



Rotary Scholarship Application Q&A

[About the Foundation]

Q1: What is Rotary?

A: Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. Rotarians wish to make a difference at home and around the world; the members can be found in your community and across the globe.

Q2: What is Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation?

A: Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation is a Multi-District Activity, supported and promoted by the Rotary districts in Japan. The scholarship program was established in 1952, and it's directed solely at students coming from other countries to study in Japan. It is the largest domestic private sector scholarship program for foreign students. The foundation is supported by donations from Rotarians throughout Japan.

Q3: Would like to know more about the foundation?

A: Visit their website at <https://www.rotary.org/en/> (Rotary International)
<http://www.rotary-yoneyama.or.jp/english/> (Yoneyama Memorial Foundation)

[Application Eligibility]

Q1: Who is eligible to apply through Saitama University?

A: Students (or prospected students) enrolled in any faculty/graduate school of SU, in the year of Undergraduate 3rd/4th year, Master's 1st/2nd year, or Doctoral 2nd/3rd year (1st-year Doctoral is ineligible) as of April 2020 are eligible to apply. Current Non-SU students must be accepted to admit in Saitama University from April 2020 at the time of application.

Q2: Can Non-degree students apply as well?

A: Non-degree students, including graduate research students, STEPS students, and Credit seeking auditors, are ineligible, but those who are planning to enter the Master's degree program from April, 2020 are eligible to apply. Such applicants must declare the date of the entrance exam as well as the date of result announcement. Please note that if the applicant's admission did not get approved, he/she will lose the eligibility for Rotary application.

Q3: I will be extending my program for one more year. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Yes. Students being away from the University (Ex. studied abroad as exchange student, drafted into military service, etc.) may state the reason on the 3rd page of the application form. Please note that the scholarship will be determined when the recipient marked unsuccessful grades. It is not recommendable for the

students who could not graduate with insufficient credits to apply for this scholarship. *Please consult with the office on how to state the “Reason of leaving” as well as “Year of returning”.

Q4: My current visa status is not “Student”. Can’t I apply ?

A : Visa status of “Student” is required, though, other Visa status holders may apply under the circumstance of changing the visa status to “Student” after being accepted by the foundation. The result will be announced by mid-February 2020 and will be asked to change the status by March 25, 2020.

Q5: I was receiving Rotary Scholarship during my undergraduate. I will be admitting to the Master’s program from April 2020. Can I apply again ?

A : No. Former recipient may not apply again even when you proceed or transfer to a different program, department, or University.

Q6: I am currently receiving another scholarship. Can I apply ?

A : If your current scholarship ends by March 2020, you may apply for Rotary.

Q7: I am currently applying and waiting for the result for another scholarship. Can I apply for Rotary simultaneously ?

A : If you are applying for other scholarships for 2020FY, which is your first choice to receive, we do not suggest you to apply for Rotary. We highly recommend that you apply for Rotary by understanding and agreeing with the aim and purpose of the foundation. Please note that once being accepted, you may not decline Rotary by the reason of receiving other scholarships.

Q8: I can understand but can’t speak Japanese well. Can I still apply ?

A : Application form must be handwritten in Japanese and the interview will be conducted entirely in Japanese. Of course, if you can write the application form neatly in Japanese, there is no restriction of applying. Though, mutual communication will be required by the time of the foundation interview, which will be held in January. Please note that the university may ask the applicant to cancel the foundation interview if his/her Japanese proficiency is not up to the level. If you would like to know more about this matter, please consult with the Office of International Affairs prior to your application.

Q9: Which type of students will be accepted by the foundation ?

A : The foundation is looking for students who willingly be part of their activities in community services. Refer to “What the Foundation Expects for Scholarship Recipients”, and if you think their expectations are too much for you, it may be better for you to apply for some other scholarships that do not require any activity participations.

[Application Procedure]

~~Q1: I am currently a student in Saitama University. I was busy and had no time to prepare my application by the General Application deadline. Can I apply for the~~

~~Secondary Application ?~~

~~A :No. Secondary Application is open only for the prospected students admitting from October 2019 or April 2020. If you are currently an SU student, you must apply during the General Application even if you are admitting to the Master's program from April 2020.~~

Q2:“Only the number of vacancy will be selected from the Secondary Application.”
What does that mean?

A :The total number of nominees from Saitama University being recommended to the foundation is around 30. The priority will be given to the applicants of the General Application, and thus we may close the application without opening the Secondary Application if the number of nominees reaches to the limitation within the General Application. Therefore, we strongly suggest the prospective students to apply through the General Application as well.

Q3:I was not able to pass the screening of the General Application. Can I rewrite my application and apply again for the Secondary Application ?

A :No. Unfortunately, no one who could not pass the General Application may apply again for the Secondary Application. Please apply for another scholarship or apply again next year.

