

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Recruitment & Training Section
Dhaka

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Date: 25 August 2025

Circular

Japanese Government has offered "Young Leaders' Program (YLP) 2026" scholarship to pursue studies in Public Policy at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan. Salient feature of the Programme are depicted below:

Duration of the program	Eligibility	Expenses
One (01) year from October 2026 to September 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be under the age of forty (40) years as of 01 October 2026;• Have at least three (03) years work experience in Public Administration [preferably five (05) years or more];• A minimum TOEFL-iBT score of 79, IELTS or equivalent academic score of 6.0;• Medical adequate to pursue study in Japan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An allowance of 2,42,000 yen per month;• Application fee, admission fee and tuition fees;• Round trip economy class air ticket;

02. Interested Foreign Service Officers are requested to submit their expression of interest on or before 05 September 2025 at the following emails:

as.randt@mofa.gov.bd
Cc: dirpno@mofa.gov.bd

- Encl: 1. Guidelines for YLP;
2. Recommendation Form;
3. Essay Question;
4. Certificate of Health;
5. YLP Program Outline 2024.

Tahsina Afrin
25/8/25.
(Tahsina Afrin Sharmin)
Director (P&O)

Distribution:

1. Assistant Secretary/ Senior Assistant Secretary/Director (All), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka;
2. All Bangladesh Missions abroad (except Honorary Consulate);
3. Assistant Secretary (ICT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka (with a request to upload at the Ministry's website and to disseminate the circular among the eligible candidates by email);
4. Office copy.

Copy for kind information (not according to seniority):

1. Director General (Administration), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka;
2. Director (Personnel/P&O), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka.



APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026
YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENT (SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT)

I OUTLINE

1. Objectives

The Young Leaders' Program (YLP) aims to contribute to the fostering of future national leaders in Asian and other countries. Moreover, the YLP seeks to contribute to the establishment of friendly relationships among various countries and to improve policy planning activities by forming a network among national leaders through the deepening of their understanding of Japan. The YLP is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT*) Scholarship Programs.

*MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

2. Eligible Participants

Participants should be young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders in their home countries.

3. Host University

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

4. Number of Students

Approximately 20 students

5. Recruitment and Selection

(1) Method of Recruitment

Recruitment will be conducted through the recommending authorities of each eligible country. Please ask the Japanese Embassy for further information.

(2) Screening Procedure

- ① First screening by the recommending authorities
- ② Second screening by GRIPS
- ③ Final screening by the YLP committee organized by MEXT

6. Curriculum (please refer to "Curriculum Guidelines")

(1) Basic Concepts

The curriculum is designed to train and cultivate national leaders in their respective fields of government, who are seeking to take advantage of Japan's experience of interaction with both Western and Asian countries and also to establish a human network through various activities, such as special lectures, colloquia, independent study, field trips, etc.

(2) Course Duration and Degree

Course duration is one year, resulting in the conferral of a Master's Degree in Public Policy by GRIPS.

(3) Language

All lectures are conducted in English.

7. Commencement of the Program

October 2026

II INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

MEXT will offer scholarships to foreign students who wish to study at GRIPS as YLP students in public policy for the academic year 2026 under the MEXT Scholarship Program. The application conditions are described below.

1. Field of Study

Public Policy

2. Qualifications

(1) Nationality:

Applicant must be nationals of countries participating in the YLP (School of Government). An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible. However, persons with dual nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by their arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status).

(2) Age:

Applicants must be, in principle, under 40 years of age as of October 1, 2026 (i.e. born on or after October 2, 1986).

(3) Academic background:

Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized/accredited university or college, and have achieved excellent academic performance.

(4) Work experience:

At least 3 years of full-time work experience in total as of October 1, 2026, in public administration (preferably 5 years or more).

(5) English ability:

One of the following test scores is required:

- ① TOEFL iBT
- ② IELTS Academic
- ③ Other equivalent test

Admission priority will be given to applicants who have a TOEFL iBT score of 79 or higher, or an IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or higher, or other equivalent test scores.

(6) Health:

Applicants must be judged to be physically able to pursue study in Japan by an examining physician, who must issue a prescribed certificate of health for the applicant.

(7) Arrival in Japan:

In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by GRIPS, usually within two weeks before or after the first day of the course conducted by GRIPS. If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the specified period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.

(8) Visa requirement:

Applicants shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality and enter Japan with the status of residence as "Student." If the applicant resides in Japan in an exceptional case before acceptance, the applicant must change or renew his/her status of residence to "Student" by the end of the month prior to the installment of the first scholarship payment. Even if the applicant originally held a status of residence such as "Permanent Resident" or "Long-term Resident", he/she should be aware that the original status might not be necessarily regranted after the expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student.

(9) Return to home country and resumption of work after the scholarship period:

In accordance with the objectives of the YLP, after the scholarship period, applicants are expected to make efforts to build friendly relationships among various countries, including Japan, by creating human and intellectual networks among leaders in countries across the world. To this end, applicants should, in principle, return to their home countries by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and resume their work at the recommending authority or the organization designated by the recommending authorities among others.

(10) Non-Eligibility:

Applicants who fall under any or all of the following categories are not eligible. If identified as doing so after acceptance of the scholarship grantees, the applicants will be required to withdraw from the scholarship:

- ① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of the payment of the scholarship;
- ② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period designated by GRIPS;
- ③ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of "Student" or who are going to be enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university or other institution as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT scholarship program in the applicant's country until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT scholarship.

However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university, verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, return to their home country at the time of the scholarship application, and newly acquire the “Student” residence status and come to Japan;

- ④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2025, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2026;
- ⑤ Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others after the start of the scholarship payment period;
- ⑥ Holders of dual nationality at the time of application who cannot verify that they will give up Japanese nationality by the time of the arrival in Japan (the acquisition of student status);
- ⑦ Those who change their residence status to that of other than “Student” after their arrival in Japan;
- ⑧ Those who plan, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, to engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the host university;
- ⑨ Those who will lose their status as a public administrator or government official subsequent to the time of application or before completion of the program.

3. Period of Scholarship

One year, from October 2026 to September 2027

4. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance:

242,000 yen per month. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government’s budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee who is long absent from GRIPS.

(2) Travel costs:

- ① Transportation to Japan: In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport nearest to the grantee’s home address (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita or Haneda International Airport. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from his/her home address to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage, or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. The grantee shall also bear, at his/her own expense, travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country in case there are no direct flights from the grantee’s country of nationality to Narita or Haneda International Airport. In such cases, MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee’s country of nationality to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the host university. The present address in the country of the grantee’s nationality stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient’s “home address”. If, however, the address stated in the application form will be changed at the time of leaving from his/her country, the changed address (limited to within the country of nationality) will be regarded as the “home address” For cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee’s country of residence due to the grantee’s personal circumstances, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket. If a grantee will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period stated in “2. (7) Arrival in Japan”, travel expenses will not be paid..
- ② Transportation from Japan: In principle, based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate from GRIPS and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship (See “3. Period of Scholarship”) designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from Narita or Haneda International Airport to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee’s residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee’s residence in Japan to Narita or Haneda international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc.

(3) Education Fees:

Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition are waived. Accommodations:

In principle, grantees reside at residence halls provided by GRIPS, which plans to arrange accommodations at TIEC (Tokyo International Exchange Center Residence Hall). Please note that, due to TIEC policy, an accommodation is limited to the grantee and (a) spouse, or (b) spouse and child/children.

5. Suspension of Payment of Scholarship

Payment of the scholarship will be stopped for the reasons given below. Should any of the following reasons apply, the grantees may be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

- ① A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- ② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge made to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- ③ A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced and imprisoned for an indefinite period or for a period of exceeding 1 year;
- ④ A grantee is suspended from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;
- ⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university;
- ⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly acquiring the "Student" residence status, or his/her residence status changed to one other than "Student";
- ⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (a scholarship or fellowship from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship;
- ⑧ If a grantee's government and/or other state institutions request such cancellation.

