



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

General Information on Human Resources Development in the Mining Sector (KIZUNA Program) JFY2026

**長期研修
「資源分野の人材育成プログラム」(資源の絆プログラム)
(2026 年度)**

This handout provides an overview of the “Human Resources Development in the Mining and Geothermal sectors (KIZUNA Program)” 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

Generally, development of mineral, geothermal, gas, and oil resources (hereinafter referred to as Resources) is one of the most effective means for the developing countries to develop their industries. The effect of development of Resources is not confined to the mining sector, but also it has a great impact on the society and economy of the country concerned. It often comes with infrastructure development and regional development. And it also contributes to the human resource development of engineers and technicians in various fields.

In recent years, the demand for Resources is expected to increase due to the economic growth of the global economy in the long term. Under these circumstances, the developing countries with potential Resources have desired to promote mining industries, and the mining activities will become a higher position in supporting the future economic development.

However, governments of developing countries need more relevant knowledge for promoting and regulating mining companies. In order to encourage the foreign mining companies to participate in the business in the developing countries, there are many aspects to be addressed, such as the lack of legal systems, enforcement systems, basic geological information, infrastructure, political or social risks, and security risks.

In the meantime, developing countries endowed with Resources require a substantial amount of capacity and knowledge to achieve sustainable development. This includes proper Resource management, the establishment of sound legal systems, and aspects of resource exploration, such as mine closure, mine safety, mine pollution countermeasures, socio-economic measures surrounding mines, public finance systems, and environmental measures.

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 JFY 2014, the “Kizuna Program” was established under Japan’s resource diplomacy framework, with the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The program aims to foster future leaders from resource-rich developing countries through educational and research collaboration with Japanese universities, thereby promoting mutual understanding and long-term cooperation.

The program/course will offer participants with special curriculums on Japanese developmental experience (JICA-DSP) and internships, in addition to obtaining a Master’s or PhD. degree.

2. Objectives

(1) Overall Goal:

To strengthen sustainable development of the mining and geothermal sectors and establish good relationship with Japan.

(2) Project Purpose:

To develop human capacity of administrators and researchers in mining and geothermal sectors.

(3) Outputs:

- Promote academic research skills in mining and geothermal sectors.
- Understand and get familiar with the contexts of Japanese mining and geothermal system and culture.
- Create network with government organizations, research institutions and private companies in Japanese mining and geothermal sectors.

3. Course Outline

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

(1) Specialized Areas in Mining and Geothermal Studies

Specialized areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

Fields	Specialized Areas
Mining-related	▪ Economic Geology ▪ Energy Geology* ▪ Sedimentology ▪ Petrology ▪ Applied Geophysics* ▪ Exploration Geophysics* ▪ Geochemistry* ▪ Resources Production and Safety Engineering

	• Engineering Rock Mechanics • Mining Machinery • Mining Technology/ Mining Method • Mineral Processing and Recycling • Environmental Remediation
Geothermal-related	• Petroleum and Geothermal Engineering • Energy Resources Engineering • Reservoir Engineering • Applied Geophysics* • Exploration Geophysics* • Geochemistry* • Energy Geology*

*Note: Some fields are relevant to both Mining and Geothermal studies.

(2) List of Universities:

Candidate applicants may choose a university from the list below. These universities have agreements to accept JICA participants, provided the candidate passes the entrance examination. Before applying, please visit the university websites to select your desired course and supervisor. If you are unsure which university suits your field of study, you may simply write “JICA” on your application form.

Name of Universities	Name of Graduate School	Website (URL)
Akita University	Graduate School of International Resource Sciences	https://www.akita-u.ac.jp/shigen/eng/index.html
	Graduate School of Engineering Science	https://www.riko.akita-u.ac.jp/en/
Kyushu University	Graduate School of Engineering	https://www.eng.kyushu-u.ac.jp/e/
Hokkaido University	Graduate School of Engineering	https://www.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/english/division/graduate.php
Waseda University	Department of resources and Environmental Engineering, Graduate School of Creative Science and Engineering	http://www.cse.sci.waseda.ac.jp/en/
Kyoto University	Department of Civil and Earth Resources Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering	http://www.ce.t.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en
	Department of Urban Management, Graduate School of Engineering	https://www.um.t.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en
Tohoku University	Graduate School of Environmental Studies	Faculty Members Graduate School of Environmental Studies
	Department of Environmental Studies for Advanced Society, Graduate School of Environmental Studies	Faculty Members Graduate School of Environmental Studies
The University of Tokyo	Department of Systems Innovation, Graduate School of Engineering	http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/academics/graduate_schools.html
University of Tsukuba	Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences	https://www.life.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/

(3) Contents of the Program:

Accepted applicants are also required to participate in Additional Special Program stipulated below during their stay in Japan. All programs are carried out in English. Cost to attend the program will be borne by JICA.

