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

General Information on

Global AI Talent Circulation and Co-Creation

Enrolment Autumn 2027 & Spring 2028

「AI 国際頭脳循環・共創（2027 年秋入学・2028 年春入学）」

This handout provides an overview of the “Global AI Talent Circulation and Co-Creation” program, 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 Program, “Global AI Talent Circulation and Co-creation Program,” is a new course that will start in JFY2027 under the framework of JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP). The Program is aligned with the Government of Japan’s policy objectives of promoting the use of AI, strengthening AI development capabilities, AI governance, and realizing a human-centered AI society through a whole-of-government approach.

Building on JICA’s long standing partnerships and trust-based relationships with partner countries, the Program aims to enhance the effectiveness of AI-related cooperation and foster practical collaboration among AI professionals.

The Program focuses on **AI social implementation, covering the application of AI across a wide range of sectors and industries to address development challenges and create social and economic value.**

Given the multidisciplinary and rapidly evolving nature of AI, long-term degree-based education at Japanese universities is positioned as one of the Program's core modalities. Through advanced academic study and research, the Program aims to develop highly skilled AI professionals while fostering sustained, two-way partnerships between Japan and countries of the Global South.

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

2. Objectives

(1) To develop high level human resources capable of contributing to sound policy decisions and their effective implementation to address political and developmental challenges in their respective fields.

(2) To establish and maintain mid-to-long-term collaborative relationships between the target countries and Japan.

(3) To enhance AI talent circulation between Japan and the Global South, leading to the formation of a sustainable AI ecosystem through establishment of a two-way partnership

3. Course Outline

(1) Contents of program

This program provides degree-based education and advanced academic training in the AI domain at Japanese universities. Depending on participants' professional roles and academic backgrounds, the program is open to enrollment in a range of AI-related degree programs, including those focusing on the social implementation and practical application of AI technologies across diverse sectors and disciplines.

(2) Countries

The course consists of the acceptance of participants from 3 countries from Southeast Asia, 2 countries South Asia, 3 countries from Central Asia and 5 countries from Africa as below:

Southeast Asia	Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam
South Asia	India, Sri Lanka
Central Asia	Kyrgyz, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Africa	Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa

(3) Target Organization / Group

1. Faculty members and staff of universities and public research institutions which play a key role in research and development of artificial intelligence (AI)
2. Officials from the government organizations and relevant agencies/entities responsible for AI

(4) Project Purpose

To develop human resources in the Global South, who can take leading roles in AI policy formulation and social implementation and serve as core nodes of the Japan-Global South AI talent network, thereby contributing to industrial development in participants' home countries and AI ecosystem development through the realization of AI policies, applications, and co-creation.

(5) Outputs

1. Participants acquire advanced knowledge and skills in AI including AI policy, social applications, through the completion of degree programs and / or specialized research at leading Japanese universities.
2. Participants establish professional networks and gain practical collaboration experience with Japanese universities, government institutions, and private-sector organizations in the field of AI.

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 universities which have concluded an agreement to accept JICA participants on the condition that the applicants

pass the entrance examination of the selected university. Detailed information of these partner universities will be provided separately.

Proposed research topics should consist of subjects that focus on the social implementation and practical application of AI technologies across diverse sectors and disciplines

In addition to curriculums of the master's and PhD programs, activities such as short-term programs (e.g. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience[1]), and/or internship programs will be optionally planned in order to enrich the participants' academic and personal experiences of their programs of studies at the universities.

Participants are recommended to participate in internship programs at public entities during their stay in Japan. JICA will prepare the contents and schedule of the internship in close consultation with the participants and host organizations. In principle, no reward or compensation should be paid to the participants or host organizations.

Please refer to the Annex for detailed university information.

4. Duration

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

(1) The courses that enrollment will start in October 2027
Master : from September 2027 to September 2029 (2 years)
PhD : from September 2027 to September 2030 (3 years)

(2) The courses that enrollment will start in April 2028
Master : from April 2028 to March 2030 (2 years)
PhD : from April 2028 to March 2031 (3 years)

5. Number of Participants

Area	Country	Number of Participants
Southeast Asia	Cambodia	1
	Indonesia	1
	Vietnam	1
South Asia	India	1

[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.

