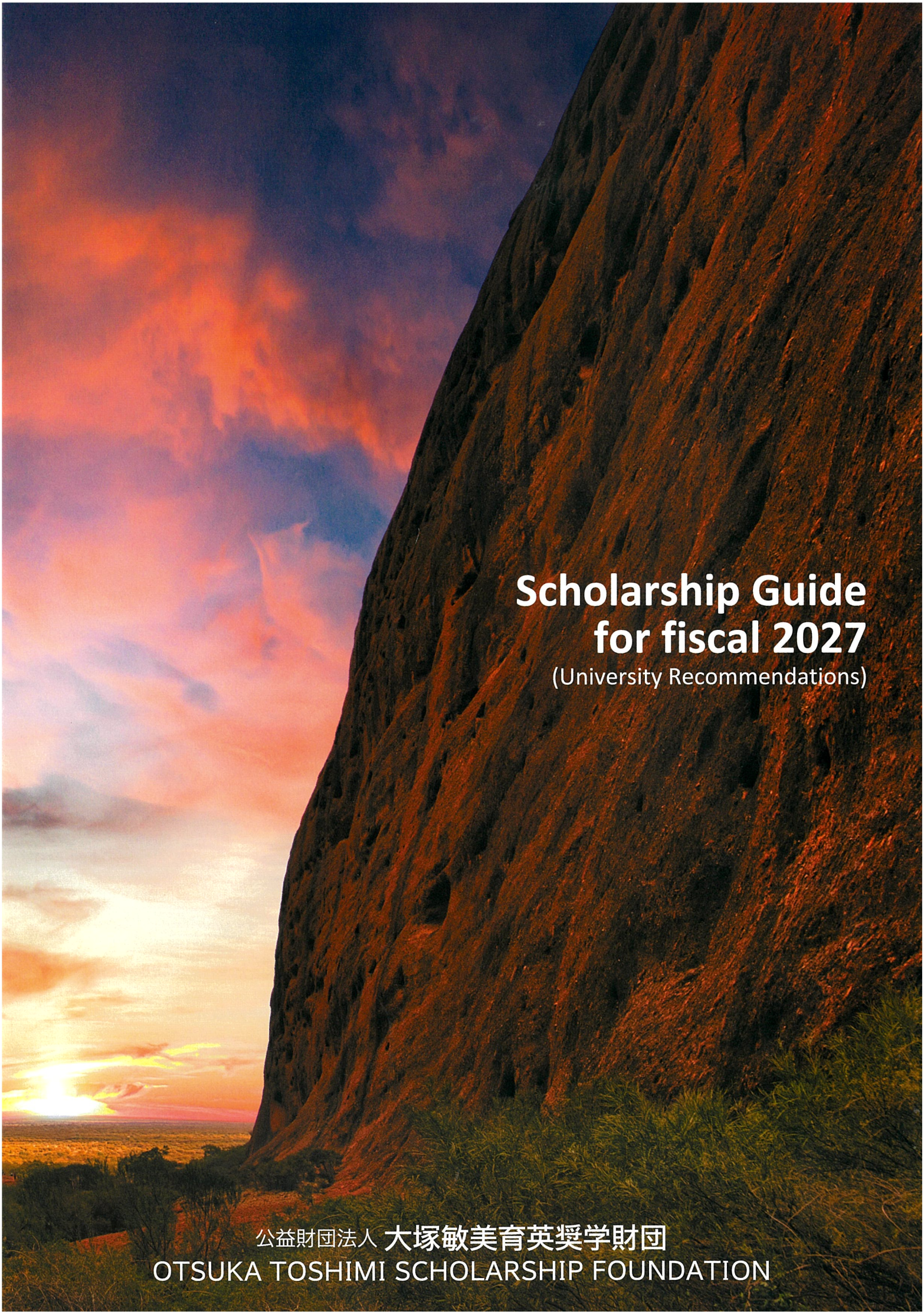


Scholarship Guide for fiscal 2027

(University Recommendations)

公益財団法人 大塚敏美育英奨学財団

OTSUKA TOSHIMI SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Scholarship Guide for fiscal 2027 (University Recommendations)

Scholarship Program Overview

1) Amount of scholarship

Annual sum of ¥2.0 million, ¥1.5 million or ¥1.0 million.

* Determined on the basis of evaluations by our selection committee. Recipients must not be receiving any other scholarships concurrently.
* An annual sum of ¥2.5 million may be awarded to a small number of renewing applicants demonstrating excellent research performance and personal integrity.

Note: A scholarship recipient's failure to make satisfactory academic progress or any unethical or immoral behavior or illegal act by the recipient may result in a reduction or withdrawal of his/her scholarship.

2) Period covered by scholarship

One year: From April 2027 to March 2028

* Recipients must be enrolled in their university for the entire period covered by the scholarship. Recipients may apply for a renewal of their scholarship in subsequent years, up to the minimum total number of years required for completion of the final degree they aim to complete.
* Fiscal 2026 recipients enrolled in fall and scheduled to obtain a degree in fall 2027 (provided that they will not advance to a higher degree program) may apply for a renewal of half a year (only those scheduled to graduate within the standard period for completion are eligible), in which case they should submit the same application documents as other renewing applicants (if they are successful, the scholarship amount will be one half of the "amount of scholarship" shown above.)