Contents	Overview	
Orientation	Participants have orientation at the beginning of the program, including briefing session about the KIZUNA Program, courtesy call to related organizations, etc.	
Research Student Program	▪ In principle, a preparatory period of up to six months as a research student will be provided. The necessity of this period will be determined based on interviews with professors at the respective Japanese universities. ▪ During the research student period, participants may attend lectures and receive academic guidance from supervisors to prepare for the entrance examination for their intended graduate course. ▪ Participants who fail the entrance examination will be required to return to their home countries.	
Graduate Course Program	▪ Master's degree course or Doctor's degree course ▪ Lecture and practice ▪ Research works for the thesis ▪ Field research in Japan and/or home country (* Field research is to be planned in accordance with the research theme and upon consultation with the supervisor.)	
Additional Special Program	Spring Program	Observation tours to sites, institutions, and firms in Japan. *All participants are required to participate.
	Summer Program	Mining Policy and Management Course. *Participation is mandatory for participants majoring in Mining. (Participation is not mandatory for those in the Geothermal course.)
	Internship	Participants take part in internship programs at Japanese companies or institutions during their stay in Japan. Details of internship schedule will be considered through consultation with academic supervisor. It is recommended that the internship be conducted before graduation. However, if your academic supervisor determines that the internship duration is too long to be completed during your graduate studies, an internship after graduation of up to six months may be considered, provided that appropriate arrangements have been made in

		advance. (*No reward or compensation should be paid to the participants or host organizations.)
	Others	Other short-term programs (e.g. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience) will be planned to enrich the participants' academic and personal experience of their courses of studies at the universities.

4. Duration

In principle, the maximum duration for Master's and Ph.D. degree courses are as follows:

	A	B	C	(A+B+C)
Course	Research Student Program	Graduate Course Program	Internship after graduation (Only by arrangement)	Maximum total duration
Master's Degree	Maximum of 6 months from Oct 2026 to Mar 2027. (Participants are expected to arrive	<u>Maximum of 2 years</u> as a Master's course student from Apr 2027 to Mar 2029.	Maximum of 6 months until Sep 2029.	3 years
Ph.D.'s Degree	in Japan at the end of Sep.)	<u>Maximum of 3 years</u> as a Ph.D.'s course student from Apr 2027 to Mar 2030.	Maximum of 6 months until Sep 2030.	4 years

As a general rule, extension of the study period for Master's or Ph.D.'s courses, as well as advancement from a Master's course to a Ph.D.'s course, is not permitted. Applicants must not assume the possibility of extension and are expected to complete their studies within the designated period. In cases where completion within the graduate course program period (B) mentioned above is deemed impossible, including but not limited to illness or poor academic performance, early return may be required. In such cases, trainees must comply with JICA's regulations.

5. Scope of Participants

Number of participants, target countries, and target participants are as follows:

- (1) Number of participants: 25 participants
- (2) Target countries for the mining and geothermal fields are as follows (hereinafter referred to as "Target Countries"):

Fields	Target Countries			
	Asia-Pacific	Africa	South America	Europe
Mining	Indonesia Philippines Vietnam Cambodia Laos Malaysia Fiji Papua New Guinea Mongolia Kazakhstan Uzbekistan Tajikistan Kyrgyz Turkmenistan	Botswana Mozambique Madagascar Zambia Tanzania Zimbabwe Namibia Malawi Angola South Africa Nigeria DR Congo	Bolivia Ecuador Peru Argentine Brazil Chile	Serbia
Geothermal	Indonesia Philippines Papua New Guinea	Tanzania Kenya Ethiopia Djibouti	Bolivia Ecuador Peru El Salvador Nicaragua	

(3) Target Participants are as follows:

Target Participants	Comments
Governmental Officials (Technocrats)	Technocrats who take part in policy making and administration related to mineral resources development in central/regional government, governmental research institutions or other related public organizations in the mining/geothermal sectors. As outlined in “2. Objectives” above, they are given top priority.
Educators/ Researchers	Educators or researchers who are responsible for education and research in the mining/geothermal sectors in higher education and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) institutions in target countries. Candidates aiming to obtain a Ph.D. degree are highly desirable.

