



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

**GENERAL INFORMATION ON**

**Legal and Judicial Human Resources Development  
(JFY2024-2026)  
JFY2026**

**長期研修「法・司法分野の中核人材(2024～2026 年度)」**

**JFY 2026**

Deadline of KCCP application in  
JICA Sri Lanka office is 15/10/2025

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This handout provides an overview of the “Legal and Judicial Human Resources Development” 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 higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to assist in the human resource development plans of the governments of developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

## ***0. Background***

### **What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)**

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

## **What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)**

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

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

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

## ***I. Overview***

This program is designed to foster core human resources in developing countries who will lead legal and judicial reforms, thereby promoting the rule of law—a fundamental foundation of a just and equitable society and a key element of good governance.

Target 3 of SDG 16 also identifies “promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all” as a global goal.

Since the 1990s, our organization has implemented various initiatives to support legal and institutional development in developing countries, including

technical cooperation projects, dispatch of legal experts, and short-term training programs. We expect that the human resources developed through this program will contribute to the dissemination and further advancement of the outcomes of such legal development assistance efforts.

## ***II. Objectives***

### **1. Overall Goal**

To help improve the legal and judicial systems, which leads to the socio-economic development and the respect for human rights.

### **2. Program Purpose**

To enhance the capacity for improving legal and judicial systems through master's course in Japanese universities, in close collaboration with Japan's technical cooperation project for legal and judicial development.

### **3. Outputs**

- 1) To acquire the capacity to conduct comparative study of laws including Japanese laws.
- 2) To acquire the capacity to propose and apply the results of comparative studies to the legal and judicial systems of respective countries.
- 3) To fulfill all the requirements for the designated degree within the prescribed timeframe.

## ***III. Program Outline***

The program for JFY 2026 consists of the acceptance of government officials in the legal and judicial sectors.

The participants are expected to meet all the requirements to obtain a master's degree within the given period. After the completion of the program, the participants are expected to contribute to the achievement of the overall goals and impacts of JICA's technical cooperation projects in the target country by



continuously participating in the activities of JICA's technical cooperation projects as members of counterparts or the project staffs. In the long-term, this program aims to develop human resources who will become a part of the leadership of the target country to lead the legal and judicial reforms and will contribute to the development of legal education in the future.

An applicant who is chosen as a candidate as result of the selection at JICA (see *IX 2*) may select a university to which they wish to apply, from the universities listed on the **University Information**.

To be selected as a participant of this program, the candidate must be accepted by the Japanese university to which they apply.

During the master's course in the university, the participant is expected to regularly report the progress of their study to JICA.

## ***IV. Duration***

Approximately two (2) years

The maximum duration is two and a half years if the candidate is initially admitted to university as a research student (up to six months) and later enrolled as a regular student (up to two years).

–In such cases, the candidate is required to pass an entrance examination to become a regular student during the research student period, in accordance with the university's regulations. If fail the examination, the program will be terminated, and the student must immediately return to their home countries.

## ***V. Number of Participants***

Country	Number of participants	Note
Bangladesh	1	
Brazil	1	
Cambodia	2	from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to be recommended by MOJ.
Indonesia	1	
Mongolia	2	
Nepal	1	
Sri Lanka	2	
Timor-Leste	1	
Uzbekistan	1	
Vietnam	1	from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Vietnam Communist Party's Central Internal Affairs Committee (CIAC), the Office of the Government (OOG), Supreme People's Court (SPC) or Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP) to be recommended by respective organization.

## ***VI. Language to Be Used in This Program***

English

## ***VII. Eligibility***

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

### **(1) Essential Qualification**

#### **1. Current Duties and Expectation:**

Applicants who are in charge of or have experience in works related to laws or judiciary in various sectors, with the potential to lead legal and judicial reforms, as well as to contribute to the development of the legal sector in the future.

**2. Experience in the relevant field (including project participation):**

Applicants who have more than 2 years' experience in the above-mentioned field. (As of April 1st, 2026)

**3. Knowledge in the fields of the research:**

All applicants must have sufficient knowledge in the field of research. (Competition Law or law in general).

**4. Nationality:**

Citizens of applicable countries  
(Countries which listed in "V. Number of participants")

**5. Age:**

Less than forty (40) years old in principle (As of April 1st, 2026)

**6. Educational Background:**

All applicants must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

**7. Language:**

TOEFL IBT: 80

IELTS: 6.0

This program may include active participation in discussions and the submission of academic paper, which requires high competence of English ability. Please attach an official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, IELTS, etc., if possible. Applicants who do not possess the abovementioned scores may also apply to the program.

Note: Several universities require candidates to submit English proficiency scores or to show the level of English proficiency by other means.

Please check the language requirements of each university-on-University Information..

**8. Health:**

All applicants must be in good health, both physically and mentally, to participate in the program in Japan.

**9. Others:**

Not to be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarships from the 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

**(2) Recommended Qualifications**

**1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:**

JICA seeks more female applicants due to the past records of fewer applications from women. JICA is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and provides equal opportunities for all applicants regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**2. Career after the Participation to the Program:**

Applicants who are expected to work in the same organization for more than 3 years.

## ***VIII. Admissions***

Candidates must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination<sup>1</sup> of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree course.

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



## ***IX. Application Guidelines***

Candidate applicants must apply through the procedures as described below, which are necessary requirements by both applicant's Government and the Government of Japan for the Official Development Assistance.

### **1. Required Documents for Application**

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

**(1) Application Form:** The Application Form is available at the JICA each overseas office.

- Personal Information
- Educational Background
- Present Organization and Nomination
- Work Experience
- Declaration (Terms and Conditions needed to be agreed by candidate applicants)
- Research Plan (Annex 2)
- Career Plan (Annex 2)
- 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy)

**(2) Photocopy of passport:** to be submitted with the application form, If you already possess your passport which you will carry when entering Japan for this program. If not, you are requested to submit its photocopy as soon as you obtain your passport.

