



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

General Information on Master's Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

JFY2027

This handout provides an overview of the “Master's Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative program/course(ABE Initiative)”, 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.

Each country may have its own schedule and/or qualifications for the program. With regard to the additional information, please contact our JICA overseas office in charge of your country.

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from developing countries to study at Japanese universities and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to support the human resource development plans of the governments of developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

0. Background

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

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

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

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

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

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

Voice from participants and alumni

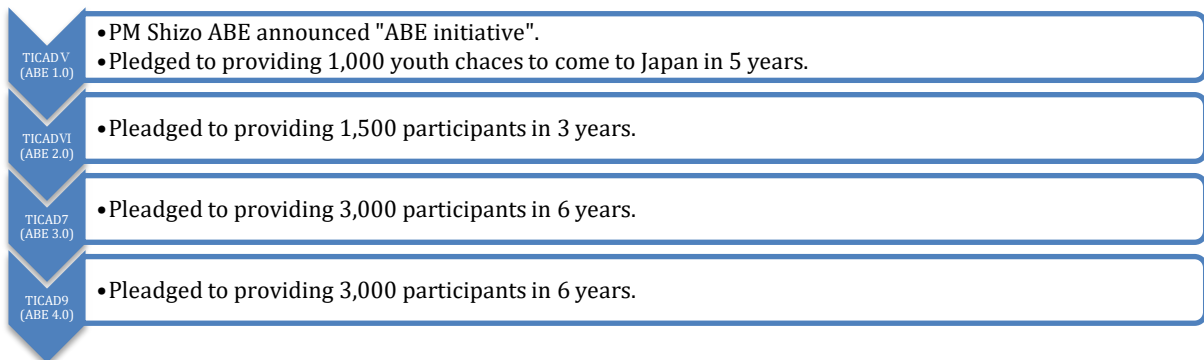
JICA-VAN provides a variety of photos and short videos from participants and alumni. These insights will help you envision your future academic journey in Japan.

<https://jica-van-cms.jica.go.jp/custom/scholarship/jica-scholarship.html>

1. Overview

Until now, JICA has provided training programs as a part of technical cooperation in various fields. 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 including both private and public sector, who can influence policy-making processes in their countries, contribute to socioeconomic development in the near future or strengthen business connection between Japan and Africa.

“ABE initiative” stands for “Master’s Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative”. This program was announced at TICAD V in 2013. Participants from Africa can get opportunities to study at Japanese universities as well as to do internships at Japanese enterprises. ABE Initiative builds on the concept that there is a need for human resource development in both private and public sectors of Africa through cultivating a strong human network between Japan and Africa.



For more detail of the ABE initiative, please check the below

https://www.jica.go.jp/africahiroba/business/detail/03/ku57pq00001jwm0b-att/abc_pamphlet_en.pdf



2. Objectives

- (1) To foster human resources for industry and business that will contribute to and sustain Africa’s economic growth.
- (2) To foster human resources who can become a bridge, connecting businesses in Japan and Africa.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of scholars from 54 countries from all over Africa.

Applicants may select the university to which they wish to apply from the universities which have concluded an agreement to accept JICA participants on the condition that the applicants pass 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 courses, activities such as short-term programs (e.g. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience¹, Training of Japanese Language, and Networking Event), and internship programs will be planned in order to enrichen the participants' academic and personal experience of their courses of studies at the universities.

Internship at Japanese Private Companies

Accepted applicants will be participating in internship programs at public or private entities during their stay in Japan (during summer break, after graduation, etc.). 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. Durations

September 2027 – August 2030 (In maximum period)

- 6 months as a research student if applicable
- 1 or 2 years as a Master's student
- Up to 6 months of post-graduation internship for interested participants.

5. Number of Participants

Approximately 95 participants

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Candidate applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Nationality	Citizen of the African countries eligible for Japan's ODA
(2) Age	Under forty (40) years of age (as of April 1 st , 2027)
(3) Educational background	Bachelor's degree (equivalent to at least 16 years of academic background) For more information, please check the website of the Universities.

