

# JDS Application Guidelines

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship in Bangladesh 2026



From
the People of Japan

JICA

# Contents


**I. Application Guidelines** **2**

1. About JDS Scholarship 2
2. System of JDS Bangladesh 2
3. Applicant Eligibility 3
4. JDS Operating Committee (OC) 3
5. Selection Process 4
6. Selection Criteria 5
7. Award Benefits 5
8. Important JDS Rules 5

**II. How to Succeed in Application** **6**

1. Application Documents 6
2. Submission of Application 7
3. Tips on Application and Selection (Reference) 8
4. Guidelines for Writing a Research Plan 10
5. FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) 12

**III. Sub-Program (SP) / Component (CP)** **13**

1. Framework of JDS Bangladesh 14
2. Information of Each Component (CP) 15-18

**IV. Special Trainings and Events** **19**

**V. Voice of JDS Graduates** **20-23**



**For Inquiries:**

**JICE JDS Project Office in Bangladesh**

**JDS Website**: https://jds-scholarship.org

**Email**: jds.bangladesh@jice.org, jds.bangladesh1@jice.org

**TEL**: +88-02-5502-8008 (Ext. 4261, 4973)

**Mobile**: +880-1711-565-138, +880-1714-390-175

**Office Hour**: 9:00-12:30 / 13:30-17:00, Sunday to Thursday

L-261, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

# I. Application Guidelines

## 1. About JDS Scholarship

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (**JDS**) was launched by the Government of Bangladesh with the assistance of the Government of Japan in 2001

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 Bangladesh government officers to study at two-year Master 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 Bangladesh. 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 are going to study at the highest-level research institutions in Japan. Fellows will conduct research with world top level researchers and acquire expertise to use for policy making and institutional building for the development of their country. Fellows will also have opportunities to build human network in and out of Japan through the two-year study in Japan. After the program, fellows can contribute to the development and prosperity of Bangladesh with those expertise and human network they built 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

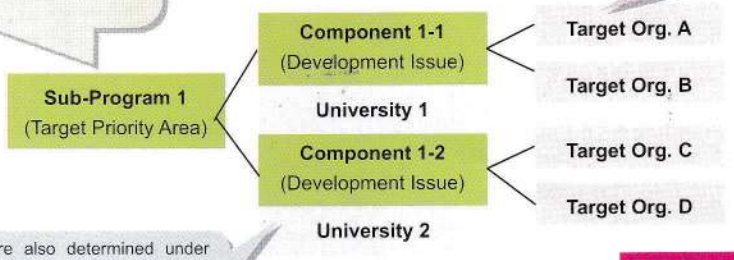


## 2. System of JDS Bangladesh

The framework of the JDS Project under the "New System" was made applicable to Bangladesh in 2009 and was revised in 2013, 2017,2021 and 2025. 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). This year's application is for the 2nd batch in phase 5.

The new JDS Project consists of the sectors called **"Sub-Program"** and **"Component"**, which correspond to and deal with the selected target priority areas and the relevant development issues, which were confirmed as indispensable to the economic and social development of the country.

The Fellows of the JDS Project are selected from the **"Target Organizations"** whose mission is closely related to the target priority areas (Sub-Program) and the relevant development issues (Component).




Accepting universities are also determined under each Component, which offers educational programs relevant to the needs of Bangladesh. The degree to be pursued is **master's degree (2 years course)**, and the medium of instruction is **English**.

**For further details**

P14 Framework of JDS Bangladesh
P15-18 Information on each Component

## 3. Applicant Eligibility

| | |
|---|---|
| **Nationality** | Citizens of Bangladesh |
| **Age** | **Below Forty (40) years** as of 1 April, 2027<br>(Born on/after 2 April 1987) |
| **Academic Background** | · Completed sixteen (16) years of school education with at least Bachelor's degree<br>· At least two (2) **GPA 3.50–5.00 on the 5.00 scale / CGPA of 3.00–4.00 on the 4.00 scale** in whole academic history (SSC to Bachelor and Masters (if any))<br>· No **GPA <2.00 on the 5.00 scale / CGPA 2.00 on the 4.00 scale.**<br>**Other requirements or desirability of academic background**<br>Keio University and Kyushu University in Conponent1-2 have requirement for academic background.<br>Check P16 [Information of Each Sub-Program / Component] for more details. |
| **Work Experience** | To be a confirmed member of **Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Cadres, Bangladesh Bank Class-1 Officials, Bangladesh Judicial Service (BJS) Officials, and 1st Class Officials of Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division**, with at least **two (2) years of work experience** at time of application. |
| **English Proficiency** | Have a good command of both written and spoken English, Submitting the IELTS score is mandatory. IELTS 6.0 or higher is preferable. The IELTS score taken after 1 June 2025 is valid.<br>**For Waseda University**, only certificates issued on or after **22 September 2025** are valid.<br>**(JICE will arrange IELTS Test for those who don't have valid score. The score result can be used only for JDS selections but not for other purposes.)** |
| **Health Condition** | Mentally and physically in good health. |
| **Ineligibility** | **A person corresponds to the followings is not eligible to apply**<br>· Those who are currently receiving (or scheduled to receive) another scholarship (including other scholarships of Japan).<br>· Those who have obtained a Master's or higher degrees overseas under the support of foreign scholarship.<br>· Those who have completed a Master's or Doctoral degree under deputation or study leave after joining the Civil Service, Judicial Service, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division or, Bangladesh Bank<br>**Exception**: Those who attended online or evening courses without taking paid leave are eligible to apply.<br>· Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list, and also personnel on temporary leave from the active list |
| **Others** | · We strongly encourage applications from government officials who understand the objectives of JDS: **to develop individuals who contribute to policy planning and formulation within the central government and to the strengthening of bilateral relations with Japan.**<br>Applicants should either be currently engaged in work aligned with these objectives or aspire to pursue a career path that supports them in the future. (Also refer to page 2.)<br>*From the perspective of Japanese foreign policy, priority under the JDS Project should be given to officials from ministries and agencies responsible for diplomacy, economic and fiscal policy, trade negotiations, and other institutions critical for strengthening relations with Japan.<br>· **Female candidates are encouraged to apply** |

