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For Inquiries: JICE JDS Project Office in Sri Lanka

JDS Website: https://jds-scholarship.org
Email: jds.srilanka@jice.org
TEL: (011)2593331
Address: 93A 2/1, 2nd Floor, Thimbirigasyaya Road,
Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

I. Application Guidelines

1. About JDS Scholarship

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (**JDS**) was launched by the Government of Sri Lanka with the assistance of the Government of Japan in 2010.

From the People of Japan

JDS is funded by the Government of Japan through its ODA (Official Development Assistance) budget.



JDS targets young government officials and others who are expected to play a leadership role in the development of their countries.



JDS provides scholarships to Sri Lanka government officers to study at two-year Master's Degree courses (instructed in English) of Japanese universities.

Objectives of JDS

- **To support for Human Resource Development**
  JDS's objective is to strengthen the government's administrative capacities in Sri Lanka. through providing the opportunity to obtain the Master's degree to the young capable government administrators who are expected to engage in formulating and implementing social and economic development plans and to play a leadership role in the development of the country.

- **To Enhance Bilateral Relationships**
  JDS fellows are expected to solidify foundations to further bilateral relations with Japan by utilizing their human network developed through academic and social activities while in Japan.

Beneficiaries of JDS

- **For the participants (JDS Fellows)**
  JDS Fellows will acquire expertise to use for policy making and institutional building for the development of their country, and also build human network in and out of Japan through the two-year study in Japan

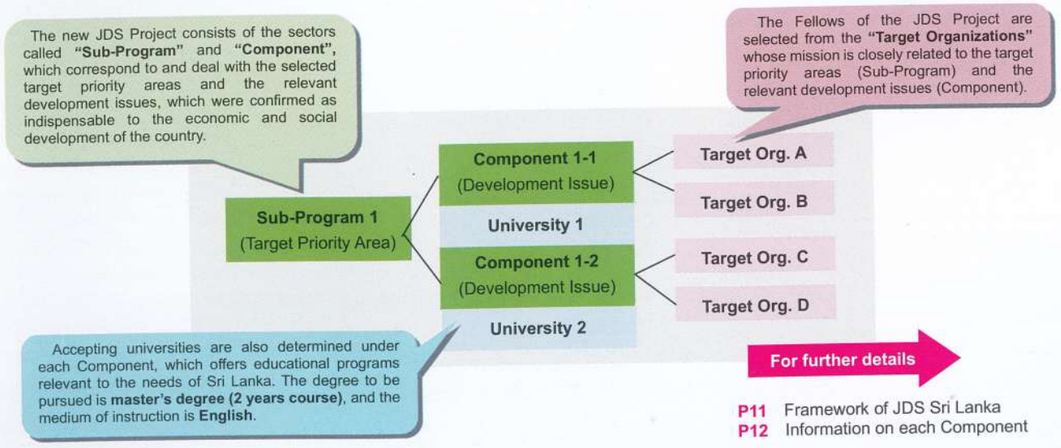
- **For the organizations (The Fellows' workplace)**
  The Fellows' workplace will attain highly-capable and motivated returnees (JDS Fellows) who can effectively contribute to the organizational missions

- **For the Country (The Fellows' country)**
  The Fellows' country will improve institutional capability of the target organizations which leads to foster country's development



2. System of JDS Sri Lanka

The framework of the JDS Project under the "New System" was made applicable to Sri Lanka in 2012. The new approach gives its importance on **"selection and concentration"** on the target priority issues to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the program. A single program (One phase) is designed to accept four batches of Fellows (Fellows in each fiscal year constitute one batch).



For further details
P11 Framework of JDS Sri Lanka
P12 Information on each Component