¹ As part of JICA-DSP, this program is co-organized by GRIPS, IUJ and JICA for JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants. The program offers participants with opportunities to gain a deep understanding of the Japanese development experience, and to draw lessons and gain insights that will support their development work at their home countries and internationally.

(4) Health	to be in good health to participate in the program.
(5) Working experience /status	Applicants for the category of “From the Private Sector” are required: - to have work experience and not be employed by a Japanese company at the time of joining the program in Japan. - Applicants for the category of “From Government” are required: - to have more than 6 months working experience at their current organizations, - to obtain permission for application, and secure reinstatement from their current organizations. ※Any employment before university completion is not considered as working history. Only full-time working with acquisition of diploma, such as night school, is approved as working experience.
(6) English language Proficiency	Sufficient English proficiency (in reading, writing, listening and speaking) equivalent to or higher than the scores listed below are required: - TOEFL iBT :80 - IELTS6.5 - CEFR: B2 (estimated score) - Duolingo: 120-125 ※The required level of English for admission may differ according to university.
(7) Ideal Applicant Profile	(1) <u>From the Private Sector</u> - Those who have an experience in economic activities in the local private sectors and wish to contribute to Africa’s development through cultivating strong network with Japanese companies. (2) <u>From Government (Related to areas of interest of Japanese companies)</u> - Those who take part in formulation and/or implementation of industrial policies and wish to contribute to Africa’s development through government activities. Those who is engaged in the areas of which Japanese companies have interest in the applicant’s country.
(8) Relationship with the Military / the Ministry of Defense	- 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 <u>the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.</u> - If your organization and/or your status is related to the Military or the Ministry of Defense (see the details below), it is requested for you to inform your status on the application form. A) the Military, active military personnel or military personnel listed in the muster roll/military register. B) an organization affiliated with the Military, or personnel currently not in active service but is listed in the muster roll/military register.

	C) the Department or the Ministry of Defense, an organization affiliated with the Ministry of Defense, or staff of the Ministry of Defense D) a civilian organization but with military personnel or a military division within the organization E) an organization which will be affiliated with or under the control of the Military in times of emergency as specified clearly in its organic law/law of establishment
(9) Others	Applicants: - <u>must</u> physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program. - <u>must not</u> be receiving or planning to receive another scholarship except 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. - <u>must</u> contribute to networking with Japanese companies, - <u>must</u> attend the activities on the weekends once or twice per year unless applicants have unavoidable circumstances, and (if accepted to the program), cooperate in answering questionnaires regarding the participant's current status, while participating and after completing the program, which will be sent out periodically

8. Admissions

Applicants must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination² 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.

9. 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 Documents³" listed in (2)

² The results of JICA's screening procedure and University's general entrance examination will not accept any inquiry.

³ Submitted documents will not be returned.

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 in English
- ③ Academic transcript
 - * Must contain all the grades earned at the university attended by the applicant
 - * Officially certified copies of the original transcript
 - * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English
- ④ Photocopy of 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.