## 4. JDS Operating Committee (OC)

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

**JDS Operating Committee (OC) Bangladesh**

**Government of Bangladesh**

Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Public Administration
Ministry of Planning
Ministry of Education

**Government of Japan**

Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh

JICA Bangladesh Office

**JICE (Japan International Cooperation Center)**

JICE provides management services for implementing the JDS project, which covers a wide range of services such as arrangements of recruitment and selection, and assistances for JDS Fellows studying in Japan

## 5. Selection Process

| Schedule | Steps | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Sep – Nov, 2026 | **Application** | **Closing Date: 4:00 p.m. on 30 November, 2026**<br>**Further details →** P6"Application Documents" |
| | ▼ | |
| Dec' 2026 | **Academic aptitude test** | IELTS and Math tests*: The test results will be reviewed by the universities in later selection stages.<br>* Applicants for Waseda University, Keio University and Kyushu University are exempted from the Math test<br>* The result of the Math test is referred as a basic skill. Evaluations of each selection mostly depend on your research proposal and interviews. |
| | ▼ | |
| Dec 2026 – Jan 2027 | **1st Selection** | **Document Screening:** Application Documents and research plan will be examined by the Japanese universities. |
| | ▼ | |
| Mid-March, 2027 | **Health Checkup** | The health checkup will be arranged by JICE at a hospital in Dhaka. |
| | ▼ | |
| Mid-March, 2027 | **2nd Selection** | **Technical Interview:** Faculty members of the Japanese Universities will visit to Dhaka to conduct their interview exams. |
| | ▼ | |
| Early April, 2027 | **3rd Selection** | **Comprehensive Interview:** The Operating Committee members will conduct the interview exams. |
| | ▼ | |
| Mid-April, 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 |
| Jul, 2027 | **Japanese Language Training** | Provided to successful candidates in Dhaka. (2 weeks) |
| Jul, 2027 | **Orientations** | Provided by JICA, EoJ and JICE |
| Aug, 2027 | **Departure for Japan** | JICE will arrange air-ticket, visa, and also support after the arrival in Japan |

**<Important Notes>**

- ✓ All the selection costs will be covered by the JDS project such as IELTS fees and Health Checkup fees.
- ✓ Limited transportation allowance will be provided to candidates coming from outside Dhaka district for the selections.
- ✓ An Applicant can submit only one application.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The results of each selection will be announced to all candidates by email.
- ✓ In principle, reasons of the selection results will not be disclosed.



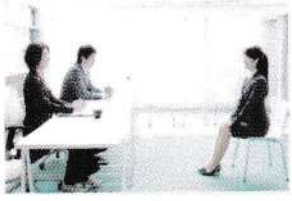
**IELTS & Math test**



**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<br>· Possibility of future contribution by utilizing acquired knowledge<br>· Contents of Research Plan<br>· Relevance between Research Plan and Sub-Program / Component (Development issues set by JDS)<br>· 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<br>· Capacity for completing the study in Japan<br>· Possibility of contributing to the development of the country<br>· 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 and strengthening bilateral relations with Japan<br>· Capacity to utilize outcomes of the study over the long term<br>· 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
- Book allowance
- 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 Economic Relations Division (ERD) to commit themselves to follow JDS Rules.

**During the stay in 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 in accordance with the regulations of the host university.
- The Fellows are prohibited from
  - **Working (Including part time jobs)**
    ***JDS fellows stay in Japan with "Student" VISA.**
  - **Driving motor vehicles**
    ***JDS fellows are not allowed to drive in Japan for safety reason.**
  - 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 Bangladesh at least 2 (two) years in the Target Organizations** in compliance with the Act of Pledge required by the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

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

# II. How to Succeed in Application

Applicants must properly complete two procedures by the application deadline:

1. Online application submitted by yourselves,
2. Applicants should either attach the permission letter specifically for the JDS 2026 Master degree application from their Controlling Authority in the online application system, or ensure that the Controlling Authority forwards it directly to the JICE Bangladesh Office by the application deadline.

   For further information for application, please check the online application manual which is also downloadable from JDS website(http://jds-scholarship.org/).

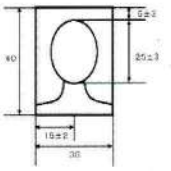
## 1. Application Documents

### 1) Download Application Documents

- All applicants are required to fill out online application form and upload sets of necessary documents to complete your application.
- Visit JDS website (http://jds-scholarship.org/) and find Prescribed Forms of Application Documents and use for online application.

