

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Master Degree Scholarship Program)

Creating Leaders for Clean Cities



Course Period in Japan:

from **September 2026** to **September 2028**

Or

from **September 2026** to **March 2029**

This handout provides an overview of the course, which is one of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (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.



**Deadline of KCCP application in
JICA Sri Lanka office is...30/01/2026**

Creating Leaders for Clean Cities

In many cities, the problem of waste management including limited collection service and inappropriate disposal is getting more and more serious along with the rapid urbanization and population influx. To sustain appropriate waste management, the consolidation of human and organizational capacity and financial sustainability is the key. However, for developing countries, where waste management is not necessarily given high priority in policy agenda, fostering human resources who will lead effective improvement of the sector is always the challenge. To contribute to the creation of clean cities, JICA is conducting the cooperation of improvement of the competence of administrative organizations under the “JICA Clean City Initiative (JCCI)”. This program is designed to promote appropriate solid waste management (SWM) through enhancement of human and organizational capacity of the countries. To this end, in cooperation with other programs such as Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM) and African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP), this program provides opportunities to participants to study in Japan to deepen knowledge and enhance their capacity for planning and management of SWM.



The objectives of the program are

- to strengthen capacity of potential future leaders who will engage in SWM in national/central government and/or cities of the target countries. The graduates of the program are expected to lead improvement of SWM of their countries/cities to promote appropriate SWM and thereby contribute to achievement of the SDGs.
- To establish and maintain mid and long-term amicable relationships between target countries and Japan.

For what?

The graduates of the program are expected to lead their organizations and the SWM sector of their countries to achieve better and sustainable waste management by developing following capacities;

Problem-Solving Capacity

- Identify, analyze, and solve the issues logically
- Write and present thesis
- Understand and interpret the experiences of other SWM and apply them to own case

Comprehensive Knowledge of SWM administration and management

- Comprehensive capacity of utility management in theory and practice

Long-term ties and Networks

- Networks with participants from other countries, Japanese SWM professionals and students.
- Partnerships with Japanese SWM enterprises.



How?

This program is a Master Degree Scholarship Program provided by JICA in collaboration with partner universities of JICA Development Studies Program in Japan. Participants will pursue Master's Degree under distinguished professors in Graduate School. Special programs will also be offered to improve practical abilities, develop networks, and deepen understanding of Japanese SWM field.

Language used in the Program

English

Degree & Certificate

Master's degree from Japanese University and a certificate by JICA will be awarded upon successful completion of the program.

Where?

Participants will be admitted to one of the following three universities to obtain a master's degree.



snow festival

Location: Sapporo

Hokkaido University (National)

Course in Global Environmental Management

Graduate School of Environmental Science

Degree: Master of Environmental Science

Course URL: [Course in Global Environmental Management](#)

https://www.ees.hokudai.ac.jp/kigaku/?page_id=2598

URL: [Hokkaido University \(hokudai\)](#)

Location: Tokyo

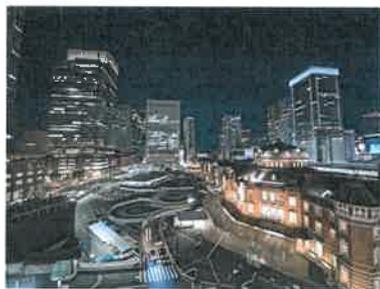
Toyo University (Private)

**Course of Regional Development Studies,
Graduate School of Global and Regional Studies**

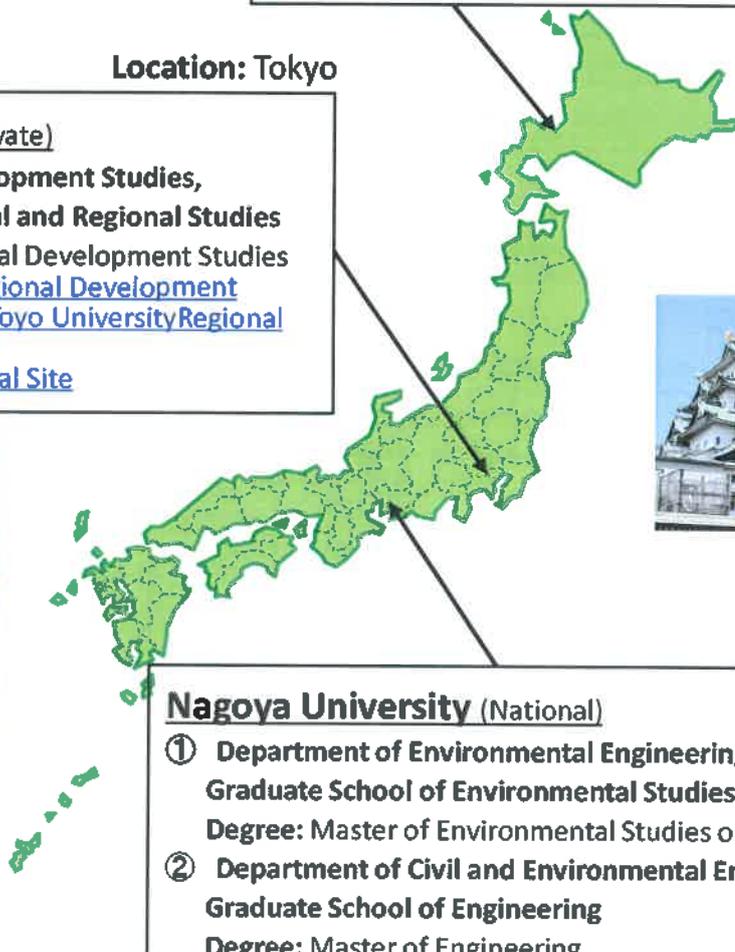
Degree: Master of Regional Development Studies

