



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants (JICA Development Studies Program)

**General Information on
Investment Promotion and Industrial Development for
Asian Region**

JFY2026

**「アジア地域投資促進・産業振興」
2026 年度入学**

This handout provides an overview of the “Investment Promotion and Industrial Development for Asian Region (JFY2026” program/course, which is one of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term). The program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between respective governments.

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from developing countries to study at higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to assist in the human resource development plans of the governments of developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

0. Background

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet revised the Development Cooperation Charter in June 2023, which stated, “In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together.” JICA believes that this ‘Knowledge Co-Creation Program’ will serve as a foundation of mutual learning process.

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

Japan is the very first country and still is one of the very few countries that has modernized from a non-Western background to establish a free, democratic, prosperous, and peace-loving nation based on the rule of law, without losing much of its tradition and identity. With such belief, JICA invites future leaders from partner countries to Japan under KCCP and offers them opportunity to learn about Japan's unique modernization and development experiences. This special program is called, JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP).

JICA-DSP is provided to all participants of KCCP during their stay in Japan. JICA will offer participants various opportunities through which they can learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/dsp-chair/index.html>

1. Overview

Until now, JICA has provided training programs as a part of technical cooperation in various fields. In order to strengthen networks between the target countries in respective fields, JICA established a new long-term training program to foster young/middle-aged bureaucrats, academicians and leading human resources in various fields of target countries who are capable of influencing policy making processes in their countries or contributing to socioeconomic development in the near future.

The program “Investment Promotion and Industrial Development in Asian Region” was established in JFY 2019 under the framework of JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) for purpose of developing human resources which can bridge between industries of Japan and other Asian countries, as well as creating business linkages between these regions.

This program offers the opportunity for participants to join masters’ courses or doctoral course at graduate schools of Japanese universities.

2. Objectives

The objective of this program is developing high-level human resources network that will contribute to improve business environment in the home country, promote business linkages with Japanese industries, and promote investments from Japan under JICA’s Global Agenda.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of participants from Asian countries to achieve the objectives that describe above.

Thus, proposed research topics must contribute to improving the business environment in the participant’s home country, promoting business linkages, and promoting investments especially from Japan. These topics are mostly covered at MBA, master’s in international business courses, Global Business courses etc.

This handout provides information related to long-term courses including master’s degree courses, Ph.D. courses, and combined master’s and Ph.D. courses.

Candidate applicants may select the university, to which he/she wishes to apply, from the universities which have concluded an agreement on accepting JICA participants on the condition that the candidate passes the entrance examination of the selected university.

In addition, candidates must be selected as JICA’s official candidate through JICA’s internal selection procedure.

Detailed information of these partner universities will be provided separately.

In addition to curriculums of the master's and Ph.D. courses, activities such as short-term programs (e.g. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience¹), and/or internship programs will be planned in order to enrichen the participants' academic and personal experience of their courses of studies at the universities.

4. Duration

In principle, 2 years for master's course and 3 years for Ph.D. course (depending on the program offered by universities)².

5. Number of Participants

Total thirteen participants. Details are as blow:

Country Name	No. of Participants
Bangladesh	2
Cambodia	1
India	1
Indonesia	2
Kyrgyz Republic	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1
Malaysia	1
Mongolia	1
Uzbekistan	1
Vietnam	2
Total	13

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

¹ As part of JICA-DSP, this program is co-organized by GRIPS, IUJ and JICA for JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants. The program offers participants with opportunities to gain a deep understanding of the Japanese development experience, and to draw lessons and gain insights that will support their development work at their home countries and internationally.

² The preparatory period as a research student or credited auditor prior to the regular student up to 6 months may be added.