### 2) List of Application Documents

- Documents written in other language than English need official English translation (without Document No.6" GO for job confirmation"). Self-translation is not acceptable.
- Submit "Reason Letter" in case where wrong information (e.g. wrong spelling of name, birthday, etc.) is contained in the ID and official documents due to administrative errors.
- Document No.12 "Basic Information, Educational Background, and Work Experience and Others Form" does not need to be submitted, but it is useful when you fill out the online application, so please make use of it.

| No | Application Documents | File Type | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Short Essays (Prescribed Form) | PDF (One file only) | ・Must be filled out in English. |
| 2 | Research Plan (Prescribed Form) | PDF (One file only) | |
| 3 | Academic Certificate | PDF (**Two** files) | ・SSC to Bachelor and (if any) Master or Equivalent (except training)<br>・If not written in English, attach official English Translation<br>・Please organize in chronological order (old to recent).<br>・Please divide it into **two PDF files** (SSC to Higher Secondary Education, and Bachelor and (if any)Higher Education) to upload. |
| 4 | Academic Marksheet/ Transcript | PDF (**Two** files) | ・SSC to Bachelor and (if any) Master or equivalent(except training)<br>・If not written in English, attach official English translation<br>・For Bachelor and Masters, copy of **all individual year** mark sheet / transcript should be submitted<br>・Please organize in chronological order (old to recent).<br>・Please divide it into **two PDF files** (SSC to Higher Secondary Education, and Bachelor-and (if any)Higher Education) to upload. |
| 5 | Reference Letter (Prescribed Form) | PDF (One file only) | ・Filled out by the current supervisor from your belonging org.<br>・Written in English or accompanied with official English translation. |
| 6 | GO for job confirmation | PDF (One file only) | ・GO for job confirmation to proof your employment.<br>・No English translation is required, even if written in Bengali. |
| 7 | Passport Copy | PDF (One file only) | ・Photo and information pages of valid passport<br>* If you are selected, you need to acquire an official passport. |
| 8 | Photo | JPG, JPEG, PNG, GIF (One file only) | - The photograph must show only the applicant.<br>- The dimensions of the area excluding the border must match those shown in the diagram below.<br>- A person without a hat, facing forward.<br>- Images without a background (including shadows).<br>- Those that are clear.<br>- Photos taken within 3 months prior to the Submission date.<br> |
| 9 | [If Any] IELTS certificate | PDF (One file only) | ・Official certificate of IELTS 6.0 or higher<br>・Must be valid until 31 May 2027 (taken on/after 1 June 2025)<br>・**For applicants to Waseda University,** must be valid until 21 September 2027 (taken on/after 22 September 2025) |
| 10 | [If Any] Permission Letter from the Controlling Authority | PDF (One file only) | **Option 1:**<br>Applicants may attach the Permission Letter for the JDS 2026 Master application from their Controlling Authority in the online application system<br>**Or,**<br>**Option 2:**<br>The Controlling Authority upon your request may forward Application |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Permission directly to the JICE Bangladesh Office via e-mail or post by the application deadline.<br>[For both cases above, follow your organization's policy.] |
| 11 | [For Applicant (2) to Keio University(P16)]<br>Statement of Reason for Requesting Applicant Eligibility Certification | PDF<br>(One file only) | ・An applicant to Keio University who **hasn't received** a Bachelor's degree in law or jurisprudence or a Juris Doctor degree is required to be submitted. |
| 12 | [If Any] Basic Information, Educational Background, and Work Experience and Others Form | - | ・No need to be submitted<br>・A form to help you consolidate the information for the online application<br>*By filling out all the information on this form before you start the online application, you can complete the process smoothly. |

## 2. Submission of Application

### 1) Steps for Online Application (Flow)

1. **Download the Prescribed Forms from JDS Website**

   Visit JDS website (http://jds-scholarship.org/) and find Prescribed forms of Application Documents

2. **Prepare the required documents**
   Please make sure all the documents requested in "2) List of Application Documents" (P6) are ready. Some documents may take a few weeks to obtain, so we recommend you start preparing as soon as possible.

3. **Access the online application system**
   Go to the Online Application Form (https://jds-scholarship.org/country/bangladesh/index.html) and complete your application by filling out the necessary information and uploading the required documents. Link to the Online Application Form is available on JDS Website.

4. **Receive an email**
   If the application is successfully completed, a confirmation email will be sent to you. If your application is not successfully completed, you will receive an error message. When you receive an error message, please contact JICE JDS Project Office immediately to ensure your application is completed by the deadline.

**Important Notice**

- If you are unable to connect to the Online Application Form, please notify JICE JDS Project Office immediately.
- If your application documents are incomplete or have any deficiencies, they cannot be accepted.
- There might be access concentration on the closing day of the application. However, application submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Once you submit your application, you will not be allowed to modify it.
- Do not submit more than one application.
- Application will be disqualified in case false statements and/or plagiarism are found.
- Application Documents will not be returned for any reason.

### 3) Deadline for Application Submission

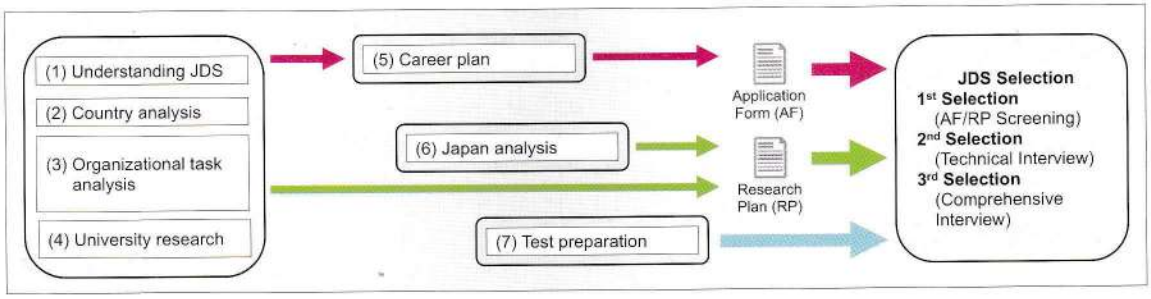
**Deadline for Application: 4:00 p.m. on 30 November, 2026**

Since the website may become congested on the final day of the application period, we recommend that you apply a few days before the deadline.

| JICE JDS Project Office in Bangladesh |
|---|
| **TEL** +88-02-5502-8008 (Ext. 4261, 4973) / **Mobile** +88 017-115-65-138 / +88 017-143-90-175 |
| **Email**: jds.bangladesh@jice.org, jds.bangladesh1@jice.org |
| **Office Hour**: 9:00 - 12:30 / 13:30 - 17:00, Sunday to Thursday |