3. Applicant Eligibility

Nationality	Citizens of Sri Lanka
Age	**Below the age of 40** as of April 1st, 2027 (in principle)
Academic Background	Possess a **Bachelor's Degree** (Undergraduate level of education)
Target Group	✓"Executive/ Senior Executive", those who are mentioned in the Public Administration Circular No.06/2006, Annexure II, Page 2, IV Senior Level, and Page 5, 3.10 & 3.11 ✓Officials belonging to the Sri Lanka All-Island Services (as per PSC rules No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022) and Sri Lanka Foreign Service who have successfully completed their probation period and been confirmed in service are eligible. **Priority will be given to officials whose responsibilities relate to public policy, economic policy formulation, fiscal management, public financial management, trade and investment promotion, international economic cooperation, trade negotiations, and related matters.* **For officials serving All-Island Services in technical nature, nominations shall be restricted to those holding managerial positions in policy formulation, strategic planning, institutional management, and organizational decision-making processes.* ✓Officials who are in managerial position or function from Central Bank of Sri Lanka **State-Owned Enterprise (SOEs) are not eligible; however, they are encouraged to apply for the thematic courses under the JICA Development Studies Program.* **For all applicants, Study Topics that are highly relevant to applicants' career development & beneficial to their organization will be given highest priority*
English Proficiency	Have a good command of both written and spoken English for study at graduate schools
Health Condition	A person of sound mind and body * Applicants need to take and pass all medical check-up prior to the technical interview, arranged by JDS Project Office. Applicants who cannot take or pass all medical check-up will be disqualified from JDS scholarship.
Pre-condition	• Applicants are expected to have special interest in studying in Japan as well as motivation to utilize their experience and human network developed through JDS in their career • The Fellows are obliged to return and work within Sri Lanka at least for 8 (eight) years in compliance with the Act of Pledge (Bond) required by each belonging Ministry • In principle, study courses should be completed in Japan, and online study for degree completion is not allowed
Ineligibility	**A person falls under any of the following items is NOT eligible to apply:** • Military personnel registered on the active list or person on alternative military service cannot apply for JDS • Those who are currently awarded or scheduled to receive another scholarship • Those who have obtained a master's or higher degree overseas under the support of foreign scholarship

4. JDS Operating Committee (OC)

JDS Operating Committee (OC) is the decision-making committee of JDS Project. It consists of both members of Sri Lanka and Japanese governments. The OC not only sets the framework and selection policies but also evaluates candidates in final selection.

JDS Operating Committee (OC) Sri Lanka

Government of Sri Lanka

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Department of External Resources

Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

Public Service Commission
Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, and Local Government

Government of Japan

Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka

JICA Sri Lanka Office

JICE (Japan International Cooperation Center)

JICE supports a smooth implementation of JDS project, which covers a wide range of services such as arrangements of recruitment and selection, and assistance for JDS Fellows studying in Japan

5. Selection Process

Schedule	Steps	Description
Oct – Nov, 2026	Application ▼	**Closing Date: 4:30 p.m. on November 20th (Fri), 2026** Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Department of External Resources through the ministry or organization to which you belong. **Further details →** P6"Application Documents"
Nov-Dec, 2026	IELTS Registration ▼	The instructions will be given in the application confirmation email from JICE JDS Project Office. Please inform the Registration Number to JICE **within 3 days** after completing the online registration.
Dec, 2026	Academic aptitude test ▼	**IELTS and Math tests**. The test results will be reviewed by the Japanese universities in later selection stages. *Applicants who have IELTS score valid until May 31st, 2027 /have 6.0 mark or more from 2025 JDS IELTS TEST are exempted from IELTS test.
Dec, 2026 Jan, 2027	1st Selection ▼	**Document Screening:** Application Documents and research plan will be examined by the Japanese universities.
Jan, 2027	Health Checkup ▼	The health checkup will be arranged at a hospital in Colombo
Feb, 2027	2nd Selection ▼	**Technical Interview:** Faculty members of the Japanese Universities will visit to Colombo to conduct their interview exams.
Mar, 2027	3rd Selection ▼	**Comprehensive Interview:** The Operating Committee members will conduct the interview exams. "Recommendation letter" will be required.
End of March, 2027	Approval by the OC	Successful candidates will be approved and notified.
Mar – Apr, 2027	Admission Procedure	JICE will support admission procedures for each university.
Apr – Jul, 2027	Japanese Language Training	Provided to successful candidates in Colombo. (3 months)
Jul, 2027	Orientations	Provided by JICA and JICE.
Aug, 2027	Departure for Japan	JICE will arrange air-ticket, visa, and also support after the arrival in Japan.

* Above schedule is subject to change

<Important Notes>

- ✓ Application Documents will not be returned (Please keep a copy of your documents for yourself.).
- ✓ Application Documents with false statements or plagiarism will be immediately disqualified.
- ✓ A result of each selection will be announced only to successful candidates.
- ✓ In principle, reasons of the selection-results will not be disclosed.