	Sri Lanka	1
Central Asia	Kyrgyz	1
	Uzbekistan	1
	Tajikistan	1
Africa	Egypt	1
	Ethiopia	1
	Kenya	1
	Rwanda	1
	South Africa	1

*Up to 9 participants from the above countries.

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Current Duties: young or middle-career government officials, prospective academics, who are expected to contribute to policy formulation or its implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues in respective fields.
※ In principle, candidates without affiliations are not eligible for acceptance.

(2) Nationality: citizen of the above countries eligible for Japan's ODA

(3) Age:
for master's programs, thirty-five (35) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1, the year of enrolment).
for Ph.D. program, forty (40) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1, the year of enrolment).

(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: 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;

TOEFL iBT: 80
IELTS: 6.5
Duolingo: 120-125

(Note) The above English language scores are for JICA's screening purposes only. Applicants should separately confirm the language requirements and accepted proof of proficiency required by their prospective universities through the respective university websites and admission guidelines.

(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 examination[3] of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree or Ph.D. degree course.

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 Documents[4]" 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)

[3] The results of JICA's screening procedure and University's general entrance examination will not accept any inquiry.
[4] Submitted documents will not be returned.

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, the year of Autumn enrolment.
* The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, the year of Autumn enrolment.
* Must be submitted in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country at the applicants' expense, no later than the end of October the year prior to Spring enrolment.
* The date of the Health Certificate must be on or after October 1 the year prior to Spring enrollment.
*Applicants arriving as research students in October 2027 follow the Autumn enrolment schedule.
* Without the certificate, admission may be rejected.
* JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.

② Medical History

* Must be submitted in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country, no later than the end of April, the year of Autumn enrolment.
* Must be submitted in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country, no later than the end of October, the year prior to Spring enrolment.
* 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

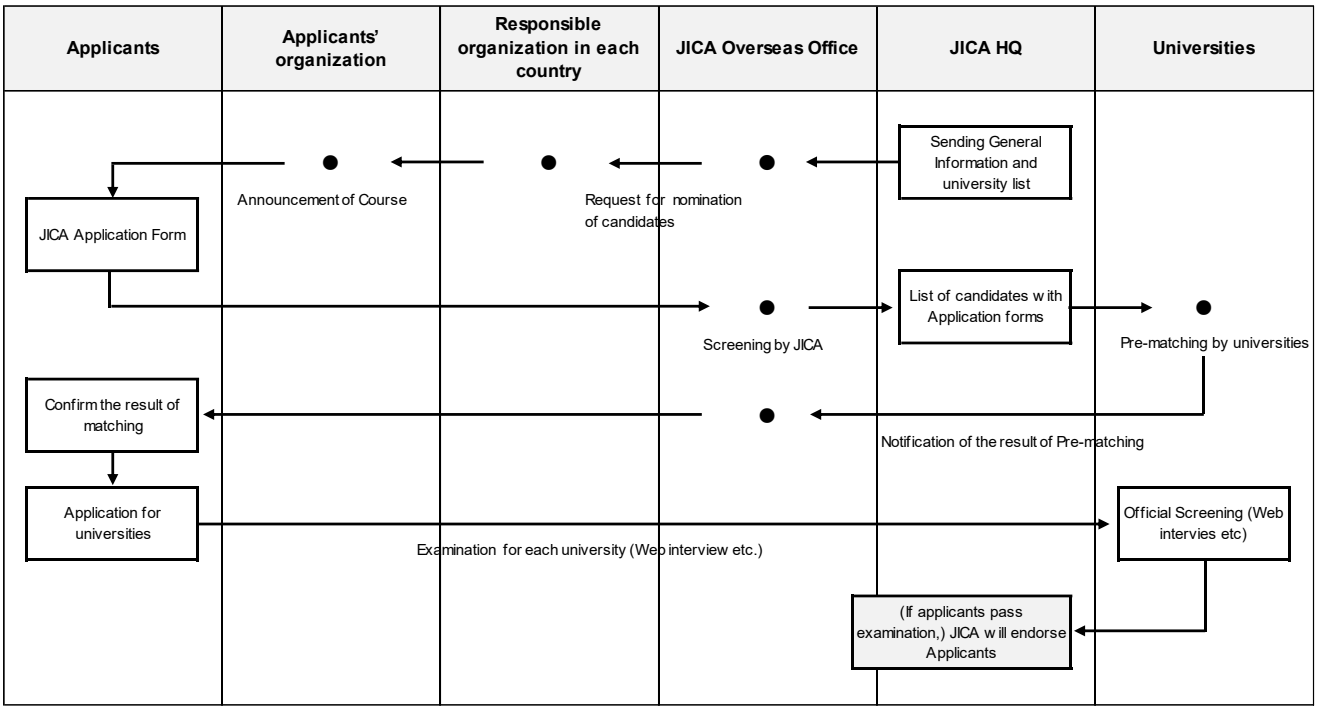
Based on the above documents, applicants are nominated and approved by their country's government, and later approved by JICA.[5] After this procedure, screening will be conducted at the universities chosen by the applicant.