\*Photocopy should include the followings:

Name, Date of birth, Nationality, Sex, Passport number and Expire date.

**(3) Nominee's English Score Sheet:** to be submitted with the application form, if you have any official documentation of English ability. (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS)

**(4) Graduation certificate:**

Officially certified copies of the original

Written in English or accompanied with official translation

**(5) Official academic transcripts:**

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

**(6) Health certificate in JICA format (To be submitted later):**

To submit a Health Certificate with Medical History in JICA format to JICA office of your country at the applicants' expense, no later than April 30, 2026. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, 2026. JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.

( A health certificate of JICA format will be required. Without the certificate, admission may become rejected. )

**(7) Field of Study and Research Plan:** to be submitted with the

Application Form. Please fill in the attached form to describe your field of study and research plan. (Annex 2)

**2. Procedures for Application and Selection:**

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

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

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

**(1) Submission of the Application Documents to JICA:**

Closing date for applications: **By the beginning of November 2025**

Deadline of KCCP application in  
JICA Sri Lanka office is 15/10/2025

Deadline of KCCP application in  
JICA Sri Lanka office is 15/12/2025

**(Deadline will be set by each overseas office.) –**

**(2) Selection at JICA:**

After receiving the documents for each applicant through proper channels from the government, JICA will select from the proposed applicants' candidates eligible for application to a university. Selection will be made by JICA. Qualifications of applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military will be examined by the Government of Japan on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan, taking into consideration their duties, positions in the organization, and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner.

**(3) Pre-matching:**

Before submitting the application documents to a university, the candidate must conduct pre-matching with one or two universities listed on the **University Information**.

**(4) Admission by a University:**

After the pre-matching procedure, the candidate is expected to submit the necessary application documents to one of the universities with which the pre-matching result was successful. Please kindly note that JICA cannot guarantee acceptance by the university and the university might reject the candidate. The candidates must follow the universities' official application procedures after which the final decision on each application is made by the universities.

**(5) Notice of Acceptance**

JICA shall determine whether the candidate is eligible to participate in training in Japan. JICA shall decide on acceptance or rejection based on several factors such as entrance examination results, planned number of participants, medical examination results, and others. The reason for the decision will not be disclosed.

## ***X. Schedule***

Date	Process
<b>By the beginning of November 2025</b> (Deadline will be set by each overseas office.)	Nomination of the proposed applicants in respective organizations
	Selection of the proposed applicants by responsible organization in each country
	Application Documents" must be submitted to JICA overseas office
<b>November-December 2025</b>	Selection by JICA
	Pre-application Matching Process by university
By the end of January 2026	Notification of the results of Pre-application Matching Process from each university through JICA overseas office
February -June(approximately), 2026	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant
	University's application procedure *General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university
June - July 2026	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university
	Determination of JICA KCCP (Long-term) participants
July - August 2026	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate applicant is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant
August-October 2026	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of Term



\*Schedule for the application and examination depends on each university (see **University Information.**).

## ***XI. Expenses to Be Borne by JICA***

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

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Payment Amount</b>	<b>Payment Frequency</b>
Tuition (official examination fees, entrance fees, course fees)	Actual costs	According to the request from universities
Living Allowance	JPY 143,000–147,000 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,	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	



or dental treatment are NOT included).		
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\*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 your expenses during the period.

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

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

## ***XII. 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 180days
17. National Health Insurance fee

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

### ***XIII. Conditions for Participation***

The accepted applicants/participants of KCCP are required:

1. To understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA.
2. Not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own.
3. Not to change course subjects or extend the course period.
4. To understand that inviting participant's family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months.
5. To return to their home country on the designated flight by JICA, when they finish the program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination.
6. To carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course.
7. To enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when you receive JICA's instructions to do so.
8. To observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments, ("Plagiarism" especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism, and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension)
9. Not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit.
10. To agree to be discontinued of the program, should the participant (a)violate Japanese laws, JICA's regulations, or University's regulations, (b)commit

illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment,  
(c) become critically ill or seriously injured after arrival in Japan.

11. To be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table "XI. Expenses To be borne by JICA."
12. To return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances.
13. Not to drive a car or motorbike in Japan, regardless of an international driving license possessed.
14. To observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation.
15. To refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule.
16. To accept that the Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.
17. To submit a Health Certificate with Medical History in JICA format to JICA office of your country at the applicants' expense, no later than April 30, 2026. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, 2026. JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.
18. To accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if deemed necessary by JICA. The cost of acquiring the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA unless it is required due to the candidates' fault.
19. To be in good health to participate in the program. In order to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest when consulting the doctor for your Health Certificate.
20. To accept to take tuberculosis related inspections organized by JICA after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA and university.
21. To promptly resubmit your medical history, if there are changes in your health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease.

22. Not to be receiving nor plan to receive another scholarship from the 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.;
23. To understand not to make other applications for different JICA training courses at the same time.
24. To understand that the maximum duration of "Overseas research" and "Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)" is 60 days, in principle.
25. To approve the following conditions on summary of my thesis:
  - Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.
  - Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA.
  - Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
  - Taking Photocopy of the thesis shall be allowed by anyone with JICA's permission.
26. To acknowledge that a leave of absence from school is not permitted in principle.;
27. To understand that the maximum duration of research student is 6 months for both master's and doctor's courses, and duration of acceptance as a regular student is based on the course years determined by the university.;
28. To indicate all educational background, including currently enrolled university, 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.



***CORRESPONDENCE***

For enquiries and further information, please contact the JICA office.