6. Selection

- (1) Based on the recommendation of authorities, GRIPS will select initial candidates from among applicants by means of a review of the submitted documents and an interview. The evaluation of the submitted documents will determine whether the applicant will proceed to an interview. An interview will be conducted by either of the following: face-to-face in the applicant's home country, by telephone, or through the internet.
- (2) Those who have been selected initially by GRIPS will be put forward to the YLP committee established by MEXT for the final selection.
- (3) The final result will be notified to applicants through the Japanese Embassy/the recommending authorities.

7. Education at GRIPS

All lectures and practical training are conducted in English.

8. Application Documents Required

Applicants may only apply to GRIPS once in an academic year.

Note: application for more than one GRIPS program is not permitted.

- ① Application form for the School of Government Course (1 original; use the designated form)
Please paste the photograph or insert the digital image (e.g., JPEG) onto the Application form.
- ② Recommendation letter from the recommending authority (1 original)
- ③ Two (2) letters of recommendation (1 original for each letter; use the designated form)
Your letters of recommendation must be written by faculty members or job supervisors who are familiar with your academic and/or professional abilities. At least one and preferably two should be written by your immediate superiors at work.

You are required to obtain the letters from your recommenders using the designated form and submit them. Each of your letters must contain the four A4 pages provided. Letters submitted that do not use our designated forms will not be accepted. They must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes signed across the flap by the recommender.
- ④ • ⑤ Official transcripts of academic record and graduation/degree certificates (1 original for each document)
You are advised to show the instructions below to registrars at each of the universities that you attended when you request issuance of transcripts/certificates in accordance with our requirements.

You must submit official transcripts of academic record and graduation/degree certificates from all undergraduate

and graduate institutions that you attended/graduated from. These must be documents issued by the university and bearing the seal or signature of the registrar, and they must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes with the university logo and address noted; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authorities.

④ Official transcripts of academic record

Official transcripts should contain the following information:

- Name of the degree program/course
- Enrollment period
- Names of all courses taken and grades received
- Grading scale including the maximum grade point/score

If you are currently attending a university, please submit your most recent transcript.

⑤ Official graduation/degree certificates

Official certificates should state the name of your degree and the date the degree was awarded. Provisional or temporary graduation/degree certificates are not acceptable. DO NOT send your original diploma, as documents will not be returned.

If you are currently attending a university, you must submit an authorized statement certifying the specific date of graduation and the title of the expected degree.

Important notes

- Photocopies of transcripts/certificates that have been verified by a notary public are not acceptable.
- If a university has a policy not to issue more than one official transcript/certificate, you may submit official photocopies verified by the university. To be official, these must bear the institution's official stamp or the signature of the registrar. They must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes with the university logo and address noted; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authorities.
- If a university cannot issue an official English version of your transcript/certificate, you are required to submit both:
 - The official transcript/certificate (photocopies are not acceptable), written in its original language and bearing the institution's stamp or the signature of the registrar, and
 - An official verbatim English translation of the document, prepared by an accredited translator.

⑥ Official evidence of English ability (1 original)

One of the following test scores is required:

1. TOEFL iBT
2. IELTS Academic
3. Other equivalent test

Admission priority will be given to applicants who have a TOEFL iBT score of 79 or higher, or an IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or higher, or other equivalent test scores.

Please note that English test scores are valid for two years from the test date, and therefore, tests must have been taken within two years of the time of enrollment at GRIPS. If you submit the results of a different test of English proficiency, please submit a conversion of the score to TOEFL or IELTS.

How to apply for a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement

There are two categories in our English test exemption policy.

Category 1: Applicants who have completed or expect to complete an undergraduate or a graduate degree at an accredited institution located in the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or Ireland will be automatically exempted from submitting an English test score.

Category 2: Applicants who have completed or expect to complete an undergraduate or a graduate degree at an institution where the language of instruction is English may request a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement. If you wish to apply for such a waiver, you must submit official documents issued by the educational institution you attended, certifying that your undergraduate or graduate education was conducted entirely in English. If the official transcript of your academic record or graduation/degree certificate includes that information, you need not submit a separate document. This document must bear the seal or signature of the registrar, and it must be submitted in a sealed, unopened envelope with the university logo and address noted; the envelope must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authority. You are advised to show these instructions to the registrar at

the university that you attended when you request issuance of the document in accordance with our requirements.

⑦ Copy of your passport (1 photocopy)

You must submit a copy of the page(s) with your name, nationality, date of birth and photo. If you do not possess a passport, please submit a copy of your family register or certificate of citizenship.

⑧ Essay explaining applicant's aspirations and future plans following program completion (1 original)

You must submit a 3-page essay describing your reason/motivation for applying, future plans and expectations from the program as well as future career goals.

⑨ Answers to the essay questions (1 original)

⑩ Certificate of health (1 original, use the designated form)

A certificate of health must be issued by the medical institution designated by the Japanese Embassy; all items must be completed, and all comments must be written in English in block letters. If there is a change in your health condition (including any serious changes relating to your life plan) after you have submitted your health certificate, please promptly notify the Japanese Embassy of the details since it concerns the acceptance system of GRIPS and Japanese medical institutions.

Notes for application documents

- (1) Please note that if you provide any false or misleading statements or incomplete or inaccurate information in your application, your application may be rejected from screening, you may be denied admission to GRIPS, or, if you have been admitted, you may be dismissed from GRIPS.
- (2) A complete set of your required application documents must reach your recommending authority by the designated deadline. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- (3) All materials submitted by an applicant become the property of GRIPS and will not be returned. Please make sure to keep one copy of your application for your records.
- (4) All documents must be in English. If the document is prepared in other languages, an English translation by an accredited translator should be provided.
- (5) Application documents to be prepared solely by the applicant should be typed by computer wherever possible (A4 size paper and single-sided printing are preferable). If circumstances require, documents legibly handwritten with a ballpoint pen are acceptable.
- (6) If your name as written in your application is different from that on the document(s) you submit, and if there is some reason (e.g. marriage) for the difference, please submit official documentation of that reason (e.g. marriage certificate).
- (7) Photocopies will not be accepted.
- (8) Digital copies sent by e-mail will not be accepted.
- (9) Number the documents from ① to ⑩ (the items numbered in the list) in the upper right corner of each document.

9. Unavoidable Circumstances

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, the Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines herein provided, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including embassies and consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including a local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other foreign countries' government due to the outbreak of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike, or lockout.

10. Notes

- (1) If you plan to have your family members join you in Japan as dependents, after you arrive in Japan, you need to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for Dependent Visa (which covers only your dependent spouse and children) at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau on behalf of your family members. For more information, please visit: [Residence status "family stay" | Immigration Services Agency](#)

Depending on individual circumstances, there were cases where dependent family members' visa applications were delayed, or even rejected. We advise you to think very carefully about bringing your family to Japan, by taking all matters into consideration.

- (2) Before departing for Japan, the grantees should acquire information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions of the university to be attended in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country. The grantees are also recommended to learn the Japanese language necessary for their daily life.
- (3) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee is recommended to bring at least approximately US \$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.
- (4) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account at Japan Post Bank (JP Bank) opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship payments to other accounts.
- (5) Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis following a medical exam must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee's arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.
- (6) Grantees must enroll in the National Health Insurance program (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) at his/her own expense upon arrival in Japan.
- (7) It is suggested that grantees acquire an "Individual Number Card (My Number Card)" upon arrival in Japan.
- (8) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, career path after completion of scholarship, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with other relevant government organizations for the purpose of utilization by overseas students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the overseas student system).
Information regarding MEXT Scholarship Students (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be included in publicity materials prepared by the Japanese Government for promoting the acceptance of overseas students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world.
These terms and conditions are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Those who consent to this treatment will be admitted as MEXT Scholarship Students.
- (9) In principle, receiving another scholarship from an organization (including a government organization of the home country) other than the Japanese government (MEXT or other Japanese government organization) is permitted. However, applicants should consult with the Japanese Embassy in the home country in advance, since some scholarships may not be combined.
- (10) If an applicant is judged not to meet the conditions for landing in Japan, he/she may be rejected.
- (11) All personal information that we receive from applicants will be used only for the purposes of admissions screening, collecting statistical information, student registration, and educational affairs.
- (12) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for complementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.
- (13) If there are any questions about the content of the written text in this Application Guideline or any other matters, applicants/grantees should inquire at the Japanese Embassy in the applicant's country and follow their instructions.
- (14) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this Application Guideline, any regulations that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese Government.

