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

GENERAL INFORMATION ON

Human Resources Development on Public International Law
Enrolment 2027 Autumn

長期研修「国際公法分野の中核人材（2027 年秋入学）」

JFY2027

This handout provides an overview of the “Human Resources Development on Public International Law” 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

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

I. Overview

This program aims to foster core human resources in developing countries who will play a central role in the practical application of international law—including the law of the sea, international humanitarian law, international economic law, and international criminal law—in order to promote the rule of law in the international community and to contribute to the maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order.

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

II. Objectives

1. Overall Goal

To promote the target countries’ capacity to contribute to the rules-based international order.

2. Program Purpose

To develop core human resources in the field of public international law in the target countries.

3. Outputs

Participants are expected:

- To fulfill all the requirements for the designated degree within the prescribed timeframe.
- To deepen specialized knowledge of public international law.

III. Program Outline

The program for JFY 2027 consists of the acceptance of government officials and/or researcher in charge of public international law affairs.
Depending on the situation, academic researchers of universities or research institutes majoring in the field of public international law may also qualify, but preference will be given to government officials if all other factors are equal.
The participants are expected to meet all the requirements to obtain a master’s degree within the prescribed timeframe. In addition, the participants are also expected to deepen specialized knowledge of public international law. The participants are also expected to regularly report the progress of their studies to JICA.

An applicant who is selected as a candidate through the JICA selection process (see ***IX 2***) in their respective target countries may choose a university to apply to from those listed on the List of Universities**.**
To be selected as a participant in this program, a candidate must be accepted by the Japanese university to which they apply.

IV. Duration

In principle, 2 years for master's program from September 2027 to September 2029

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 the student fails the examination, the program will be terminated, and they must immediately return to their home country.

V. Number of Participants

Country
Bangladesh
Indonesia
Kenya
Moldova
Mongolia
Palau
Philippines
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Ukraine

Up to 5 participants from the above countries.

VI. Language to Be Used in This Program

English

VII. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

1. **Current Duties and Expectation:**

   Applicants' current duties must include public international law affairs in the government or academic research in the field of public international law in a university. The participants are expected to become core human resources in the field of public

international law in the target countries and help the countries promote rules-based international order in the future.
Applicants are expected to remain employed by the same organization for at least three years after completion of the program.
※ In principle, candidates without affiliations are not eligible for acceptance

2. **Experience in the relevant field (including project participation):**
   More than 2 years' experience in the above-mentioned field (As of April 1st, 2027)

3. **Knowledge in the fields of the research:**
   Sufficient knowledge in the field of research (Public international law).

4. **Nationality:**
   Citizens of applicable countries
   (Counties which listed in "V. Number of participants")

5. **Age:**
   Less than forty (40) years old in principle (As of April 1st, 2027)

6. **Educational Background:**
   All applicants must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

7. **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 program;
   TOEFL iBT: 80
   IELTS: 6.5
   Duolingo: 120-125

   Please check the language requirements of each university on the List of Universities.

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.

VIII. Admissions

Applicants must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination[1] of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's 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.

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

IX. 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[1]" listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country.

(2) Application Documents

1) Required Documents for JICA when applicants apply to this program
   ① JICA Application Form (Part A, Part B, Annex1 and Annex2)
   ② Graduation certificate/Degree certificate
      * Officially certified copies of the original
      * Written in English or accompanied with official translation
   ③ Academic transcript
      * Must contain all the grades earned at the university attended by the applicant
      * Officially certified copies of the original transcript
      * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English
   ④ Photocopy of certificate of English Test
   ⑤ A copy of Passport or ID with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth)
   ⑥ 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy)

2) Required Documents for university when applicants apply to their preferred university
   Please follow guidance from each university.

3) Required Documents for JICA after applicants apply to their preferred university
   ① Health Certificate

* Must be submitted in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country at the applicants' expense, no later than the end of April, the year of enrolment.
* The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, the year of enrolment.
* 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 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.

All these documents should be typed, printed out and signed by the applicant and the head of the relevant department / division of the organization in charge in all pages. Handwritten forms will NOT be accepted.

