



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

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

Enrolment 2027 Autumn

「アジア地域投資促進・産業振興（2027 年度秋入学）」

This handout provides an overview of the “Investment Promotion and Industrial Development for Asian Region (Enrollment 2027 fall)” 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 Japanese universities and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to support 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>

Voice from participants and alumni

JICA-VAN provides a variety of photos and short videos from participants and alumni. These insights will help you envision your future academic journey in Japan.

<https://jica-van-cms.jica.go.jp/custom/scholarship/jica-scholarship.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 can influence policy-making processes in their countries or contribute to socioeconomic development in the near future.

The new program/course, “Investment Promotion and Industrial Development in Asian Region” was established in JFY2020 under the framework of JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) for purpose of developing human resource which can bridge between industries of Japan and other Asian countries, as well as creating business linkages between these regions.

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

2. Objectives

- (1) Under the JICA Global Agenda “Private Sector Development”, this program/course aims not only to deepen participants’ expertise in areas such as but not limited to investment promotion, industrial policy, trade facilitation, business environment improvement, and intellectual property, but also to enhance their understanding of Japanese-style management and the history of Japan’s industrial development, thereby fostering leaders familiar with Japan.
- (2) Through this initiative, participants are expected to serve as a bridge between their home countries and Japan by strengthening the operational capacity of Japan Centers, improving local investment and business environments, supporting business linkages between local and Japanese companies, and facilitating investment from Japanese businesses to each country. Ultimately, the program seeks to contribute to the economic growth of the participating countries.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of participants from countries in Asia (as listed in “5. Number of Participants”) to achieve the objectives described above.

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

Applicants may select the university to which they wish to apply from the university list set for this program/course, on the condition that the applicants pass the entrance examination of the selected university. Detailed information of these partner universities is provided in the separate university list.

Proposed research topics should consist of subjects that contribute to achieving the above objective (e.g. investment promotion, industrial policy, trade facilitation, business environment improvement, intellectual property).

In addition to curriculums of the master's and PhD programs, activities such as short-term programs (e.g. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience¹) will be planned in order to enrich the participants' academic and personal experiences of their programs of studies at the universities.

4. Duration

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

Master: from September 2027 to September 2029 (2 years)

PhD: from September 2027 to September 2030 (3 years)

5. Number of Participants

Total 10 participants from the below 10 countries:

Country Name	No. of Participants
Bangladesh	1
Cambodia	1
India	1
Indonesia	1
Kyrgyz Republic	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1
Malaysia	1
Mongolia	1
Uzbekistan	1
Vietnam	1
total	10

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.

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements;

- (1) **Current Duties:** Young or middle-career applicants from the organizations below:
 - a) Government officials from counterpart ministries and agencies in current technical cooperation projects related to Private Sector Development.
 - b) Current or future lecturers, executives and managers in Japan Centers.
 - c) Government officials from ministries, agencies, and economic organizations related to investment and industrial development.

* In principle, candidates without affiliations are not eligible for acceptance.
- (2) **Nationality:** Citizens of the countries mentioned in the above “5. Number of Participants”.
- (3) **Age:**
 - a) For master’s programs, forty (40) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1, 2027).
 - b) For PhD programs, forty-five (45) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1, 2027).
- (4) **Educational Background:**
 - a) For master’s programs, a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree holder.
 - b) For PhD programs, a master’s degree holder.
- (5) **Language:** sufficient English proficiency (in reading, writing, listening and speaking) equivalent to or higher than the scores listed below, as required for the specialized and academic education necessary to complete a master’s or doctoral program;
 - a) TOEFL iBT: 80
 - b) IELTS: 6.5
 - c) Duolingo: 120-125
- (6) **Physical Presence:** must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.
- (7) **Health:** to be in good health to participate in the program.
- (8) **Others:** must not 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.

8. Admissions

Applicants 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.

³ No inquiries will be accepted regarding the results of JICA’s screening procedure and University’s general entrance examination.

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.

9. Application Guidelines

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 Documents⁴" listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country.

(2) Application Documents

1) Required Documents for JICA when applicants apply to this program

- ① JICA Application Form (Part A, Part B, Annex1 and Annex2)
- ② Graduation certificate/Degree 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)

2) Required Documents for university when applicants apply to their preferred university

Please follow guidance from each university.

3) Required Documents for JICA after applicants apply to their preferred university

- ① Health Certificate
 - * Must be submitted in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country at the applicants' expense, no later than the end of April, 2027.
 - * The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, 2027.
 - * Without the certificate, admission may be rejected.
 - * JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.
- ② Medical History

⁴ Submitted documents will not be returned.

* Must be submitted in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country, no later than the end of April, 2027.