3) Applicant categories

1. New applicants: Applicants who have not previously received a scholarship from the Foundation
2. Renewing applicants: Applicants who have previously received a scholarship from the Foundation by university recommendation
   * We accept only those who had enough achievements and advancements over the past one year.
   * Copying of the past application materials will cause you to be disqualified.

4) Grounds for withdrawal of scholarship support

(1) The scholarship recipient withdraws from school.
(2) The recipient takes a leave of absence from school or does not attend classes for an extended period.
(3) The recipient fails to advance toward his or her degree or is at risk of failing to meet degree completion requirements.
(4) The recipient is not expected to graduate due to injury or illness.
(5) The recipient fails to make satisfactory academic progress or engages in unethical behavior.
(6) Circumstances render the scholarship unnecessary.
(7) Circumstances other than the above arise that disqualify the recipient.
(8) The recipient is expelled from school for disciplinary reasons.
(9) The recipient otherwise ceases to meet scholarship criteria.

Eligibility for Recommendation

*Those who are not in Japan at the time of screening, interview, announcement of interview outcomes, or certification ceremony are ineligible for recommendation.

* Those whose research is related to Data Science in the following fields are also eligible.
* (For medical/enginering fields only) If recipients in the second year of a master's program who stated their intention to advance to a doctoral program do not subsequently do so, their selection will be revoked.

Medicine/Dentistry/Pharmacology:

- Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program or be enrolled in the second year of a master's program (as of April 2027) and seeking to advance to a doctoral program.

Engineering:

- Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program or be enrolled in the second year of a master's program (as of April 2027) and seeking to advance to a doctoral program.
- Applicants must be undertaking research in a field directly relating to medicine/pharmacology, such as human medical engineering, biomaterials engineering, human assistive technology, medical care and welfare engineering, bioinformatics, computational sciences, or drug discovery (please see the FAQ for more details regarding research areas).
  * Applicants will be disqualified unless the relationship with medicine/pharmacology (including conference presentations, research papers, and other achievements) is clearly stated in the Scholarship Application Form.

Business Administration:

- Applicants must be enrolled in a master's program or a doctoral program.
- Regardless of the graduate school with which you are affiliated, any field broadly related to business administration is acceptable, including economics.
- For students from developing countries where business administration is not an established discipline, "international relations with a focus on economic areas" is also acceptable.

(1) Applicants must be self-supporting international students residing in Japan with "college student" status and must be 38 years old or younger as of April 1, 2027.
(2) Applicants must be enrolled in an official degree program at a graduate school designated by the Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation.
(3) Applicants must not have applied unsuccessfully to the Foundation in the past, either by direct application or university recommendation.
(4) Applicants must not have previously been selected by the Foundation as a scholarship recipient through direct application.
(5) Applicants must be highly motivated, possess an outstanding academic record, and demonstrate personal integrity.
(6) Applicants must be involved in creative or innovative research.
(7) Applicants must be able to have their supervising professor or other person provide appropriate guidance and pre-checking of the documents they submit to the Foundation (including application documents).
(8) Applicants are not permitted to leave Japan for 40 or more days in total (including the departing date) during the period covered by the scholarship.
(9) Applicants must have an international perspective and demonstrate the ability to lead and serve as a bridge between Japan and other countries.
(10) Applicants must demonstrate a need for financial aid.
(11) Applicants must give full support and cooperation to events held by the Foundation and must contribute to building network between scholarship recipients.
(12) Applicants must be motivated to study the Japanese language.
   * The Scholarship Application Form may be completed in English, but selection points will be deducted if the Scholarship Application Form and interview reveal no motivation to study Japanese.
(13) Applicants must be committed to contributing to society through their research.
(14) Applicants must meet the requirements specified in (1) to (13) above and other requirements stipulated by the Foundation.
   * Those who are unlikely to complete their studies within the standard period for completion are ineligible for recommendation.
   * Those who have classes at night or over weekends, or who are enrolled in a correspondence education program are ineligible for recommendation.
   * Only one person can be recommended from the same laboratory.

Applications

We have introduced an Application Support System. Applicants must complete online submission then mail the original documents to the Foundation.

1) How to apply *For more information, refer to STEP04 of the "Application Process" section.

1. Go to https://otsuka.yoshida-p.net/suisen/ and enter the Application Support System. Follow the instructions under "Application Process" to enter your basic information and submit your Scholarship Application Form (excluding letter of recommendation), academic transcript, and Japanese translation (only if you completed the application form in English) as PDF files. (Do not upload papers or other undesignated documents.)

   * Lack of pages or necessary documents will cause you to be disqualified. (The page with photograph should be scanned in colors.)
   * Be sure to attach a photograph to the Scholarship Application Form you submit online.
   * Be sure to use a scanner to digitize your application form as a PDF file. (We do not accept PDFs created from photographs using smartphone applications and the like. Do not scan using horizontal [landscape] orientation.)
   * You will be disqualified if there are any differences between the content of the Scholarship Application Form and the basic information you entered. (Special attention should be paid to the applicant's name and research title.)

You cannot cancel your online submission, so please be cautious when making online submission.