Young Leaders' Program (School of Government) Curriculum Guidelines

I Basic Concepts

1. Each subject will deal with theories based not only on the experiences of the so-called modern Western World, but also on those concerned with the historical experiences of Japan and other non-Western countries. While analyzing commonalities in the modernization process along with its various possibilities, the courses seek to find the most desirable method for each country's modernization. (Comparative Approach)
2. Through modernization, our thoughts and ideas undergo deep transformations. However, the curriculum will not be concerned with modern ideas alone, but will also incorporate basic premises from the classical civilizations and ideas of the great thinkers. (Emphasis on liberal arts education aiming at self-relativization and critical thinking)
3. Going beyond instruction that is related to skills and knowledge, the curriculum will emphasize the fostering of students' ideas; identifying problems; and developing the ability to arrive at their own solutions. (Emphasis on discussion and self-study)
4. Through encounters with leading figures from all areas (including other promising young students), the curriculum aims to create human networks and further understanding about Japan.
5. By offering a broad range of courses, the curriculum encourages students to establish policymaking abilities required of national leaders who are knowledgeable in a broad range of areas.

II Students

The course is designed for young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in Asia and Central Europe as future national leaders.

III Courses (Courses offered are subject to change)

1. Required Courses (3 credits)
 - The World and the SDGs
 - Introduction to Japan
2. Recommended Courses (At least 8 credits)
 - Microeconomics I
 - Essential Microeconomics
 - Contemporary Japanese Economy
 - Japanese Economy
 - Economic Development of Japan
 - Government and Politics in Japan
 - International Relations
 - International Political Economy
 - International Security Studies
 - Comparative Politics
 - Structure and Process of Government
 - Leadership and Knowledge Creation
 - GRIPS Forum I
 - GRIPS Forum II
3. Elective Courses (Credits for the graduation requirement)
 - Macroeconomics I
 - Government and Market
 - Data Science for Public Policy
 - International Trade
 - Development Economics

- Japanese Foreign Policy
- Human Resources Management
- Social Security System in Japan
- Introduction to Data Science I
- Introduction to Data Science II
- Local Government System and Finance
- Local Governance in the Changing World

4. Colloquium (2 credits) (Required Course)

This course will provide an opportunity to participate in lectures by, and discuss various issues with, many distinguished government leaders and business executives. The Colloquium will be organized fifteen or sixteen times a year, from the fall to the spring terms.

5. Independent Study (4 credits) (Required Course)

Students will produce a research paper on a topic of their choice, under the guidance of designated advisors. Students are allowed to conduct related fieldwork upon request.

6. Field Trip (2 credits) (Required Course)

Field Trip to a variety of places, such as regional offices of the central government, local governments, industrial facilities, historical heritage sites, and cultural assets in the different regions of Japan will be arranged during the fall term.

7. Other Educational Activities

Japanese Language Class

All lectures are conducted in English, making it unnecessary for students to master Japanese. However, Japanese language courses will be offered to students who wish to further their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

IV Further information

For more information on GRIPS, please visit: <https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/>

APPLICATION FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP

日本政府（文部科学省）奨学金留学生申請書

Young Leaders' Program Student for 2026 School of Government
 ヤング・リーダーズ・プログラム留学生（行政コース）

INSTRUCTIONS (記入上の注意)

- The application must be typewritten if possible, or neatly handwritten in block letters. (明瞭に記入すること。)
 - Numbers should be in Arabic figures. (数字は阿拉伯数字を用いること。)
 - Year should be written in the Anno Domini system. (年号はすべて西暦とすること。)
 - Proper nouns should be written in full, and not be abbreviated. (固有名詞はすべて正式な名称とし、一切省略しないこと。)
- *Personal data entered in this application will only be used for scholarship selection purposes, and contact information such as e-mail addresses will only be used for forming related human networks after the student returns home and for sending of information by the Japanese Government.
 (本申請書に記載された個人情報については、本奨学金の選考のために使用するほかは、特にE-mail アドレス等の連絡先については、帰国後における関係者のネットワークを作ること、及び必要に応じて日本政府より各種情報を送信する以外には使用しない。)
- Please complete each section as fully and accurately as possible. Please respond to all questions. The information you provide is essential in reviewing your application. Please note that if you provide any false or misleading statement or incomplete or inaccurate information in your application, your application may not be screened, you may be denied admission or, if you have been admitted, you may be dismissed from GRIPS. (提出書類の記載事項が事実と相違していることが判明した場合には、入学後であっても入学を取り消すことがある。)

1. Name in full in Your Native Language (姓名(自国語))

(Sex)
 Male (男)
 Female (女)

 (Family Name/Surname) (First Name) (Middle Name)

In Roman Block Capital Letters (as written in your passport)
 (ローマ字、パスポート表記がある場合は、それに合わせること)

(Marital Status)
 Single (未婚)
 Married (既婚)

 (Family Name/Surname) (First Name) (Middle Name)

2. Nationality (国籍) 2-2. Possession of Japanese Nationality (日本国籍を有する者)

Yes, I have. (はい)
 No, I don't have. (いいえ)

3. Date of Birth (生年月日)

19 _____
 Year (年) Month (月) Day (日)

Age (年齢) : as of October 1, 2026
 (2026年10月1日現在の年齢)

Photograph

Taken within the last 6 months, providing a clear, front view of your entire face.

Write your name and nationality in block letters on the back of the photo.

(写真 (6 × 4 cm))

4. Present Occupation (現職)

Present Position (役職名) Department/Section (部署) Employer (勤務先)

 Address (住所) Postal Code (郵便番号)

 TEL (電話番号) Work Email (職場Eメールアドレス)

5. Residential Address (現住所)

Address (住所)

Postal Code (郵便番号)

↳ If the above present home address will be changed at the time of leaving from your country, please specify the changed address below. (渡日時の住所が上記現住所から変更になることが確定している場合は、下記に記入すること。)

Tel. (電話番号)

Personal E-mail (個人Eメールアドレス)

* If possible, write an E-mail address where you can be contacted for periods that include the time before you come to Japan, your stay in Japan and the period after you return home.

(可能な限り、渡日前～日本留学中～帰国後にわたり使い続けることが予想されるEメールアドレスを記入すること。)

6. Field of Study Specialized in the Past (Be as detailed and concrete as possible.)

(過去に専攻した専門分野 (できるだけ具体的に詳細に書くこと。))

7. Education History (学歴)

		Full Name of Institution & Location (学校名及び所在地)	Year and Month of Enrollment (入学年月)	Year and Month of Graduation (卒業年月)	Duration of Schooling (修学年数)	Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years and Levels (学位・資格、専攻科目、飛び級の状況)
Primary Education (初等教育)	Elementary School (小学校)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	
	Lower Secondary Education (Middle School/Junior High School) (中学校)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	
Secondary Education (中等教育)	Upper Secondary Education ((Senior) High School) (高校)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	*-1
	Undergraduate (Bachelor's) (大学)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	
Tertiary (Higher) Education (高等教育)	Graduate (Master's/Doctoral) (大学院)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	

Total Number of Years and Months of Education (以上を通算した全学校教育修学年数)
As of October 1, 2026 (2026年10月1日現在) _____ Years and _____ months
(年) (月)

*If the blank spaces above are not sufficient for information required, please attach a separate sheet. In such case, please stipulate that the information is on a separate page.