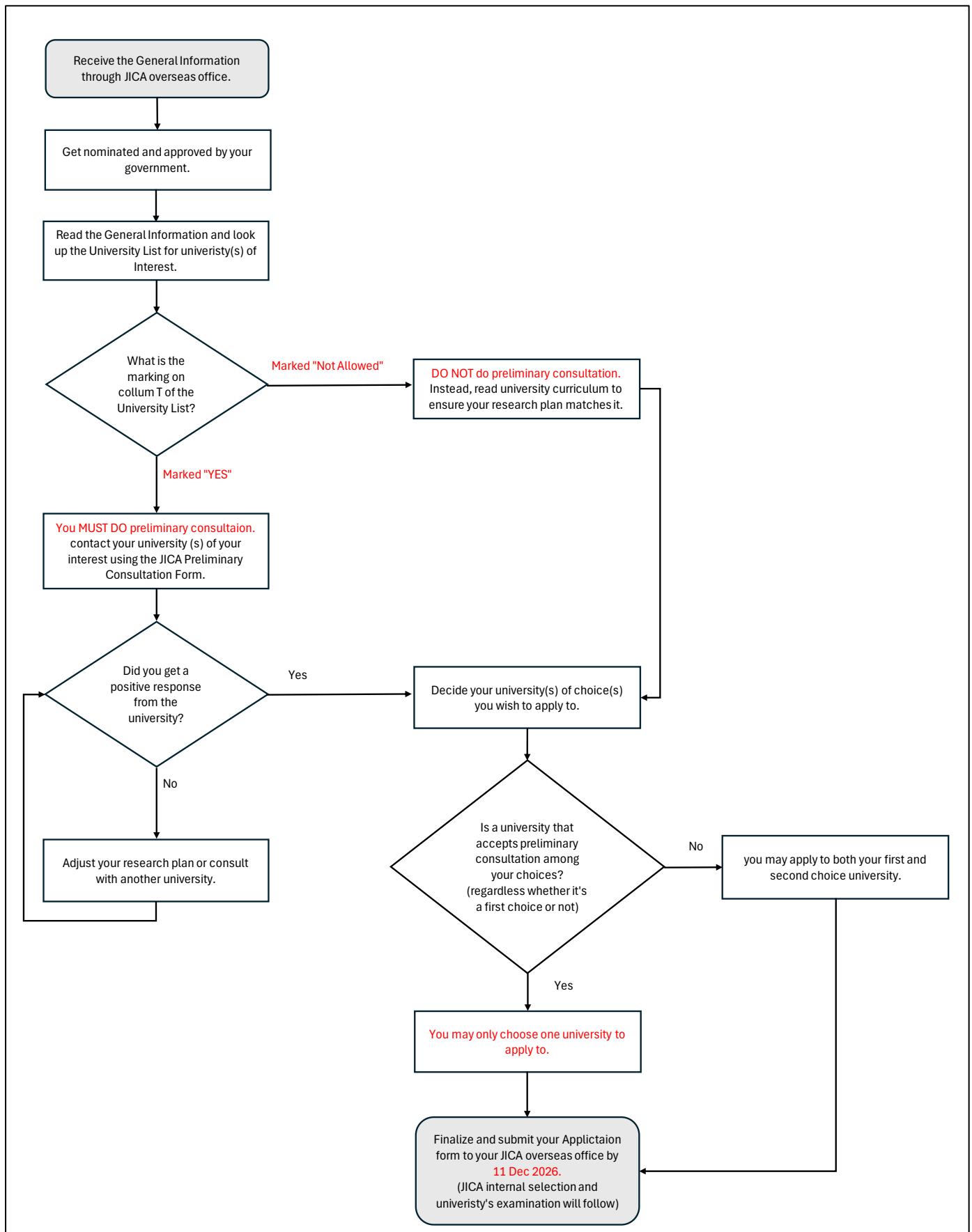
* Applicants who require assistance due to a disability or medical condition are requested to specify the necessary support in Medical History (1-(c)) so that JICA can make appropriate logistical arrangements or provide alternatives.

(3) Procedures in General

The Application procedure will be conducted as follows;