2. **Write the reference number issued after online submission in the required five spaces (refer to STEP04 of the "Application Process" section) on your application documents, and submit the documents to the staff in charge at your university. In addition to these five spaces, you must also write the reference number on the envelope containing your letter of recommendation.**
3. **The university staff should collate the application documents shown below and send them to the Foundation Office by mail.**
   * You will be disqualified if there are any differences between the content of the Scholarship Application Form you submitted online and the one sent to the Foundation by mail.
   * Documents submitted will not be used for any purpose other than the business of the Foundation.
   * The documents will not be returned to applicants.
   * Please be sure to apply through your university. The Foundation does not handle inquiries and applications directly from applicants.

[Address] Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation Office
Otsuka Group Osaka Headquarters Building
3-2-27 Otedori, Chuo-ku, Osaka
540-0021, Japan

2) Application materials

1. **Handwritten original of the Scholarship Application Form for your application category (Use the form designated by the Foundation, printed on a single side on A4 size paper. Please leave pages unstapled.)**
   * All documents other than the letter of recommendation must be handwritten in Japanese or English by the applicant. (Use pens with black ink. Do not use erasable pens nor pens with blue ink. Application forms that are written with tablet devices then printed out are not acceptable. Do not use ChatGPT or any other generative AI tools at all in completing the application form.) Applications completed in English must be accompanied by a Japanese translation (those submitted without complete and accurate Japanese translation will be disqualified. You will also be disqualified if the Japanese translation fails to indicate the character counts of the sections that have predetermined character limits). If you are to submit the applications in English, make sure to read parts explaining about Japanese translation in our Application FAQs.
   * Renewing applicants must not copy from a Scholarship Application Form submitted for a previous application.
     You will be disqualified if you copy any material from a previous application. Even if there has been no change in your future aspirations and research subjects, you should re-write your application in new words.
   * Applicants submitting application documents (including the contents of the Scholarship Application Form and Japanese translations) that appear not to have been checked appropriately by their supervising professor or university staff member shall be disqualified.
2. **Letter of recommendation duly signed by the recommender (the signature must be handwritten and not typed) and placed in a sealed envelope for submission (letters written in English must be accompanied by a Japanese translation).**
   * For an application of Doctor's course student, the recommender must be someone who has a qualification to supervise the doctoral dissertation or who can be responsible for the completion of the doctoral dissertation.
   * The supervising professor named on Page 1 of the application form, who also signs section "additional information regarding your research" (研究についての追加情報) and the letter of recommendation, must be the same person.
3. **Color photograph: 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm photo showing the applicant facing forward from the chest up, taken no longer than six months ago (Paste the photo to the application form. Photos that have been edited or modified using smartphone applications and the like are not allowed.)**
4. **Academic transcript: Most recent transcript, with course titles, credits earned, grades or other evaluations of student performance, and explanations of what the evaluations mean. (Pass/fail records alone are not acceptable.) Send a transcript current as of the most recent year for which level evaluations or grade evaluations were made. A statement of reasons for not having grades in the institution currently attended is not acceptable. A transcript of Japanese language school or professional training college is not acceptable.**
   * At least one year's worth of academic transcripts are required. If your most recent transcript only covers half a year, submit the one from the previous year as well.
5. **Student registration certificate (in Japanese) issued on or after the call for applications is made. Photocopies are not acceptable.**
6. **Certificate of residence: Official copy of full record issued on or after the call for applications is made. Photocopies, records that do not show "Nationality/Region" and "Status of Residence, etc.," and records that include an Individual Number (as nicknamed "My Number") are not acceptable.**
7. **Four sets of copies of your Scholarship Application Form and academic transcript**
   * One set = a copy of the Scholarship Application Form (1 above) and the academic transcript (4 above), single-sided, on A4 size paper (use color copying for the page with your photograph attached). Enclose four of these sets. Leave them unstapled.
8. **Four copies of your research papers (if applicable)**
   * Published research papers: Make sure to enclose them (double-sided, stapled, your name in the list of authors underlined with pens with red ink).
   * Write your reference number and your name in Katakana at the upper right-hand corner of the first page of your papers.
   * For renewing applicants, there is no need to submit the research papers you already submitted to the Foundation last year.

3) Application deadline

Online submissions: Thursday, October 1, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - Thursday, November 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Submissions by mail: Must arrive at the Foundation Office no later than Tuesday, November 24, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Screening Process, Selection, and Scholarship Payments

1) Screening process

In our screening process, we place importance on the diversity of applicants' nationalities, the enthusiasm and commitment reflected in their application materials, the novelty and significance of their research, their motivation to learn Japanese, and other relevant factors. The screening process involves reviewing the application documents and interviewing candidates.
Scholarship recipients will be chosen by the Foundation's selection committee, with decisions finalized by the Board of Directors. The interview portion of the process will be conducted in Osaka or Tokyo between the end of January and throughout February 2027 (tentative).

2) Selection

Outcomes of the selection will be communicated to universities by the end of March. Attendance at the certification ceremony planned on Friday, July 23 and Saturday, July 24, 2027 and submission of a Letter of Agreement are compulsory for official certification as a scholarship recipient (also applicable to recipients of half-year scholarship). Recipients are not permitted to withdraw from the scholarship for the purpose of receiving another scholarship or grant at any time after submission of the Letter of Agreement.

