



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

General Information  
on  
SDGs Global Leader  
JFY2025

「SDGs Global Leader Program JFY 2025

This handout provides an overview of the “SDGs Global Leader” program/course, 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<sup>1</sup>

### **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)**

JICA-DSP is being carried out by JICA as part of official development assistance (ODA) by the government of Japan. JICA-DSP is offered for international scholars accepted as the participants of JICA’s Human Resource Development Project who are enrolled in a degree program at a Japanese university.

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

## 1. Overview<sup>2</sup>

Until now, JICA has provided training programs as a part of technical cooperation in various fields. In order to strengthen networks between the target countries in respective fields, JICA established a new long-term training program to foster young/middle-aged bureaucrats, academicians and leading human resources in various fields of target countries who are capable of influencing policy making processes in their countries or contributing to socioeconomic development in the near future.

The new program/course, “SDGs Global Leader,” was established in JFY 2019 under the framework of JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) for the purpose of promoting the cooperation of sustainable development in the world.

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

## 2. Objectives

- (1) To develop high level human resources who are capable of contributing to appropriate policy decisions and its implementation for tackling political and developmental issues in respective fields.
- (2) To establish and maintain mid and long-term amicable relationships between target countries and Japan.

## 3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of scholars from 131 countries including 8 countries from Southeast Asia, 14 countries from Pacific region, 6 countries from South Asia, 8 countries from East and Central Asia, 30 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, 16 countries from Middle East and Europe\*, and 49 countries from Africa.

Southeast Asia	Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippine, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam
Pacific	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
South Asia	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
East and Central Asia	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan
Latin America and the Caribbean	Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of Suriname, Republic of Guyana, Guatemala, Cuba, Belize, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Haiti, Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay
Middle East and Europe	Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Morocco, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Algeria*Only 3 members will be selected.
Africa	49 Sub-Saharan African countries (Applicants from African countries should refer “General Information on SDGs Global Leader Program for Sub-Saharan African countries JFY2024”)

This handout provides information related to long-term courses including Master’s degree courses, Ph.D. courses, and combined Master’s and Ph.D. courses.<sup>3</sup>

Candidate applicants may select the university, to which he/she wishes to apply, from the universities which have concluded an agreement on accepting JICA participants on the condition that the candidate passes the entrance examination of the selected university. Detailed information of these partner universities will be provided separately.

Proposed research topics should consist of subjects that contribute to government policies on sustainable development (Examples: Administration/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. courses, activities such as short-term programs (e.g., Understanding the Japanese

<sup>3</sup> Bachelor’s degree course is also offered specially only for Pacific Island countries.

Development Experience<sup>4</sup>), and/or internship programs will be planned in order to enrich the participants' academic and personal experience of their courses of studies at the universities.

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

## 4. Duration

In principle, 2 years for Master's course and 3 years for Ph.D. course (depending on the program offered by universities)<sup>5</sup>.

## 5. Number of Participants

Southeast Asia	15
Pacific	21
South Asia	9
East and Central Asia	10
Latin America and the Caribbean	15
Middle East and Europe	3
Sub-Saharan Africa	(Applicants from African countries should refer "General Information on SDGs Global Leader Program for Sub-Saharan African countries JFY2024")

## 6. Language to be used in this Program

English

## 7. Eligibility<sup>6</sup>

Candidate applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) Current Duties: young or middle-career government officials, prospective academics, or personnel from private institutions who are expected to contribute policy formulation or its implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues in respective fields.
- (2) Nationality: citizen of the above countries eligible for Japan's ODA
- (3) Age:
  - for Master's programs, thirty-five (35) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025).
  - for Ph.D. programs, forty (40) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025).
- (4) Educational Background:
  - for Master's programs, a Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree holder
  - for Ph.D. programs, a Master's Degree holder
  - (Only Pacific Island countries) for Bachelor's programs, complete secondary education (or other education of at least 12 years) with at least one year of working experience
  - Language: adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete Master's and/or Ph.D. courses with skills equivalent to or exceeding CEFR B2 level
  - Equivalent Score
    - TOEFL iBT: 80
    - IELTS: 6.5
    - ※The Japanese-language proficiency skill is not required in this program.
- (5) Physical Presence: Must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.
- (6) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: JICA seeks more female applicants. 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.
- (7) Others: must not be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarship during the program.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> The preparatory period as a research student or credited auditor prior to the regular student up to 6 months may be added. 4 years for Bachelor's course.

## 8. Admissions

Candidates must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination<sup>7</sup> of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired Master's degree or Ph.D. degree course.

## 9. 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"<sup>8</sup> listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country.

### (2) Application Documents

#### 1) SDGs Global Leader Program for JFY 2025 Application Form consists of:

- 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 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)

#### 7) Health certificate (when the participant applied to the entrance examinations or within 6 months before arrival in Japan, whichever is later <sup>9</sup>)

### (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.<sup>10</sup> 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.