((注) 上欄に書ききれない場合には、適当な別紙に記入して添付すること。その場合は、別紙に記入する旨を上記学歴欄に明記すること。)

- Notes:
1. Exclude kindergarten and/or nursery school education. (幼稚園・保育所教育は含まれない)
 2. Preparatory education for university admission should be included in upper secondary school. (いわゆる「大学予備教育」は中等教育に含まれる。)
 3. If you have passed a high school equivalency examination (and did not graduate from high school), indicate as such in the fifth column (Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years and Levels) with *-1. (高等学校卒業程度資格を有している場合には、その旨を*-1欄に記入すること。)
 4. Any school years or levels skipped should be indicated in the fifth column (Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years and Levels). (Example: Skipped senior year for early graduation)
(いわゆる「飛び級」をしている場合には、その旨を該当する教育課程の「学位・資格、専攻科目、飛び級の状況」欄に記載すること。
(例: 3年次を飛び級により短期卒業))
 5. If you attended multiple schools at the same level of education due to moving house or readmission to university, write the names of the schools in the same column. (住居の移転や大学の再入学等を理由に、同教育課程で複数の学校に在籍していた場合は、同じ欄に複数の学校の在籍を記載すること。)
 6. Calculate and write the total number of years and months of education you will have completed at the time of your enrolment at GRIPS, based on your total time as a student (as detailed above, including extended leave such as summer vacation). (修学年数合計は在籍期間を算出し、記入すること。(長期休暇も含める))

8. Employment Record (List your current and previous employment (up to three positions) in reverse chronological order, starting with your most recent position.)

(職歴: 過去の役職から現職も含めて3つ記入すること)

*****At least 3 years of full-time work experience in public administration is required.*****

(行政機関等において、常勤職員として3年以上の実務経験が必須)

Name and Location of Organization (勤務先及び所在地)	Department/Section (部署名)	Position (役職名)	Job Description (職務内容)	Period of Employment (勤務期間) YYYY/MM to YYYY/MM
Present occupation: To be shown in the former page (現職: 前のページに表記済)				From To Present
				From To
				From To

*If the blank spaces above are not sufficient for information required, please attach a separate sheet.

((注) 上欄に書ききれない場合には、適当な別紙に記入して添付すること。)

9. Extracurricular and Regional Activities (課外活動又は地域社会での活動)

(課外活動又は地域社会での活動)	(期間)

10. English Proficiency (英語能力)

Score of TOEFL iBT
(TOEFL のスコア)

Score of IELTS Academic
(IELTS のスコア)

Date of the Test
(受験日)

_____ or _____ 20
Year (年) Month (月) Day (日)

11. Accompanying Dependents : Provide the following information if you plan to bring your spouse and children.
(同伴家族欄 (日本に同伴する予定の配偶者・子供がいる場合に記入すること。))

× Note that only (a) a spouse or (b) a spouse and children are allowed as accompanying dependents. Grantees are required to take all necessary procedures for their Dependent Visa after arriving in Japan, and such visa applications may be delayed, or even rejected. All expenses incurred by the presence of dependents must be borne by the grantee.

(注) なお、扶養家族として同伴できるのは、(a)配偶者、または(b)配偶者と子のみ。奨学生は日本到着後、扶養家族ビザの取得に必要な手続きをすべて行う必要がある。ビザ申請は遅延または却下される場合がある。同伴者に必要な経費はすべて自己負担である。

Name (氏名)	Relationship (続柄)	Age (年齢)

12. Person to be notified in applicant's home country, in case of emergency:

(緊急の際の母国連絡先)

i) Name in Full

(氏名) _____

ii) Address

(住所) _____

TEL (電話番号)

E-mail (Eメールアドレス)

iii) Occupation

(職業) _____

iv) Relationship

(本人との関係) _____

If you understand and accept all the matters stated in the Application Guidelines for the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship for 2026 and apply for it, check the box on the right. (2026年度日本政府(文部科学省)奨学金留学生募集要項に記載されている事項をすべて了解して申請する場合は右記の□にチェックを入れること。)



Date of Application
(申請年月日) _____

Applicant's Name
(in Roman Block Capitals)
(申請者氏名) _____

Essay Questions

The following essay questions will provide us with more information about you and your reasons for applying to the Young Leaders' Program.

Your essays must be typed. Please use A4-size paper or 8 1/2" × 11" paper. Strictly limit your responses to the maximum number of words designated for each question. Use standard double-spaced lines. Your name should appear at the top of each separate sheet of paper. The number of the essay question should precede every essay. Staple the essays together and submit them with the other application materials.

1. What are your most significant accomplishments, activities, and life experiences to date? Please emphasize the events which highlight your unique abilities and personality. (maximum 500 words)
2. What is your leadership philosophy? Describe key individuals and/or experiences that shaped your philosophy. (maximum 500 words)

Supplemental Question

3. How did you become interested in the Young Leaders' Program? Please list specific information sources such as publications, alumni, faculty, and websites. (maximum 200 words)

健康診断書 (2026年度版)

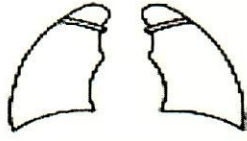
(医師に記入してもらうこと)

日本語又は英語により明瞭に記載すること。

CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH (for 2026)

(to be completed by the examining physician)

Please fill out (PRINT/TYPE) in Japanese or English.