IELTS & Math test



1st Selection
Document Screening



2nd Selection
Technical Interview



3rd Selection
Comprehensive Interview

6. Selection Criteria

Selection process	Criteria	Intent and Purpose
1st Selection Document Screening	· Academic records and background · Possibility of future contribution with learnt knowledge · Contents of Research Plan · Relevance between Research Plan and Sub-Program / Component (Development issues set by JDS) · Reference Letter (Annex in the Application Document)	The Japanese universities evaluate applicants' basic knowledge, ability and academic background. Compatibility to the university course will be also examined.
2nd Selection Technical Interview	· Academic background and learning ability · Capacity for completing the study in Japan · Possibility of contributing to the development of the country · Compatibility to the university course	The universities mainly evaluate academic knowledge, candidates' idea about research plan, etc. Communication and logical thinking skills are also checked through the interview.
3rd Selection Comprehensive Interview	· Possibility of contributing to the development of the country · Possibility of Contribution to strengthening bilateral relations with Japan · Capacity to utilize outcomes of the study over the long term · Capacity for Completing the Study in Japan	After the universities check the candidates' academic abilities, the Operating Committee evaluates the candidates' capacity of future contribution to the development of the country and strengthening bilateral relations with Japan such as purpose of study in Japan, career plan after the study, etc.

* The English and math test results will be reviewed by the universities in the selection stages.

7. Award Benefits

The awards are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the academic program specified by JDS project. The following benefits generally apply:

- Full tuition fees
- Air fare
- Arrival allowance
- Accommodation allowance
- Monthly Scholarship
- Travel and seminar attendance allowance
- Overseas travel insurance
- Supports from the agent
  - · Finding accommodation
  - · Initial settlement of your life in Japan
  - · Emergency situation etc.



8. Important JDS Rules

JDS has specific rules in order to realize its project goals and to ensure favorable study environment for the Fellows.

Before departure

- JDS Fellows must submit a JDS pledge to the Operating Committee to commit themselves to follow JDS Rules.

During the stay in Japan

- If JDS Fellows wish to bring their family members to Japan, it is recommended to bring their family members to Japan only after 3 months from the date of arrival in Japan and after the date of admission.
- The Fellows are prohibited from
  - · Working,
  - · Driving motor vehicles, and
  - · Applying for further studies such as a doctoral course in Japan.
- The Fellows must complete the study within the predetermined period of study, and return to his/her country immediately after the study completion.

After returning to home country

- The Fellows must attend a report back meeting held by the Operating Committee.
- The Fellows are obliged **to return and work within Sri Lanka at least for 8 (eight) years** in compliance with the Act of Pledge (Bond) required by each belonging Ministry.

Further details will be explained in an orientation conducted after the selection.

II. How to Succeed in Application

1. Application Documents

All applicants are required to submit a set of necessary documents. Please follow the instructions below.

1) Application Documents

- Application Form (AF) and other designated forms can be downloaded from JDS website (**https://jds-scholarship.org**)

Download password will be required. First, fill out a password request form in this web site.
Then, JICE JDS Project Office will send the password to you by E-mail.

2) Precautions

- Three (3) sets of Application Documents are required. (See the instructions below.)
- Please print out all the documents single-sided.
- All documents written in other language than English need official English translation. (Self-translation is not acceptable.)
- Use only A4 size paper for all copy sets.
- Do not staple the documents. Put a paperclip on them instead.
- Make your own extra copy of the Application Documents before submission.

3) List of Application Documents

Doc No	Application Documents	Remarks	Required number to be submitted			
			Set 1		Set 2	Set 3
			JICE		Belonging Ministry or Organization	ERD
			Original/ Certified Copy	Photocopy of the Original	Photocopy of the Original	Photocopy of the original
1	Checklist of Application Document	This list is enclosed in the set of Application Form.	1			
2	Application Form (designated form) with a photo (4cm x 3cm)	1 photo (taken within the past 3 months) should be attached to the 1st page of original. * Do not forget to **send the Excel file by email** after receiving the confirmation email from JICE Office.	1		1	1
3	Official Transcript Record of University	Must contain all the grades earned from the University. Written in English or accompanied with official English translation.	1			
4	University Certificate of Degree	Copy of the Degree certified by the University	1		1	1
5	Reference Letter "Annex" (designated form)	This form is enclosed in the set of Application Form. To be filled out by the current supervisor. Submit 1 original written in English in a sealed envelope.	1			
6	Service Confirmation Letter	Copy of Service Confirmation Letter, or the letter from the Ministry/ Institute in which authorized authority confirms that you fulfill all the requirements of completing probation period.		1	1	1
7	Questionnaire on Source of Information (designated form)	This questionnaire is enclosed in the set of Application Form.	1			
8	Personal Identification document	Color photocopy of the valid passport ID page		1	1	1
9	Registration Form (designated form)	A photo (4cm x 3cm) must be attached to the form	1			
10	IELTS Certificate	Attach **IELTS Certificate** if you have a score valid until May 31st, 2027 If not, JICE Office will inform you the process after receiving you Application documents.	(1)			
11	Questionnaire on Health Condition (designated form)	This questionnaire is enclosed in the set of Application Form	1			

