2027 Kyoto University Amgen Scholars Program
Application Guidelines

Key Dates	
Application period opens	3 p.m. on November 1, 2026 (UTC+9 hours)
Application deadline	3 p.m. on February 1, 2027 (UTC+9 hours)
Notification of results	by late March 2027
Arrival (in Kyoto)	June 3, 2027
Program period	June 4 – August 5, 2027 *
Asia Symposium (Kyoto University)	August 3 – August 5, 2027

*The program period includes the dates of the symposium.

1. Program Overview

(1) Program Period

June 4 - August 5, 2027

(2) Number of Participants

Approximately 10 students

(3) Research Work

The Amgen Scholars Program at Kyoto University is a nine-week program, which includes an eight-week intensive research project at a participating laboratory and participation in the Asia Symposium. Amgen Scholars will be assigned to a department or interdisciplinary area at Kyoto University that supports research in science and biotechnology. These areas may include: Biochemistry / Bioengineering / Bioinformatics / Cheminformatics / Biopsychology / Biotechnology / Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering / Chemistry / Drug Discovery / Immunology / Medical Pharmacology / Microbiology / Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology / Molecular Genetics / Molecular Medicine / Molecular Pharmacology / Neurobiology / Neuroscience / Pathology / Physiological Psychology / Physiological Science / Statistics / Toxicology

Placements will be determined based on applicants' research interests and available spaces. Each Amgen Scholar will be assigned a faculty supervisor at Kyoto University. Supervision and guidance may also be provided by other members of the supervisor's laboratory, including graduate students and post-doctoral researchers. All placements are full-time, requiring approximately 40 hours per week.

(4) Educational Activities

In addition to full-time research, Amgen Scholars also take part in a variety of educational activities. Below are some examples of past activities:

- Seminars and laboratory visits in which faculty will give presentations on relevant research areas and critical professional issues. These activities will be designed to expose students to cutting-edge research and broaden their understanding of graduate study opportunities and careers in science.
- A poster session at the end of the program in which the participants will present their summer research projects with a wider audience.

* Activities and other details are subject to change.

2. General Eligibility

The Amgen Scholars Program at Kyoto University aims to provide international and domestic undergraduate students with opportunities to conduct research at Kyoto University during their summer vacation.

In accordance with the requirements of the Amgen Foundation, Kyoto University selects participants from colleges and universities across Asia, including Eastern, South-Eastern, Central, Southern and Western Asia [*1].

Amgen Scholars Asia Program applicants must be undergraduate students who are:

- Enrolled in colleges or universities in Asia that award a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent); and
- At minimum, have completed their first year of undergraduate study at the time the summer program begins, and
- Are not graduating before the summer program begins, and after the summer program ends will resume undergraduate studies for at least 1 semester or quarter

* Please note that master's and doctoral students are not eligible.

Asia Program applicants must also have:

- A strong record of academic performance; and
- A good working knowledge of English, demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL (iBT) score of 72, IELTS overall band score of 5.5, Cambridge English FCE, TOEIC score of 1095, TOEIC L&R score of 785, or TOEIC S&W score of 310, if you are not a native English speaker (or English is not your first language) or are not enrolled in a university program taught in English; and
- An interest in pursuing a Ph.D.

Applicants must also agree that the program may be modified or postponed if it becomes difficult to conduct the program safely and smoothly due to a pandemic or other circumstances.

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*1) Asia is defined based on the 'Classification of Countries by Region' by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs / Population Division World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision. This currently includes the following countries/areas.

- Eastern Asia	China; China, Hong Kong SAR; China, Macao SAR; China, Taiwan Province of China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Japan; Mongolia; Republic of Korea
- South-Eastern Asia	Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Indonesia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Myanmar; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Viet Nam
- Central Asia	Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan
- Southern Asia	Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Maldives; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka
- Western Asia	Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Cyprus; Georgia; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; State of Palestine; Syrian Arab Republic; Turkey; United Arab Emirates; Yemen

3. Financial Support

(1) Travel Costs

Kyoto University stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket. If the student cannot arrive in Japan on the specified dates for personal reasons, no travel expenses will be provided.

For students from universities outside Japan:
Airline tickets are provided for flights between the nearest airport to the student's university and Osaka (round trip) by the most direct and economical route.

For students from universities in Japan (excluding Kyoto University students):
A round-trip ticket is provided for travel between the nearest airport to the student's university and Osaka, or between nearest train station to the student's university and Kyoto.

(2) Accommodation
All Amgen Scholars (excluding Kyoto University students) will be accommodated in Kyoto. Kyoto University will pay the accommodation fees directly to the accommodation provider.

(3) Scholarship
180,000 yen will be provided to Amgen Scholars.
Scholars will receive: 90,000 yen at the beginning of the program
90,000 yen by the middle of July
*Scholars commuting to the Katsura or Uji Campus will receive a commuting subsidy.