氏名 Name		Surname 姓		Given name 名		Middle name ミドルネーム	
性別 Gender		<input type="checkbox"/> 男 Male <input type="checkbox"/> 女 Female		生年月日 Date of Birth		年 月 日 yyyy mm dd	
1. 身体検査 Physical examination							
(1)身長 Height				(2)体重 Weight			
cm				kg			
(3)血圧 Blood pressure				(4)血液型 Blood type			
mmHg~ mmHg				<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> AB <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> RH+ <input type="checkbox"/> RH-			
(5)脈拍 Pulse				(7)色覚異常の有無 Color blindness			
<input type="checkbox"/> 整 Regular <input type="checkbox"/> 不整 Irregular /min				<input type="checkbox"/> 正常 Normal <input type="checkbox"/> 異常 Impaired			
(6)視力 Eyesight Value				(8)聴力 Hearing			
裸眼 Without glasses 右/R 左/L				<input type="checkbox"/> 正常 Normal <input type="checkbox"/> 異常 Impaired			
矯正 With glasses or contact lenses 右/R 左/L				(9)言語 Speech			
				<input type="checkbox"/> 正常 Normal <input type="checkbox"/> 異常 Impaired			
2. 胸部聴診及びX線検査 (6ヶ月以内) Physical and X-ray examinations of the chest (within six months)							
撮影年月日 Date of X-ray				フィルム番号 Film No.			
yyyy mm dd							
				(1)肺 Lungs			
				<input type="checkbox"/> 正常 Normal <input type="checkbox"/> 異常 Impaired			
				(2)心臓 Cardiomegaly			
				<input type="checkbox"/> 正常 Normal → (4)へ Go to (4) <input type="checkbox"/> 異常 Impaired → (3)へ Go to (3)			
(3)心電図 Electrocardiograph				<input type="checkbox"/> 正常 Normal <input type="checkbox"/> 異常 Impaired			
(4)胸部X線所見 Comment for the chest X-ray.							
3. 現在治療中の病気 Disease currently being treated							
<input type="checkbox"/> 無 No <input type="checkbox"/> 有 Yes (病名 Name of disease:)							
4. 既往症 Past illness/disorder							
<input type="checkbox"/> なし None of below							
該当するものにチェックし、完治時期/治療中を記入、いずれも該当しない場合は「なし」にチェックすること。 If it's applicable, tick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and fill in the date of recovery/under treatment. If NOT contracted any of them in the past, tick "None of below".							
<input type="checkbox"/> 結核 Tuberculosis <input type="checkbox"/> その他1 Other disease name () <input type="checkbox"/> マラリア Malaria <input type="checkbox"/> その他2 Other disease name () <input type="checkbox"/> その他感染症 Other communicable disease <input type="checkbox"/> その他3 Other disease name () <input type="checkbox"/> てんかん Epilepsy <input type="checkbox"/> その他4 Other disease name () <input type="checkbox"/> 腎疾患 Kidney disease <input type="checkbox"/> その他5 Other disease name () <input type="checkbox"/> 心疾患 Heart disease <input type="checkbox"/> その他6 Other disease name () <input type="checkbox"/> 糖尿病 Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> 薬剤アレルギー Drug allergy <input type="checkbox"/> 精神疾患 Psychosis <input type="checkbox"/> 四肢機能障害 Functional disorder in the extremities							
5. ワクチン接種歴 Vaccination History							
接種済みの場合、接種回数を記入 If already vaccinated, indicate the number of vaccinations							
<input type="checkbox"/> MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Zoster)				Time(s)			
<input type="checkbox"/> MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)				<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B			
<input type="checkbox"/> MR (Measles, Rubella)				<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken pox			
<input type="checkbox"/> M (Measles)				<input type="checkbox"/> Meningitis			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mumps				<input type="checkbox"/> Polio			
				<input type="checkbox"/> Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus combined			
6. 検査 Laboratory tests							
(1)尿検査 Urinalysis		Glucose		<input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive		蛋白 Protein	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive		潜血 Occult blood	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive			
(2)貧血検査 Anemia test		赤沈 ESR		mm/hr		白血球数 WBC count	
						/cmm	
						血色素量 Hemoglobin	
						gm/dl	
						<input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive	
(3)肝機能検査 LFT		GPT (ALT)		IU/l		GOT (AST)	
						IU/l	
						γ-GTP	
						IU/l	
7. 医師の診断・意見 Physician's Impression of the applicant's health							
(1) 総評 Overall impression							
(2) 継続的治療・投薬の必要性がありますか。 Is there a need for regular treatment and medication?							
<input type="checkbox"/> なし No <input type="checkbox"/> 必要あり Yes → (1)へ記入 Fill in (1)							
(3) 志願者の既往歴、診察・検査の結果から判断して、現在の健康の状況は十分に留学に耐えうるものと思えますか？ In view of the applicant's history and the above findings, is it your observation that his/her health status is adequate to pursue studies in Japan?							
<input type="checkbox"/> はい Yes <input type="checkbox"/> いいえ No							
必ず「はい」又は「いいえ」にチェックしてください。「はい」にチェックがない場合、大使館は申請を受理しません。Please be sure to check either "YES" or "NO". If you do not tick "YES", the Embassy will NOT accept the application.							
医師署名 Physician's Signature				日付 Date			
検査施設名				所在地			

Recommendation Form

To the Applicant

Please complete only the top portion of this form. Your recommender should complete the rest of the form.

Applicant's Name (Family)	(Given)	(Middle)

To the Recommender

The person whose name appears above is applying for admission to the Young Leaders' Program.

Please provide your recommendation on your own letterhead or stationery. The Admissions Committee values the recommender's direct contact with the candidate. In your letter, please answer the following questions as candidly and specifically as possible:

Please return this form and your recommendation to the applicant in a sealed envelope, with your signature across the seal. The applicant will submit the sealed, signed envelope to us as part of the completed application package.

The Admissions Committee is aware of the time and care necessary to prepare this form. We gratefully acknowledge your help.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. How often have you observed the applicant? (Please tick one box)

- every day 3 or 4 times a week 1 or 2 times a week 1 or 2 times a month
- less than once a month

9. Please write if you have any comment.

Please provide telephone numbers should the Admissions Committee feel a need to contact you regarding the reference.

Business Telephone Number _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Recommender's Signature _____

Recommender's Name (please print) _____ Date _____

Position or Title _____ Organization _____

Business Address _____

Home Address _____

Outline of Young Leaders' Program

1. Objectives

The Young Leaders' Program (YLP) is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs commenced in 2001. YLP aims to contribute to cultivate future national leaders in Asian and other countries, moreover, to contribute to establish friendly relationship among various countries and to improve policy planning activities by forming a network among national leaders through deepening their understanding of Japan.

2. Eligible Countries and Participants

Young public administrators, business managers and legal professionals who are expected to play active roles as future national leaders in Asian and other countries have an eligibility to apply for the YLP program. (See below 3 for Courses, Host Universities and details about eligible participants.)

3. Courses and Host Universities

There are five courses in the YLP Program (Government, Local Governance, Business Administration, Law and Healthcare Administration). All courses commence in September or October, and offer a one-year master's program conducted in English. Students who complete the course are awarded a Master's Degree. The host universities of the courses are as follows:

Courses	Host Universities	Number of Accepted Students Per Year	Eligible Participants (Professional Experience*)
School of Government	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	20	Those who have at least 3 years of full-time work experience (preferably 5 years or more) in public administration
School of Local Governance	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	10	Those who have at least 3 years of full-time work experience (preferably 5 years or more) in public administration
Business Administration	Hitotsubashi University	15	Entrepreneurs, business managers and public officials who have at least 2 years of full-time work experience
Law	Kyushu University	15	Those who have at least 4 years of work experience in a law office or in the legal section of a company or government department
Healthcare Administration	Nagoya University	10	Those who have at least 3 years of full time working experience in healthcare fields in public sector at government department

* Please find more details about eligibility of applicants from the Application Guidelines of each course.

4. Recruitment and Selection

The recruitment of applicants and nomination of candidates to the Embassy of Japan are conducted by the recommending institutions (*). Subsequently, the selection is conducted in the following process.

- (1) First screening by the host universities (through document screening and interview)
- (2) Second screening by the YLP Committee established by MEXT
- (3) Finalization of selection results by MEXT

(* Roles of Recommending Institutions

Recommending institutions are government bodies and relevant organizations in the eligible countries qualified by MEXT to take roles of recruitment and nomination of candidates to the YLP program. MEXT also designates courses of which each recommending institution can nominate candidates. The roles of recommending institutions in the process of recruitment and nomination are as follows (See 'GUIDELINES FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026: YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENTS' for more details.):

- Notification about the YLP Program and acceptance of applications
- Selection of candidates to be recommended
- Recommendation of candidates to the Embassy of Japan
- Notification of results to candidates

5. Scholarship Benefits for YLP Students (2026)

- (1) Allowance: 242,000 JPY per month
- (2) Education Fees: Fees for tuition, matriculation and entrance examination are exempted.
- (3) Traveling Costs: Airline tickets from his/her home country to Japan and vice versa are provided.

6. Further Information

For more details about recruitment and curriculum guidelines of each course, please find the latest version of the Application Guidelines. Please also see the following websites for details about each course.