Q4:When do I need to submit the recommendation letter from my supervisor ?

A :Only the ones who have passed the screening will be asked to submit the recommendation letter. There is no need to submit it at the time of application. Instruction will be given to the nominees after the screening.

Q5:Is it OK to write the application forms in pencil ?

A :No. All the documents submitted by the applicants will be uploaded online in PDF file, and pencil writing might not appear clearly. Use a black ink or ball-point pen (erasable pen accepted) to fill out the forms. You may also use a white out for miswritten letters.

Q6:I will be out of Japan during the application period for summer. Is there any way I can submit my application ?

A :Submission by e-mail will be permitted ONLY for SU students being away from Japan for summer. Scan ALL the documents (including copies of student ID card / residence card etc.) in PDF file and attach them to your e-mail. Indicate the date of returning and send the e-mail to the Office of International Affairs rugaku@gr.saitama-u.ac.jp with the title “Rotary Application / your name” before the deadline. Confirmation mail will be replied to you within 3 business days*. Contact us again If you do not receive any mail from us.

*Office will be closed from August 10 (Sat) to August 19 (Mon) for summer.
Do not forget to submit your original hard copy after returning to Japan.

Q7:What are the criteria of screening selection within the university ?

A :The committee will evaluate the applicants based on the their transcript grades, financial situations, written essays, etc. Also by following the criteria of the foundation, the university may be selecting nominees from different nationalities,

programs, and enrolled school grades if needed. For those who cannot speak Japanese fluently, university may hold interviews as a pre-screening process. As mentioned above, please note that the priority will be given to the General Applicants to be selected.

Q8: When will the results of screening be announced?

A : Results of General Application : around September 19 (Thu)
Results of Secondary Application : around October 3 (Thu)
Results will be sent to the e-mail address stated in the application form.

Q9: I was away and did not have an access to receive the result of screening. Can I come to the office when I get back to Japan to hear the result?

A : No. While being away from Japan, applicants must be able to receive mails from the Office of International Affairs from the time of application until receiving the result. In case of missing documents, we may contact you before the screening. If you do not reply to us, it will be considered as you have declined your application. Please be sure to have an access online away from Japan, and indicate the accessible e-mail address to/from your country on the application form.

Q10: Do all the nominees take the interview by the foundation?

A : Yes. Everyone who passed the screening will be taking the interview by the foundation as a nominee from the university. The scheduled date of the interview is January 18 (Sat), 2020.

Q11: What kind of questions will I be asked at the interview?

A : Every year, applicants will be asked about the reason you chose Japan to study abroad, your research theme (what you are currently studying about), details of what you wrote in your application essays, your experiences and thoughts about volunteering activities, and many more about yourself. Everyone will also be asked about what you know about Rotary International and Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation. We strongly suggest you to learn about the aim of the foundation along with their activities by studying their website thoroughly, or by asking the current Yoneyama scholarship recipients about their activities. If you do not have any experience of volunteering, you may want to join few of them until the interview. Reports of the previous applicants' interview are available for references.

Q12: Is there any chance I can practice with someone to prepare for the interview?

A : Yes. After being well prepared, applicants may take a mock interview with Prof. Nakamoto (International Student Advisor) in December. Please consult with the Office of International Affairs to make reservations.

[What the Foundation Expects for Scholarship Recipients]

Q1: When and how do I receive the scholarship disbursement?

A : The scholarship will be paid in cash. Each recipient will be assigned to one Rotary club, serving as his/her host club, and one member from that club will act as a

“Counselor”. Recipients must attend the monthly meeting of their host club (may be held on weekdays), where they receive the disbursement directly from the counselor.

Q2:What other things besides the monthly meetings are expected to attend ?

A :In addition to the monthly meetings, ceremonial gatherings for District 2770 are held 5 times an year. Plus, other club activities, such as cultural events, services, sports, and social activities, many of which are carried out jointly with Rotary clubs are expected to attend. In some months the activities may take place on every weekend. Submitting essays twice a year are required to submit.

Q3:I am busy with my Doctoral (Master’s) research/experiment studies, and have no time to attend all those activities. It is OK just to attend the minimum required monthly meetings?

A :The most important matter for the recipients of the Rotary scholarship is to willingly communicate and be part of the Rotary club activities. If this sounds too hard for you, it may be better for you to apply for some other scholarships that do not require any activity participations.



When applying, please understand that this scholarship is supported entirely by the donations from the Rotarians throughout Japan. Rotary not only awards scholarship financially, but also turns attention toward international exchange and “heart to heart” interactions through community service activities. It will be a good chance to experience Japanese cultures and manners. Be open minded, and with many interests and willingness, please join the activities of the foundation positively and actively to experience many new things.

For further information on Rotary Scholarship application, please contact the Office of International Affairs.



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Saitama University