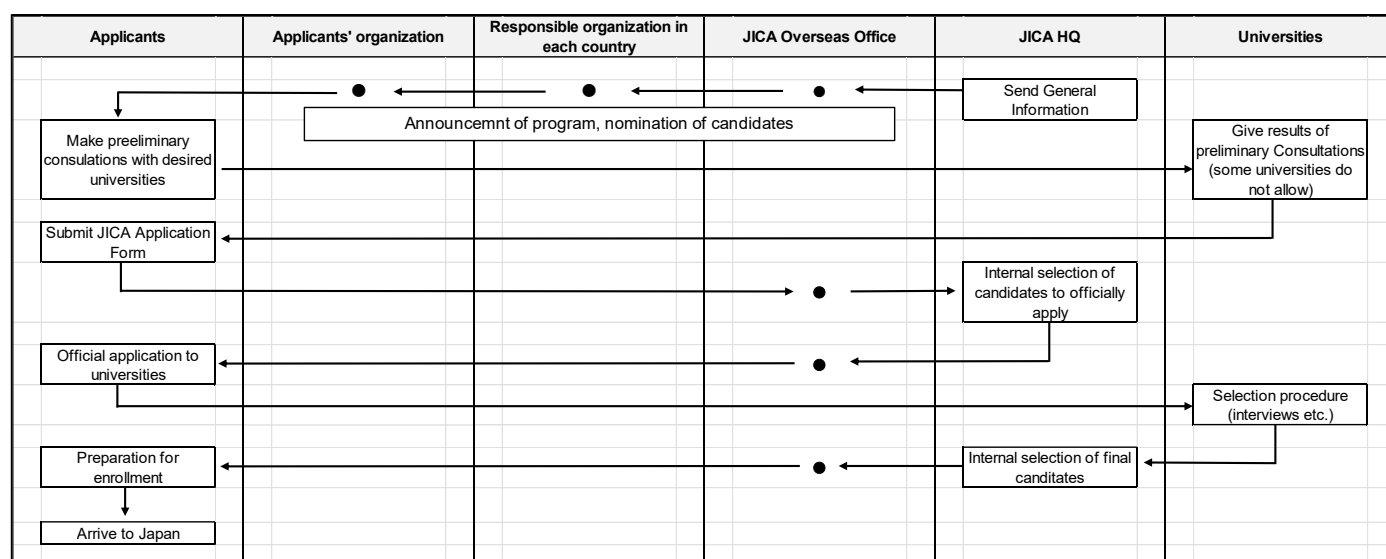
- 1) JICA HQ will send the General Information (this document) to the target countries.
- 2) Based on the above Application Documents, applicants are nominated and approved by their country's government.
- 3) Nominated applicants will carefully read the General Information as well as the university list, and pick up their university(s) of interest.
- 4) Regarding the university list, depending on the marking of the **column T** ("Whether or not preliminary consultation with university before application is mandatory"), the applicants will proceed as follows:
 - a) **If the column T is marked "YES" applicants MUST contact their desired university(s) and conduct preliminary consultations using the designated JICA Preliminary Consultation Form** in order to ensure that their research plan aligns with the university's curriculum and research.
 - b) If the column T is marked "Not allowed" applicants MUST NOT contact the university(s) for preliminary consultations. Instead, applicants will read carefully the university's curriculum and research, in order to ensure that their research plan aligns with it.
- 5) After the preliminary consultations, applicants will make a final decision on their desired university. In principle, **applicants must have obtained a positive response during preliminary consultations from their desired university in order to apply for it** (except for universities which do not allow preliminary consultations). **Applicants may only choose one university to apply to.** However, as a sole exception, in the only case in which both the applicant's 1st and 2nd choice universities do not allow preliminary consultation, said applicant may apply to both universities.

Chart 1: Flowchart for Applicants -From Receiving the GI to Submitting the AF-



- 6) JICA will conduct an internal selection process to decide which applicants may apply officially to their desired university⁵.
- 7) Based on the JICA internal selection results, the applicants will officially apply by themselves and undertake the university's examination. Applicants must follow each university's application procedure and schedule. If the applicants withdraw their applications after their official applications to the universities, applicants must inform them of their withdrawal to the university by letter. Please note that universities may reject the applicant's application when the required documents, or the submitted research plan is not accepted by the universities.
- 8) After the results of the universities' selection procedures are announced, JICA will conduct another internal selection process to decide the final candidates that may enroll to the universities.

Chart 2: General Flow of the Whole Selection Process



(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

- 1) Fees for English proficiency test can be reimbursed only once 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 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.

⁵ 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.

10. Schedule(plan*)

Early-September 2026	Nomination of applicants in respective organizations in each country.
September to Early December 2026	Based on the General Information and the university list, applicants conduct preliminary consultations and determine their desired university (Except in cases in which the university does not allow preliminary consultations). <u>Applicants must use the designated JICA form for preliminary consultations.</u>
	Applicants fill in their Application Form
11 December 2026	Deadline for Application Form submission to the respective JICA overseas office.
Late-January 2027	JICA conducts an internal selection to decide which applicants may officially apply to their desired university.
Early-February 2027 and onwards**	Each applicant will apply and undergo their desired university's selection process (general entrance examination).
Late-June 2027	Arrival of entrance examination results to JICA.
Early-July 2027	JICA conducts a final internal selection to decide which applicants may enroll to the universities.
Early-July 2027 and onwards	Preparation for study in Japan for the selected candidates.
Late-August to Early-September 2027***	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure.
	Arrival in Japan.
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices.
	Beginning of Fall 2027 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.

***The arrival date to Japan depends on each university's academic calendar.

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 candidates/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 participants/candidates do not follow the regulation of JICA, the participants 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 participants' family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,
- (5) to return to their home country on a flight designated 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 from 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 the applicants' country at the applicants' expense, no later than the end of April, 2027. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, 2027. 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 their medical history, if there are changes in their 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 their 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;
 - ①Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.
 - ②Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA .
 - ③Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
 - ④Taking 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, if any.
- (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.

Appendixes

1 University List

2 JICA Application Form

3 JICA Preliminary Consultation Form

4 JICA Medical History and Health Certificate Form



CORRESPONDENCE

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