(3) Procedures in General

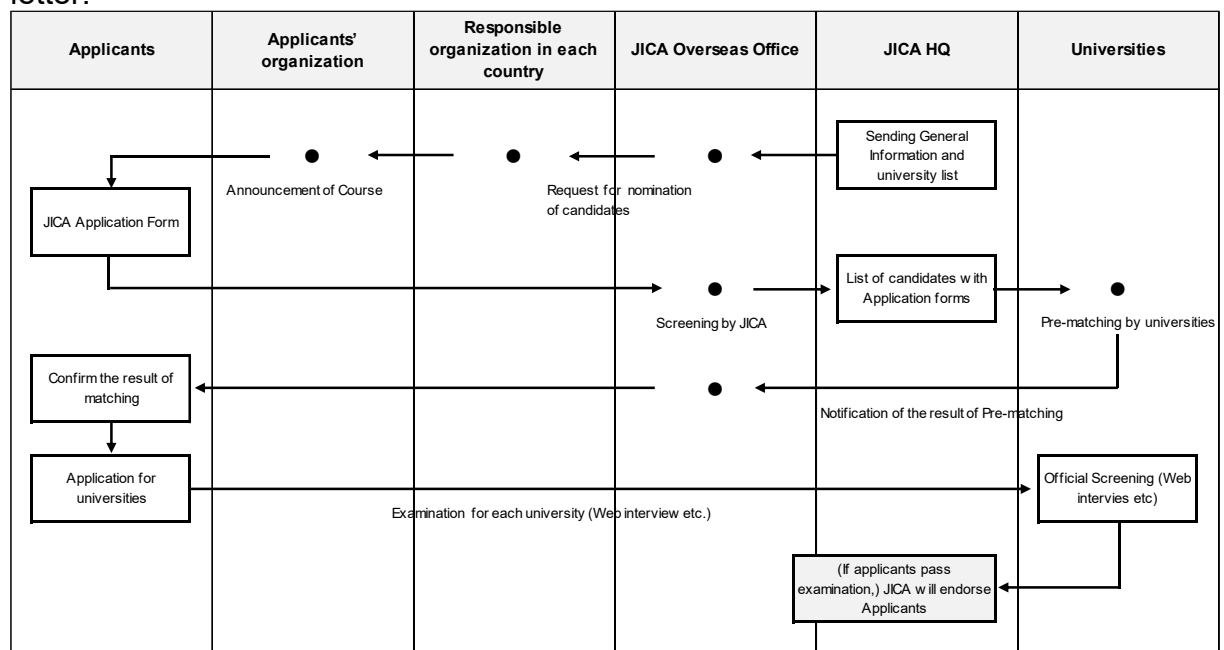
Based on the above documents, applicants are nominated and approved by their country's government and later approved by JICA.⁴ After this procedure, screening will be conducted at the universities chosen by the applicant. This requirement does not apply to candidates who are not affiliated with a government-related organization. If you are currently employed by or affiliated with an organization, please obtain the necessary approval from your organization,

⁴The 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.

however, if a candidate is currently not affiliated with any organization for any reason, this process is not required.

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

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



(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

Fees for English proficiency test can be reimbursed only once 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.

10. Schedule

There are mainly following four selection processes: (A) Selection by JICA office in each country, (B) Selection by Japanese universities.



Flows:

(A) Selection in each country

(1) 1st Selection



[Necessary Actions for Applicants for this selection]

Each applicant needs to submit JICA's Application Documents by the deadline set by JICA office in the applicants' country (basically end of September).

Period	Aug 2026 - October 2026 (basically end of September) ※Please check with the JICA office in the country of your nationality.
Contents	Selection of the submitted JICA's Application Documents
Objectives	To check qualifications and requirements of each applicant. To check applicants' understanding of the program objectives and working experiences/educational background in the context of the "Eligible Participants" (shown in the section 2.).
Result	Applicants who pass this selection can proceed on to the 2 nd Selection.

(2) 2nd Selection



[Necessary Actions for Applicants for this selection]

Each applicant needs to be interviewed.

Period	Aug 2026 – End of October 2026 ※Please check with the JICA office in the country of your nationality.
Contents	Interviews by JICA office, etc.
Objectives	To check applicants' capability of contributing to the achievement of the course objectives addressing Africa's development challenges after the program.
Venue	To be determined. (JICA office in the country of your nationality will announce.)
Result	The applicants who pass this selection can proceed on to the 3 rd Selection. *

(B) Selection by Japanese universities

(1) Pre-matching (3rd Selection)



Period	December 2026 - January 2027
Contents	Document screening by Japanese universities (mainly "Research Plan" of the JICA's Application Documents, the Undergraduate degree graduation certificate, and Academic transcript)
Objectives	To match applicants with university courses/supervisors
Selection	JICA will send JICA's Application Documents to the applicants' desired

	universities (from first choice to second choice.) Universities will examine the documents to check if the applicant's field of study and research plan are matched with the courses/supervisors.
Result	The applicants who pass this selection can proceed on to the 4 th Selection. JICA will inform these applicants of the name of university where the applicant can apply. Applicants are then required to prepare the necessary application documents and submit them directly to the university.

(2) 4th Selection (Final Selection)



[Necessary Actions for Applicants for this selection]

Each applicant needs to check the necessary application documents set by the desired university. Then, he/she needs to submit the application documents directly to the university by the deadline set by the university.