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.

Applicants must follow each university's application procedure after the screening. If the

[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.

applicants withdraw their applications after their official applications to the universities, applicants must inform them of their withdrawal to the university by letter.



(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

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.

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

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>Master's course</u>: Hiroshima University (Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society) for enrollment in April 2028 and Kyoto University for enrollment in October 2027
<u>PhD course</u>: Hiroshima University (Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society) for enrollment in April 2028 (*1)</td><td colspan="2">All Other Universities and Programs
for Enrollment in October 2027 or April 2028 (*1)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">The year of 2026</td><td colspan="2">The year of 2026</td></tr>
<tr><td>By the Beginning of December</td><td>Nomination of applicants in respective organizations</td><td>By the Beginning of December</td><td>Nomination of applicants in respective organizations</td></tr>
</table>

	Selection of applicants by responsible organization in each country		Selection of applicants by responsible organization in each country
The year of 2027		The year of 2027	
By the 31st January	"Application Documents" must be submitted to JICA overseas office in charge of the country of applicants.	**By the 15th of March**	"Application Documents" must be submitted to JICA overseas office in charge of the country of applicants.
1st week of February	Screening by JICA	March - April	Screening by JICA
	Pre-application Matching Process by university if applicable		Pre-application Matching Process by university if applicable
By the end of February	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant	April - June(approximately) (*2) (*3)	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant
	University's application procedure *General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university	April - June(approximately) (*2) (*3)	University's application procedure *General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university
June – July	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university	June – July (*2) June – August (*2)	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university
	Determination of JICA KCCP （Long-term） participants		Determination of JICA KCCP（Long-term） participants
June - August	Preparation for study in Japan if candidates are determined as participants	August-October (*2)	Preparation for study in Japan if candidates are determined as participants
August-October	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure	August-October (*2)	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan		Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices		Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of Fall Term		Beginning of Fall / Spring Term

(Note 1) **Applicants seeking admission in October 2027 to Kyoto University (Master's program) or Hiroshima University's Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society must submit their JICA application by January 31, 2027. For all other universities and programs, whether for enrollment in October 2027 or April 2028, the JICA application deadline is March 15,2027.** Schedule and program contents might be adjusted appropriately due to unforeseen circumstances.
(Note 2) For applicants seeking admission for the enrollment in April 2028, both the enrollment date and the selection schedule from the stage of "Application to take the university's general entrance examination by the applicant" onward are expected to be shifted back by several months.

(Note 3) Please note that some universities require applicants to take an entrance examination after arriving in Japan as a non-degree research student. For detailed information, please refer to the Annex “Detailed University Information” at the end of this document.

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 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 (*1)	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance (*2)	JPY100,000	Once (upon arrival in Japan)
Moving Allowance (*3)	Up to JPY164,000-224,000	Once (during the training period) (*2)
Research Support Expenses (*4)	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	

(Note 1) Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

(Note 2) 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.

