

Recruit Scholarship Application Guidelines — FY2026 Art Division

What is “Recruit Scholarship”?

It was originally conceived on the 10th anniversary of Recruit Co., Ltd.’s establishment for the purpose of “contributing to society.” The scholarship was established in 1971 to support “individuals with leadership qualities, a strong desire to learn, and the potential to achieve something significant in the future.” Currently, the scholarship supports young people in Japan who aspire to take on the world and show outstanding potential in the fields of music, sports, art, and academics.

About Recruit Scholarship for Art Division

This non-repayable scholarship is intended for individuals aged 24 or younger who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies abroad with the aim of contributing to society as visual artists through their creative works. Recipients of the scholarship are eligible to receive funding for two years following acceptance. If they pass an annual renewal review, the scholarship may be extended until the age of 27. By supporting study abroad at art universities and other educational institutions overseas, the program aims to assist individuals who aim to achieve artistic excellence on a global stage.

Scholarship duration and amount

Duration: April 2026 to March 2028

Monthly Amounts:

USD	2,700
GBP	2,000
EUR	2,300

* All scholarships are non-repayable.

* For study in countries that use currencies other than those listed above, the scholarship will be provided in the relevant local currency amount determined by the Foundation.

- This scholarship does not require repayment.
- The scholarship will be provided during the period of enrollment at an overseas university or graduate school designated by the Foundation (hereinafter referred to as a “designated institution”).
- After the initial scholarship period, recipients who pass an annual renewal review will continue to receive the scholarship as long as they remain enrolled at a designated institution.
- The maximum duration of the scholarship is until the end of the fiscal year (March) in which the recipient reaches the age of 27.
- Scholarship payments will be suspended during periods of leave from a designated institution. In the event of graduation during the scholarship term, support will be provided only until the month of graduation.
- There are no conditions imposed on career paths or employment after graduation.
- There are no restrictions on receiving other scholarships alongside the scholarship granted by the Foundation.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility criteria.

1. Must be 24 years old or younger as of April 1, 2026.

2. Individuals who plan to be enrolled at or gain admission to a designated institution between April 2026 and March 2027. However, only full-time enrollment in undergraduate, master's, or doctoral programs is eligible.
 - * Examples of ineligible programs: Exchange programs, study abroad as part of a Japanese educational institution's curriculum, language schools, and working holiday programs
3. Individuals who aim to contribute to society through their creative works as visual artists
 - * Examples of ineligible cases: Those intending to work in the entertainment industry, such as film, animation, or theater
 - * Reference link: [Report on the July 27, 2021, event "Life as an Artist after University Graduation"](#)
4. Individuals who wish to study in the field of contemporary art
 - * Examples of ineligible fields: Design (including fashion design), architecture, etc.
 - Those who have graduated from a Japanese university and are planning to enroll in, or are currently enrolled in, a foundation course or undergraduate program at a designated institution are not eligible. University graduates are only eligible if they are pursuing graduate-level studies.
 - Applicants who are already studying abroad may also apply, provided they meet all of the above criteria. However, scholarship disbursement will begin no earlier than April 2025.
 - There are no restrictions on the applicant's nationality or past/current place of residence. However, all application documents must be in Japanese, and interviews are conducted in Japanese.

Designated institutions

The scholarship is limited to the following universities.

[QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025: "Art & Design" TOP50](#)

[Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 by subject: arts and humanities – "art, performing arts & design" TOP50](#)

Art universities abroad designated by the Foundation: [Click here for the list of designated institutions](#)

If you wish to apply to a university in a country not listed among the designated institutions, please contact us before submitting your application.

Contact us: info@recruit-foundation.org

Application process and schedule

1. Online application through the Foundation's website
<https://www.recruit-foundation.org/scholarship/art2026>
 Application period: July 1, 2025 ~ 23:59 (JST), September 16, 2025
2. Applicants who pass the document screening will be notified by email.
3. Applicants who pass the document screening must submit the following materials via email for use in the final selection process:
 - I. [Required] A portfolio of up to 20 pages or a video clip no longer than 5 minutes
 - II. [Optional] Presentation materials to be used on the day of the final selection
4. Final selection

October 27 or 28, 2025; approximately 45 minutes per person

Format: A presentation of your own work (up to 15 minutes) followed by an interview (30 minutes)

* The final selection is scheduled to be conducted online.

* The interview date and time will be assigned and communicated by the Foundation.

5. Notification of results

Applicants will be informed of the outcome via email from the Foundation by the end of November.

Application procedures

Category A: Applicants seeking new enrollment at a designated institution in FY2026 (April 2026 to March 2027)

1. Full name, date of birth, contact information, photo, address, current academic status, and educational/professional history
2. Record of achievements such as awards from competitions and qualifications (including year, title, and outcome)
3. List up to three intended institutions to which you plan to apply (if applying to multiple departments within the same institution, please bundle them as one).
4. Documents showing English proficiency scores (TOEFL iBT or IELTS)
In addition, please submit documents, if any, that demonstrate language proficiency required by the institution to which you are applying.
5. Reasons why you chose to study at an overseas university rather than in Japan, and why you selected that particular institution (within 300 characters)
6. Motivation for applying to this scholarship program (within 300 characters)
7. Your future career vision and plan (within 300 characters).
Please describe your envisioned career path 10 years from now, and provide a concrete plan of what you wish to study at university or graduate school in order to achieve it.
8. About your artistic theme
 - (1) Please describe your personal artistic theme or the unique aspects of your expression (within 200 characters).
 - (2) How do you position your theme or form of expression within the broader context of art? (within 300 characters)
 - (3) Please attach three image files that clearly represent your work and artistic theme. If submitting a video, upload a clip of up to 3 minutes to a platform such as YouTube and provide its URL.

Category B: Individuals who have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in a designated institution

* This includes those currently enrolled in a foundation course at a designated institution, as well as those already attending the institution and planning to newly enter a graduate program there.

1. Full name, date of birth, contact information, photo, address, current academic status, and educational/professional history
2. Record of achievements such as awards from competitions and qualifications (including year, title, and outcome)
3. Most recent academic transcript

* If your university grades are not yet available, please submit a certificate of enrollment indicating the start date of your classes.

4. Reasons why you chose to study at an overseas university rather than in Japan, why you selected that particular institution, and progress in your study so far (within 300 characters).
5. Motivation for applying to this scholarship program (within 300 characters)
6. Your future career vision and plan (within 300 characters).
Please describe your envisioned career path 10 years from now, and provide a concrete plan of what you wish to study at university or graduate school in order to achieve it.
7. About your artistic theme
 - (1) Please describe your personal artistic theme or the unique aspects of your expression (within 200 characters).
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