7. Eligibility

Candidate applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) Current Duties:
Young or middle government officials at ministries and agencies in charge of investment promotion and industrial development.
For countries with Japan Centers, current or future lecturers, executives, and managers in Japan Centers and/or related counterpart agencies also may be candidates.
※ In principle, candidates without affiliations are not eligible for acceptance.
- (2) Nationality:
Citizens of the above countries mentioned in “5. Number of Participants”.
- (3) Age:
For master’s programs, forty (40) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1st, 2026).
For Ph.D. programs, forty-five (45) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1st, 2026).
- (4) Educational Background:
For master’s programs, a bachelor’s degree or master’s Degree holder.
For Ph.D. programs, a master’s degree holder.
- (5) Language:
Adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete master’s and/or Ph.D. courses with skills equivalent or exceeding the following:
TOEFL iBT: 80
IELTS: 6.5
Etc. *for specific English requirements, please refer to the university list.
- (6) Physical Presence:
Must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.
- (7) Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:
JICA seeks more female applicants due to the past records of fewer applications from women. JICA is committed to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment and provides equal opportunities for all applicants regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- (8) Others:
Must not be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarships during the program.

8. Admissions

Candidates must be selected as JICA’s official candidate through JICA’s internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination³ of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants’ desired master’s degree or Ph.D. degree course.

9. Application Guidelines

Candidate applicants must apply through the procedures as described below, which are

³ The results of JICA’s screening procedure and University’s general entrance examination will not accept any inquiry.

necessary requirements by both applicant's Government and the Government of Japan for the Official Development Assistance.

(1) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:

Each applicant is required to submit the "Application Documents"⁴ listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country.

(2) Application Documents

- Personal Information
- Educational Background
- Present Organization and Nomination
- Work Experience
- Declaration (Terms and Conditions needed to be agreed by candidate applicants)
- Research Plan (Annex 2)
- Career Plan (Annex 2)
- Medical History (Annex 4)

2) Graduation certificate.

- * Officially certified copies of the original
- * Written in English or accompanied with official translation

3) Academic transcript

- * Must contain all the grades earned at the university attended by the applicant
- * Officially certified copies of the original transcript
- * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English

4) Photocopy of certificate of English Test

5) A copy of Passport or ID with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).

6) 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy)

7) Health certificate (Annex 3) (must be submitted with Medical History in JICA format to JICA office of your country at the applicants' expense, no later than April 30, 2026. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, 2026.⁵)

All these documents should be typed, printed out and signed by the applicant and the head of the relevant department / division of the organization in charge in all pages. Handwritten forms will NOT be accepted.

(3) Procedures

The application will be conducted as follows:

- 1) JICA HQ will send the General Information to the target countries.

⁴ Submitted documents will not be returned.

⁵Without the certificate, admission may become rejected.

- 2) Candidates will be nominated and approved at the target countries⁶.
- 3) Nominated candidates will carefully read the General Information as well as the university list and will conduct preliminary consultations using the designated JICA format with their desired universities, in order to ensure that their research plan aligns with the university's curriculum and/or research. (Some universities do not allow preliminary consultations. In such cases there is no need to conduct preliminary consultations.)

If the candidate obtains a positive response from their desired university during preliminary consultation, the candidate may write said university in the Application Form and submit it to JICA. In principle, candidates must have obtained a positive response during preliminary consultations from their desired university.

