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NEWS RELEASE

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## MEXT Scholarship for Study in Japan for JET Alumni

CEPEX is very excited to endorse the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT) efforts in establishing a special quota of JET alumni to be the recipients of the Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT Scholarship). This special scholarship quota has been set up for the first time this year as a part of career development support for JET participants by MOFA and MEXT. The purpose is to strengthen ties between Japan and JET participants as well as to advance the future career of JET participants. Although there is little time to apply (April 21<sup>st</sup> deadline in Washington DC). We sincerely hope that many JET Program Alumni will apply for this opportunity. Please contact the JETAA office near you for more details.

### **MEXT Scholarship for Study in Japan by Former JET Participants**

*(Following is an outline of the scholarship)*

The Government of Japan has been providing Ministry of Education and Science (MEXT) scholarships for study in Japan to foreign researchers for many years, but beginning in FY 2008, 12 research students will be selected from among American alumni of the JET Program for this scholarship as a means to promote their career advancement.

This Program includes "research students" who are college graduates or the equivalent, and who meet the following requirements:

- A. Those who wish to audit courses at a Japanese university as a non-degree research student and receive academic guidance in their particular field of research.
- B. Those who wish to enroll as regular students in a Japanese graduate school's master's degree program or as a regular student in a vocational school curriculum.

### **1. Research Area**

Fields of study/research that can be pursued at a Japanese university. (It must be a field corresponding to a major study field or related field at the university).

### **2. Primary Qualifications and Conditions for Applicants**

- (1) Age: Persons born after April 1, 1973
- (2) Academic background: College graduate
- (3) Start of Japan studies: October 2008

### **3. Term of Scholarship Provision**

For the type of student corresponding to A. above, 1.5 years from October 2008 through March 2010.  
For the type of student corresponding to B. above, until that student completes the normal term of the curriculum.

### **4. Scholarship, etc.**

- (1) The scholarship shall provide 170,000 yen/month for the first 12 months and 160,000 yen/month for the 13<sup>th</sup> and remaining months of the scholarship term.
- (2) Roundtrip airfare shall be provided to and from the nearest major airport and Japan.
- (3) MEXT shall pay tuition and fees, including entrance fees, testing fees, etc.

### **5. Reference Materials, Application Procedures, etc.**

(1) All applicants must submit an application form to the nearest (or most convenient) Japanese Embassy or Consulate. If applying to the Embassy in Washington, DC, the application deadline is April 21, 2008 (postmarked by). Selected applicants will be chosen for in person interviews. As a part of the application process, the Japanese Embassy or Consulate will, based upon the application documents and interviews, perform the primary screening of applicants.

(2) In making selections, the candidate's overall suitability shall be determined based on such criteria as the candidate's student class ranking at their university (in principle, they must graduate in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher), their suitability as a foreign exchange student, including the specificity of their proposed course of study, and the possibilities for their future contribution to Japan-U.S. relations.

(3) A Japanese language test shall be administered at the first screening, but the results will be used only as a reference on your proficiency (this helps MEXT find the appropriate university for you, and it will be used by the university to determine whether you need initial instruction in Japanese language). However, considerable Japanese language skills will be required of those who intend to study Japanese or an area of specialization that requires proficiency in the Japanese language.

If a determination is made that a person does not have adequate Japanese language proficiency, it is normally the case that for the initial six months of their scholarship term, they will study Japanese at their designated school.

(4) Final selection of participants and decisions on the host schools shall be made in Japan based on the results of the initial screenings conducted at the Embassy of Japan and Consulates General of Japan. (Accordingly, passing the initial screening does not necessarily guarantee an applicant's final selection for participation). In the event that a host university cannot be found for an applicant by late July 2008, that applicant will not be selected.

(5) MEXT shall find the host university with due consideration of the applicant's individual preferences. However, the applicant should not in any case initiate direct contact with the university or its faculty or otherwise explore the possibilities for admittance. Should an applicant be notified of acceptance, he/she should immediately report that notification to the Japanese Embassy or Consulate General where he/she applied.

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