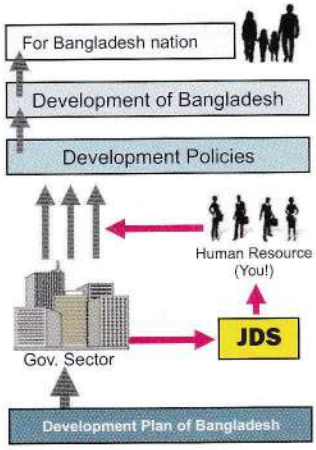
## 3. Tips on Application and Selection (Reference)

The better you prepare for the Application Documents, the more chances to pass the selection you have. Please spend more than 1 week to prepare the Application Documents, especially short essay and Research Plan. Here are some tips on the preparation of Application Form (AF) and Research Plan (RP).




**About the selection and criteria**

As shown in the chart above, you are advised to collect detailed information about JDS, Japan and the universities through literature survey and so on before applying to JDS. Also, it is important to know in advance about its selection and evaluation criteria (P5), and prepare your AF and, RP *with a view to winning the selection.*

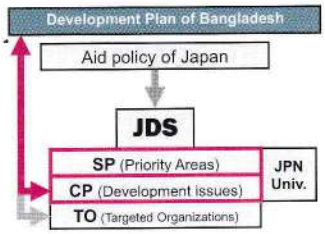



### (1) Understanding JDS

**Objectives and framework**

The objectives of JDS are written in P2. **"Sub-Program and Component (SP/CP)"** and **"Targeted Organizations (TO)"** are shown in P14. But, here, most importantly, you have to note the reasons why JDS is provided to the government sector, why SP/CP and TO are set in the JDS framework. The answers to those questions will be an important basis in making preparation for AF and RP.

- → *JDS is designed to support the human resource development of Bangladesh*
- → *Government sector can directly and widely contribute to the development*
- → *SP/CP are set based on the development plan of Government of Bangladesh and Japan aid policy,*
- → *TO (You and your workplace) are considered to be closely involved in the development.*




### (2) Country analysis

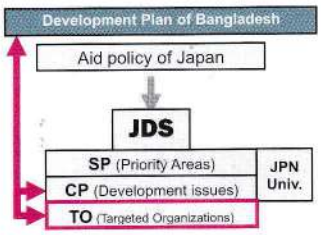
As mentioned in "(1) Understanding JDS" above, "SP/CP" is set based on the development plan of the Government of Bangladesh (Rectangular strategy, NSDP, etc.). First, read and understand a background of the SP/CP you wish to apply for (P14) to know what kind of development issues are assumed and what kind of research are expected under JDS. Then, obtain information on development issues of Bangladesh (New System 5th 4-year Plan 2026 - 2029) to deepen your understanding on the status of the development. This analysis of present development status will be important not only for making a RP but also for later selection steps (interviews).

- → *Read and understand a background of the SP/CP you apply for (P15~)*
- → *Check such materials as NSDP, issues of your organization, etc.*

### (3) Organization task analysis

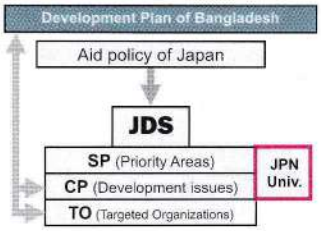
As shown in "JDS framework (P14)", **TO** is set under the each CP and considered to be closely related with the development issues (CP). Therefore, it is essential for you to know what kind of mission your organization has in the context of the development of Bangladesh. Also it is important to observe what kind of issues your organization is tackling with and what are lacking to solve the issues. Those observations will help you conduct further analysis.

- → *Check missions and roles of your organization in the context of the development of your country.*
- → *Also observe what is necessary in your organization to solve the development issues of your workplace. Those observations will help you find reasons to study in Japan.*



### (4) University research

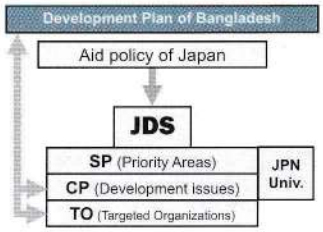
As shown in "JDS framework (P14)", the relevant Japanese universities (courses) are designated under the each CP. Those universities are selected to offer you with sufficient knowledge in order to tackle development issues of your concern. As the universities wish to recruit students with necessary academic level and high motivation to learn, you need to demonstrate those points in the following way.




- → *One of the ways to show self-motivation is to demonstrate how much you know about the university you are applying for.*
- → *Go to the university website to know their location, history, provided courses, the faculty members, etc.*
- → *Find interesting professors, and check their research areas, current activities, their published academic papers, etc.*

### (5) Career plan

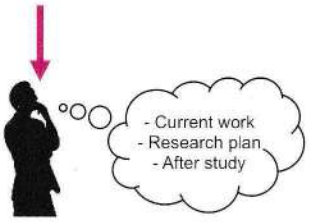
As you can see it in Application Form (AF), you will be required to fill in **your work experience, Research plan, Reason why you have chosen to apply to the Graduate School/Course/Program you selected, and future contribution.** Those questions are very coherent in the sense that each question asks [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]. So, those questions ask how you relate your career and the study **in the context of the development of Bangladesh**. This is a clear tip to answer to those questions in AF.




*Questions you answer on AF are NOT separate questions. They are very coherent.*

**About "Responsibilities of Your Work" in AF**

Due to lack of understanding of the connections among questions on AF, some people do nothing but list up their daily work on "Responsibilities of Your Work" part in AF without being aware of those connections. As mentioned above, it is important to show your current (or previous) work in the context of the development issues in order to bridge your answers to the next questions (Research Plan and career plan after study).