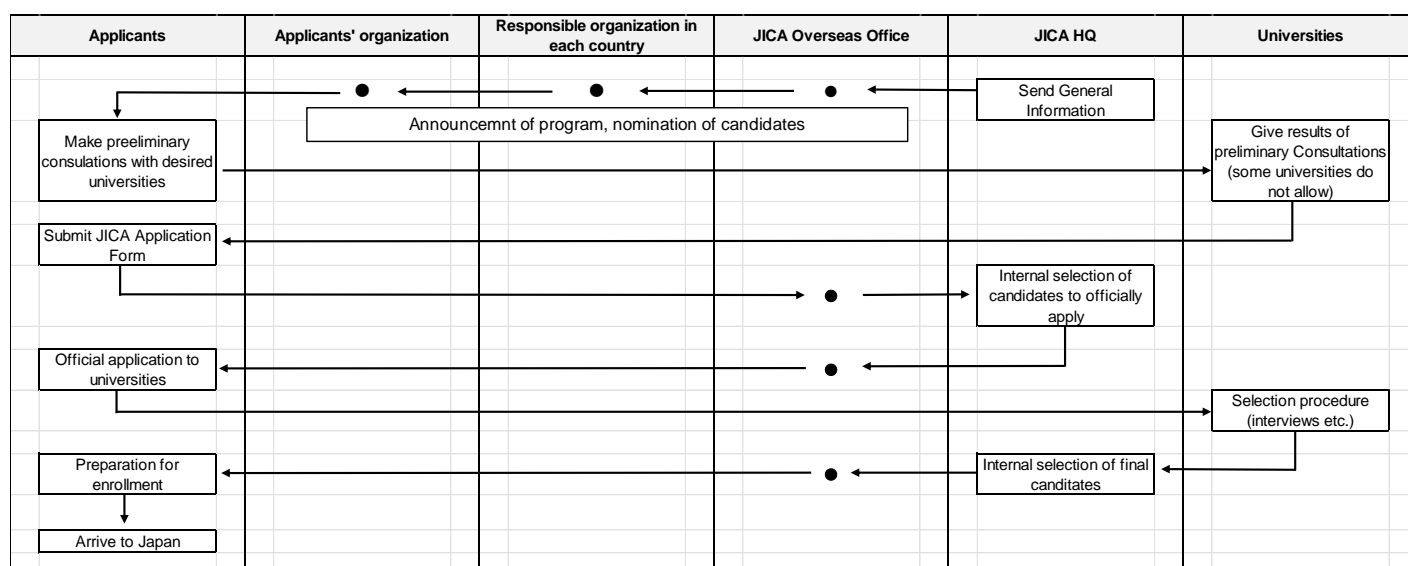
The candidate may only **choose one university to apply to**. In case the candidate wishes to apply to as first choice to a university that does not allow preliminary consultations, the candidate may choose a second university to apply to.

- 4) JICA will conduct an internal selection process to decide the candidates that may apply officially to their desired universities.
- 5) Based on the above results, the candidates will officially apply and pass through each universities selection procedures, according to the universities rules and schedule.
- 6) After the results of the universities' selection processes are announced, JICA will conduct an internal selection process to decide the final candidates that may enroll to the universities.

Please kindly note that universities may reject the applicant's application when the required documents, or the submitted research plan is not accepted by the universities.

If applicants encounter a situation that forces them to withdraw the application due to force majeure during the selection process, the applicants must contact their nearest JICA overseas office and explain the situation as soon as possible. Please kindly note that withdrawing once the selection process begins causes major inconveniences to all parties involved and must be avoided as much as possible except in cases where there is no alternative.

⁶The Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.



(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

- 1) Fees for English proficiency test can be reimbursed only within the same Japanese fiscal year (from 1st April to 31st March of the next year) when the general entrance examinations are taken. Details of the reimbursement vary by each area and should be consulted with the nearest JICA overseas office of each candidate.
- 2) JICA shall determine whether the candidate is eligible to participate in training in Japan. JICA shall decide on acceptance or rejection based on several factors such as entrance examination results, planned number of participants, medical examination results and others. Reason for the decision will not be disclosed.

10. Schedule (tentative)*

Early-September 2025	Nomination of candidate applicants in respective organizations
	Selection of candidates by responsible organization in each country
September to late-November 2025	Based on the General Information and the university list, candidates conduct preliminary consultations and determine their desired university (Except in cases in which the university do not allow preliminary consultations). <u>Candidates must use the designated JICA form for preliminary consultations.</u>
	Based on the above the candidates prepare their Application Form
December 1st 2025	Candidates submit their Application Form to their nearest JICA overseas office.
Mid-December 2025 to early-January 2026	JICA conducts an internal selection regarding candidates who may officially apply to their desired university.
Mid-January to February 2026**	Each candidate will apply and undergo their desired university's selection process (general entrance examination).
April to June 2026**	Arrival of the results of the selection processes at each university.

June to July 2026	JICA conducts an internal selection regarding final candidates who may enroll to the universities.
June to August 2026	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate is accepted in the above selection.
August to October 2026	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of Fall 2026 Term

*Schedule and program contents might be adjusted appropriately due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Schedule for the application period for the general entrance examination depends on each university.

11. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA

Under the JICA Long-term Trainee Allowance standards, JICA will cover expenses and allowance to participants accepted to the program/course. See the table below for further details. Note that the payments (e.g., for tuition, research support expenses, school support expenses) will not be paid to the accepted participants themselves, but directly to the university or other relevant institutions.