Course URL: [Course of Regional Development Studies](#) | [Official Site of Toyo University Regional Studies](#)

URL: [Toyo University Official Site](#)



Tokyo Station



Nagoya Castle

Location: Nagoya

Nagoya University (National)

① **Department of Environmental Engineering and Architecture,
Graduate School of Environmental Studies**

Degree: Master of Environmental Studies or Mater of Engineering

② **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,
Graduate School of Engineering**

Degree: Master of Engineering

Department URL including list of prospective supervisors in both graduate schools: [research of CEEIPO \(nagoya-u.ac.jp\)](#)

https://www.civil.nagoya-u.ac.jp/ceeipo/src/8911/Lab_list.pdf

URL: [Nagoya University](#)

Program Outline

The program consists of a regular graduate program for study and research in the field of utility administration and management at a Japanese university and additional custom-made programs shown below:

1. Master Degree Program

- 1 Acquire theoretical knowledge by course work.
- 2 Acquire problem-solving capacity through field survey and research on practical topics.
- 3 Acquire master's degree in Graduate School.

2. Special Programs on SWM		
Lectures	Field Survey / Field Trips	Others
<p>Additional special lectures on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan's historical experience to achieve sustainable collection, recycling and disposal • Case study of Japanese SWM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field survey in Japan and/or home county for Master's thesis • Field trips to sites of SWM and industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking with participants from other countries and Japanese SWM professionals/students • International conferences and symposiums. • JICA's other training programs.

3. Common Programs (Optional)

JICA will offer the Common Programs for all participants such as;

- Special lectures and field trips on Japanese development experiences
- International cultural exchange among JICA scholarship students.

For whom?

Countries

Angola, Bhutan, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Laos, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Eligible / Target Organization

Young or middle-career government officials, who are expected to contribute policy formulation or its implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues in SWM.

※ In principle, candidates without affiliations are not eligible for acceptance

Qualifications

- **Nationality:** citizen of the above countries eligible for Japan's ODA
- **Experience:** at least three (3) years of practical experiences in SWM
- **Age:** under 39 years old as of April 1st, 2026 (if not, consult with JICA oversea office)
- **Educational Background:** have a Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree holder
- **Language:** adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete master's course with skills equivalent or exceeding the following; TOEFL iBT 80/ IELTS 6.5/ Duolingo 115 or higher)
- **Physical Presence:** must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.
- **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.
- **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

Expectation for Participants

- To play a leading role in SWM in their organizations/countries in the future
- To have adaptability and receptivity to study and research in a foreign country