(Note 3) Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.

(Note 4) 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 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 the JICA Office in the applicants' country at the applicants’ expense. JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.

Enrollment term (based on arrival in Japan)	Deadline for submission	Date of Health Certificate
October enrollment	End of April of the enrollment year	On or after April 1 of the enrollment year
April enrollment	End of October of the year prior to enrollment	On or after October 1 of the year prior to enrollment

(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.

ANNEX: Detailed University Information

■ **Overview of the Program**

Master's Course			
University	Course	Degree Course Enrollment	Application Deadline
Hiroshima University	Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society	April 2028 (Note1)	January 31, 2027
Kyoto University	Graduate School of Informatics	October 2027	
Hiroshima University	Informatics and Data Science Program, Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering	April 2028 (Note 1)	March 15, 2027
	Transportation and Environmental Systems Program, Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering		
	Graduate School of Maritime and Marine Science		
Hokkaido University	Sustainable Resources Engineering	April 2028	
Kanazawa Institute of Technology	Graduate Program in Information and Computer Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering	April 2028	
Keio University	Graduate School of System Design and Management	October 2027 or April 2028	
Kobe Institute of Computing	ICT Innovator Course, Department of Information Systems, Graduate School of Information Technology	October 2027	
Nara Institute of Science and Technology	Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence	October 2027 or April 2028	
	Applied Artificial Intelligence and Robotics		
The University of Osaka	Special Program for "Engineering Science 21st Century" Graduate School of Engineering Science	April 2028 (Note 1)	

(Note 1)

Applicants must enroll as non-degree research students in October 2027, six months before entering the degree program in April 2028. They must successfully complete the required admission process to proceed to the degree program.

PhD Course			
University	Course	Degree Course Enrollment	Application Deadline
Hiroshima University	Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society	April 2028 (Note1)	January 31, 2027
Hiroshima University	Informatics and Data Science Program, Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering	April 2028 (Note1)	March 15, 2027
	Transportation and Environmental Systems Program, Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering		
	Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences	To be confirmed (Note2)	
Hokkaido University	Sustainable Resources Engineering	April 2028	
Kyoto University	Graduate School of Informatics	October 2027	
Kanazawa Institute of Technology	Graduate Program in Information and Computer Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering	April 2028	
Keio University	Graduate School of System Design and Management	October 2027	
Nara Institute of Science and Technology	Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence	April 2028	
	Applied Artificial Intelligence and Robotics		
The University of Osaka	Special Program for “Engineering Science 21st Century” Graduate School of Engineering Science	April 2028 (Note1)	

(Note 1)
Applicants must enroll as non-degree research students in October 2027, six months before entering the degree program in April 2028. They must successfully complete the required admission process to proceed to the degree program.
(Note 2)
As the admission schedule has not yet been determined, prospective applicants are advised to contact JICA at gpgsd@jica.go.jp for further information.

Please refer to the detailed information of each university below.

Hiroshima University
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en

■ **Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering**

(1) Location
Higashi-Hiroshima City Hiroshima, Japan

(2) Link
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/info
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/tes

(3) Course name
- Informatics and Data Science Program, Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
- Transportation and Environmental Systems Program, Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University

(4) Duration
Master's Program: **Up to 2.5 years**, including a six-month research student period from October 2027 to March 2028, followed by a two-year Master's Program from April 2028 to March 2030.
Doctoral Program: **Up to 3.5 years**, including a six-month research student period from October 2027 to March 2028, followed by a three-year Doctoral Program from April 2028 to March 2031.
Note: Applicants must pass the entrance examination during the research student period to enroll in the degree program.

(5) Content of research
Informatics and Data Science Program
Associate Professor Yang Low for both Master and PhD course
The Informatics and Data Science Program provides research opportunities in artificial intelligence and data science, including network science, graph learning, network resilience, interpretable AI, and computational intelligence. Students will conduct theoretical, computational, and data-driven research on methods for modeling, analyzing, and optimizing complex systems, with applications to real-world societal and engineering challenges.