Please note that even if an applicant receives positive matching results from two universities, the applicant may submit a formal application to only one university. Multiple applications to universities at the official application stage are not permitted under the ABE Initiative.

During this selection process, each applicant may be interviewed depending on the university's selection process.

Period	February 2027 – End of July 2027 (approximately)
Contents	Selection of submitted university's application documents and interviews by Japanese universities
Objectives	To select the final candidates (to be proceeded to official approval)
Venue	If necessary, using zoom, Microsoft Teams, or other means for interviews
Selection	Universities will screen the applicants through submitted university's application documents and interviews.
Result	The applicants who pass this selection (and JICA adjustment if necessary) will be selected as successful candidates of the program.

[NOTES]

JICA adjustment: JICA may adjust the number of candidates after the 4th Selection based on a balance of the number of candidates from each country. Therefore, some of the applicants who pass the 4th Selection may not be selected as successful candidates of the program. **The notification by JICA is the final result. Be reminded that the result you receive from the university prior to JICA's result is not the final one.**

Participants would be notified of the results regarding the acceptance or rejection of participation in this program from July to the beginning of August in 2027.

Approval of the Successful Candidates: Successful candidates (except from Private Sector) who pass the 4th Selection (and JICA adjustment if necessary) must be officially approved as participants of the program by the Steering Committee/the respective government and JICA. The successful candidates' status as "officially dispatched student" should be endorsed by their home countries' governments.

[NOTES]

Applicants can be admitted to the program as either 'Regular students' or 'Research students', depending on the university.

Regular students are full time students that have passed, and are judged to possess the academic ability equivalent to the entrance examination for the official Master's course the university of admission.

Research students are part-time students who have not yet passed, but have the academic potential to pass the entrance examination for the official Master's course of the university of admission. They will utilize their time as a research student to prepare for the entrance examination. Research students can join lectures, receive instructions from professors, and make use of university facilities. However, the period for being a research student is limited to six (6) months. Participants as research students are requested to study hard and must take official examination for the Master's course within six (6) months. If failed, they would no longer be able to continue with the program, and would have to return to their home country immediately.

There are mainly three types of universities :

- ① The university only accepts applicants as 'Regular students'.
If an applicant passes the 4th Selection of the above university, the applicant would be admitted as a 'Regular student'. Check the 'University Information' for details.
- ② The university only accepts applicants as 'Research students'
If an applicant passes the 4th Selection of the above university, the applicant would be admitted as a 'Research student'. The applicant would need to take the official examination to become a 'Regular student' within the first 6 months of the program and if successful, would become a 'Regular' student. Check the 'University Information' for details.
- ③ The university accepts applicants as both 'Regular students' and 'Research students'.
During either the 3rd Selection or the 4th Selection, the university would decide whether the applicant would proceed as a 'Regular student' or a 'Research student', depending on the academic ability of the applicant. Even if an applicant applies as a 'Regular student', the university may give out acceptance notification to the said applicant as a 'Research student'. Check the 'University Information' for details.

Schedule of After the local selection.	
November - December 2026	Screening by JICA
	Pre-application Matching Process by university
By the end of January 2027	Notification of the results of Pre-application Matching Process from each university through JICA overseas office
February - June(approximately), 2027	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant
	University's application procedure *General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university
June - July 2027	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university
February - June(approximately) 2027	Determination of JICA KCCP (Long-term) participants
June - August 2027	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate applicant is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant
August-October 2027	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan
June - August 2027	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
August-October 2027	Beginning of Fall 2027 Term

NOTE:

- The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT be disclosed.

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 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.

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) 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.

13. 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;
 - 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 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 your nearest JICA office.

If you have any inquiries, please contact Japan International Cooperation Center (hereafter referred to as the “JICE”) , the organization that JICA has partially outsourced for KCCP operation, via forms

Link: [★Inquiry Form : African Business Education Initiative for Youth & SDGs Global Leader★](#) (QR code below).

The officer of JICE (africa@jice.org) will contact you about your inquiries in order.

★Inquiry Form : African Business
Education Initiative for Youth &
SDGs Global Leader★

