

# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on HE and MEXT's main countermeasures— Starting period for classes and promotion of utilization of distance learning

## 1. Starting period for classes - spring semester

- **Around 90%** of universities have **postponed** the starting period for regular classes.
- Almost all universities that have not postponed classes will conduct, or are considering conducting, distance classes.

	Postponed start of classes	Start classes as usual	
		will conduct or considering distance classes	Considering other COVID-19 prevention measures
National univ.	90.7%	9.3%	-
Public univ.	82.9%	13.3%	-
Private univ.	87.0%	10.5%	0.1%
Colleges of technology	87.0%	12.3%	-
(Overall)	<b>86.9%</b> (930 schools)	<b>10.7%</b> (115 schools)	<b>0.1%</b> (1 school)

\*Response rate was around 97.8%, so totals in table do not add up to 100%. Universities that "postponed start of classes" include those that will conduct distance classes.

## 2. Use of distance classes (as of June 1)

- As of June 1, **99.7%** of universities have **started** their spring semester classes.
- **90.3%** of universities offering classes are conducting **distance classes** in some way.

	in-person classes	combination use of in-person and distance classes	distance classes
National univ.	-	26.7%	73.3%
Public univ.	5.0%	29.0%	66.0%
Private univ.	11.7%	31.1%	57.2%
Colleges of technology	3.5%	24.6%	71.9%
(Overall)	<b>9.7%</b> (103 schools)	<b>30.2%</b> (322 schools)	<b>60.1%</b> (641 schools)

\*The population is the number of universities (1066 schools) which answered that they are conducting classes as of June 1.

### Main measures by MEXT

- Following allocated for supplementary budget.  
**Ensuring learning opportunities by accelerating setting up of environment for distance classes at universities. (93 million US\$)**  
\*Includes university equipment (cameras, audio equipment, etc.), mobile communication equipment for students, etc.
- The rule on the limit of the number of credits for distance education **was exempted as an exception.**



# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on HE and MEXT's main countermeasures— International student exchanges and scholarships

## 1. Acceptance of international students (as of April 21)

- **Almost none of the new** international students scheduled to come to Japan in the spring have been able to **arrive in Japan**.
- **Some students** who have completed their academic courses are **unable to return** to their countries.

### Main measures by MEXT

#### (1) For international students scheduled to come to Japan

**Flexible responses** under the government's scholarship programs so that they **can receive scholarship payment** in case:

- The arrival in Japan is delayed from the original period,
- The scholarship period is changed to the autumn, etc.

#### (2) International students currently enrolled in Japan

**Special measures** for receiving the monthly scholarship payment.

## 2. Overseas study for Japanese students (as of April 21)

- **New dispatches** of students by government scholarships have been **temporarily suspended**.
- Govt. has requested that students cancel or postpone privately-financed overseas study.

### Main measures by MEXT

**Flexible payment of overseas study government scholarships** depending on the situation of the overseas student.

\*Scholarship payment continued for students who have difficulty returning temporarily to Japan and to students who have temporarily returned to Japan and are continuing their study.

#### Consideration for study, course registration, etc.

- MEXT requested universities to
  - Consider necessary measures such as supplementary lectures, extending registration period.
  - Avoid disadvantages of students by consulting with partner universities regarding various conditions including credit acquisition.



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# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on HE and MEXT's main countermeasures— Financial support to students adversely affected

## Emergency Student Financial Support for Continuing Studies (Budget : About 493 million US\$)

- With students experiencing a significant economic impact on their lifestyles due to heavy reductions in household income and income from part-time, the program will provide those who face difficulties continuing their studies a cash handout so that they do not abandon their studies.
- ◇ **Eligibility** : Students attending **universities (including graduate schools), junior colleges**, technical colleges, vocational schools, etc. in Japan, **including international students**.
- ◇ **Cash Handout Amount** : Students exempt from residence tax: **1,900 US\$**, Other students: **950 US\$**
- ◇ **Estimated number of Eligible Students** : **About 430,000**

### New Learning Support System and Loan-type scholarships

[Measures for households experiencing sudden changes in finances]

- Any-time acceptance of applications
- Flexible assessment of family income

#### Learning Support System for Higher Education

Expansion of system operation. Until the end of June, **payments can begin from the month the application is made.**

#### Loan-type scholarships

As in the past, support targets students in urgent financial need due to a sudden change in household finances. **(Application accepted at any time.)**

### Learning support at individual universities

#### Postponement of tuition payments

MEXT is requesting all universities to flexibly handle the payment period for tuition and other fees for students in financial difficulties.

#### Support for the exemption from tuition and other payments by individual universities

As an emergency financial measure, MEXT allocates necessary funds to universities to support financial burden of tuition exemptions.

In the supplementary budget, **national universities** will receive **45.5 million US\$** and **private universities 90.2 million US\$**.



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