Transportation and Environmental Systems Program
The realization of a sustainable and advanced circular society in harmony with the global environment relies on efficient and resilient transportation systems.
As globalization continues to advance, industry and society increasingly require engineering solutions that support the development of vibrant global networks while addressing the challenges associated with transportation and environmental systems on a worldwide scale. Accordingly, there is a strong demand for creative professionals who can contribute effectively in international settings.
This program provides education and research opportunities in transportation systems,

logistics, marine environments, and energy-related technologies. Its objective is to cultivate engineers and researchers with the expertise to analyze and address global challenges in transportation and environmental systems from both technological and systems-oriented perspectives.
Graduates are expected to play leading roles in a broad range of fields, including the automotive, maritime and ocean, logistics, systems engineering, and environmental sectors, as well as in government agencies and public institutions.

■ **Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society**

(1) Location
Higashi-Hiroshima City Hiroshima, Japan

(2) Link
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/smart_society/main-fields#SocialInnovation

(3) Course Name
Social Innovation Science, Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society

(4) Duration

Master's Program: **Up to 2.5 years**, including a six-month research student period from October 2027 to March 2028, followed by a two-year Master's Program from April 2028 to March 2030.
Doctoral Program: **Up to 3.5 years**, including a six-month research student period from October 2027 to March 2028, followed by a three-year Doctoral Program from April 2028 to March 2031.

Note: Applicants must pass the entrance examination during the research student period to enroll in the degree program.

(5) Content of research
This research area includes new policymaking, development, implementation, analysis, and evaluation backed by evidence-based policymaking to ensure social innovation, and the implementation of governance on the basis of that research. Research in this area seeks to leverage smart solutions and digital information analysis technologies, such as AI and machine learning, as researchers acquire expertise in immediate and quantitative decision-making science-based methodologies.
This research area addresses topics related to practical science with a strong connection to social innovation, through interdisciplinary collaboration with other research fields and through seeking to change human behavior relating to energy selection and consumption, food resource management, climate action, and health maintenance and promotion.

■ **Graduate School of Maritime and Marine Science**

(1) Location
Kure, Hiroshima, Japan

(2) Link
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gsmm

Note: The English version of the above website is currently under development and will be available soon.

(3) Course Name
Graduate School of Maritime and Marine Science

(4) Duration
Master's Program: **Up to 2.5 years**, including a six-month research student period from October 2027 to March 2028, followed by a two-year Master's Program from April 2028 to March 2030.

(5) Content of research
The fields of maritime studies, marine science, and naval architecture and ocean engineering involve optimizing large-scale systems through the integration of multidisciplinary knowledge while taking complex natural environments into account and addressing diverse industrial, regulatory, and societal needs.
The Graduate School aims to cultivate highly skilled interdisciplinary professionals with a global perspective and a broad educational foundation. Students will acquire fundamental knowledge in the following three areas related to maritime studies, marine science, and naval architecture and ocean engineering:

1. Marine Policy and Ocean Governance
2. Marine Utilization Technologies
3. Marine Environment and Resources

In addition, students will develop advanced expertise and practical application skills in their respective fields.

Expected Graduate Attributes

- Professionals who understand international maritime law as well as policy and economic frameworks, and who can contribute to international consensus-building for the sustainable use of marine resources and the formulation of regional marine policies.
- Professionals who possess comprehensive ocean-related knowledge that transcends conventional boundaries between the humanities and sciences, and who can develop and implement solutions to global ocean challenges in collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

■ Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

(1) Location
Higashi-Hiroshima City Hiroshima, Japan

(2) Link
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs

(3) Course Name
Integrated Arts and Human Sciences　Prof. Tsutomu Sawai

(4) Duration
3 years Doctoral Program

(5) Content of research

This course offers interdisciplinary research and education in the humanities and social sciences. Under the supervision of Professor Tsutomu Sawai, students may conduct research on the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. Research topics may include AI ethics and governance, responsible research and innovation (RRI), human–AI and human–robot interaction, and the societal implications of AI and robotics. The research may employ theoretical, policy-oriented, and empirical approaches to examine how emerging technologies can be developed and governed responsibly.