3) Scholarship payments

Scholarship payments are generally made twice annually on predetermined dates in August and December. Payments will be deposited directly into the recipient's designated bank account. Moreover, you will also receive a book purchase grant toward the cost of purchasing books useful in your research, Japanese language studies, and international understanding (the expected grant amount is approximately 10,000 yen). Please be aware that you will be required to submit a Reading Report (in around November) on all books purchased using the book purchase grant.
* Renewing applicants selected to receive the scholarship for a further half-year will be contacted separately regarding the timing of their scholarship payments. The Foundation plans not to provide such applicants with book purchase grants.

4) Number of scholarships available

Fiscal 2027: Up to 100 scholarships

Scholarship Type

1. The Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship is awarded with no obligation of repayment (except in cases of serious violations of the scholarship terms and conditions, such as making false declaration).
2. The Scholarship is free of any conditions related to post-graduation activities, including employment.

Obligations of Recipients

Scholarship recipients are expected to fulfill the following obligations:

(1) Comply with all rules stated in the Scholarship Guide and inform the Foundation promptly if they cease to satisfy any of the conditions for granting the scholarship.
(2) Promptly notify the Representative Director of the Foundation if any of the following occurs:
   i. Leave of absence, reinstatement, transfer or withdrawal from school
   ii. Suspension or other disciplinary action
   iii. Change in name, address or other important personal information
   iv. Likelihood of repeating a year of study or not being able to obtain a degree within the standard period for completion
(3) Submit the following documents to the Representative Director of the Foundation:
   i. Student registration certificate and a report on living condition
   ii. Academic transcript
(4) Participate in events held by the Foundation.
(5) Even after graduating, participate actively as an alumni and keep the Foundation updated of your current status.

Application Process

STEP 01

Log in to your MyPage account

❶ Click the “Log in to your MyPage account” button in the top right-hand corner of the top page of the Application Support System (https://otsuka.yoshida-p.net/suisen/) .

❷ Enter your login ID and password to log in to your MyPage account.

STEP 02

Prepare your application documents

❶ Enter the basic information.

* Please enter the exact information as written in your application form. Your application will be disqualified if there is any difference between the basic information and the entry contents of your application form.

❷ Upload your Scholarship Application Form (handwritten) and academic transcript. (If the application form is written in English, please upload a Japanese translation as well. Submit the application form and the Japanese translation in different PDF files, and upload them respectively to the “Scholarship application form” and “Japanese translation” sections.)

* Be sure to use a scanner to digitize your application form as a PDF file. (We do not accept PDFs created from photographs using smartphone applications and the like. Do not scan using horizontal [landscape] orientation.)

* Do not upload any documents (such as papers) other than your application form to the “Scholarship application form” section.

* Do not upload any documents other than your academic transcript to the “Academic transcript” section.

* Upload the Japanese translation of your application form only in the case where you have written your application in English. (All English entries of the application form; including that of page 1 to 3, must be accompanied by a Japanese translation.) Do not upload any documents other than Japanese translations to the “Japanese translation” section.

* You can check to see which documents you have saved and uploaded by pressing the “Display PDF” button. You may also edit your application details and upload documents as many times as you like before pressing the “Submit” button.

* The application form without your photograph will be disqualified.

STEP 03

Online submissions

After you have verified your basic information and uploaded all of the necessary application documents, click the “Submit” button on MyPage.

* Please make sure that you have uploaded all the pages (including the “additional information on research” {研究についての追加情報} page) of Scholarship Application Form (pages containing photos should be uploaded in colors) and other required documents.

* Your Application Form will be disqualified if it is not collated in the correct order or if any of the pages is aligned in the wrong direction.

* Letters of recommendation, certificate of residence and student registration certificate must not be submitted online.

* You cannot cancel your online submission. Click the “Display PDF” button and check once more through the PDF you uploaded, before clicking “Submit.”

Online submission completed / Reference number issued

STEP 04

Prepare documents for submission

Write your reference number (issued after the completion of online submission) in the following five locations.

Example: “27-S1”

1. Checklist: Reference number column in the upper right-hand corner

2. Scholarship Application Form: Reference number column in the upper left-hand corner of page 1

Upper right-hand corner of each of the following documents:

3. Academic transcript (In this section, you must write your reference number and your name in Katakana.)

4. Student registration certificate

5. Certificate of residence

* The application form without the reference number will be disqualified.

STEP 05

Submit documents to the contact person at your university

❶ Use the checklist to confirm that all of the application documents are ready.

❷ Please submit your application documents to the contact person at your university.

* Please note that the letter of recommendation format for engineering is different from the format for business administration and medical fields.

* The letter of recommendation must be submitted in a sealed envelope (make sure that your reference number is written on the envelope). Opened letters of recommendation will not be accepted.

* The contact person is kindly requested to collect the application documents and send them by mail to our office.

* Your application will be disqualified if there is any difference between the application form submitted online and the one mailed to the Foundation Office.

Application FAQ

Eligibility for Recommendation

Q Are there any restrictions on nationality?

A No, there are no restrictions on nationality. (However, those with Japanese nationality are not eligible.)

Q Is there an age limit?

A You must be 38 years old or younger as of April 1, 2027.

Q Can I be recommended even if my status of residence in Japan is not College Student?

A Only those with College Student status may be recommended.

