

**SAMPLE ANSWERS FOR EXPLANATION OF  
REGULAR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN YOUR COUNTRY**

Q1. Describe the regular educational system of your country, including starting and graduation age, from elementary school to university (the most common system) and the years in total including summer holidays or other long holidays, and fill the table below.

A1. The common educational system in Japan is 6 years of elementary school, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of high school and 4 years of university, for a total of 16 years.

From age 7 (turning 7 by next 1st of April as the educational year in Japan is from April to March of next year) to age 12 in elementary school, from age 13 to age 15 in junior high school, from age 16 to age 18 in high school and from age 19 to age 22 in university if you go to university straight from high school.

**The most common system**

	Regular period	Starting age (Turn to)	Graduation age (Turn to)
Elementary school	6 years	7 Years old	12 Years old
Middle School	3 years	13 Years old	15 Years old
High school	3 years	16 Years old	18 Years old
Undergraduate school	4 years	19 Years old	22 Years old
Graduate school (If you have attended or are attending)	2 years	23 Years old (If you go up straight after graduated undergraduate school)	24 Years old

Q2. If your academic background is different from the regular academic background, please describe the reason and details.

A2. I was an excellent student when I was in elementary school therefore I skipped a year and graduated elementary school in only 5 years instead of 6 years. I was absent from junior high school for 1 year due to hospitalized treatment for an illness, so I took 4 years instead of 3 years. After graduating from junior high school most students go directly to high school for 3 years, but I entered a special high school for engineering that takes 5 years to complete. Engineering high school graduates are given the same level as grade 2 university students in Japan so I entered the university as a grade 3 student and studied for 2 years before graduating from the university. I entered a graduate school after one year work for a company and I took extra one year due to changing research topic.

**Your academic background**

	Period	Starting age (Turn to) and Enrolled month/year	Graduation age (Turn to) and Graduated month/year	Note
Elementary school	5 years	7 years old 04/2001	11years old 03/2006	One year skipped due to excellence
Middle School	4 years	12 years old 04/2006	15 years old 03/2010	Repeated a year due to hospitalized treatment for an illness
High school	5 years	16 years old 04/2010	20 years old 03/2015	Entered a special high school for engineering
Undergraduate school	2 years	21years old 10/2015	22 years old 09/2017	Entered an university into grade 3 due to graduation the special high school for engineering
Graduate school	3years	24 years old 10/2018	26 years old 09/2021	Entered a graduate school after one year work for a company. Took extra one year due to changing research topic.

Q3. Inform the term and month for normal entrance and graduation.

A3. Japanese elementary, junior high and high schools have three semesters: the first semester is from April to July, the second semester is from September to December and the third semester is from January to March. So, entrance into school is in April and graduation is in March. Japanese universities have only two semesters: the first semester is usually from April to September and the second semester is usually from October to March. Some graduate level universities allow students to enter from either April or October, and graduate in either March or September.

	Start	End	Note
Elementary school	April	March	1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March
Middle School	April	March	1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March
High school	April	March	1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March
Undergraduate school	April or October	March or September	1 <sup>st</sup> semester: from April to September 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester: from October to March
Graduate school	April or October	March or September	1 <sup>st</sup> semester: from April to September 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester: from October to March

Q4. If your academic background does not match the answer to Q3, please explain the reason and details-including starting and graduation month.

A4. I planned to enter ○○○○ Technical College in April 2002 but there was a political event in my area during spring 2002 that caused the semester to begin 2 months late. That affected my entrance for undergraduate school and I entered the university in October instead April.

Name of school	Start	End	Note
○○○○ Technical College	June 2002	May 2007	Entering school postponed two months due to political event in my area.

Q5. If you have relevant additional information regarding your academic background, please describe here.

A5. I have a certificate to prove that I entered elementary school in April 1993 and graduated in March 1998 because I skipped a year. I can submit the original document. However, I would like to have the original certificate returned to me after the application process because it is only issued once and I would like to keep the original.