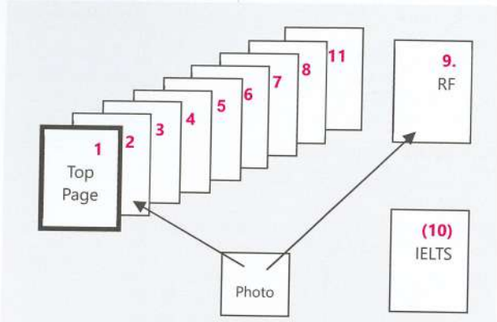
4) Arrangement of Application Documents

As mentioned above, 3 sets of Application Documents are required. 1 Original Set and 2 sets of photocopies
Arrange those sets following the manner of arrangement below.
Separate the envelopes respectively to (1) JICE, (2) ERD and (3) Ministry or Organization to which you belong.
The document No. below corresponds to the ones in the table "3) List of Application Documents" on **P6**.

Set 1

JICE (1 Original Set)

1. **Check List of Application Documents ← Top Page**
2. **Application Form (AF) with a photo on the top page**
3. **Official Transcript Record of University**
4. **University Certificate of Degree**
5. **Reference Letter "Annex"**
6. **Service Confirmation Letter**
7. **Questionnaire on Source of Information**
8. **Color photocopy of the passport ID page**
9. **Registration Form (RF) with a photo**
10. **[If you have] IELTS Certificate**
11. **Questionnaire on Health Condition**



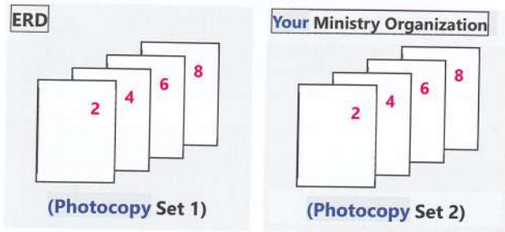
Place a CLIP. Do not staple.

Set 2 & 3

ERD & Your Ministry of Organization

(Make 2 sets of photocopies)

2. **Photocopy of Application Form (AF)**
4. **University Certificate of Degree**
6. **Service Confirmation Letter**
8. **Color photocopy of the passport ID page**



5) Submission of Application Documents

- **Important Notice**
  - **Application lacking of necessary documents will not be accepted.**
    *** Please note that all applicants are required to submit the Excel file of Application Form by email, in addition to hard copies.**
  - Application after the deadline will not be accepted.
  - Application will be disqualified in case false statements or plagiarism is found.
  - Application Documents will not be returned for any reasons.



- **Deadline for Application Submission**

Deadline for Application: 4:30 p.m. on November 20th (Fri), 2026

Application documents must be submitted to ERD from your Ministry or Organization by deadline.
(NOTE: Only if the eligible and complete number of applications received is less than 60, the application deadline will be extended for 10 working days automatically. It will be announced on JDS Website soon after the original deadline.)

For Inquiries:

JICE JDS Project Office in Sri Lanka
Email : jds.srilanka@jice.org
TEL : (011)2593331
Address : No. 93 A 2/1, 2nd Floor, Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka
Office Hour : 8:30 - 12:30 / 13:30 - 17:00, Monday to Friday

2. Tips on Application and Selection (Reference)

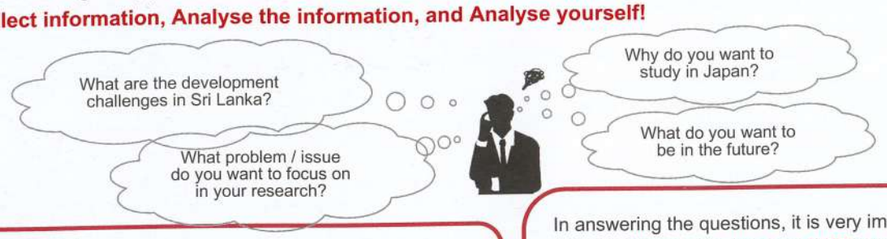
The better you prepare for the Application Documents, the more chances to pass the selection you have.

Here are some tips on the preparation of Application Form (AF) and Research Plan (RP).

Information Collection Analysis → Reflect your analysis on **Application Form** and **Research Plan** → **JDS Selection**
1st - Document Screening
2nd - Technical Interview
3rd - Comprehensive Interview

Before making the application documents, you are advised to…

Collect information, Analyse the information, and Analyse yourself!



AF
- Q6. Responsibilities of your work
- Q7. Research Plan
- Q8. Reason for applying the Graduate School
- Q9. Future contribution

In answering the questions, it is very important to keep in mind that those questions are NOT separate questions - they are very coherent in the sense that each question asks [who you are / what you are doing now], [what you want to do in Japan] and [what you can / want to do after your study]. Therefore, those questions ask how you relate your career and the study in the context of the development of Sri Lanka

For further details, the video is available on the website.