- School of Government and School of Local Governance:
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/inter_programs/leader/
- Business Administration
Hitotsubashi University Business School, School of International Corporate Strategy (Hitotsubashi ICS)
<https://www.ics.hub.hit-u.ac.jp/admissions/mba/financing.html>
- Law
Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law
<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ylp-ll-m/>
- Healthcare Administration
Nagoya University, Graduate School of Medicine
https://www.med.nagoya-u.ac.jp/medical_E/laboratory/basic-med/social-science/ylp/

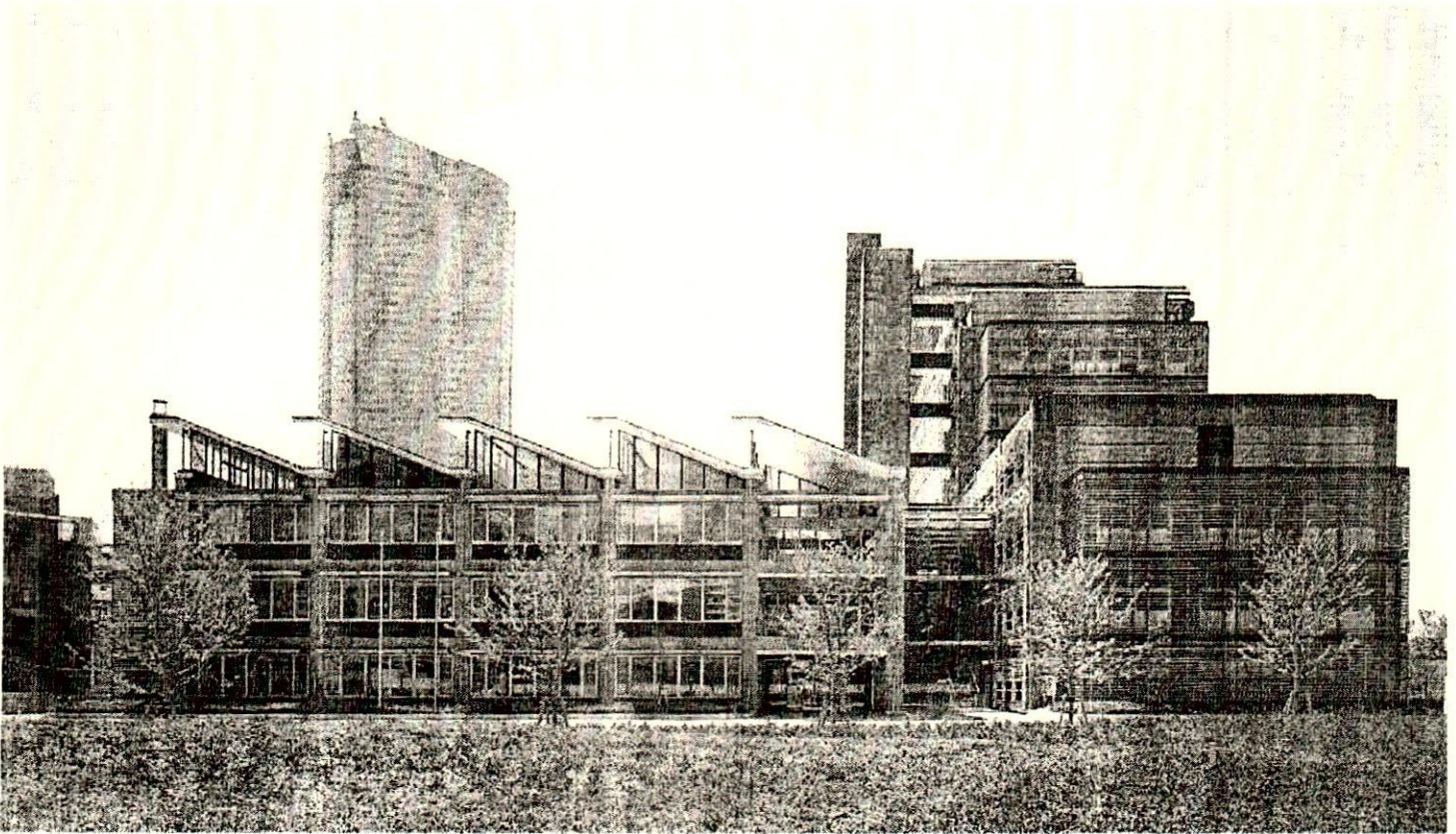
2026-2027

YLP-MEXT Scholarship Program

Young Leaders Program

School of Government

School of Local Governance



政策研究大学院大学
NATIONAL GRADUATE INSTITUTE
FOR POLICY STUDIES

A World of Opportunities for Young Leaders

Message from the Program Director

The Young Leaders Program (YLP) at GRIPS is a special master's degree program for promising young leaders in government. It is fully supported, including full scholarships for all students, by the Japanese government.

The YLP aims at nurturing future national leaders in Asia and other regions, forming international human networks of these leaders, establishing friendly relations among participating countries and improving the quality of public policy.

The specific content of the YLP is designed to provide young leaders with opportunities to enrich and enlarge their knowledge of global, regional and Japanese politics and economies, public administration and policies from comparative, historical and contemporary perspectives. The faculty is composed of eminent academics and former government officials with a wide range of experience in both national and local governments.

I hope you will join the YLP and realize your dream of contributing to your country and to the global community in your future career.



Hirofumi Takada
Director of Young Leaders Program
Vice President, Professor
*Specialty: Local Public Administration
and Finance, Local Revitalization*



Andrea Pressello
Deputy Director of Young Leaders Program (School of Government)
Professor
Specialty: Japan's diplomatic history and foreign policy

About GRIPS

The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) was founded in 1997 by the Japanese government as a stand-alone national graduate university focused on policy studies. Future policy leaders and researchers from all over the world gather here, forming an international research hub.

Photo: © Masao Nishikawa

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About the Program

The YLP is a one-year program that culminates in a Master's Degree in Public Policy. The YLP is part of the Japanese government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarship program.

The YLP has two parallel and overlapping programs run through the School of Government and the School of Local Governance. The curriculum for both courses is taught entirely in English and covers a wide range of topics concerning public administration and policy formulation. It also offers the opportunity for intensive discussion with politicians, high-level government officials, corporate directors, journalists and other leaders. The program includes a field trip and a workshop and requires a final paper based on independent study. There are opportunities to collaborate on policy research with other institutions, including Japan's central and local governments. The colloquium, which meets fifteen or sixteen times a year, is an unrivalled opportunity to discuss fresh ideas with eminent speakers.

Goals and mission

The goal of the YLP is to cultivate national leaders of the future in Asia and around the world. Participants gain a deep understanding of Japan through their activities and work during the program and build the foundations for a network of friendly relationships and improved policy planning capacity among national leaders.

Graduates from the YLP are expected to return to their former governmental organizations and apply their knowledge and experience to become strong leaders.

Target group

The YLP is for exceptionally promising young government officials who have already shown their dedication through work experience in public administration. Students are admitted on the basis of an appraisal of their potential to become future leaders at home, to play important roles in their countries' development and to maintain strong, long-lasting working relationships with Japan and other countries around the world.



2 Curriculum

Course Offerings for 2025-2026

School of Government

Category	Course Name	Credit
I Required Courses	The World and the SDGs	1
	Introduction to Japan	2
	Colloquium	2
	Independent Study	4
	Field Trip	2
II Recommended Courses	Microeconomics I	2
	Essential Microeconomics	4
	Contemporary Japanese Economy	2
	Japanese Economy	2
	Economic Development of Japan	2
	Government and Politics in Japan	2
	International Relations	2
	International Political Economy	2
	International Security Studies	2
	Comparative Politics	2
	Structure and Process of Government	2
	Leadership and Knowledge Creation	2
	GRIPS Forum I	1
	GRIPS Forum II	1
	III Elective Courses	Macroeconomics I
Government and Market		2
Data Science for Public Policy		2
International Trade		2
Development Economics		2
Japanese Foreign Policy		2
Human Resources Management		2
Social Security System in Japan		2
Introduction to Data Science I		2
Introduction to Data Science II		2
Local Government System and Finance		2
Local Governance in the Changing World		2
Selected Topics in Policy Studies I-IV		
Courses not listed in this table		
X Others	Courses offered by the Center for Professional Communication	

School of Local Governance

Category	Course Name	Credit
I Required Courses	The World and the SDGs	1
	Local Government System and Finance	2
	Local Governance in the Changing World	2
	Introduction to Japan	2
	Colloquium	2
	Independent Study	4
	Workshop	2
II Recommended Courses	Microeconomics I	2
	Essential Microeconomics	4
	Economic Development of Japan	2
	Government and Politics in Japan	2
	International Relations	2
	Structure and Process of Government	2
	Leadership and Knowledge Creation	2
	GRIPS Forum I	1
	GRIPS Forum II	1
	III Elective Courses	Macroeconomics I
Government and Market		2
Data Science for Public Policy		2
International Trade		2
Development Economics		2
East Asian Economies		2
Japanese Foreign Policy		2
International Security Studies		2
Human Resources Management		2
Social Security System in Japan		2
Small and Medium Enterprise and Technology		2
Introduction to Data Science I		2
Introduction to Data Science II		2
Selected Topics in Policy Studies I-IV		
Courses not listed in this table		
X Others	Courses offered by the Center for Professional Communication	

Courses offered in the program are subject to change. For the latest, please see https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/inter_programs/leader/



Coursework

The YLP offers a wide range of courses concerning public administration, economics, political science and policy formulation. In addition to the required courses, students can select subjects in accordance with their interests and needs. All courses are taught in English.