*"Responsibilities of Your Work" part is asking your current and previous works. But, based on your answers in this question, the interviewers (the university and OC) try to guess if you can use acquired knowledge in your work after you return from Japan.*

**About "Research Plan" in AF**

The details about how to write Research Plan (RP) is explained in (P10). On the basis of the explanation above, keep in mind that the RP is considered as an extension of your work, which will lead to your career plan after you study in Japan.

**About "Future Plan after study in Japan" in AF**

You may have a problem in answering to this question about how you will contribute to the development after your study in Japan. Considering the objectives of JDS, this is a very important factor through the selection process. Every year, some applicants provide answers such as "I will share my knowledge", "I will teach at educational institutions" and so on. These are, of course, important. But, if you are a JDS interviewer, would you be attracted by such answers?

- → *If you have finished the analysis in (2) ~ (4) above, you should be able to identify the needs of Bangladesh and your organization as well as your tasks to fulfill such needs.*
- → *It is important to layout your future career plan (after your study in Japan) in relation to the needs of Bangladesh and your organization, which also will be a solid and good reasoning to study in Japan!*

### (6) Research on relevant issues in Japan

The JDS Fellows are to conduct a research on development issues of their home countries. And also, taking into account that they study in Japan, you are also recommended to know in advance, at least, about historical and empirical cases of Japan in your research field.

### (7) Test preparation

As shown in "Selection Process (P4)", the results of English and Math tests will be reviewed by the universities in the 1st selection (AF and RP screening by the universities in Japan) and afterwards.

- → *It is strongly recommended to prepare for those tests, improving your ability by self-study. You can prepare both tests in advance!*
- → *About IELTS test, get used to the test format using sample test and textbooks.*
- → *About Math test, question and solution of the past years' test are available at JDS Website. Using the past test, check rules and formulas in school textbooks!*

**IELTS preparation**
**British Council Website**
http://www.britishcouncil.org.bd/en/exam/ielts

**Past math test and solution**
**JDS Website**
http://jds-scholarship.org/

# 4. Guidelines for Writing a Research Plan

## (1) Guideline for writing a research plan

In the application for JDS, the research plan for your Master's thesis should ;

- Address the current issues/problems of the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh and how to remedy these issues/problems.
- Present a detailed work plan on how and what you will do to achieve for the goal of your study.

The research plan, which is submitted for the application is not deemed to be final. It will be revised during the course work in the line with the Component. The purpose of the research plan is to help its readers (faculty members of graduate schools) evaluate the significance and potentiality of your research from the following aspects:

1) Does the research plan address the important policy questions of Bangladesh?
2) Does the research plan show that the applicant is strongly motivated and adequately prepared to implement the research successfully?
3) Who will benefit from the result of the research? Will the result of the research contribute to solving or clarifying policy questions which are important for Bangladesh?
4) Does the research help the applicant to more effectively participate in the development process of Bangladesh after the completion of the course?
5) Is the applicant's academic background strong enough to implement the research plan?
6) Is the applicant's work experience sufficient to pursue the research? (Not necessary if other application material is good enough to show that the answers are positive.)
7) Does the research plan fit well with the program of the graduate school?
8) Are the applicant's research questions academically significant?

The importance of each point above, however, depends on the field of study and the graduate program you are applying for. Some graduate programs may require more specific information about the data and method of analysis. Therefore, it is essential to go through the "University Information" as well as the website of the university carefully before writing your research plan. Writing a research plan is the beginning of your research. It is highly recommended that you keep improving your research plan before departure to Japan after being selected as a JDS Fellow.

## (2) Outline of the research plan (Example)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Title** | | Describe the nature of your proposed research clearly. Avoid making it too short or redundant. |
| Introduction | Background | Position your research theme here to state a significance of your research in the research areas. The literature review is not a part to merely describe preceding studies but to sort out what researches have done, what have been found and what are unknown in your research field. Also consider relevance with development issues and your organization. List the preceding studies in a reference section at the end of your research plan. |
| | Literature Review | |
| | Purpose and Questions | Shape and clarify what you want to achieve by your research. It is recommended to think about research purposes at a higher level not in your daily duties. The research itself is not a purpose. Your research is supposed to contribute to the development of Bangladesh and institutional development of your organization.<br>As for the research questions, set your questions in relation with to the preceding studies above, development issues of Bangladesh and your organization, also taking into consideration your research methodologies. With solid research questions, the research methodologies will be clarified accordingly. |
| Main Body | Methodology | This is the main part of your research plan. Develop your opinion and give more information. Explain what and how to study.<br>▪ Detail your research procedure within the given timeframe.<br>▪ List sources and quality of evidence you will consult with and the analytical technique you will employ, and the timetable you will follow.<br>▪ Describe the intended methods of data gathering, the controls you will introduce, the statistical methods to be used, the type of literature or documentary analysis to be followed, etc. |
| Conclusion | Expected Results Significance | Tell the reader the important points to stress and address your future plan.<br>▪ Expected learning/findings from your research<br>▪ Describe your future plan on how to utilize your research outcome to solve the issues mentioned in the first part after returning Bangladesh.<br>▪ Describe how your research outcome will contribute to Bangladesh and the institutional development of your organization. |
| | Bibliography | Include all the resources which are used in the writing of the research plan. |

For more information, go to the website on academic writing below.

**University of Oxford: Guidelines to Writing a Research Proposal**
http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/graduate/apply/research_proposal.html

### (3) 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.

University students including JDS applicants and Fellows are members of the academic, and must not commit plagiarism in making a research plan and thesis. Otherwise, you may be disqualified from the selection, or even be discharged from the university, once the 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, or
- **Paraphrase** of other person's spoken or written words

When you make your research plan, also pay attention to **"Paraphrase".**
**Paraphrase** is a re-expression of other person's ideas in your own words. There is accurate and inaccurate way of paraphrasing.