(3) Procedures for Application and Selection :

The application will be conducted as follows:

1) Nomination and Preliminary Consultation

JICA Headquarters will distribute the General Information (GI) to the target countries. After being nominated and approved by their respective governments, applicants are required to carefully review the GI and the list of participating universities and **conduct a preliminary consultation with their preferred university using JICA's designated Preliminary Consultation Form.**

The purpose of the preliminary consultation is to confirm whether the applicant's proposed research topic can be supervised by a faculty member. It does not constitute a prior commitment or provisional acceptance by the university.

As a mandatory requirement for applying to JICA, **applicants must attach to the Application Form (AF) Annex1 (University Information) a screenshot of the e-mail from the prospective academic supervisor confirming that the proposed research topic falls within the scope of his or her supervision.**

Applicants may nominate only **one university** when applying to JICA. After receiving the applications, JICA will conduct an internal screening process to select candidates who will be eligible to proceed with the official application to the university.

2) Official Application to the University

Applicants who pass JICA's internal screening process will submit their official application to the university in accordance with the university's rules, procedures, and schedule.

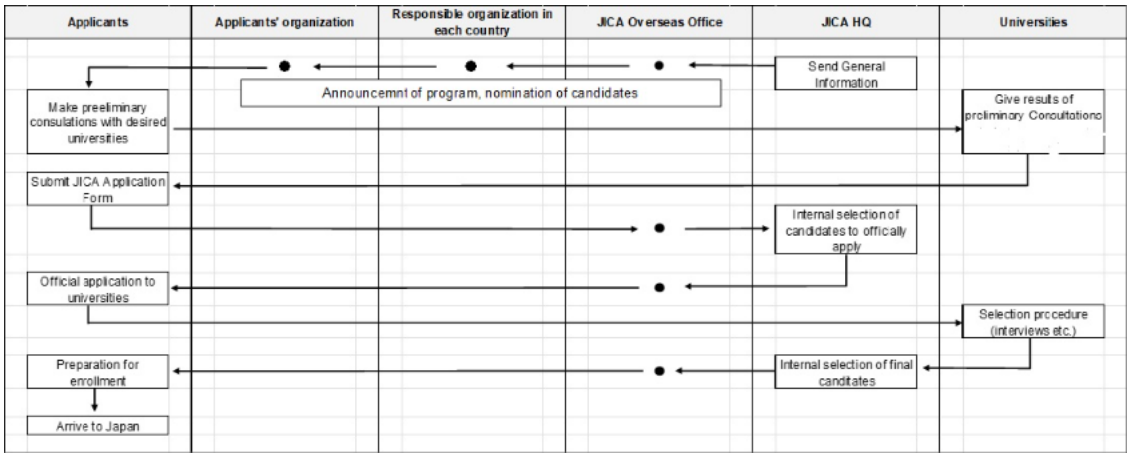
3) Final Selection

After the universities announce the results of their selection processes, JICA will conduct the final selection based on the following factors:

- ✓ University admission results;
- ✓ Participant quotas;
- ✓ Medical examination results; and
- ✓ Other relevant considerations.

4) Rejection by the University
Please note that a university may reject an application if the required documents are incomplete or unacceptable, or if the submitted research plan is not deemed appropriate by the university.

5) Withdrawal During the Selection Process
If applicants are forced to withdraw their application due to circumstances beyond their control, they must contact the nearest JICA overseas office and explain the situation as soon as possible.
Applicants are strongly advised to avoid withdrawing once the selection process has commenced, as such withdrawal may cause significant inconvenience to all parties involved, except where there is no reasonable alternative.



(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

1) Fees for English proficiency test can be reimbursed only within the same Japanese fiscal year (from 1st April to 31st March of the next year) when the general entrance examinations are taken. Details of the reimbursement vary by each area and should be consulted with the nearest JICA overseas office of each applicant.
2) 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.

(5) Submission of the Application Documents to JICA overseas office:
Application Deadline: **By the date designated by the JICA overseas office during November 2026.** Applicants must complete the preliminary consultation with their preferred university before submitting the AF.