- Tips for the selection

3. Guidelines for Writing a Research Plan

The tips on how to prepare a research plan are available in this video. It is recommended you watch it for your preparation.

- How to write a research plan

  ✧ *What is research?*
  ✧ *How important is the research plan in the JDS selection?*
  ✧ *How and what theme should be addressed?*
  ✧ *How to review the previous studies? What is "hypothesis"? etc.*

Warnings about "Plagiarism"

"Plagiarism" is a serious offense in the academic field. **Plagiarism** means using other person's ideas and words without explicitly acknowledging the source of that information.

You may be disqualified from the selection, or even be discharged from the university, if plagiarism is found in your research plan, or academic work at the university.

Such cases are deemed as plagiarism:

- Copying from books or articles written by other authors without permission
- Copying from an internet source without referring to the attribution text or information
- Misrepresentation of someone's work as one's original

To avoid plagiarism, you must cite sources and give credit whenever you use:

- Other person's idea, opinion, or theory
- Any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings – any pieces of information – that are not common knowledge
- Quotation of other person's spoken or written words
- **Paraphrase*** of other person's spoken or written words

  * Paraphrase is a re-expression of other person's ideas in your own word



4. FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Program

Q1. Is JDS a full scholarship?
YES. All the costs to study in Japan will be fully covered by JDS. For further details, please refer to "Award Benefits" in this booklet.

Q2. Do you have a Ph.D. course?
NO. All components are master's degree courses in Japan.

Q3. Is this an online course?
NO. The JDS fellows will study in Japan. It's a good opportunity to meet and learn with different people from around the world.

Q4. Can I apply for any university/course in Japan?
NO. The component and university are determined according to the priority development issues of each JDS recipient country. You can select the component/university from the framework.

Q5. Can I extend my stay after the completion of a program?
NO. Every JDS Fellow MUST return to their country by the designated date after graduation in compliance with the pledges required by the JDS Operating Committee. JDS Fellows have an obligation to return to the belonging organization and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country with acquired knowledge and skills.

Application

Q9. Where can I get the Application Form?
Please access JDS website.
http://jds-scholarship.org/
Application Form (AF), Application Guidelines (AG) and university information can be downloaded from this website.

Q10. Can I apply for two components (universities)?
NO. You cannot apply for more than one component. Please select one component which is relevant to your work responsibility.

Q11. Should I submit all the application documents by the deadline?
YES. But in case you cannot submit some of the documents due to unavoidable reasons, please inform JICE in advance and submit the letter of reason with your signature.

Q12. I cannot get a permission letter from my workplace. Can I apply without the letter?
NO. In JDS, it is important to return to the workplace after study completion. Therefore, permission from the workplace is required.

Eligibility

Q6. I am working for a private company, but I have work experience at a government office. Am I eligible?
NO. The requirements are "Currently employed in the Target Organizations as a full-time employee".

Q7. I graduated from more than 2 universities. Do I need to submit diploma/transcript for all universities?
YES. Please submit both documents for all universities written down in Educational Background in the Application Form.

Q8. I have already received a scholarship from another country. Am I eligible to apply for JDS?
The following persons are NOT eligible to apply for JDS.
- Persons who are currently receiving or is scheduled to receive other scholarships
- Persons who have already obtained master's degree in other countries under any scholarship.

(*) However, persons who are studying in master's course or obtained master's degree without foreign assistance in local/foreign universities are eligible.

Selection

Q13. Do I need to take the English test?
YES. Basically, every applicant must take the English examination (IELTS). However, applicants who have valid IELTS score will be exempted from the English test. If you don't have a valid score, JICE will arrange the English exam.

Q14. Is the Math test required when applying for any University?
Yes. The math test is required for all applicants, regardless of their applying University.

Q15. Do I need to come to Colombo for the interview?
YES. You are required to join all selection stages held in Colombo.

Q16. How can I know the selection result?
After each selection, JICE JDS Project Office will notify the result to candidates who passed by e-mail



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III. Sub-Program (SP) / Component (CP)

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2. Information of Each Sub-Program / Component (CP)
SP/CP 1. Public Policy Studies
1-1-1 Public Policy Studies ..12
1-1-2 International Relations and International Development ..14
SP/CP 2. Economics
1-2-1 Macroeconomics Studies ..15
1-2-2 Public Finance and Investment Management ..16
1-2-3 Industry Development Policy and Investment Promotion ..17

The university information is available on JDS website. : https://jds-scholarship.org/

Notes in application

- ✓ In application, check if your workplace is assigned as a Target Organization in a component you want to apply for.
- ✓ Also, check obtainable degrees of the university you are applying for.

