

How to write your study plan

The study plan is one of the most important components of your application. This is your opportunity to tell us about yourself, and your passion for the subject. Personal statements are not easy to write, and good ones require substantial work. Entry to our programs is highly competitive, so spending time on writing the best personal statement is important.

What are we looking for?

Successful applicants are people who we think will excel in our programs. We are looking for applicants who can demonstrate the following traits;

- Passion for the subject
- A broad understanding of program focus
- Evidence of a vision of your long-term goals
- Evidence of general academic competence
- Emotional resilience for life in a different academic environment

Planning your statement

Some questions you may wish to consider;

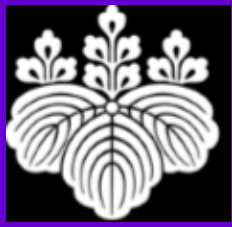
- **“Why do I want to study this major?”**
Think about your academic interests and experiences. Why did you become interested in this subject? What do you expect from the program and university?
- **“How does a Tsukuba degree help me achieve my long-term goals?”**
What do you want to do in the future? Graduate school? Work? In Japan? Overseas? How does a Tsukuba degree help you get there?
- **“What makes me a stand-out candidate?”**
We are looking for exceptional candidates. Tell us about your passions and life experiences which led you to this program. We are passionate about our subjects, and we expect that in our students.

Write drafts and get feedback

You should have lots to tell us by now! Organize the information into a coherent narrative, and write a draft (or two, or three). We appreciate that English may not be your first language, but try to use correct spelling and grammar. Keep your sentences short and simple. The use of concrete examples can help you express yourself clearly.

Entrance examiners have many applications to read—so clarity is key!

The personal statement is one of the most important components of your application. Make sure to ask your teachers, parents or friends to read over your personal statement and give honest feedback. Give yourself plenty of time to work through several versions of your draft, until you are completely happy.



How to write your financial plan

Going to university is a big commitment, both in time and money. To be successful, you need a well thought-out, realistic financial plan. While you may be able to get some form of financial aid from the university, we strongly recommend that you do not rely solely on scholarships. Your financial plan will be evaluated as part of your application, so a well-considered plan will improve your chances of success.

Explore your options

A strong financial base will make it easier for you to complete your program.

- Does your country or local government offer any programs which will help pay for study at overseas universities? For example, students from Norway, Sweden, and Finland can use higher education funds globally.
- How much parental support can you expect? Try to make a budget, and discuss how much help you may need with your parents. Try to get a specific commitment from them regarding funding.
- Do you have savings / part-time job? How much savings do you have? How much can you save before you leave your home country?

Options in Japan

Although we recommend against relying solely on scholarships, there are some sources of finance available after you arrive in Japan.

- Scholarships are possible for students with strong academic records and demonstrable financial need. However, these are not guaranteed, and you should be prepared for the possibility that you are not successful. Some options can be found at the JASSO website.
- Partial and full tuition waivers are possible for those with an excellent academic record and demonstrable need.
- If you can speak Japanese well, or can speak an in-demand language, part-time work may be possible. However, you should expect to be busy with your studies, and we do not recommend that students consider this as a major funding source.

Writing your plan

When you write your plan, we're looking for two main things;

- A list of your main sources of income (scholarships, loans, parental support, etc.)
- A list of your projected expenses (tuition, rent, travel expenses, living expenses)

Try to be realistic with your estimates. We don't want students to have to quit due to financial difficulties, so we will review your plan carefully. If parental funding will be a major component of your plan, please supply some information about their employment status. An incomplete plan is OK, but we need to be aware of your financial situation, especially where university support may be necessary. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they have sufficient financial resources to complete their program.