11) Not be a recipient of any other scholarship or other form of funding support by a third party.
- (12) Not take up paid employment, full-time or part-time, while enrolled at the university and receiving the benefit of the scholarship, unless granted permission.
- (13) Able to participate in programs and events for BXAI scholars held by BXAI or Kyoto University during the scholarship term.

6. Requirements

- (1) Participation in the BXAI Summer Program (an annually held program lasting for approximately three weeks in the first summer after enrollment of the AFLSP) and other exchange events held as part of the AFLSP during the scholarship term.
- (2) Participate and complete the AFLSP program provided by Kyoto University. For the details, please visit the AFLSP website: <https://www.aflsp.kyoto-u.ac.jp/>
- (3) Active participation in international exchange and social engagement activities.
- (4) Submission of study reports and activity reports by the designated deadlines.

7. Application documents

- * All documents must be submitted in English.
- * All attached documents should be submitted as PDF files, except for item (5), which should be submitted in JPEG format.
- * All documents should be typed, except for signatures.

(1) Scholarship Application Form (prescribed form), which must be completed by the applicant

(2) Research Plan

In any format. Describe the necessity, circumstances that led up to the research plan, connection to former research in bachelor course, objectives, methods, and expected results of the research.

(3) Essay on a contemporary key issue in Asia

In a free format and no more than two A4 pages. Please find and survey a contemporary key issue in Asia, and make a proposal on how local or regional leaders could cope with this issue and contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous Asia.

(4) Letter of recommendation from supervising professor or equivalent. (Use the standard form provided.

At least one letter of recommendation is required. Additional letters of recommendation are optional. If possible, the letter of recommendation should be provided by the applicant's prospective graduate school supervisor. If the applicant is not able to submit a letter of recommendation from a Kyoto University faculty member because their supervisor has not yet been determined or for other similar reasons, the letter of recommendation should be provided by a supervisor or faculty member of equivalent status at the university or graduate school in which the applicant is currently, or was recently, enrolled. There are no particular requirements regarding the persons who should provide any additional letters of recommendation. Multiple letters written by the same person will not be accepted.)

(5) Photograph of the applicant. (Head-and-shoulders image with no headwear, taken in the last six months.

To be submitted as a JPEG file.)

- (6) Certificate of English Proficiency (TOEFL iBT, IELTS, etc.) (If applicable, issued in either Japanese or English)

Those who are unable to submit a certificate of English proficiency must submit a document describing their level of English proficiency (e.g., a letter of recommendation or other written document). Those who have graduated from an undergraduate program taught in English must submit a document to verify that fact.

- (7) Copy of the university diploma (if the applicant graduated from a university).

The diploma must have been issued by the university from which the applicant graduated.

Note: If the applicant has completed a master's degree, they must submit two diplomas (bachelor's and master's).

- (8) Certificate of enrollment (if the applicant is expecting to graduate from a university).

The certificate must bear the university's official stamp.

- (9) Academic Transcript

Submit with GPA and scale (if the university you graduated from/ are expecting to graduate from uses GPA).

The transcript must bear the official stamp of the university from which the applicant graduated or expects to graduate, and must be issued in English.

- (10) Declaration of Understanding and Agreement for an International Student Scholarship Application.

(Use the standard form provided. Complete in either Japanese or English.)

- (11) Letter of Admission from a graduate school at Kyoto University. (Issued in either Japanese or English.)

In case that the applicant cannot submit the Letter of Admission by the deadline, they must state that fact in their application and submit the letter as soon as possible.

- (12) Copy of Residence Card (both sides). (Only those who live in Japan at the time of application. In case that applicants cannot submit by the deadline, they must submit after entering Japan.)

- (13) “教育部學歷證書電子注冊備案表” or “教育部学籍在線驗證報告”

Note: This is required only if the applicant graduated or will graduate from a designated university in China.

8. Application dates and procedures

Application procedure:

Applicants must send all application documents in PDF format and send them all at once in a single ZIP folder.

The digital version of the application documents must be sent to the email address below:

AFLSP@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Application period: **April 1 (Tue) to April 10 (Thu), 2025** (closes at 5:00 p.m. Japan time).

Applications (including video) shall not be accepted under any circumstances if they are submitted outside

the application period, by any method other than the one specified above, or in an incomplete form. Once submitted, the application documents are not returnable. We will send you a confirmation email within two days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) of receiving your application. If you do not receive the email, please contact us at the above email address.

9. Selection and notification of results

The primary screening will be based on the application documents. Those who pass the primary screening will then be required to take an interview.

Note: The interview will be held in Mid- or late May. Applicants must attend the interview at the date and time specified by Kyoto University. Requests to change the time or date of the interview will not be accepted. Applicants who fail to attend the interview at the designated date and time will be disqualified from the application process.

Deadline for applications



Mid- to late -April: Stage 1 Screening (document screening)

Screening of application documents by the Kyoto University selection committee



Early May (tentative): Notification of the results of the Stage 1 Screening (by e-mail)



Mid- to late May (tentative): Stage 2 Screening (interview)

Interview conducted by the Kyoto University selection committee

* Those who pass the Stage 1 Screening will be provided with further information about the interview at a later date.



Early June (tentative): Notification of the results of the Stage 2 Screening (by e-mail)



TBD: Interview conducted by BXAI Leaders and Board members

10. Suspension or termination of scholarship

- (1) Scholarship payments shall be cancelled if any of the following applies to a recipient:
 - a. Leave of absence, extended non-attendance, or withdrawal from the university.

Note: Notification of such absences/withdrawal should be given to the scholarship recipient's AFLSP coordinator at least six months in advance.
 - b. Subject to disciplinary action by the university.
 - c. Circumstances which are deemed an impediment to academic progress or course completion.
 - d. Failure, without legitimate grounds, to attend an event or activity conducted as part of the AFLSP.
 - e. Judged unfit to be a scholarship recipient for other reason(s).
- (2) The scholarship award shall be revoked if any falsities are discovered in the recipient's application documents.

11. Points to note

- (1) Recipients may be required to repay part or all of the scholarship if it is determined that a fraudulent act has been committed.
- (2) In the event that there are interpretation discrepancies between different language versions of these Application Guidelines, the Japanese language version shall be deemed the official version and shall govern in any conflict.

12. Regarding the handling of personal information

Personal information provided at the time of application and personal information related to the application will be used for the scholarship screening process. The information may also be used for the general management of financial support data within the university, and for the management and screening of other projects within the university to facilitate its provision of appropriate support.

13. Inquiries

Please address any inquiries to:

AFLSP Coordinator, International Student Division,

International and General Education Promotion Department, Kyoto University

Yoshida Nihonmatsu-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan

E-mail: AFLSP@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00 (closed on weekends and national holidays)

- * We do not accept inquiries other than those regarding the AFLSP at Kyoto University, or requests for information on selection results. Inquiries are accepted in Japanese or English only.