Sub-Program	Component		Expected Resarch Areas	Accepting University	Graduate School	Degree to be Obtained	slot	Target
1. Building a Strong Base for Inclusive and Sustained Economic Growth	1-1 Public Policy Studies	1-1-1 Public Policy Studies	-Public Policy Formulation, Institutional Design, and Analysis -National Development Policies -Social and Welfare Policies -Central and Local Administration -Local Autonomy -Environmental and Energy Policies -Science and Technology Innovation Policies -ICT Policies -Urban Development Policies (including Disaster Prevention)	International University of Japan	Graduate School of International Relations	Master of Arts in Public Management Master of Arts in Public Policy (PMPP)	2	**✓ Executive/ Senior Executive", those who are mentioned in the Public Administration Circular No.06/2006, Annexure II, Page 2, IV Senior Level, and Page 5, 3.10 & 3.11** **✓Officials belonging to the Sri Lanka All-Island Services (as per PSC rules No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022) and Sri Lanka Foreign Service who have successfully completed their probation period and been confirmed in service are eligible.** (*Priority will be given to officials whose responsibilities relate to public policy, economic policy formulation, fiscal management, public financial management, trade and investment promotion, international economic cooperation, trade negotiations, and related matters. . *For officials serving All-Island Services in technical nature, nominations shall be restricted to those holding managerial positions in policy formulation, strategic planning, institutional management, and organizational decision-making processes..) **✓ Officials who are in managerial position or function from Central Bank of Sri Lanka** ***State-Owned Enterprise (SOEs) are not eligible; however, they are encouraged to apply for the thematic courses under the JICA Development Studies Program**
				Meiji University	Graduate School of Governance Studies	Master of Public Policy	2	
				University of Tsukuba	Graduate School of Science and Technology	Master of Environmental Sciences	2	
		1-1-2 International Relations and International Development	-International Relations -International Development	Nagoya University	Graduate School of International Development	Master of Arts in International Development	1	
	1-2 Economics	1-2-1 Macroeconomics Studies	-Economic Development including Sustainable Growth and Job Creation -Macroeconomics / Econometrics -Statistics / Statistical Analysis -Environment and Agricultural Economics	Kobe University	Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies	a. Master of Economics b. Master of International Studies	2	
				Hiroshima University	(1)Graduate School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences (2)Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society	(1)a. Master of Philosophy b. Master of Economics c. Master of Business Administration d. Master of International Cooperation Studies (2) Master of Philosophy	2	
		1-2-2 Public Finance and Investment Management	-Fiscal Policy -Fiscal Management / Policy -Public Investment Management / Policy Infrastructure Management	Nagoya University	Graduate School of International Development	Master of Arts in International Development	2	
		1-2-3 Industry Development Policy and Investment Promotion	-Industrial Policy -Investment and Export Promotion -Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Promotion Policy -Promotion of Private Investment	International University of Japan	Graduate School of International Management	Master of Business Administration (MBA)	2	

1. Information of Each Sub-Program / Component

Sub-program	**1. Building a Strong Base for Inclusive and Sustained Economic Growth**
Component (CP)	**1-1-1 Public Policy Studies**
Expected Research Areas	-Public Policy Formulation, Institutional Design, and Analysis -National Development Policies -Social and Welfare Policies -Central and Local Administration -Local Autonomy -Environmental and Energy Policies -Science and Technology Innovation Policies -ICT Policies -Urban Development Policies (including Disaster Prevention)
Accepting University	**International University of Japan** (2 Slots) **Graduate School of International Relations (GSIR)** ・Public Management and Policy Analysis Program (PMPP), or ・Japan-Global Development Program (JGDP) **<Available degree>** Master of Arts in Public Management, or Master of Arts in Public Policy (PMPP) **Meiji University** (2 Slots) **Graduate School of Governance Studies** ・Major in Governance Studies (International Public Policy Course) (1) Public Policy (2) International Development Policy (3) Community Planning and Management **<Available degree>** Master of Public Policy **University of Tsukuba** (2 Slots) **Graduate School of Science and Technology** - Master's Program in Environmental Sciences / SUSTEP Program **<Available degree>** Master of Environmental Sciences
Target Organizations	- "Executives/ Senior Executives" mentioned in the Public Administration Circular No.06/2006, Annexure II, Page 2, IV Senior Level, and Page 5, 3.10 & 3.11. -Officials belonging to the Sri Lanka All-Island Services (as per PSC rules No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022) and Sri Lanka Foreign Service who have successfully completed their probation period and been confirmed in service are eligible. -Officials who are in managerial position or function from Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Purpose of Study	In Sri Lanka, the economy has been struggling due to the long-standing structural challenges and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an unprecedented economic crisis, as seen in the announcement of the suspension of external debt repayment in April 2022. Currently, the country is working on various structural reforms under the IMF program, but there are still significant challenges to address, including fiscal soundness and strengthening governance. To overcome these challenges, recover from the economic crisis, and further grow, consistent policy implementation and improved policy formulation skills among government officials are important. In particular, the country is expected to face the challenges of a declining working-age population resulting from an aging society and increased expenditures related to social security costs. It is crucial to develop human resources who can analyze these challenges from a specialized perspective and develop evidence-based policies for implementation. Additionally, the country needs to address its vulnerability to natural disasters due to its topographical and meteorological features, environmental destruction and pollution caused by the development of various infrastructures, and energy shortages, as well as the promotion of ICT, science, technology, and innovation as the basis for economic growth. In these fields, developing government officials, who can lead the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies from a professional standpoint, is highly required.