Q Can research students also be recommended?

A No, research students cannot be recommended. You must be currently enrolled as a regular student to be eligible.

Q Can I be recommended if I have previously applied or been selected for the scholarship through direct application?

A No, those who have applied by direct application in the past cannot be recommended, regardless of whether or not they were successful. Please apply through the direct application process: the application period begins in early March (tentative).

Q Can I be recommended if I am not majoring in business administration?

A Regardless of the Graduate School enrolled, eligibility extends to a broad range of fields related to business administration, including economics and data science. If you are from a developing country where business administration is not an established discipline, "international relations with a focus on economic areas such as international economics, international finance, and international trade" is also acceptable.

Q Can I be recommended if I am enrolled in an engineering-related graduate school?

A You can be recommended if your studies are in an area "directly related to medicine/pharmacology."

In your Scholarship Application Form, please be sure to state clearly how your studies are related and applicable to medicine/pharmacology. You will be ineligible if the relationship is unclear.

Eligible areas include, for example:
- Human medical engineering such as development of testing/analysis devices, biomaterials engineering, development of optical devices, medical systems (therapy/diagnosis), and development of mechanical aids for research and development in areas such as medicine, pharmacology, and biosciences;
- Human assistive technology and medical care and welfare engineering, such as health and welfare engineering, human assistive technology, nursing and care engineering, non-industrial assistive robotics, and rehabilitation engineering;
- Bioinformatics and computational sciences, such as genomic data analysis;
- Drug discovery.

Please make sure to use the recommendation letter format for engineering, and have your recommender check the box for "related to medicine or pharmacology" after confirming.

Q Am I eligible to be recommended even if I already have a scholarship from another organization?

A No, you cannot be recommended if you have already been awarded another scholarship valid during the period covered by this scholarship.
However, applicants may be recommended if they withdraw from and return the other scholarship they have been awarded. In such cases, please submit documentation confirming that the other scholarship funds have been returned upon notification of selection for this scholarship.

Q Can I receive the Foundation's scholarship if I receive another scholarship?

A No, you cannot.
All funds to support living expenses and those with no specified purpose of use (such as purchasing materials directly required for research) are considered "scholarships," even if they are called "research incentive grants," "research focus support funds" or the like.

Q Can I be recommended if I have secured admission for April 2027 but am yet to arrive in Japan?

A No, you cannot. You need to submit a student registration certificate and certificate of residence together with your application, so you must be in Japan at the time of recommendation.

Q Can I be recommended if I have secured admission for April 2027?

A You can be recommended, but as a rule, this is only possible if you are proceeding from an undergraduate to a master's program (business administration only) or master's to doctoral program, or transferring from research student to regular student status within the same university in April 2027. However, this is only permitted in cases where you have been engaged in discussions with your prospective supervisor and he/she is able to write a letter of recommendation that includes comments on both your personality and your research plans. Please be sure to attach a copy of a document proving your admission when submitting your application.
If you are studying in the field of medical or engineering, you can also be recommended if you will be in the second year of a master's program as of April 2027, and have a firm intention of advancing to a doctoral program. (Scholarship status will be revoked if the applicant does not subsequently enroll in a doctoral program.)

Q I will graduate from my current program in the fall of 2027. Can I be recommended?

A No, you cannot. Eligibility is limited to applicants who will be enrolled throughout the payment period (April 2027 - March 2028). However, scholarship recipients in fiscal 2026 enrolled in fall and scheduled to obtain a degree in fall 2027 may apply for renewal for their final half-year prior to graduation (only those scheduled to graduate within the standard period for completion are eligible).

[For doctoral students and master's students who do not intend to proceed to a doctoral program]
- Please apply for a renewal of half a year and be sure to select "Renewal (half-year)" on the application form.

[For master's students planning to advance to a doctoral program]
- Please apply for a one-year scholarship period. In "③Affiliated Institution" (所属機関) of the application form, provide information as of the date of application. Attach a sticky note to the first page of the application indicating the date of the entrance examination and the date on which the admission results will be announced. As soon as the admission result becomes available, submit a certificate of admission.

Q I am taking advantage of an extended enrollment system or remaining in my program past the standard period for completion. Can I still be recommended?

A Students taking advantage of an extended enrollment system, students who remain in a program past the standard period for completion (including doctoral program students past the standard period for completion), and students unlikely to complete their studies within the standard period for completion are ineligible.
Scholarship recipients will have their scholarship cancelled if their graduation is delayed after they were selected as recipients.

Application FAQ

Application Materials

Q I plan to participate in an academic exchange program. Can I still be recommended?

A Those who plan to leave Japan for a total of forty days or more (including the departing date) during the period covered by the scholarship for exchange program, field work, homecoming visit, traveling, attending online classes from outside Japan, or other reasons (i.e. not being based in Japan) are ineligible.

Q How can I obtain a Scholarship Application Form?

A Please download the Scholarship Application Form from the Application Support System.
Please note that application forms are different for new and renewing applicants, as well as for the medical fields and the business fields applicants (engineering applicants should use the application form for medical fields and the letter of recommendation for engineering). Your application will be ineligible if you do not use the correct form.

Q Does my application need to be handwritten?

