



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

General Information on SDGs Global Leader Enrolment 2027 Autumn (Latin America and the Caribbean)

「SDGs Global Leader (2027 年秋入学)」

This handout provides an overview of the SDGs Global Leader 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 (ODA) 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 has been offering long-term training programs to foster young or middle-career government officials, academic researchers and other key leading human resources. These individuals are expected to contribute to the socio-economic development of their respective countries, and to play an active role in influencing policy-making processes in the near future.

The SDGs Global Leader Program was established in Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) 2019 under the framework of JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) for the purpose of promoting the cooperation for sustainable development in the world.

This program will offer participants an opportunity to pursue a Master's or Ph.D. degree at a Japanese university, while also participating in specialized courses on Japan's developmental experience through the JICA-DSP. In addition, internships may be arranged as needed to further enhance participants' learning experience.

2. Objectives

- (1) To develop high level human resources who are capable of contributing to effective policy formulation and implementation for tackling developmental issues in their respective fields.
- (2) To establish and strengthen medium and long-term partnership between partner countries and Japan.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of participants from 27 countries from Latin America.

Latin America and the Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay, Peru
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This handout provides information on long-term programs including Master's degree programs and Ph.D. programs.

Applicants may select the university to which they wish to apply, from among the partner universities which have concluded agreements with JICA to accept participants on the condition that the applicants successfully pass the entrance examination of the selected university. Detailed information on these partner universities will be provided separately.

Proposed research topics should focus on areas that contribute to government policies on sustainable development (Examples: Administration and public policy, finance, public finance management, international politics/diplomacy, regional research, business, international trade/investment, disaster risk reduction, maritime issues etc.)

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

4. Duration

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

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

Ph.D.: from September 2027 to September 2030 (3 years)

5. Number of Participants

Country Name	Number
Latin America and the Caribbean	18

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, academic researchers, who are expected to contribute to policy formulation and implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues in respective fields.
※ 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, in principle, thirty-five (35) years of age or under (As of April 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.

2027).

for Ph.D. programs, in principle, forty (40) years of age or under (As of April 1, 2027).

(4) Educational Background:

Master's programs: Bachelor's degree or Master's degree holder

Ph.D. programs: 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 Ph.D. program;

TOEFL iBT: 80

IELTS: 6.5

Duolingo: 120-125

(6) Physical Presence: must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete the 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 funded by the Government of Japan, such as the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) or 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 to which they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree or Ph.D. degree program.

JICA recognizes women as key agents of change in development and actively encourages 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 follow the procedures as described below, which are necessary requirements by both the applicant's Government and the Government of Japan under the framework of the Official Development Assistance (ODA).

(1) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:

Each applicant is required to submit the "Application Documents⁴" listed in (2) below to the JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country.

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) Application Documents

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

- Official Application Form with the authorized signature and official stamp of the organization
- Cover letter (Official Application Form and Part A: Information on the Applying Organization)
- Personal Information
- Educational Background
- Present Organization and Nomination
- Work Experience
- Declaration (Terms and Conditions to be agreed by candidate applicants)
- Checklist
- Annex.1 Declaration of desired universities placement
- Annex. 2 Research Plan
- Annex. 2 Career Plan
- 2) Graduation certificate
 - * Officially certified copies of the original
 - * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English
- 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 official English test score certificate
- 5) A copy of Passport or ID with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).
- 6) 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) to be attached to the 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 April 30, 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 applicant.
- * This requirement applies to applicants who have passed the pre-matching process.

② Medical History

- * Must be submitted in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country, no later than April 30, 2027.