## Instruction to fill out Academic Record on the MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Application Form

1. Exclude kindergarten education and nursery school education.
2. Preparatory education for university admission is included in upper secondary education.
3. If the applicant has passed the university entrance qualification, indicate this in the Remarks column.
4. Any school years or levels skipped should be indicated in the Remarks column.  
Example: Skipped senior year for the early graduation.
5. If you attended multiple schools at the same level of education due to moving house or readmission to university, then write the schools in the same column and include the number of years of study and current status for each school.
6. Calculate and write the total number of years studied based on the duration as a student. (including extended leaves such as summer vacation)
7. You may use a separate piece of paper if the space below is insufficient. In such a case, please stipulate that the information is on a separate page.

### Sample Academic record to fill out the MEXT Application Form

初等教育 (小学校) Primary Education (Elementary School)	学校名 Name	〇〇〇〇Elementary School											
	所在地 Location	州・省State/Province Fukuoka			市・町 City/T own Kitakyushu								
	から From	2001	年 yyy	4	月 mm	まで To	2006	年 yyy	3	月 mm	修業年限 Period required for graduation	5	年 yrs
	特記事項 Remarks	1 year skip due to excellence											
前期中等教育 (中学校) Lower Secondary Education (Middle School/Junior High School)	学校名 Name	〇〇〇〇Junior High School											
	所在地 Location	州・省State/Province Fukuoka			市・町 City/T own Kitakyushu								
	から From	2006	年 yyy	4	月 mm	まで To	2010	年 yyy	3	月 mm	修業年限 Period required for graduation	4	年 yrs
	特記事項 Remarks	Repeated a year due to hospitalized treatment for an illness											
後期中等教育 (高校) Upper Secondary Education (Senior High School)	学校名 Name	〇〇〇〇Technical College											
	所在地 Location	州・省State/Province Osaka			市・町 City/T own Neyagawa								
	から From	2010	年 yyy	4	月 mm	まで To	2015	年 yyy	3	月 mm	修業年限 Period required for graduation	5	年 yrs
	特記事項 Remarks	Special high school for engineering. After graduation, obtained an associate degree.											
高等教育 (大学学部) Tertiary(Higher) Education (Undergraduate)	学校名 Name	〇〇〇〇 University, School of Engineering											
	所在地 Location	州・省State/Province Tokyo			市・町 City/T own Bunkyo-ku								
	から From	2015	年 yyy	10	月 mm	まで To	2017	年 yyy	9	月 mm	修業年限 Period required for graduation	2	年 yrs
	修了状況(※入学時点) Status (*As of enrolment in the university in Japan)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 修了 Completed		<input type="checkbox"/> 修了見込 Expedted to complete		<input type="checkbox"/> 退学 Withdrawal		<input type="checkbox"/> その他 ※特記事項欄に記入すること Other *Fill in the details in the Remarks colum below.					
	学位 Degree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 学士 Bachelor-level			特記事項 Remarks		Transferred from the 3rd year						
高等教育 (大学院) Tertiary (Higher) Education (Graduate)	学校名 Name	XXXX Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Engineering											
	所在地 Location	州・省State/Province Tokyo			市・町 City/T own Meguro-ku								
	から From	2018	年 yyy	10	月 mm	まで To	2021	年 yyy	9	月 mm	修業年限 Period required for graduation	3	年 yrs
	修了状況(※入学時点) Status (*As of enrolment in the university in Japan)	<input type="checkbox"/> 修了 Completed		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 修了見込 Expedted to complete		<input type="checkbox"/> 退学 Withdrawal		<input type="checkbox"/> その他 ※特記事項欄に記入すること Other *Fill in the details in the Remarks colum below.					
	学位 Degree	<input type="checkbox"/> 学士 Bachelor-level		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 修士 Master-level		特記事項 Remarks		Entered a graduate school after one year work for a company. Took extra one year due to changing research topic.					
<b>入学時点で修了済みの課程年数合計</b>											19	年 yrs	
<b>Total years of education you will complete as of enrolment in the university in Japan</b>											19	年 yrs	