A The application must be handwritten by the applicant. Your application will be disqualified if all or any part of the application is typed, handwritten by someone other than yourself, written with erasable pens, or created using a tablet device and then printed out. Do not use ChatGPT or any other generative AI tools at all in completing the application form.

Q As of when should I provide information on the institution currently attended (所属機関)?

A The information you provide for institution currently attended, year level, and other aspects of your studies and life should be correct as of the time of application. However, if you are a research student and have secured admission to a doctoral program beginning in April 2027, please provide the institution attended, year level, and other information as of April 2027.

Q How should I submit copies of my Scholarship Application Form, academic transcript and research papers?

A Please enclose four sets of copies, each comprising a copy of the Scholarship Application Form and the academic transcript, single-sided, on A4 size paper (use color copying for the page with your photograph attached). If you have completed your Scholarship Application Form in English, please also attach four sets of copies of a Japanese translation thereof. Copies of the checklist, student registration certificate, certificate of residence, and letters of recommendation are not required. Please leave your copies unstapled.
If you have any research papers that have been published, please enclose four collated copies of them (double-sided, stapled, then write your reference number and your name in Katakana at the upper right-hand corner of the first page). Please underline your name in the list of authors, using pens with red ink. Renewing applicants should only submit the research papers published (or accepted) after November 2025. (There is no need to submit the ones you already submitted last year.)

Q How should I fill out Section ④(学歴・職歴) of the application?

A Provide your academic data from the last school attended in your home country to the school you are currently attending, in chronological order beginning with the oldest data at the top and leaving no gaps in the chronology (include any Japanese language schools attended and any universities attended as a research student). Also provide details on any work experience you have.

Example)

2017	9	～	2021	8	Department of XXX, Faculty of △△, ○○ University (△△ City, ○○ Province, China)
2021	9	～	2024	8	Worked in a research position, ○○ Co., Ltd. (△△ City, ○○ Province, China)
2024	10	～	2025	3	☆☆☆Japanese Language School (Osaka)
2025	4	～	2026	3	Research student, Graduate School of △△, ○○ University
2026	4	～			5-year doctoral program, Graduate School of △△, ○○ University

Q I have nothing to write on the "additional information regarding your research" (研究についての追加情報) page. May I remove this page when submitting my application?

A Please do not remove this page. If you have no additional information to provide, write "None" and submit it. Medical field's applicants have to obtain their supervisor's signature.

Q I just matriculated and haven't yet compiled an academic record at the graduate school I now attend. Is an undergraduate transcript acceptable?

A Yes, you may submit a transcript of the undergraduate institution from which you graduated.

Q Does the transcript have to be an original? Do you accept copies?

A You may submit a copy.

Q Are transcripts written in the language of my home country accepted?

A Yes. If it is difficult to obtain a transcript written in Japanese or English, you may submit a transcript written in the language of your home country. Please note that, as specified in the program guide, submit the most recent transcript with course titles, credits earned, grades or other evaluations of student performance, and explanations of what the evaluations mean. (Pass/fail records alone are not acceptable.) At least one year's worth of academic transcripts are required. If your most recent transcript only covers half a year, submit the one from the previous year as well.

Q Is the deadline (Tuesday, November 24) the postmarked date or the date by which my application has to arrive at the Foundation?

A Your application must arrive at our office by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24. Only applications sent by mail are accepted. Please note that the deadline for online submission of application documents through the Application Support System on our website is on Thursday, November 19, 5:00 p.m. Be sure to send a hard copy of your application documents by mail after submitting them on online.

Q Do you accept application forms completed in English?

A Application forms completed in English will be accepted but must be accompanied by a Japanese translation of all English entries, including proper nouns. In such cases, the forms completed in English must be handwritten by the applicant. If you are able to fill out sections of the form in Japanese, we encourage you to do so. The Japanese translation need not be handwritten. No specific format or structure is required for the Japanese translation, but make sure to separate the translation corresponding to each page of the application form, and print it on single-sided paper (no both-side printing). Only for the section on "Research Subjects" (page 7 and 8 of the application form), you can write it continuously and there is no need to separate the pages. Please note that your application will be disqualified if there are any unnatural and unintelligible expressions, mistranslations, large omissions, translated content that is not contained in the original text, or other inaccuracies in the Japanese translation.
Also, for the sections on "Future Aspirations (future aspirations and progress of the past one year)" (将来の抱負{将来の抱負とこの1年の進捗}), "Research Subjects (research progress over the past one year and research plans for the next year)" (研究内容{研究について、この1年の進捗と来年の研究計画}) and "Progress and Achievements over the past One Year" (過去1年の成果及び活動), please be sure to clearly indicate the character counts of the Japanese translations and keep them within the character limits.

Application FAQ

Q **The sections for "Future Aspirations (future aspirations and progress of the past one year)"（将来の抱負{将来の抱負とこの1年の進捗}）, "Research Subjects (research progress over the past one year and research plans for the next year)"（研究内容{研究について、この1年の進捗と来年の研究計画}）and "Progress and Achievements over the past One Year"（過去1年の成果及び活動）have grid lines for Japanese characters. How should I proceed if I'm completing these sections in English?**

A Simply ignore the grid lines. No limitation is placed on the number of alphanumeric characters when you complete them in English. In the Japanese translations, however, please make sure to stay within the predetermined limit on the number of characters and clearly indicate the character counts.