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Candidate applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Nationality	Citizen of the Target Countries eligible for Japan's ODA.	
(2) Age	Master's Degree Course	Applicants who are 35 years of age or under as of April 1 st , 2026, are preferred; however, those over 35 may also apply.
	Ph.D. Degree Course	Applicants who are 40 years of age or younger as of April 1 st , 2026, are preferred; however, those over 40 may also apply.
(3) Educational Background:	Master's Degree Course	- At least 16 years of academic background or equivalent. - A Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree holder.
	Ph.D. Degree Course	- At least 18 years of academic background or equivalent. - A Master's Degree holder.
(4) Working Experience /Status	- Applicants with at least 2 to 3 years of working experience at their current organization are preferred. - Applicants shall obtain permission to apply and assurance of reinstatement from their current organization.	
(5) Language:	Applicants must possess adequate English skills in both written and oral communication to successfully complete a master's or Ph.D. degree course.	
(6) Physical Presence	Must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.	
(7) Understanding of the Program	Applicants must clearly understand the objectives of the program and be strongly motivated to contribute to the development of the mining and/or geothermal sectors in their home countries, and to foster stronger ties between their countries and Japan upon returning home.	
(8) Others	- Applicants must be both physically and mentally fit for the program. - Applicants must not be receiving, nor planning to receive, any other scholarship during the program. - Applicants must acknowledge that, in unavoidable circumstances (e.g., official exams), they may be required to attend program activities on weekends or holidays.	

8. Admissions

Candidates must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination¹ of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree or Ph.D. degree course.

¹ The results of JICA's screening procedure and University's general entrance examination will not accept any inquiry.

9. Application Guidelines

Candidate applicants must apply through the procedures as described below, which are 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 Documents²" listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country by the deadline specified in section 10. Schedule. However, please note that among the Application Documents, only item 7) Health Certificate has a different submission deadline. Applicants shall not request the return of any documents submitted for the application, both during and after the program.

(2) Application Documents

1) Official Application Form

- 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)

2) Graduation certificate

- * Officially certified copies of the original
- * If you are applying for a master's course, include your undergraduate certificate
- * If you are applying for a Ph.D. course, also include your master's certificate
- * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English

3) Academic transcript

- * If you are applying for a master's course, include your undergraduate transcript
- * If you are applying for a Ph.D. course, also include your master's 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 (TOEFL, IELTS, or TOEIC)

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 (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

² Submitted documents will not be returned.