Hokkaido University

(1) Location
Kita-ku, Sapporo, Japan

(2) Link
Faculty, Graduate School and School of Engineering Hokkaido University
https://shigen.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/en/
https://resource-management.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/

(3) Course name
Sustainable Resources Engineering

(4) Duration
Master's Program: Two years, from April 2028 to March 2030.
Doctoral Program: Three years, from April 2028 to March 2031.

(5) Content of research
This program focuses on engineering of mineral resource development, resource recycling, and environmental remediation. It covers a wide range of fields, including geology, rock engineering, metal recovery, and environmental assessment. The program aims to develop engineers and researchers who can contribute to sustainable resource utilization and environmental conservation.

Kanazawa Institute of Technology

(1) Location
Nonoichi, Ishikawa, Japan (Ohgigaoka Campus)

(2) Link
Graduate Schools/Programs, Kanazawa Institute of Technology Master's Course
https://www.kanazawa-it.ac.jp/ekit/admissions/first_doctoral_courses/index.html
- Doctoral Couse
https://www.kanazawa-it.ac.jp/ekit/admissions/second_doctoral_courses/index.html
- Nakazawa Laboratory
https://minorunakazawa.github.io/i2lab/en/

(3) Course name
Graduate Program in Information and Computer Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering

(4) Duration
Master's Program: Two years, from April 2028 to March 2030.
Doctoral Program: Three years, from April 2028 to March 2031.
Note: Participants are expected to arrive in Japan by March 2028.

(5) Content of research
Master's Course
This course develops advanced knowledge, research and development capabilities, and practical engineering skills in information and computer engineering. Under the supervision of Professor Minoru Nakazawa, students identify a research problem and design, implement, and evaluate an intelligent information system. Potential research areas include artificial intelligence and deep learning; pattern recognition using images, speech, and sensor data; human-machine interfaces and brain-activity analysis; robotics and human-computer interaction; virtual and extended reality; and wireless networks, distributed systems, cloud computing, and IoT. Research topics are determined in consultation with the supervisor and may involve collaboration with industry or local communities. Students are expected to present and discuss their results at academic conferences and to complete a master's thesis

Doctoral Course
This course prepares students to conduct independent and original research in information and computer engineering. Under the supervision of Professor Minoru Nakazawa, students develop new methods, models, or systems in areas such as artificial intelligence and deep learning; multimodal and pattern recognition; human-machine interfaces and brain-activity analysis; intelligent robotics and human-computer interaction; virtual and extended reality; and wireless networks, distributed systems, cloud computing, and IoT. Emphasis is placed on formulating a significant research question, conducting rigorous experiments and evaluation, demonstrating an original contribution to the field, and translating research outcomes into solutions relevant to

industry and society. Students are expected to disseminate their findings through peer-reviewed publications and international conferences and to complete a doctoral dissertation.

Keio University

Graduate School of System Design and Management (Keio SDM)

(1) Location
Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan

(2) Link
https://www.sdm.keio.ac.jp/en/admission/index.html

(3) Course name
Master's Program and Doctoral Program, Graduate School of System Design and Management

(4) Duration
Master's Program: Two years, with enrollment in October 2027 or April 2028.
Doctoral Program: Three years, with enrollment in October 2027.

(5) Content of research
The Graduate School of System Design and Management at Keio University (Keio SDM) pursues problem solving with a "systems" approach by capitalizing on a broad range of perspectives from the natural sciences as well as from the humanities and social sciences.

Kobe Institute of Computing

(1) Location
Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

(2) Link
https://www.kic.ac.jp/eng/
https://www.kic.ac.jp/course/innovator/

(3) Course name
ICT Innovator Course (Master's Degree Program, Department of Information Systems)

(4) Duration
Master’s Program: Two years, with enrollment in October 2027

(5) Content of research
The course focuses on practical problem-solving through ICT4D (Information and Communication Technology for Development) to address real-world social and economic challenges in areas such as education, agriculture, healthcare, disaster prevention, and public administration.
Guided by KIC's practical core methodology, "TANKYU Practice", students conduct Specific Theme Research. They identify specific issues within their target regions or sectors, formulate and test hypotheses, develop prototypes using modern ICT solutions (such as AI, open-source software, IoT, mobile apps, and data analysis), and evaluate their feasibility to drive social innovation and practical implementation. About "TANKYU Practice” or other information, please check the link.
https://www.kic.ac.jp/course/innovator/

