

June 3, 2020

Financial Support for Students Affected by the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus
Re: Application for “Emergency Student Support Handout for Continuing Studies”

Dear Students:

The Emergency Declaration issued by the national government to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus has been lifted throughout Japan. However, Tokyo and the rest of Japan continue to experience new cases every day. We must remain vigilant against this virus. No doubt this condition has impacted your life significantly.

The government of Japan has introduced [“Emergency Student Support Handout for Continuing Studies”](#) to financially support students who are finding it difficult to continue their academic endeavors.

The criteria outlined by the government for applying to this support include such set of rules as being largely financially independent from guardians and not living with your guardians as well as students’ attendance rate and grades. **You may also have seen some reports in the media suggesting that there are additional barriers imposed on international students for applying to this program. I am concerned that some of you may have given up on applying for this support after reading the criteria.**

Of course, due to a budgetary restriction, the number of students who can receive this aid is rather limited. However, I want to assure you that the University of Tokyo will assess the financial needs of all the students applying for this program, regardless of their nationalities. Please do not simply assume you are ineligible if you are struggling financially because of this pandemic. Take a close look at the eligibility requirements and Q&A of the MEXT Website. If you have more questions, ask the administrative section in charge to see if you can apply.

Additionally, I want to remind you that the University of Tokyo has announced on May 15 the university’s own initiative, [“Emergency Support Package for Students,”](#) to support students who are financially affected by the spread of the novel coronavirus. Among them, the [“UTokyo Emergency Assistance Grant”](#) was set up to provide 50,000 yen to students who need financial support regardless of their nationalities. We have received many applications by the deadline.

This is a moment when all members of the university community must share their wisdom to overcome the challenge and make our campuses better than ever. As the Executive Vice President in charge of student affairs, I am here with you. The University of Tokyo will listen to your concerns about your finances and other academic matters, so please let us know.

OKUBO Tatsuya , Executive Vice President in charge of Student Affairs