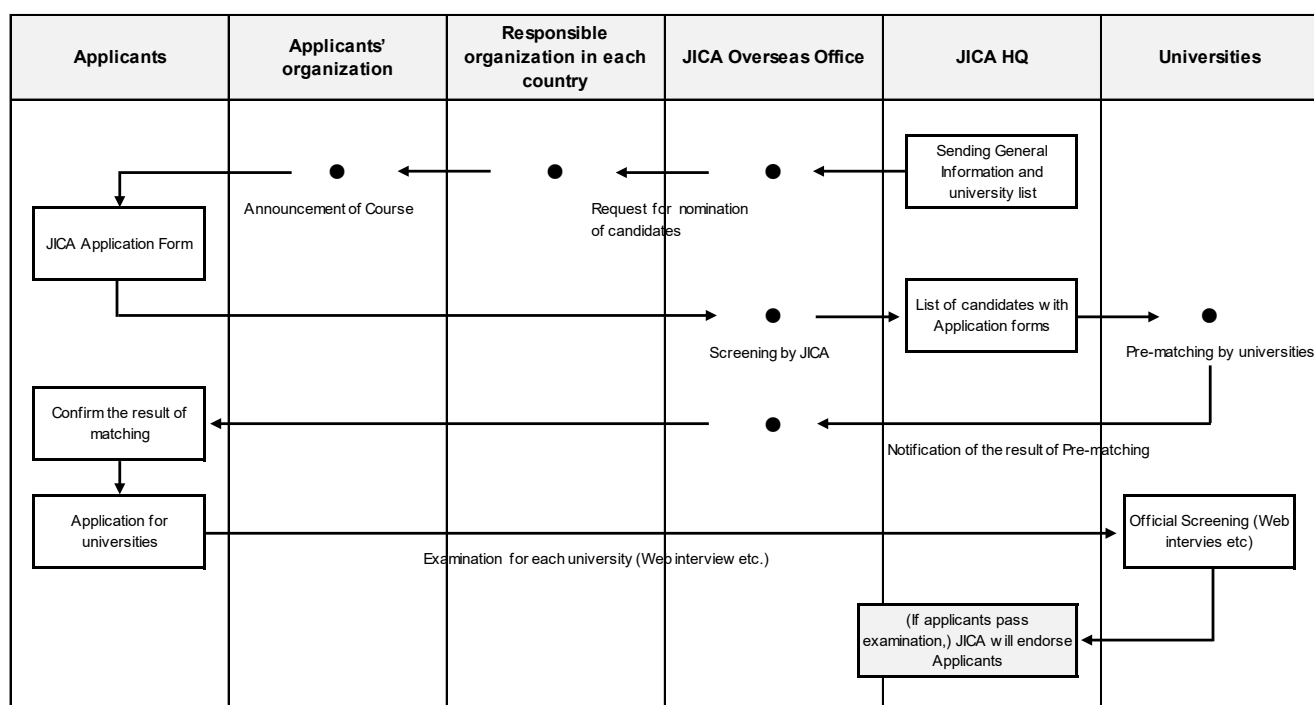
Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, 2026.³⁾

(3) Procedures in General

Based on the above documents, candidate applicants are nominated and approved by their country's government, and later approved by JICA.⁴ After this procedure, screening will be conducted at the universities chosen by the applicant.

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.

Candidate applicants must follow each university's application procedure after the screening. If the applicants withdraw their applications after their official applications to the universities, applicants must inform their withdrawal to the university by letter.



(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

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.

³⁾Without the certificate, admission may become rejected.

⁴⁾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.

(5) 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.

JICA shall determine whether the candidate is eligible to participate in training in Japan. JICA shall make a decision 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

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

Selection Schedule for Autumn 2026 Arrival in Japan	
By the Beginning of November, 2025	Nomination of candidate applicants in respective organizations.
	Selection of candidate applicants by responsible organization in each country.
By January 5 th , 2026	Complete set of "Application Documents" must be submitted to JICA overseas office in charge of the country of applicants.
January 6 th , 2026 - February, 2026	Screening by JICA.
	Pre-application Matching Process by university.
By the end of January 2026	Notification of the Results of the Pre-Application Matching Process via JICA Overseas Office in your country.
March - April, 2026	Online interview by University and JICA headquarters in Japan
By the beginning of May 2026	Announcement of the result of the selection via JICA Overseas Office in your country.
June - August, 2026	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate applicant is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant.
August-October, 2026	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure.
	Arrival in Japan.
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices.
	Beginning of Autumn 2026 Term as Research Student.

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

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 Additional Special Programs
(In addition, any financial loss or cost incurred due to the participant’s personal reasons, including but not limited to cancellation fees caused by unnotified absence from Additional Special Programs, shall be borne by the participant, and JICA will not bear such costs.)
- (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 180days
- (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 are required:

- (1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan on the date designated by JICA to participate in and complete this program,
- (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. (Please note that participants prepare by yourself all the documents necessary for the regular course examination.) In case where it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, the participant is requested to declare fulfilment of the following:
 - A. To follow any instructions from JICA for returning directly to the home country, such as designation of the departure date and the itinerary to the home country,
 - B. To pay, before leaving Japan, any costs which the participant is requested to pay, such as subscriptions of electricity, gas, water supply, mobile phone and/or Internet, and restoration costs of the room stayed in,
 - C. To refrain from requesting JICA any additional costs to leave Japan,
- (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" mentioned above,
- (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 another 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 include your current university enrollment as part of your educational background, if you are currently enrolled in a university in your home country or abroad,
- (29)** to understand that the use of Generative AI such as Chat GPT to create Application Forms including Research Plans, your research papers, and your application may not be acceptable and may result in rejection of your application or termination of training if discovered, according to each University policy.



CORRESPONDENCE

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