Admissions

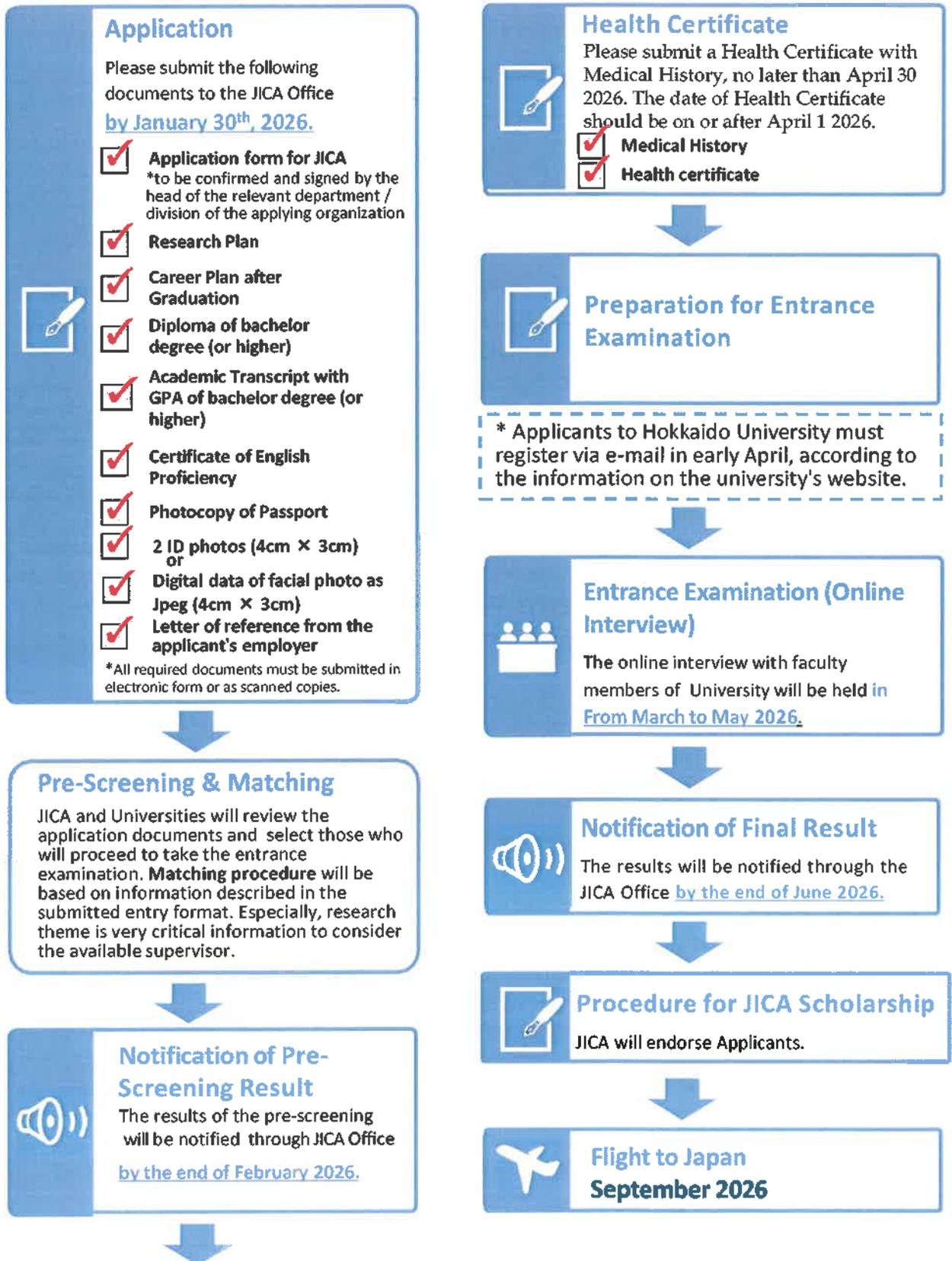
Candidates must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree course.

When?

Duration

- **Toyo Univ. & Nagoya Univ.**
from September 2026 to September 2028
- **Hokkaido Univ.**
from September 2026 to March 2029
(For the first six months, the status will be that of a non-degree "research student". In order to become a student of the regular course (master's course), you must pass the entrance examination after enrollment.)

Steps to Japan



Expenses Covered By JICA

Under the JICA Long-term Participant 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 accepted participants themselves, but directly to the university or other relevant institutions.

Expense category	Payment amount	Payment frequency
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	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	

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 especially:

- (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, and dental treatment
- (16) Medical cost related to the same illness over 180 days
- (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 cost of necessary expenses.

*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.

Important Notice

- Participants are not allowed to work while their stay in Japan.
- To invite family to Japan (spouse and children only), participants should be responsible for all expenses and necessary procedure. JICA does NOT provide any support or additional financial assistance except issuing necessary documents for the process. JICA strongly recommend participants to invite their family at least after 6 months upon arrival in Japan.
- Participants are recommended to bring their own laptops. Participants are required to work on their laptops during their stay in Japan. Most of accommodations have internet access. Expenses for purchasing and fixing laptops will NOT be borne by JICA. Participants who do not have their own laptops are recommended to purchase one with their moving allowances.
- Visa will be arranged and issued in participants' respective countries. When visa application in the home country is not feasible, prior coordination by the headquarters with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan enables visa issuance in a third country.



Conditions for Participation

The applicants/participants of Knowledge Co-Creation Program (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, (Please note that participants prepare by yourself all the documents necessary for 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 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 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 promptly resubmit your medical history, if there are changes in your 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 your Health Certificate,
- (21) not to be receiving nor plan to receive another 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;
 - ① Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.
 - ② Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA .
 - ③ Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
 - ④ 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, 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 .

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) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:

Each applicant is required to submit the "Application Documents" listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country. ※ submitted documents will not be returned.

(2) Application Documents

1) 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) Graduation certificate.

- * Officially certified copies of the original
- * Written in English or accompanied with 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 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)

7) Health certificate (must be submitted 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.