Expense category	Payment amount	Payment frequency
Tuition (examination fees, entrance fees, course fees)	Actual costs	According to the request from universities
Living Allowance	JPY 143,000–148,000 per month*	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance**	JPY100,000	Once (upon arrival in Japan)
Moving Allowance***	Up to JPY164,000-224,000	Once (during the training period)**
Research Support Expenses****	Actual costs (up to JPY360,000 per year)	
Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (the costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are NOT included).	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	

*Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

**Once, after opening bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have the bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during the period.

***Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.

****Research Support Expenses are allowed to be provided via the university and be disbursed with the consultation and approval of the applicant's supervisor.

12. Expenses Not To Be Borne By JICA

JICA will not bear costs other than the allowances described above. JICA is not responsible for the following expenses:

- (1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
- (2) Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3) Transportation expenses to obtain Japanese Visa
- (4) Domestic travel expenses at the applicant's home country
- (5) Departure tax
- (6) Airport tax/airport facility charges outside of Japan, including third countries
- (7) Customs duty
- (8) Excess baggage charges
- (9) Compensation for lost and/or damaged baggage
- (10) "No show charge" to the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11) Lost - ticket fee
- (12) Accommodation fee for day-use hotel in return flight
- (13) Transportation expenses other than official programs
- (14) Telephone bill or mini-bar tab at accommodation
- (15) Medical costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment
- (16) Medical cost related to the same illness over 180 days
- (17) National Health Insurance fee

Note: If participant / accepted applicant does not follow the regulation of JICA, the participant may have to bear such other costs of necessary expenses.

13. Conditions for Participation

The applicants/participants of KCCP are required

- (1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA,
- (2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own,
- (3) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,
- (4) to understand that inviting participant's family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,
- (5) to return to their home country on the designated flight by JICA, when they finish the program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination,

- (6) to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course,
- (7) to enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when you receive JICA's instructions to do so.
- (8) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments, ("Plagiarism" especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism, and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),
- (9) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (10) to agree to be discontinued of the program, should the participant (a)violate Japanese laws, JICA's regulations, or University's regulations, (b)commit illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, (c)become critically ill or seriously injured after arrival in Japan.
- (11) to be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table of "11. Expenses To be borne by JICA,"
- (12) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (13) not to drive a car or motorbike in Japan, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (14) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
- (15) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule,
- (16) to accept that the Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan,
- (17) to submit a Health Certificate with Medical History in JICA format to JICA office of your country at the applicants' expense, no later than April 30, 2026. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, 2026. JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.
- (18) to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if deemed necessary by JICA. The cost of acquiring the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA unless it is required due to the candidates' fault.
- (19) to promptly resubmit your medical history, if there are changes in your health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease,
- (20) to be in good health to participate in the program. In order to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest when consulting the doctor for your Health Certificate,
- (21) not to be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarships from Japanese government, such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program

- (22) to understand not to make other applications for different JICA training courses at the same time,
- (23) to understand that the maximum duration of “Overseas research” and “Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)” is 60 days, in principle.
- (24) to accept to take tuberculosis related inspections organized by JICA after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA and university.
- (25) to approve the following conditions on summary of my thesis:
- ① Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.
 - ② Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA .
 - ③ Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
 - ④ Taking Photocopy of the thesis shall be allowed by anyone with JICA’s permission.
- (26) to acknowledge that a leave of absence from school is not permitted in principle,
- (27) to understand that the maximum duration of research student is 6 months for both master's and doctor's courses, and duration of acceptance as a regular student is based on the course years determined by the university,
- (28) To indicate all educational background, including currently enrolled university, whether in your home country or in another country.
- (29) To understand that the use of Generative AI such as Chat GPT to create Application Forms including Research Plans, and your research papers may not be acceptable and may result in rejection of your application or termination of training if discovered, according to each University policy.

END

Appendixes

1 University List

2 Application Form

3 Preliminary Consultation Form (designated JICA form)

CORRESPONDENCE

For enquiries and further information, please contact your nearest JICA office.