Here are some websites for more explanation on those matters. Applicants must prepare a research plan carefully to avoid plagiarism.

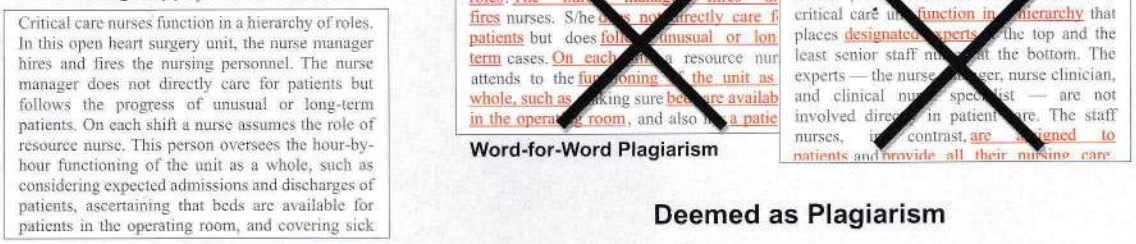
- **Plagiarism and how to avoid it**

**University of Oxford,What is the Plagiarism?**
https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism

- **Paraphrase and examples**

**The Writing Center @ THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON,** ***the Writer's Handbook avoiding plagiarism***
http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_paraphrase.html

<Image>




- **Citing references**

It is important to cite sources you used in your research plan. Refer to the following useful site for further details.

About the citing references:
**University of Reading,** ***Library – Citing References***
http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/citing-references

**JICE JDS Project Office**
L-261, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

**TEL** 02-5502-8008,
02-2222-40400 (ext. 4261/4973)
**Email:**jds.bangladesh@jice.org,
jds.banglaldesh1@jice.org

# 5. 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" (P5).

**Q2. 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.

**Q3. Can I apply for any university/course in Japan?**
**NO.** The component and university are determined according to the priority development issues of Bangladesh. You can select the component/university from the framework. (P14)

**Q4. What is the Sub-Program (SP) / Component (CP)?**
They are the fields of study determined according to the priority development issues of Bangladesh. JDS Fellows are expected to prepare the research plan in line with the stated issues. You are encouraged to study in advance the Sub-program/ Component under which you apply for JDS.

**Q5. Can I extend my stay after the completion of a program?**
**NO.** Every JDS Fellow MUST return to Bangladesh 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 Bangladesh with acquired knowledge and skills.

## 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" Such as to be a confirmed member of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Cadre, Bangladesh Judicial Service (BJS), 1st Class Officials in Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division in Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs or Class-1 Officer of Bangladesh Bank with

at least two (2) years of work experience at the time of application.

**Q7. I have already received a scholarship from another country. Am I eligible to apply for JDS?**
**NO.** The following person is NOT eligible to apply for JDS.

- Person who is currently receiving or scheduled to receive another scholarship. (including other scholarships of Japan)
- Persons who had already obtained a Master's or higher degree overseas under the support of foreign scholarship*
  * However, person who is studying in master's course or obtained master's degree without foreign assistance in local/foreign university is eligible.
- Person who have completed Master's or Doctoral degree under deputation or study leave as BCS, BJS or Class-1 Officers.
- Person who is Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list, and also personnel on temporary leave from the active list.

## Application

**Q8. Where can I get the Application Form?**
Please access JDS web-site.

https://jds-scholarship.org/

The prescribed forms, Application Guidelines (AG) and university information can be downloaded from this website

**Q9. I graduated from more than 2 universities. Which diploma/transcript should I submit?**
If you write down both universities as Educational Background in the Application Form, please submit both of them.

**Q10. 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.

**Q11. How should I count my age, is the way of counting different from Japanese way?**
The age should be counted in Japanese way. It should be counted one year when you are exactly reached 12 months after you were born.
(Ex.) If you were born on 1st February, 1987, you are 39 years old as of 1st April, 2026.

## Selection

**Q12. 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 on January 2026.

**Q13. Do I need to come to Dhaka for the interview?**
**YES.**

**Q14. How can I know the selection result?**
After each selection, JICE JDS Project Office will notify the result to candidates who passed by Email.

## Family Invitation

**Q15. Can I bring my family with me to Japan?**
JDS fellows are expected to focus on their studies during the program. On that basis, you may bring your family with you to Japan. However, due to the immigration policy of Japan, it is advised that family members plan their travel only after the JDS fellows have applied for their long-term visa in Japan. (Fellows can only apply for their family's visa after arrival in Japan.) Additionally, fellows will need to handle the family invitation arrangements on their own.

## Unsuccessful Completion

**Q16. What happens if I don't complete the program within two (2) years?**
It is the JDS fellows' obligation to complete the program within two (2) years. Failure to complete the program would be a great loss for both Japan and Bangladesh, and may result in penalties in accordance with the regulations of the Government of Bangladesh or their belonging organization.