Kyoto University
Graduate School of Informatics

(1) Location
Yoshida-honmachi, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, JAPAN

(2) Link
https://www.i.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/

(3) Course name
- Intelligence Science and Technology
- Social Informatics
- Advanced Mathematical Sciences
- Applied Mathematics and Physics
- Systems Science
- Communications and Computer Engineering
- Data Science

(4) Duration
Master's Program: Two years, with enrollment in October 2027
Doctoral Program: Three years, with enrollment in October 2027

(5) Content of research
Please refer to the website (https://www.i.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/course/) for the specialized research fields and detailed information of each department.

Nara Institute of Science and Technology

(1) Location
Ikoma, Nara, Japan
(2) Link
■ Nara Institute of Science and Technology
https://www.naist.jp/en/
■ Guidelines for Master's Course and Doctoral Course Applications
https://www.naist.jp/en/international_students/prospective_students/admission_information/guidelines.html
(3) Course name
- Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Applied Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

(4) Duration
Master's Program: Two years, with enrollment in October 2027 or April 2028.
Doctoral Program: Three years, with enrollment in April 2028.
(5) Content of research
- Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence focus on the development of next-generation AI with enhanced performance, functionality, and efficiency. Research areas include computer architecture, system design, networking technologies, software development, and cybersecurity, which serve as the foundation for AI advancement.
- Applied Artificial Intelligence and Robotics promote cutting-edge education and research in a wide range of AI applications, including machine translation, speech recognition, and image recognition technologies. Additionally, it encompasses AI-driven applications in healthcare and medical informatics, brain information processing, robotics, autonomous vehicles, and even bioinformatics.

The University of Osaka

(1) Location
1-3, Machikaneyama, Toyonaka, Osaka, Japan
(2) Link
https://www.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/index.html
(3) Course name
Special Program for “Engineering Science 21st Century”
(4) Duration
Master’s Program: **Up to 2.5 years**, including non-degree student period, followed by a two-year Master’s Program from April 2028 to March 2030.
Doctoral Program: **Up to 3.5 years**, including non-degree student period, followed by a three-year Doctoral Program from April 2028 to March 2031.
(5) Content of research
Studies on Human robot interaction
Studies on Humanoid and Android robots
Studies on Industrial robots
Studies on Conversational AI and robots

Other Available Major Areas

Major	Area	Labo	Link
Material Engineering Science	Chemistry	The Takaya Group	https://www.chem.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/soc/home-en
		Hisaki Laboratory	https://www.chem.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/mac/en/
		Nakanishi Laboratory	https://rcsec.osaka-u.ac.jp/nakanishilab
	Chemical Engineering	Kitagawa Laboratory	http://www.cheng.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/kitagawa/english/index.html
		Matubayasi Laboratory	http://www.cheng.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/matubayasi/english/index.html
		Umakoshi Laboratory	http://www.cheng.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/umakoshi/english/index.html
		Sakai Laboratory	http://www.cheng.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/sakailabo/english/index.html
	Frontier Materials Science	Tada Laboratory	http://molectronics.jp/en/
Mechanical Science and Bioengineering	Nonlinear Mechanics	Fluid Mechanics Group (Goto Laboratory)	https://fm.me.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/

	Mechanical Engineering	Ogata Laboratory	https://tsme.me.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/index.html
	Bioengineering	Nakamura Lab.	https://www.nakamura.bpe.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/index.html
Systems Innovation	Systems Science and Applied Informatic	Intelligent Robotics Laboratory	https://eng.irl.sys.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/
Center of Science and Technology under Extreme Conditions		Abe Laboratory	http://www.ae.stec.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/wp/
Center of Promotion of Advanced Interdisciplinary Research		Hirayama Research Group	http://cpair.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/index.html



CORRESPONDENCE

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