※ Without the certificate, admission may become rejected. If you have any difficulties/disabilities which require assistance, please specify necessary assistances in the Medical History(1-(c)) in order for JICA to prepare better logistics or alternatives.

(3) Procedures in General

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 is 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 their withdrawal to the university by letter.

※ 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.

(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

Fees for English proficiency test or other necessary fees for preparation of application documents 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 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.

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet released 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>

What is JICA Global Agenda (JGA)

JICA has set 20 cooperation strategies for global issues, "JICA Global Agenda" from the four perspectives; of Prosperity, People, Peace, and Planet, based on its mission of realizing "Human Security" and "Quality Growth". Based by this "JICA Global Agenda," JICA will collaborate with governments and individuals in partner countries, as well as engage with various partners in Japan and abroad, to address global issues and to realize a free, peaceful, and prosperous world where people can believe in a bright future and pursue diverse possibilities.

One of these strategies, No. 18: Environmental Management, focuses on "Preventing Environmental Pollution to Create Clean Cities for Healthy Lives."

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/TICAD/overview/publications/leviid00000003sp-att/global_agenda_20_18.pdf

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/thematic_issues/management/index.html

For Your Reference

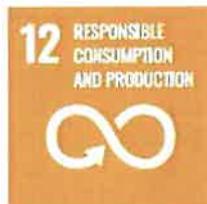
Leaflet: JICA's Actions Toward Achieving SDGs [click here!](#)



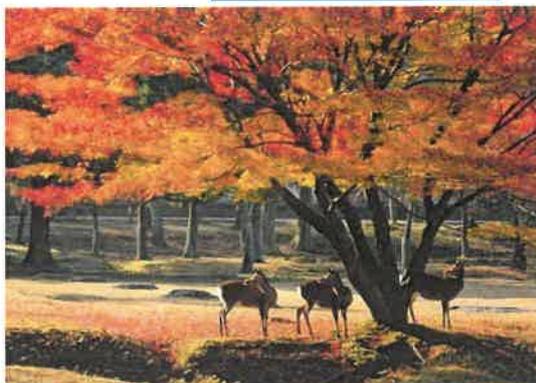
JICA's Position Paper on SDGs: Goal 11 [click here!](#)



JICA's Position Paper on SDGs: Goal 12 [click here!](#)



Travel Japan [click here!](#)



Nara Park



website: African Clean Cities Platform [click here!](#)



reports & reference materials: Waste in Africa [click here!](#)



About JICA

JICA and Capacity Development

The key concept underpinning JICA operations since its establishment in 1974 has been the conviction that capacity development is central to the socioeconomic development of any country, regardless of the specific operational scheme one may be undertaking, i.e. expert assignments, development projects, development study projects, training programs, JOCV programs. Within this wide range of programs, Training Programs have long occupied an important place in JICA operations. Conducted in Japan, they provide partner countries with opportunities to acquire practical knowledge accumulated in Japanese society. Participants dispatched by partner countries might find useful knowledge and re-create their own knowledge for boosting their own capacity or that of the organization and society to which they belong. About 460 pre-organized programs cover a wide range of professional fields, ranging from education, health, infrastructure, energy, trade and finance, to agriculture, rural development, gender mainstreaming and environmental protection. A variety of programs are being customized to address the specific needs of different target organizations, such as policy-making organizations, service provision organizations, as well as research and academic institutions. Some programs are organized to target a certain group of countries with similar developmental challenges.



Japanese Development Experience

Japan was the first non-Western country to successfully modernize its society and industrialize its economy. At the core of this process, which started more than 140 years ago, was the “adopt and adapt” concept by which a wide range of appropriate skills and knowledge have been imported from developed countries; these skills and knowledge have been adapted and/or improved on using local skills, knowledge and initiatives. They finally became internalized in Japanese society to suit local needs and conditions.

From engineering technology to production management methods, most of the know-how that has enabled Japan to become what it is today has emanated from this “adoption and adaptation” process, which, of course, has been accompanied by countless failures and errors behind the success stories. We presume that such experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, will be useful to our partners who are trying to address the challenges currently faced by developing countries.

However, it is rather challenging to share with our partners this whole body of Japan’s developmental experience. This difficulty has to do, in part, with the challenge of explaining a body of “tacit knowledge,” a type of knowledge that cannot fully be expressed in words or numbers. Adding to this difficulty are the social and cultural systems of Japan that vastly differ from those of other Western industrialized countries, and hence still remain unfamiliar to many partner countries. Simply stated, coming to Japan might be one way of overcoming such a cultural gap.

JICA, therefore, would like to invite as many leaders of partner countries as possible to come and visit us, to mingle with the Japanese people, and witness the advantages as well as the disadvantages of Japanese systems, so that integration of their findings might help them reach their developmental objectives.



CORRESPONDENCE

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