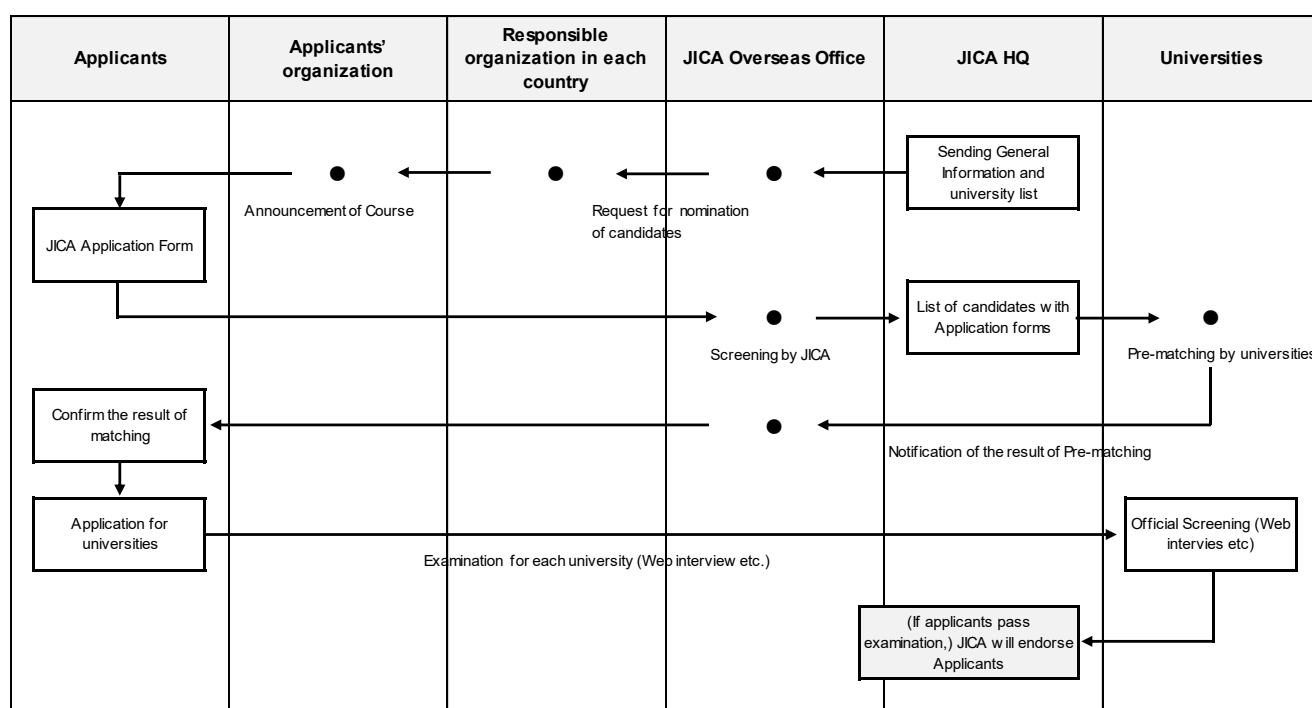
* Applicants who require assistance due to a disability or medical condition are requested to specify the necessary support in Medical History (1-(c)) so that JICA can make appropriate logistical arrangements or provide alternatives.

(3) Procedures in General

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 if 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 applicant decides to withdraw after their official applications to the universities, the applicant must formally inform to the university and JICA overseas office in their country by letter.



⁵The Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.

(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

Applicants who have passed the pre-application matching process and applied to their selected university are eligible for reimbursement of English proficiency test fees.

Reimbursement may be provided only once, within the same Japanese fiscal year (from 1st April to 31st March of the following year) in which the university entrance examinations are taken. Details of the reimbursement should be consulted with the nearest JICA overseas office in the candidate applicant's country.

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. The reason for the decision will not be disclosed.

10. Schedule

Closing date for application in MEF: August 28

<u>Universities With Pre-application matching Process</u>	
By the Beginning of September, 2026	Nomination of candidate applicants in respective organizations
	Selection of candidate applicants by responsible organization in each country
By the Beginning of November 2026	Application documents must be submitted to JICA overseas office in applicant's country.
November - December, 2026	Screening by JICA
	Pre-application matching process by university
By the end of January, 2027	Notification of the results of Pre-application matching process from each university through JICA overseas office
February - June(approximately), 2027	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant
	University's application procedure
	*General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university
By the end of April, 2027	Submission of the Health certificate and Medical history in the designated JICA format to the JICA office in the applicant's country
June - July, 2027	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university
	Determination of JICA KCCP (Long-term) participants
June - August, 2027	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate applicant is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant
August-October, 2027	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of Fall 2027 Term

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

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

11. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA⁶

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

**Only once, after opening bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have the bank account open, 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 will be disbursed subject to consultation and approval by the applicant's supervisor.

12. Expenses Not To Be Borne By JICA

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

- (1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions.)
- (2) Visa fees for transit countries and related and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3) Transportation expenses to obtain a Japanese Visa
- (4) Domestic travel expenses within 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 for transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11) Lost ticket fee
- (12) Accommodation fee for day-use hotel during return travel
- (13) Transportation expenses not related to 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 exceeding 180 days
- (17) National Health Insurance fee

Note: If participants fail to comply with JICA regulations, they may be required to bear any additional necessary expenses.

13. Conditions for Participation

The accepted 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 family members is not recommended until at least six months after the participant's arrival in Japan,
- (5) To return to their home country on a flight designated by JICA, when they finish the program 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 comply with the rules and regulations of JICA and the enrolling university.
Plagiarism including both direct and self-plagiarism, will be treated as a serious violation and may result in disciplinary actions, including 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 April 30, 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 the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and 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 by JICA.
 - ② Summary of the thesis may be read by anyone who made a request to JICA .
 - ③ Summary of the thesis may be used by JICA for publication including the JICA website.
 - ④ Photocopying of the thesis shall be permitted to third parties upon approval by JICA.
- (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 research papers may not be acceptable in accordance with the policies of each university. Any such use may result in rejection of your application or termination of training if identified.



CORRESPONDENCE

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