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

1. Framework of JDS Bangladesh ---------- 14

2. Information of Each Sub-Program / Component (CP)

SP. Administrative Capacity Development

(1) Capacity Development of Public Administration of Central and Local Governments ---------- 15

(2) Capacity Development of Judiciary System and Policy ---------- 16

(3) Capacity Development of Urban and Regional Development Planning and Policy ---------- 17

(4) Capacity Development of Economic Planning & Policy, and Public Finance & Investment Management ---------- 18

**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.



Japanese Culture Experience Program



Summer Festival

**For Inquiries:**

**JICE JDS Project Office in Bangladesh**

**JDS Website**: https://jds-scholarship.org
**Email**: jds.bangladesh@jice.org, jds.bangladesh1@jice.org
**TEL**: +88-02-5502-8008 (Ext. 4261, 4973)
**Mobile**: +880-1711-565-138, +880-1714-390-175
**Office Hour**: 9:00-12:30 / 13:30-17:00, Sunday to Thursday
L-261, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

## 1. Framework of JDS Bangladesh

| JDS Priority Area (Sub-Program) | JDS Development Issue (Component) | Expected Theme of the Research/ Possible Fields of Study | Target Organizations | University | Slot |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.Administrative Capacity Development | 1-1 Capacity Development of Public Administration of Central and Local Governments | Possible Fields of Study:<br>・Governance/ Administration(Civil service system, etc),<br>・Local Administration/Local Autonomy<br>・Kaizen<br>・Information Security<br><br>Preferred Degree:<br>・Public Policy<br>・Economics<br>・Political Sciences<br>・International Studies | BCS Cadre Officials<br>All Ministries, especially<br>・Ministry of Public Administration<br>・Ministry of Planning<br>・Ministry of Finance<br>・Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Meiji University | 2 |
| | | | | Yamaguchi University | 2 |
| | | | | Kobe University | 2 |
| | | | | Waseda University | 2 |
| | | | | International University of Japan | 4 |
| | 1-2 Capacity Development of Judiciary System and Policy | Possible Fields of Study:<br>・Judicial System<br>・Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)<br>・Intellectual Property-related Laws<br>・International Law<br>・Law of the Sea,<br><br>Preferred Degree:<br>・Law | BCS Cadre Officials<br>All Ministries, especially<br>・M. of Home Affairs<br>・M. of Public Administration<br>・M. of Foreign Affairs<br>・M. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change<br>・M. of Shipping<br>・M. of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs<br><br>BJS Officials<br><br>1st Class Officials of Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division | Keio University | 2 |
| | | | | Kyushu University | 2 |
| | 1-3 Capacity Development of Urban and Regional Development Planning and Policy | Possible Fields of Study:<br>・Urban Planning / Policy<br>・Regional Development Planning / Policy<br>・Agricultural, Rural Development Planning / Policy<br>・Local Administration/Local Autonomy<br>・Disaster Risk Reduction Management / Policy<br>・Climate Change<br><br>Preferred Degree:<br>・Urban Planning / Policy<br>・Regional Development Planning / Policy<br>・Civil Engineering<br>・Traffic Engineering | BCS Cadre Officials<br>All Ministries, especially<br>・M. of Posts and Telecommunications and Information Technology<br>・M. of Housing and Public Works<br>・M. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change<br>・M. of Industries | University of Tsukuba | 2 |
| | | | | Hiroshima University | 2 |
| | | | | Tohoku University | 2 |
| | 1-4 Capacity Development of Economic Planning and Policy, Public Finance, and Investment Management | Possible Fields of Study:<br>・Macroeconomics / Microeconomics<br>・Environmental Economics<br>・Statistics<br>・Public Finance Management / Policy<br>・Public Investment Management / Policy<br>・Industrial Policy<br>・Investment Management / Policy<br>・Financial Policy<br>・Financial Management<br><br>Preferred Degree:<br>・Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics)<br>・Economic Policy<br>・Public Finance / Public Economy (Public Economics, Public Policy)<br>・Development Economics | BCS Cadre Officials<br>All Ministries, especially<br>・M. of Public Administration<br>・M. of Planning<br>・M. of Finance<br>・M. of Environment and Forests<br>・M. of Industries<br>・Prime Minister's Office<br>・National Board Revenue<br><br>Class-1 Officials of Bangladesh Bank | Hiroshima University | 2 |
| | | | | International University of Japan | 2 |
| | | | | Kobe University | 2 |
| | | | | Waseda University | 2 |
| | | | | Total | 30 |

## 2. Information of Each Sub-Program / Component

| Sub-Program | Administrative Capacity Development |
|---|---|
| Component | 1-1 Capacity Development of Public Administration of Central and Local Governments |
| Objective | Improving capacity with regard to the development of appropriate national and regional governance systems and improvement and operation of civil services. |
| Possible Fields of Study | - Governance / Administration (Civil service system, etc.)<br>- Local Administration/Local Autonomy<br>- Kaizen<br>- Information Security |
| Accepting University (Number of Scholars) | **Meiji University (2)**<br>Graduate School of Governance Studies<br>Major in Governance Studies (<br>(1) Public Policy Program<br>(2) International Development Policy Program<br>(3) Community Planning and Management Program<br>- Master of Public Policy<br><br>**Yamaguchi University (2)**<br>Graduate School of Humanities and Economic Sciences<br>Division of Economics and Management, Public Administration Program<br>- Master of Economics (With Certificate of Completion of Public Administration Program)<br><br>**Kobe University (2)**<br>Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies<br>Special Course for Development Policy<br>- Master of Political Science<br>- Master of International Studies<br><br>**Waseda University (2)**<br>Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies<br>International Relations<br>- MA (Master of Arts) in International Relations<br><br>**International University of Japan (4)**<br>Graduate School of International Relations (GSIR)<br>Public Management and Policy Analysis Program (PMPP)<br>- Master of Arts in Public Management<br>- Master of Arts in Public Policy |
| Target Organizations | Please refer to P14 |

**Background:**

The government of Bangladesh set forth Perspective Vision 2041, a mid- to long-term plan aiming to join the ranks of developed countries by 2041, and the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2020-2025) under the previous administration. Although these development plans were halted following the establishment of the interim government in 2024, improving good governance has been essential to the sound and continuous progress of the nation. In particular, it has been necessary to advance reforms to the civil service system and further improve the efficiency of the bureaucracy, as well as enhancing the abilities of central and local civil servants to support such initiatives, in order to formulate, implement, and monitor policy and strategy in each field and provide higher-quality public services. There has also been the necessity of further promotion of decentralization and enhancement of the administrative capabilities of local governments.