Colloquium

One of the unique features of the YLP is the Colloquium, where YLP students are offered an exclusive and unrivalled opportunity to discuss and share ideas with a diverse range of eminent speakers, including many distinguished government leaders and business executives. The Colloquium meets fifteen or sixteen times a year, from the fall to spring term.

Independent Study

Students work one-on-one with an instructor on their master's thesis (or "policy paper") on a particular topic related to public administration and policy formulation. There are also regular interactive seminars focused on discussions and presentations. All students will give a presentation on their research in June or July.

Students are supported in their research and writing by the Center for Professional Communication (CPC). The CPC organizes academic skills and writing workshops throughout the academic year and offers individual support through consultations and tutorials during final policy paper writing.

Field Trip (School of Government)

Educational field trip is organized and provide a great opportunity to learn about local governments and communities, and socioeconomic developments in Japan. The field trips complement what is being taught in the classrooms and take you to places that you may not be able to explore and learn about on your own. You will visit central and local government offices, cultural and historical heritage sites, and industrial facilities.

Workshop (School of Local Governance)

During the workshop, you will visit local governments to meet with officials who will share their first-hand experience and practice in policy planning and implementation. You will also have a chance to visit various facilities such as a day care center for elderly people and a local economic and tourism development facility. You may thus be able to catch a glimpse of how the Japanese local government system actually works in everyday life in Japan.



3

Student Support and Resources

One unique aspect of GRIPS is our extensive support system for assisting students in their daily living. We consider this aspect of your lives to be every bit as important as your academic life, especially for foreign scholars unfamiliar with Japan. As international students have comprised, on average, about 60% of the GRIPS student body over the last 20 years, we have developed comprehensive services to assist students in their day-to-day living.



The Student Office organizes orientation programs for incoming students and assists arriving international students in getting organized and settled in Japan. It also organizes a number of social events and activities, including field trips and Japanese cultural experiences. The Student Office also functions as a hub to promote interaction and understanding between Japanese and foreign nationals.

Faculty

GRIPS boasts a faculty of around 200 members, which includes world-class academics and distinguished practitioners with many years of experience in public- or private-sector policy analysis and management. Our faculty's expertise spans a wide array of policy issues and areas of research, which allow us to offer a broad range of courses in policy-related fields.

For more on our faculty members, please see <http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/about/directory/>



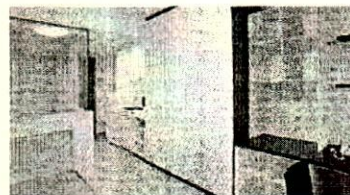
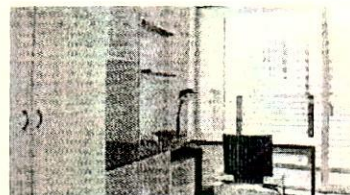
Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in the Tokyo International Exchange Center (TIEC), operated by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

Tokyo International Exchange Center Residence Halls

In the bayside area, built in 2001 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Room Types: Single, Couple, Family



Resources

Center for Professional Communication

The mission of the Center for Professional Communication is to support GRIPS' students, faculty, and staff in developing effective professional communication skills and competencies needed to communicate productively in an environment of multiple stakeholders. To that end, the CPC offers a range of instruction and support in fundamental areas of professional communication in English and Japanese including policy paper writing, professional speaking, grant proposal writing, and digital communications.

The CPC also provides opportunities for cultural and academic exchanges through a self-access learning center, organizes seminars and special events related to all aspects of professional communication, and prepares customized materials for students and staff on academic and professional writing and language learning.



The Center supports Japanese language learning of students who lack Japanese language proficiency for daily life and study. The

CPC's courses and workshops are designed to help students achieve greater competence in Japanese language comprehension and speaking. The Center also facilitates cultural and traditional experiences by organizing special events and cultural tours.

Center for Data Science

The progress of digital innovation has been making it possible to utilize diverse big data via the internet, and there arise immense expectations to the government for implementing effective policy based on precise predictions by the use of big data to provide better solutions to social problems. Needless to say, data science is crucial in this context. To deal with this circumstance, GRIPS launched the Center for Data Science in April 2022 for the purpose of promoting deeper data science education and research. Taking advantage of holding both specialized policymakers with extensive practical experience who are well-versed in actual policymaking processes and researchers in the field of policy science in academia, GRIPS will carry out activities to develop the Center for Data Science as a pioneering and unique data science research hub in the field of policy science, aiming at fostering policymakers suited for the 21st century.

Library

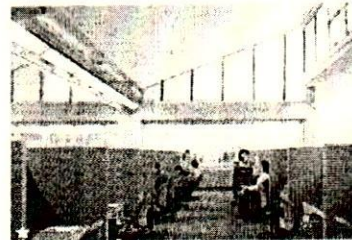
- Extensive collection of publications in the field of policy studies, collected from around the world
- Collection contains over 200,000 volumes, including reference books, statistical collections, working papers, and government documents
- Large collections of periodicals that include more than 17,000 journals, many of which are available online
- Well-trained staff are equipped to respond to research-related requests



Facilities

Student Rooms and IT Support Center

- Each student is provided with a study space, accessible 24 hours a day
- A computer help desk is open to all students during regular working hours



Health Services Center

- In-house health clinic
- Nurse on duty daily, doctor available several days a week
- Provides medical advice, basic medical examinations
- Will refer to an appropriate hospital or specialist when necessary

Fitness Center

- Running machines and other training equipment
- Showers
- Free use by students, faculty, and staff

4 Admissions

Eligibility

The YLP is open to young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders in their home countries. A minimum of three years of full-time work experience (five is preferable) in the field in the applicant's home country is a prerequisite for admission to the program.

The School of Government focuses on national policy-making and accepts students from 28 countries: China, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Republic of Türkiye.

The School of Local Governance focuses on enhancement of local governance and government to respond to various regional issues in such areas as education, health, social welfare, and local development. It accepts students from 19 countries:

China, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Republic of Türkiye, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania.

Admission to the YLP requires a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a recognized, accredited university of the highest standard as well as certifiable health. The applicant should be, in principle, under 40 years of age as of 1 October, 2026; should be proficient in English with a TOEFL iBT score of 79, IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or equivalent and must be able to obtain a Student visa prior to arrival in Japan.

Applicants are not eligible if they are unable to travel to Japan by the last date of the period specified by GRIPS. People who are active members of military forces or civilians employed by the military during any part of the scholarship period or who are enrolled in a Japanese university under Student status or plan to enroll at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student between the time of application for the YLP scholarship and the time the scholarship period is due to commence are also ineligible. Loss of status as public administrator or government official before completion of the program will also render participants ineligible.





Scholarships

An allowance of 242,000 yen per month (in FY 2025; amount is subject to change) will be provided to grantees during the term of the scholarship. Grantees who are absent from the university for long periods will no longer be provided with the scholarship. Application fee, admission fee and tuition will be paid by the Japanese government. An economy-class air ticket from your home country to Japan upon enrolment at GRIPS and an economy-class air ticket from Japan to your home country upon completion of your studies at GRIPS will be provided.

Application procedures

Applicants should obtain an application form from the Japanese embassies or recommending authorities in the eligible countries (please check the GRIPS website for details about the recommending authorities in your country). Applicants must submit the following documentation in hard copy: application, recommendation letter from the recommending authority, 2 letters of recommendation by your immediate superior at work or supervising professor of the university you attended, official transcripts of academic record and graduation/degree certificates, official evidence of English ability, passport copy, essays and certificate of health.