(4) Amgen Scholars Asia Symposium
The Amgen Scholars Asia Symposium will take place either in Tokyo or Kyoto during the program period. In either case, attendance at the Asia Symposium is obligatory for those enrolled in the Amgen Scholars Program.

(5) Note: Health Insurance/Liability Insurance
All students must arrange their own private health insurance. Please be aware that neither the Amgen Foundation nor the Kyoto University can provide health insurance. All students must also enroll in Kyoto University's "Co-op Liability Insurance" upon arrival.

4. Program Requirements
Amgen Scholars at Kyoto University must agree to:
- Travel between the nearest airport to their university, and Osaka on the dates and the most economical routes designated by Kyoto University.
- Submit original boarding pass to Kyoto University.
- Stay at the accommodation designated and provided by Kyoto University for the duration of the program, including during the Amgen Scholars Asia Symposium.
- Undertake an eight-week intensive research project at one of the participating laboratories.
- Provide a copy of their valid passport to the program office as soon as their participation in the program is confirmed. If necessary, apply for the appropriate visa(s) for entry Japan in a timely fashion.
- Assign any intellectual property that results from their work during the program to their supervisor in the first instance.
- Agree to be photographed by Kyoto University during the program and grant the right to use the photos for a purpose of publication.
- Fully participate in the academic activities of the laboratories they are assigned to, attending any relevant research seminars and workshops. Simultaneous participation to other summer programs including online format is not permitted.
- Attend the orientation, all required conferences, activities, and social events organized through the Amgen Scholars Program at Kyoto University.
- Provide feedback on the Amgen Scholars Program at Kyoto University.

- Contribute to media requests from the Amgen Foundation.
- Prepare a poster presentation on their work at the end of the program.
- Participate in the Amgen Scholars Asia Symposium.

Given the intensive nature of the program, participants will not be able to undertake other work or study during the program period. Applications from students who cannot commit to the full duration of the program at Kyoto University will not be considered.

5. Host Laboratories
Information about the participating laboratories, including laboratory-specific eligibility requirements, is available in the "Host Laboratories" list.

6. Application Procedures
You must submit an online application. The link to the online application system will become available on November 1, 2026.

(1) Statement of Purpose
In the online application system, you will be required to enter your "Statement of Purpose" in two columns. Each of the columns has space for a maximum of 3,000 characters (including spaces).

In your statement of purpose, be sure to:
- Describe why you chose a particular laboratory as your preferred host laboratory, and what you expect to learn at that laboratory.
- Propose a research project, which you plan to follow at your chosen laboratory. The proposal must include the background, purpose of your research, experimental methods, and anticipated results.

* Please note that applicants are strictly prohibited from contacting prospective host faculty members directly.

(2) Two Recommendation Letters
In the online application system, you are required to nominate two people to provide letters of recommendation. Immediately after you submit your application, an e-mail notification will be automatically sent to the two people that you nominate with instructions on how to submit a letter of recommendation on your behalf.

Be sure to notify the people you nominate and receive their consent before you enter their contact details in the online application system, so as to ensure that the e-mail notification is not overlooked. Please also ensure that you submit your application allowing sufficient time for the persons nominated to submit their letters of recommendation on or before 3:00 p.m., February 1, 2027 (Japan Standard Time [UTC + 9:00hrs.]).

There is no specific format for the letter of recommendation, but it should be written on official letterhead, including the recommender's signature. It should then be scanned and submitted as a PDF file.

(3) Uploading files
You will be required to upload the following files in PDF format.
- Official academic transcript of your college or university
  * If the original transcript is not issued in English, please submit an official English translation along with the transcript in the original language. Please note that

your application will not be considered if the English translation is missing.

- Valid English test scores (TOEFL iBT, IELTS, or TOEIC taken within the last 2 years, or Cambridge English FCE) or a Certificate of Medium of Instruction

(4) Application Period

The application period will commence at 3 p.m. on November 1, 2026
The deadline for the submission of all application materials, including two recommendation letters, is 3 p.m. on February 1, 2027 (Japan Standard Time [UTC + 9:00hrs.])

Important Note:

Applicants who pass the first-stage screening will be notified by the middle of February 2027. Those notified will be required to submit a short video highlighting their personal strengths and motivation for applying, by the specified deadline. The video must concisely cover your reasons for applying, your enthusiasm for research, and your future career goals. Further details regarding the submission method, etc. will be provided at the time of notification.

7. Visa Information

If your application for the Amgen Scholars Program is successful, you will be required to provide a copy of your valid passport immediately. Those who require short term visas for entry to Japan must obtain the necessary visa(s). The Amgen Scholars Program at Kyoto University will assist successful applicants with this process.

8. Program Office

Planning Office, Division of Graduate Studies, Kyoto University
E-mail: amgenscholars@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp