

# Japan

## National Higher Education Equity Policy

### Governance

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) sets national policies in higher education. It has a Higher Education Bureau (<http://www.mext.go.jp/en/index.htm>)
- The National Institute for Educational Policy Research also contributes to the planning, formulation and promotion of policies on education.

### Higher Education Policy Documents

- The Basic Act on Education (Act No. 120 of December 22, 2006) is the main official document defining the national higher education strategy.

### Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

Article 4 of the Basic Act on Education outlines the provisions across the education sector for equal opportunities in education.

- “The people must be given equal opportunities to receive an education suited to their abilities, and must not be subjected to discrimination in education on account of race, creed, sex, social status, economic position, or family origin.
- The national and local governments shall provide the necessary educational support to ensure that persons with disabilities receive an adequate education in accordance with their level of disability.
- The national and local governments shall take measures to provide financial assistance to those who, in spite of their abilities, encounter difficulties in receiving education for economic reasons.”

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Students with disability
- Low-income students

- Gender equality (not so much in policy documents, but through the gender equality center)

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No

Japan does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

Are there specific anti-discrimination provisions?

- In 2016, Japan introduced an Anti-Discrimination Speech Act, but there is no such provision referring specifically to higher education.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

### ***Monetary Policy Instruments***

- Government scholarships schemes are in place to help students who need financial assistance to attend higher education institutions.
- Student loans exist but the repayment options could be more equitable in their structure (OECD).

### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

- No specific instruments

### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available.

### **Quality Assurance**

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Who is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures?

- What instruments, methods and data are in place to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities?

### **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

Japan does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education overall. However, the National Women's Education Center (NWEC) is an Independent Administrative Institution responsible for promoting women's education (<https://www.nwec.jp/en/about/information/mission.html>). It conducts training and research, disseminates information and contributes to international debates on gender equality.

### **Sources**

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