For details please see
http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/inter_programs/leader/



One of the greatest resources and joys of studying at GRIPS is the diversity of the student community. The connections you make at GRIPS are a valuable part of your degree. The GRIPS Alumni Network will ensure they are lifetime bonds by keeping you in touch with fellow alumni and the school.

As a GRIPS graduate, you join an impressive network of over 6,100 alumni, including 580 graduates from YLP, who are actively shaping future policies in over 120 countries and regions around the world. Connectivity and communication sit at the heart of the alumni community. We offer a variety of ways to remain engaged with GRIPS and strengthen your ties with fellow alumni around the globe. These include alumni reunions, seminars, a searchable alumni directory and online networking opportunities utilizing social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Number of YLP Alumni

Australia	Bangladesh	Brunei	Bulgaria	Cambodia	China	Czech Republic
24	17	4	8	33	38	15
Hungary	India	Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyz Republic	Laos
13	22	35	9	17	12	29
Malaysia	Mongolia	Myanmar	Pakistan	Philippines	Poland	Republic of Korea
30	7	25	25	39	28	16
Romania	Singapore	Slovakia	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Republic of Türkiye	Turkmenistan
12	4	6	12	46	3	4
Uzbekistan	Viet Nam					
37	10					
Total 580						

as of April 2025



Alumni Voices

Young Leaders Program (School of Government)



Ana D. Georgieva (Bulgaria, 2022)

Digital Transformation Policy and Project Officer, Eurocities.

Participating in the YLP was an unforgettable experience! I had the privilege to deepen my academic and professional knowledge and gain new perspectives through diverse courses taught by renowned academicians, while learning from and alongside young leaders from all around the world. I made valuable friendships and was deeply enriched by the people, history, culture and hospitality of Japan. Beyond the precious knowledge, skills and memories, I came away inspired to further cultivate in my professional and personal life the sense of harmony and balance inherent to Japanese culture – where even seemingly contradictory concepts and ideas can coexist beautifully.



Mohamad Shahrizan bin Omar (Malaysia, 2023)

Assistant Director, Prime Minister Department

The Young Leaders Program at GRIPS has broadened my horizons with a comprehensive understanding of international relations and development, economics, government structures, and more. The programme's structured curriculum is well-suited for mid-career officers like myself, equipping us with essential knowledge and analytical tools. The Professors are highly knowledgeable and experts in their respective fields. I also made strong connections with colleagues from many countries, which expanded my network and gave me new perspectives through our different diverse experiences. For me, YLP has been shaping my academic and professional capabilities, molding me into a more thoughtful, globally-minded, and purpose-driven future leader.



Magdalena Janas (Australia, 2023)

Adviser, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australia

My time in the Young Leaders Program (YLP) at GRIPS was a great privilege and a unique experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I learnt so much by connecting with other civil servants from across the world, and was challenged by passionate and knowledgeable professors across a broad range of interesting subjects. I also valued becoming more familiar with Japanese history, politics and culture both through the program and by virtue of living in Japan for a year. I found YLP incredibly valuable both personally and professionally, and would recommend it to any civil servant looking to expand their horizons.

Young Leaders Program (School of Local Governance)



Ananda Putri Sujatmiko (Indonesia, 2021)

Policy Analyst, Deputy Minister for Institutional Affairs and Governance,
Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform

Studying at GRIPS was a truly transformative experience! The university provided top-notch academic facilities and a curriculum that balanced theory with practical application—perfect for my role as a bureaucrat. I was taught by distinguished professors who remain supportive even after graduation. GRIPS also connected me with a global network of professionals, enriching my perspective on policy-making. The academic staff were incredibly helpful, both academically and personally. Located in vibrant Roppongi, GRIPS introduced me to the dynamic lifestyle and vibrant culture of Tokyo. I'm grateful and a true privilege to be a YLP alumna under the prestigious MEXT scholarship.



Raina Abdul Rashid (KAS) (India, 2023)

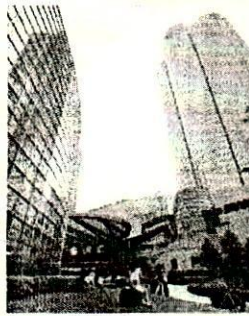
Officer on Special Duty, Project YUVA /Under Secretary, Labour & Employment Department,
Government of Jammu & Kashmir, India.

The Young Leaders Program (YLP) at GRIPS was a transformative experience that significantly shaped my professional journey. The academic rigor and insights from distinguished professors deepened my understanding of public policy and governance. Interacting with a cohort of emerging leaders broadened my perspective on administrative issues. Exposure to Japan's socio-economic framework and culture was equally enriching. The networks built continue to influence my work. The knowledge gained through YLP now supports my role as Officer on Special Duty in Project YUVA, an initiative to create 1.37 lakh enterprises and 4.25 lakh jobs for inclusive development.

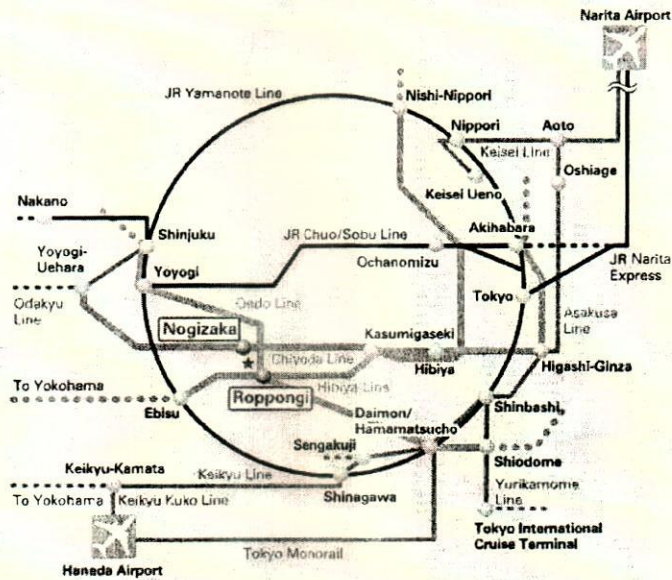
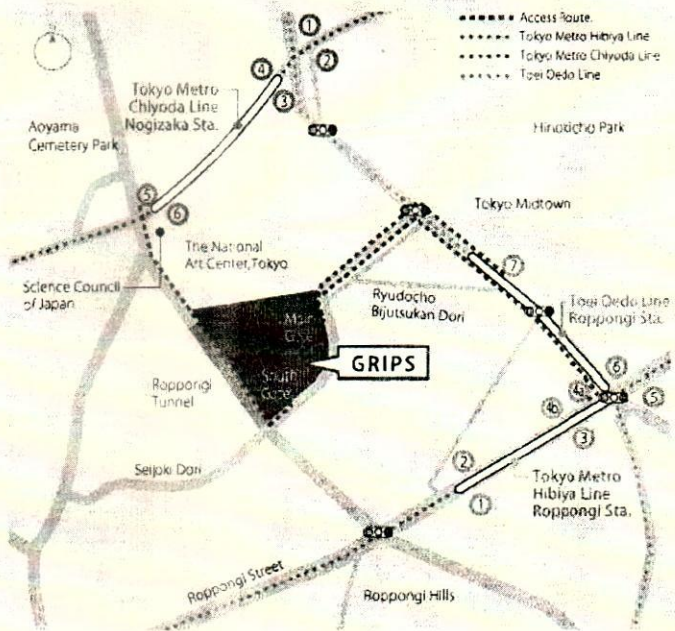
Address and Contact Information

Getting to GRIPS

The GRIPS building is located in the center of Tokyo, conveniently accessible by public transport. Both Nogizaka Station on the Chiyoda Line and Roppongi Station on the Oedo and Hibiya Lines are within 10 minutes walking distance.



Roppongi Hills



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