Sub-program	**1. Building a Strong Base for Inclusive and Sustained Economic Growth**
Component (CP)	**1-1-2 International Relations and International Development**
Expected Research Areas	- International Relations - International Development
Accepting University	**Nagoya University** (1 Slots) **Graduate School of International Development** - International Development and Cooperation **<Available degrees>** Master of Arts in International Development
Target Organizations	- "Executives/ Senior Executives" mentioned in the Public Administration Circular No.06/2006, Annexure II, Page 2, IV Senior Level, and Page 5, 3.10 & 3.11. - Officials belonging to the Sri Lanka All-Island Services (as per PSC rules No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022) and Sri Lanka Foreign Service who have successfully completed their probation period and been confirmed in service are eligible. - Officials who are in managerial position or function from Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Purpose of Study

In Sri Lanka, the economy has been struggling due to the long-standing structural challenges and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an unprecedented economic crisis, as seen in the announcement of the suspension of external debt repayment in April 2022. Currently, the country is working on various structural reforms under the IMF program, but there are still significant challenges to address, including fiscal soundness and strengthening governance. To overcome these challenges, recover from the economic crisis, and restore trust in the international community, developing government officials, who can lead the formulation and implementation of medium- to long-term policies from both domestic needs and a diplomatic perspective is highly required.

Sub-program	**1. Building a Strong Base for Inclusive and Sustained Economic Growth**
Component (CP)	**1-2-1 Macroeconomics Studies**
Expected Research Areas	- Economic Development including Sustainable Growth and Job Creation - Macroeconomics / Econometrics - Statistics / Statistical Analysis - Environment and Agricultural Economics
Accepting University	**Kobe University** (2 Slots) **Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies** - Special Course for Development Policy **<Available degrees>** Master of Economics Master of International Studies **Hiroshima University** (2 Slots) **Graduate School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences** - Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Policy Science Program **<Available degrees>** Master of Philosophy Master of Economics Master of Business Administration Master of International Cooperation Studies **Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society** - Research Area: Social Innovation Science **<Available degree>** Master of Philosophy
Target Organizations	- "Executives/ Senior Executives" mentioned in the Public Administration Circular No.06/2006, Annexure II, Page 2, IV Senior Level, and Page 5, 3.10 & 3.11. - Officials belonging to the Sri Lanka All-Island Services (as per PSC rules No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022) and Sri Lanka Foreign Service who have successfully completed their probation period and been confirmed in service are eligible. - Officials who are in managerial position or function from Central Bank of Sri Lank

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Sub-program	**1. Building a Strong Base for Inclusive and Sustained Economic Growth**
Component (CP)	**1-2-2 Public Finance and Investment Management**
Expected Research Areas	- Fiscal Policy - Fiscal Management / Policy - Public Investment Management / Policy Infrastructure Management
Accepting University	**Nagoya University** (2 Slots) **Graduate School of International Development** - International Development and Cooperation "Program in Economic Development Policy and Management" **<Available degree>** Master of Arts in International Development
Target Organizations	- "Executives/ Senior Executives" mentioned in the Public Administration Circular No.06/2006, Annexure II, Page 2, IV Senior Level, and Page 5, 3.10 & 3.11. - Officials belonging to the Sri Lanka All-Island Services (as per PSC rules No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022) and Sri Lanka Foreign Service who have successfully completed their probation period and been confirmed in service are eligible. - Officials who are in managerial position or function from Central Bank of Sri Lank