Q **What should I do if I have no particular "Progress over the past One Year"（過去1年の成果）to report?**

A Please report any achievements or advancements over the past one year, including not only presentations at academic conferences and papers submitted for publication, but also other achievements in your studies, activities contributing to the community, and so forth. If you had few achievements and advancements last year, you should not apply.

Q **Under "Have you applied for other scholarships/research grants?"（他奨学金・研究助成金の併願状況）, how should I enter one-off payments?**

A When entering your information online, select "Annual amount" and enter the total yearly amount. On the Scholarship Application Form, in a blank space enter words such as "once-off" to explain the type of payment. If explanations are needed for other items on the form, enter them in blank spaces and mark them for attention using sticky notes.

Q **Where are the required 5 spaces to write the reference number?**

A Please refer to the STEP04 of the "Application Process" section in the Scholarship Guide or the Application Support System. In addition to these five spaces, you must also write the reference number on the envelope containing your letter of recommendation.

Q **Can a lecturer or an assistant professor write the recommendation letter?**

A For an application of Doctor's course student, the recommender must be someone who has a qualification to be the chief examiner of the doctoral dissertation.

Japanese Proficiency

Q **Am I eligible regardless of my Japanese proficiency?**

A Yes. However, your Japanese proficiency (assessed in light of the length of your stay to date in Japan) may affect your evaluation as a candidate. A lack of enthusiasm for Japanese, such as failure to speak any Japanese at all during the interview, will be detrimental to your evaluation.

Q **Is it possible to be interviewed in English?**

A While interviews are normally conducted in Japanese, they may be conducted in English if you arrived in Japan recently. Please note that you will be interviewed in Japanese if your application has been prepared in Japanese. Accordingly, be sure to prepare your application in English if you cannot speak Japanese.
Even if you are interviewed in English, efforts to speak in Japanese, such as giving a simple self-introduction, will be evaluated positively.

Other Questions

Q **Who should enter my basic information and submit my application online through the Application Support System?**

A As a rule, applicants should do this themselves. Information in the Application Support System is provided in both Japanese and English. You may ask the staff in charge at your university for assistance.

Q **I do not know my reference number. What should I do?**

A Your reference number will be issued upon completion of the online submission process.

Q **Is my application complete once I have submitted online?**

A No, your application is not yet complete. Write the reference number issued upon online submission in the required five spaces (refer to STEP04 of the "Application Process" section) on your application documents, and submit all the documents together to the staff in charge at your university. In addition to these five spaces, you must also write the reference number on the envelope containing your letter of recommendation. (The staff should collate all application documents and send them to the Foundation Office by mail.)

Q **Will it affect the selection process if I earn income from a part-time job or the like?**

A The selection process is not affected by income earned as a TA, RA, in part-time work, or received as a research grant. However, if your Application Form fails to show how you are meeting your tuition and living expenses, such as where details of your income and expenses are not provided or your stated income does not match your expenses, or lacks reasonable explanation for such failure, your application will be disqualified. Therefore, please accurately describe your current situation.

Q **When and where will the interviews be conducted?**

A Interviews will be conducted in Osaka or Tokyo between the end of January and throughout February 2027 (except for emergency cases, such as a sudden illness of the interviewer). You will be asked to travel to the venue at the time indicated. If you cannot come to the interview venue, you will be ineligible.

Q **When will I be contacted about an interview?**

A The staff in charge at your university will be notified by email by late January.

Q **I'm a renewing applicant. Should I complete the Scholarship Application Form and submit all required documents as a new applicant does?**

A Yes. All applicants should complete the Scholarship Application Form and mail it to the Foundation, along with the application materials specified in the program guide. Applicants for half-year renewal should follow exactly the same process.

Q **Can applicants contact the foundation directly?**

A For university recommendations, we do not accept direct inquiries from applicants. When applying/making inquiries, please contact us through the staff in charge at your university.

If you have any questions not covered in this FAQ, please contact the Foundation Office.

About Us

Establishment

The Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation was established on March 6, 2007.
The Foundation was formally registered as a “public interest incorporated foundation” on April 1, 2012.

Background to the Foundation’s Establishment

Japan’s aging population and low birthrates have become prominent trends in recent years that are expected to accelerate. The country faces a strong need to develop as many talented young people as possible. Meanwhile, developing countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and other parts of the world—which have strong economic, educational, and cultural ties with our country—have growing numbers of young people but limited opportunities for them to study and pursue research at universities and other institutes of higher education in Japan and other developed countries. Additionally, young people from such countries often struggle financially while studying abroad due to inadequate resources.

Given these conditions and the need for ongoing, mutually beneficial development, it was recognized that the provision of financial assistance to Asian, Middle Eastern, African, and other international students specializing in medicine, pharmacology, nutrition, physical education, and business administration at Japanese universities and graduate schools would be highly meaningful and worthwhile. Accordingly, the Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation was established in 2007.

Profile of Otsuka Toshimi, the Founding Donor

The Foundation began with a private donation from Otsuka Toshimi, a member of the family that founded the Otsuka Group. Otsuka Toshimi was born on December 24, 1922, in Naruto, Tokushima Prefecture. Raised by hard-working parents, she enjoyed a happy childhood.