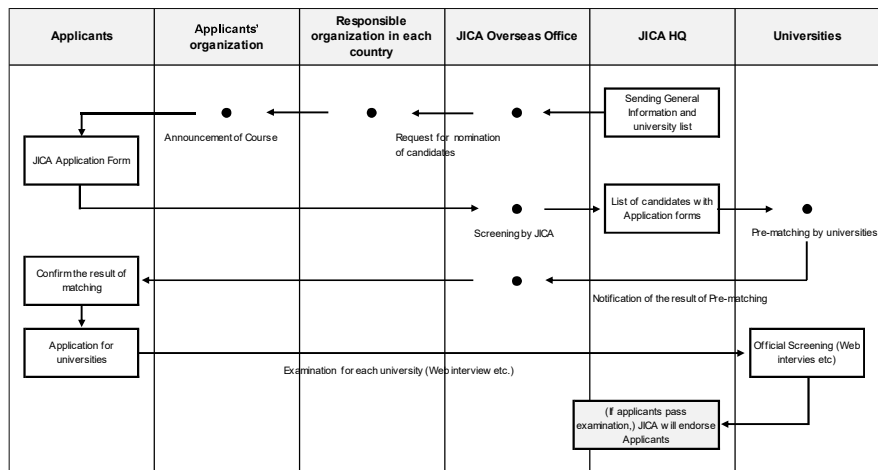
Candidate applicants must follow each university's application procedure after the screening. If the applicants withdraw their applications after their official applications to the universities, applicants must inform their withdrawal to JICA office of your country.

<sup>7</sup> The results of JICA's screening procedure and University's general entrance examination will not accept any inquiry.

<sup>8</sup> Submitted documents will not be returned.

<sup>9</sup> If the candidate applicant passes the university entrance examination, a health certificate of JICA format will be required. Without the certificate, admission may become rejected.

<sup>10</sup> 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

- 1) Fees for English proficiency test can be reimbursed only for when the general entrance examinations are taken. Details of the reimbursement should be consulted with the nearest JICA overseas office of each candidate.

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

## 10. Schedule

Universities <u>Without Pre-application matching Process</u>		Universities <u>With Pre-application matching Process</u>	
By the middle of October 2024	Nomination of candidate applicants in respective organizations Selection of candidate applicants by responsible organization in each country	By the middle of October, 2024	Nomination of candidate applicants in respective organizations Selection of candidate applicants by responsible organization in each country
By the Beginning of November o to the beginning of December 2024	“Application Documents” must be submitted to JICA overseas office in charge of the country of applicants. (Varies according to the entrance examination schedule of universities)	By the Beginning of November 2024	“Application Documents” must be submitted to JICA overseas office in charge of the country of applicants.
November, 2024	Screening by JICA	November –middle of January, 2025	Screening by JICA Pre-application Matching Process by university
<b>[No Pre-application Matching Process conducted but apply for the general entrance examination directly to the university]</b>		By the end of January, 2025	Notification of the results of Pre-application Matching Process from each university through JICA overseas office
November - January, 2025	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant University's application procedure *General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university	February - June(approximately), 2025	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant University's application procedure *General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university
February – March, 2025	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university Determination of JICA KCCP (Long-term) participants	June - July, 2025	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university Determination of JICA KCCP (Long-term) participants
June - August, 2025	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate applicant is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant	June - August, 2025	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate applicant is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant

August-October, 2025	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure	August-October, 2025	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan		Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices		Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of Fall 2025 Term		Beginning of Fall 2025 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 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 accepted 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 117,000–148,000 per month*	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance**	JPY103,750~106,000	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

(excluding Bachelor's Degree program)

## 12. Expenses Not to Be Borne By JICA

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

- (1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
- (2) Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3) Transportation expenses to obtain Japanese Visa
- (4) Domestic travel expenses at the applicant's home country
- (5) Departure tax
- (6) Airport tax/airport facility charges outside of Japan, including third countries
- (7) Customs duty
- (8) Excess baggage charges
- (9) Compensation for lost and/or damaged baggage
- (10) "No show charge" to the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11) Reissue fee for airfare ticket
- (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 participant / accepted applicant does not follow the regulation of JICA, the participant may have to bear such other costs of necessary expenses.

### 13. 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 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, 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, basically when the participant applied to the entrance examinations. The valid period of the Health Certificate is 6 months. Depend on the University, this timing is different. 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 2nd Health Certificate will be borne by JICA.
- (19) to promptly resubmit the Health Certificate, if there are changes in the applicants' 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 scholarship 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.
- (26) Taking Photocopy of the thesis shall be allowed by anyone with JICA's permission.



***CORRESPONDENCE***

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