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Sub-program	**1. Building a Strong Base for Inclusive and Sustained Economic Growth**
Component (CP)	**1-2-3 Industry Development Policy and Investment Promotion**
Expected Research Areas	- Industrial Policy - Investment and Export Promotion - Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion Policy - Promotion of Private Investment, etc.
Accepting University	**International University of Japan** (2 Slots) **Graduate School of International Management** ·MBA/Japan-Global Development Program **<Available degree>** Master of Business Administration
Target Organizations	- "Executives/ Senior Executives" mentioned in the Public Administration Circular No.06/2006, Annexure II, Page 2, IV Senior Level, and Page 5, 3.10 & 3.11. - Officials belonging to the Sri Lanka All-Island Services (as per PSC rules No. 2310/29 dated 14.12.2022) and Sri Lanka Foreign Service who have successfully completed their probation period and been confirmed in service are eligible. - Officials who are in managerial position or function from Central Bank of Sri Lank

Purpose of Study

In Sri Lanka, the economy has been struggling due to the long-standing structural challenges and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an unprecedented economic crisis, as seen in the announcement of the suspension of external debt repayment in April 2022. Currently, the country is working on various structural reforms under the IMF program. However, due to extensive price controls and protectionist economic policies that have persisted over the years, there has been a lack of private-sector-led economic growth and advanced industrial structure through market competition, the main industries driving the economy have not developed beyond tourism and overseas remittances. Additionally, the country's investment environment ranks 99th out of 190 countries in the World Bank's "Doing Business 2020" report, and significant improvements are needed. Factors hindering investment include low predictability in the business environment, skills mismatch in the workforce, and complexities related to policies, regulations, and procedures, including taxation. To overcome these challenges, recover from the economic crisis, and further grow, developing government officials, who can lead initiatives such as nurturing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups for industrial development, transitioning to high-value-added and productive industries using Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and promoting exports, is highly required.

IV. Special Trainings and Events

JDS Program provides the following opportunities for JDS Fellows only in addition to research at university.

Government Leaders Networking Event

This special event aims to establish long-term cooperative relationships between JDS Fellows and Japanese government officials by providing opportunities of interaction and mutual learning. JDS Fellows participate in the event and expand their personal networks with Japanese government officials, who would become their counterparts in the future.



Japanese Language Training

All JDS Fellows participate in Japanese language training after their arrival in Japan. This training provides Fellows with the lessons on Japanese characters (*hiragana, katakana, and kanji*), greetings, and how to introduce themselves. In addition, they deepen their understandings of Japanese culture, lifestyle and manners, and learn the procedures necessary for staying in Japan such as government office, post office, and bank.





JDS Pre-return Program

JDS Pre-return Program is held half a year before returning home, inviting all JDS fellows from each university.

During this program, the Fellows have opportunities to attend a series of programs, including leadership program and a special lecture given by a prominent scholar. It also helps them build a network with JDS fellows from various countries.

V. Voice of JDS Graduates

Voice of JDS Fellows graduated from Master's course of Japanese Universities under JDS Scholarship Project!



Nirasha Tharamasinghe
Assistant Director,
Public Debt Management Office, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development
International University of Japan, GS of International Relations

Bridging Minds, Cultures, and Futures: My JDS Journey at IUJ

Being a member of the **15th JDS Batch** has been one of the most transformative experiences of my professional and personal life. The Japan Development Scholarship (JDS) opened the door to an exceptional learning environment at the **International University of Japan (IUJ)**, where I was able to expand my knowledge, strengthen my leadership skills, and develop a global outlook as a public sector professional.

Throughout this remarkable journey, I was honored to receive **First Place at the FALIA Essay Competition**, recognizing my commitment to research and knowledge sharing. I was also privileged to be inducted into **Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS)**, an international honor society that celebrates academic excellence and professional achievement.

IUJ truly lives up to its identity as **"Where the World Gathers."** As a home for professionals and scholars from **more than 60 countries**, IUJ offered me a unique opportunity to experience the richness of global diversity. Through friendships and daily interactions, I discovered the beauty of different cultures, cuisines, languages, traditions, and festivals, creating memories and connections that will last a lifetime.

Serving as a **Facilitator and Teaching Assistant** was another valuable highlight of my JDS journey. It allowed me not only to contribute to the learning community but also to interact with and learn from accomplished professionals from leading Japanese companies. These experiences enhanced my understanding of Japanese work culture, professionalism, and innovation.

JDS gave me far more than an academic qualification. It gave me a global perspective, lifelong friendships, and the confidence to contribute meaningfully to society. I sincerely encourage future candidates to embrace this opportunity, as JDS is a transformative journey that empowers individuals to become leaders who create a positive impact in an interconnected world.