In 1950, Otsuka Toshimi joined Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, a firm established by Otsuka Busaburo, her father. There she assumed various responsibilities ranging from clerical work to employee dormitory management. She lived simply and frugally, practicing economy wherever possible. In her later years, she expressed a wish to help society in some way and offered to donate her lifetime savings for the purpose.

The Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation was established in 2007 to provide financial assistance to students from countries that have long supported the growth of the Otsuka Group and thereby contribute to the development of future leaders in those countries.

While serving as a director of the Foundation, Otsuka Toshimi attended the award ceremonies for scholarship recipients each year, drawing on her own life experiences over the years to talk about the joys of learning and the importance of overcoming obstacles. A gracious and modest woman of personal integrity, she died on May 3, 2011, having led an unblemished life for 88 years.

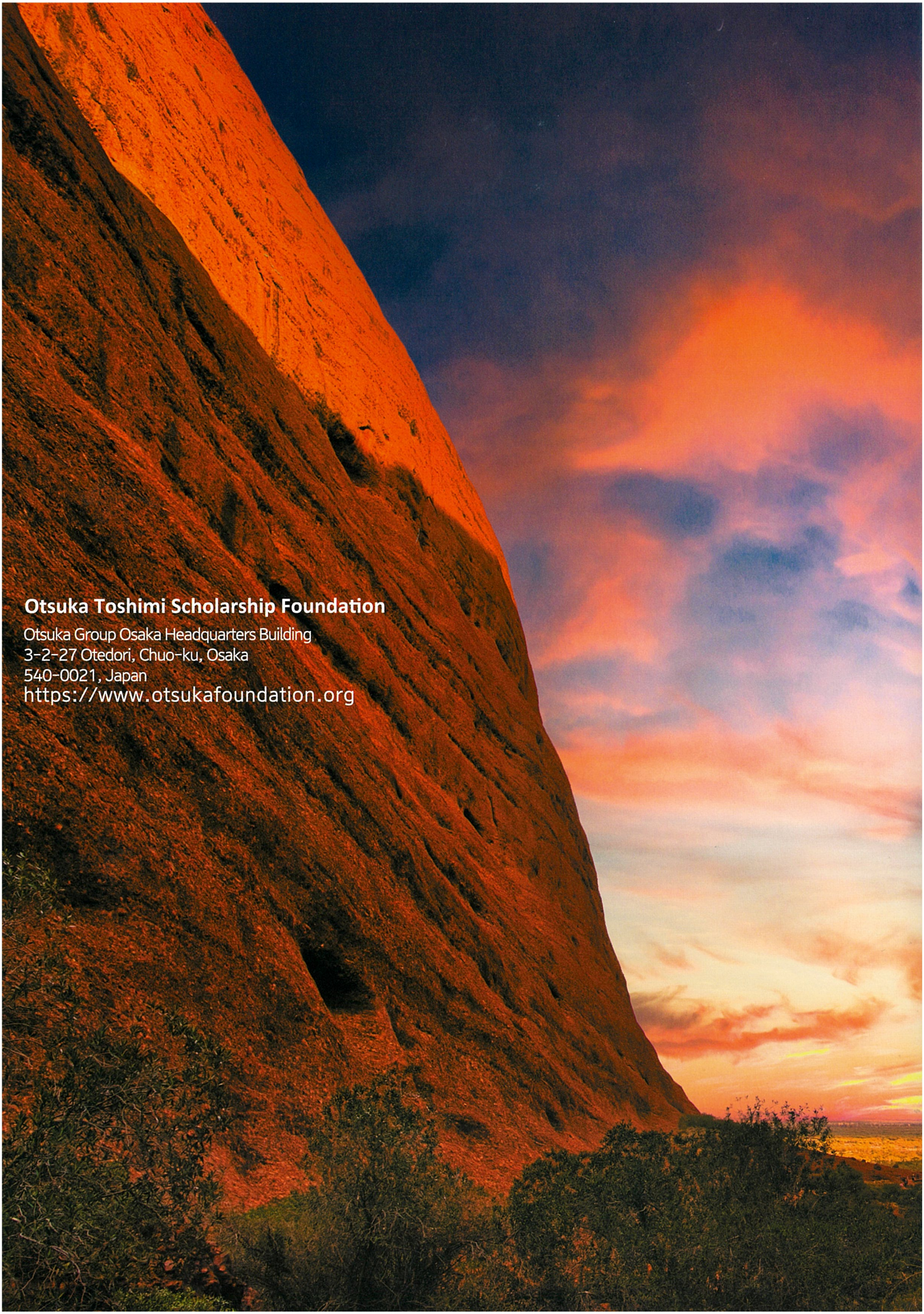
The memory of Otsuka Toshimi lives on in the Foundation’s activities.

Objectives

The Foundation’s objective is to foster the talents of individuals with the potential to promote goodwill and understanding between Japan and countries around the world, by offering scholarships to exceptional international students enrolled at universities and graduate schools in Japan, thereby ultimately promoting friendship between Japan and other countries and contributing to mutual development in academics, culture, and education.

Activities

1. Awarding scholarships to exceptional international students enrolled at universities and graduate schools in Japan
2. Guiding and advising scholarship recipients on living and studying in Japan
3. Other activities needed to achieve the Foundation’s objectives



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