

Employment Promotion for International Students “Biwako Career Development Program for International Medical Students”

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

Shiga University of Medical Science (SUMS) has established a program for international students who wish to work in Japan to pursue their careers as medical professionals. In this program, students are supported in developing the skills needed to work in organizations in Japan, and the skill development includes Japanese language skills, career education, and internships.

The "Biwako Career Development Program for International Medical Students" is implemented based on the "Program for Enhancing Employment of International Students" promoted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and this SUMS program for medical students has been approved by the MEXT.

If you are interested, please follow the guidelines below to apply.

1. Purpose of the program

To provide international students of the Graduate School of Medicine, SUMS, with an advantage in finding employment in Japan at companies, universities, or research institutes of their choice by improving their Japanese language skills, understanding of Japanese culture, and understanding of employment practices in Japanese society in accordance with their career perspectives. A certificate will be issued upon completion of the program.

2. Period of the program

Standard enrollment period: April 2026 - March 2027 (max: 2 years)

3. Courses offered by the program

1) Japanese language skills

- (1) Regular Japanese language classes: 40 lessons from beginner, intermediate, or advanced classes (non-credit course)
- (2) JLPT Preparation Course: 30 lessons (non-credit course)

2) Career education

- (1) Learning from senior international students: 5 classes (non-credit course)
- (2) Work-related thinking and skills: 5 classes (non-credit course)

3) Internships

- (1) Research institute: 4 weeks including pre- and post-training
- (2) Health-related industries: 4 weeks including pre- and post-training

* Credits will only be given to NCD Epidemiology Leader's Course students

4. Recruitment Capacity

Approximately 5 students

5. Application Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements.

- 1) Those who wish to work in Japan, such as at a Japanese company or a university research institute
- 2) Those who are international students of the Graduate School of Medicine, SUMS, and in their second to third year of a doctoral program (medicine) or in their first year of a master's program or in their second year of a doctoral program (nursing).
- 3) Those who have completed the elementary level of the regular Japanese language class by the time

the program starts.

4) Those who can obtain the consent of their supervisors to take courses offered in this program.

6. How to apply

Submit the following documents to the Student Support Unit at the Student Affairs Division.

- 1) "Biwako Career Development Program for International Medical Students" Application Form (Form 1)
- 2) Statement of Purpose (Form 2)
- 3) Letter of Consent from supervisor (Form 3)
- 4) A document proving language proficiency in English or Japanese (Only privately financed students)

*If you are unable to submit it, please consult the Student Affairs Division.

7. Submission deadline

Monday, March 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

8. Completion requirements

For completion of the program, the students must complete all courses listed in Section 3, 1) to 3) above, as follows:

- 1) Japanese Language Education: Maintain an attendance rate of 70% or higher for both regular Japanese language class and JLPT preparation course
- 2) Career Education: Attend all lectures (Any missed lectures must be made up by watching the on-demand videos.)
- 3) Internship: Complete an internship of at least four weeks, including pre- and post-program study sessions

* A "Certificate of Completion of the Biwako Career Development Program for International Medical Students" will be issued to those who complete all these requirements.

9. Financial Support

1) JLPT Examination Fees

JLPT examination fee (7,500 yen) will be provided to participants of this program when they pass N4 or a higher grade, up to twice (for the second support, they must pass a higher grade than the previous one.)

2) MEXT Scholarship for the participants who are privately-financed international students

Privately-financed international students participating in the program may apply for the MEXT Scholarship for International Students under the "Program for the Promotion of Acceptance of International Students".

Monthly stipend: 48,000 yen

Scholarship period: In principle, 1 year (from April to March of 1st year of participation)

*Applications are usually accepted from April to early May, and recipients are determined in June.

Eligibility:

a. Those who have a grade point average of 2.30 or higher in the previous year and expect to maintain this level during the scholarship period.

b. The applicant must meet the following language standards in Japanese or English.

< Japanese >

Those who have passed JLPT N2 level or above.

< English >

Those who are at least B2 level in the CEFR.

c. Those who are willing to cooperate in the survey of their career status conducted by the

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) after receiving the scholarship.

- d. Those who receive a monthly allowance of 90,000 yen or less on average.
- e. If the student has dependents living in Japan, their annual income must be less than 5 million yen.
- f. Those who are/will be not receiving any scholarships that are restricted from being paid together with this scholarship.
- g. Those who are/will be not under the support of JASSO Overseas Study Support Program.

3) Support for internship participation expenses

In principle, the program covers the costs of participation in the internship program, such as transportation and accommodation, up to 30,000 yen.