(6) Selection at JICA
After receiving the documents for each applicant through proper channels from the government, JICA will select from the proposed applicants a candidate eligible for application to a university. The 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.

(7) Notice of Acceptance
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.

*X. Schedule(tentative)**

Early-September 2026	Nomination of candidate applicants in respective organizations
	Selection of candidates by responsible organization in each country
September to late-November 2026	Based on the General Information and the university list, candidates conduct preliminary consultations and determine their desired university (Except in cases in which the university do not allow preliminary consultations). Applicants must use the designated JICA form for preliminary consultations.
	Based on the above the candidates prepare their Application Form
November 2026 (Deadline will be set by each overseas offices)	Applicants submit their Application Form to their nearest JICA overseas office.
Mid-December	JICA conducts an internal selection regarding candidates who may officially apply to their desired university.

2026 to early-January 2027	
Mid-January to February 2027**	Each candidate will apply and undergo their desired university selection process (general entrance examination).
April to June 2027**	Arrival of the results of the selection processes at each university.
June to July 2027	JICA conducts an internal selection regarding final candidates who may enroll in the universities.
June to August 2027	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate is accepted in the above selection.
August to October 2027	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of Fall 2027 Term

* Schedule and program contents might be adjusted appropriately due to unforeseen circumstances.
**Schedule for the application period for the general entrance examination depends on each university.

XI. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA

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

Expense category	Payment amount	Payment frequency
Tuition (examination fees, entrance fees, course fees)	Actual costs	According to the request from universities
Living Allowance	JPY 143,000–148,000 per month*	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance**	JPY100,000	Once (upon arrival in Japan)
Moving Allowance***	Up to JPY164,000-224,000	Once (during the training period)**
Research Support Expenses****	Actual costs (up to JPY360,000 per year)	
Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (the costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are NOT included).	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	

*Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

**Once, after opening bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have the bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during the period.

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

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

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 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.

XIII. Conditions for Participation

The applicants/participants of KCCP are required

(1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA,
(2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own,
(3) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,
(4) to understand that inviting participants' family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,
(5) to return to their home country on a flight designated by JICA, when they finish the program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination,
(6) to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course,

(7) to enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when you receive JICA's instructions to do so.
(8) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments, ("Plagiarism" especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),
(9) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
(10) to agree to be discontinued from the program, should the participant (a)violate Japanese laws, JICA's regulations, or University's regulations, (b)commit illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, (c)become critically ill or seriously injured after arrival in Japan.
(11) to be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table of "11. Expenses To be borne by JICA,"
(12) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
(13) not to drive a car or motorbike in Japan, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
(14) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
(15) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule,
(16) to accept that the Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan,
(17) to submit a Health Certificate with Medical History in JICA format to JICA office of the applicants' country at the applicants' expense, no later than the end of April, the year of enrolment. The date of Health Certificate should be on or after April 1, the year of enrolment. JICA will NOT reimburse the cost to the applicants.
(18) to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if deemed necessary by JICA. The cost of acquiring the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA unless it is required due to the candidates' fault.
(19) to promptly resubmit their medical history, if there are changes in their health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease,
(20) to be in good health to participate in the program. In order to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest when consulting the doctor for their Health Certificate,
(21) not to be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarships from Japanese government, such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program
(22) to understand not to make other applications for different JICA training courses at the same time,
(23) to understand that the maximum duration of "Overseas research" and "Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)" is 60 days, in principle.
(24) to accept to take tuberculosis related inspections organized by JICA after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA and university.
(25) to approve the following conditions on summary of my thesis;
①Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.

②Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA .
③Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
④Taking Photocopy of the thesis shall be allowed by anyone with JICA's permission.

(26) to acknowledge that a leave of absence from school is not permitted in principle,

(27) to understand that the maximum duration of research student is 6 months for both master's and doctor's courses, and duration of acceptance as a regular student is based on the course years determined by the university,

(28) to indicate all educational background, including currently enrolled university, if any.

(29) to understand that the use of Generative AI such as Chat GPT to create Application Forms including Research Plans, and your research papers may not be acceptable and may result in rejection of your application or termination of training if discovered, according to each University policy.

CORRESPONDENCE

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