Under these circumstances, the Bangladesh government, led by Ministry of Public Administration, has been working to improve the capacity of civil servants by enacting the Civil Service Act, establishing a comprehensive civil service management system, improving the capacity of training institutions, and strengthening the capacity of central and local civil servants. In addition, to promote decentralization, the Directorate General of Local Government has been working to strengthen the capacity of rural and urban local governments and transfer finances.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sub-Program** | **Administrative Capacity Development** |
| **Component** | **1-2 Capacity Development of Judiciary System and Policy** |
| **Objective** | Improving capacity with regard to general legal skills and skills related to intellectual property rights and sea laws and ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) that will help attract private investment. |
| **Possible Fields of Study** | - International Law<br>- Intellectual Property Law<br>- Law of the Sea<br>- Judicial System |
| **Accepting University (Number of Scholars)** | **Keio University (2)**<br>Law School<br>Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Global Legal Practice / Professional Degree Program<br>- Master of Laws (LL.M.)<br><br>**Kyushu University (2)**<br>Graduate School of Law<br>LL.M. Program<br>- Master of Laws |
| **Target Organizations** | Please refer to P14 |
| **Applicant Eligibility** | **Keio University**<br>An applicant must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:<br>(1) The applicant has received a Bachelor's degree in law or jurisprudence or a Juris Doctor degree.<br>(2) The applicant has a basic knowledge of jurisprudence as a part of social sciences such as politics, economics, etc. which is necessary for implementation of development policies.<br>**In case of (2), "Statement of Reason for Requesting Applicant Eligibility Certification" is required to be submitted.**<br><br>**Kyushu University**<br>An applicant has received a Bachelor's degree in law. |

**Background:**

In the 8th Five-Year Plan which had been set forth under the previous administration, the government of Bangladesh has positioned the legal system for the realization of good governance, the strengthening of the appropriate operation (capacity) of the system and the improvement for the legal and administrative system, including intellectual property rights to attract private investment as an important issue. Bangladesh also has had a short history of studying maritime law, and it has been an urgent need to develop human resources in this field.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sub-Program** | **Administrative Capacity Development** |
| **Component** | **1-3 Capacity Development of Urban and Regional Development Planning and Policy** |
| **Objective** | Improving capacity with regard to Urban and Regional Development Planning and Policy in the context of the region/area-wide comprehensive plans and policies. |
| **Possible Fields of Study** | - Urban Planning / Policy<br>- Regional Development Planning / Policy<br>- Agricultural, Rural Development Planning / Policy<br>- Local Administration / Local Autonomy<br>- Disaster Risk Reduction Management / Policy<br>- Climate Change |
| **Accepting University (Number of Scholars)** | **University of Tsukuba (2)**<br>Graduate School of Science and Technology<br>Master's Program in Environmental Sciences (SUSTEP Program)<br>- Master of Environmental Sciences Field)<br><br>**Hiroshima University (2)**<br>(1) Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering<br>Division of Advanced Science and Engineering,<br>Transdisciplinary Science and Engineering Program (Environmental and Natural Sciences/ Development Science Field)<br>- Master of Philosophy<br>- Master of International Cooperation Studies<br>- Master of Science<br><br>(2) Graduate School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences<br>Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Policy Science Program<br>- Master of Philosophy<br>- Master of Economics<br>- Master of Business Administration<br>- Master of International Cooperation Studies<br><br>(3) Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society<br>Research Area: Smart Mobility, Smart Energy, Smart Agriculture, Global Health and Medical Science, Social Innovation Science<br>- Master of Philosophy<br><br>**Tohoku University (2)**<br>Graduate School of Environmental Studies<br>International Post-Graduate Program in Human Security<br>"Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)" "Human Security and Environment"<br>- Master of Environmental Studies<br>- Master of Interdisciplinary Studies<br>- Master of Disaster Science |
| **Target Organizations** | Please refer to P14 |

**Background:**

While Bangladesh's economic growth over the past decade and longer has been accompanied by rapid urbanization, the urban environment in the nation has worsened steadily due to the unplanned development and inadequate infrastructure in the core cities caused by lack of master plans and related laws and regulations. In addition, there is a tendency apparent for resources to be concentrated in urban areas, whereas poverty rates are relatively higher in rural areas. Therefore, there is a pressing need for measures to encourage development with harmony between urban and rural areas, such as integrated regional development plans.

It is urgent to train executive civil servants with perspectives, abilities, skills, and theoretical grounding to formulate integrated regional plans and policies; thus, it is highly meaningful to include this field in the scope of the JDS Project.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sub-Program** | **Administrative Capacity Development** |
| **Component** | **1-4 Capacity Development of Economic Planning and Policy, Public Finance, and Investment Management** |
| **Objective** | Improving capacity with regard to economic development through appropriate macroeconomic policy frameworks. |
| **Possible Fields of Study** | - Macroeconomics / Microeconomics<br>- Environmental Economics<br>- Statistics<br>- Public Finance Management / Policy<br>- Public Investment Management / Policy<br>- Industrial Policy<br>- Investment Policy<br>- Financial Policy |
| **Accepting University (Number of Scholars)** | **Hiroshima University (2)**<br>(1) Graduate School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences<br>Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Policy Science Program - Master of Philosophy<br>- Master of Economics<br>- Master of Business Administration<br>- Master of International Cooperation Studies<br><br>(2) Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society<br>Research Area: Smart Mobility, Smart Energy, Smart Agriculture, Global Health and Medical Science, Social Innovation Science<br>- Master of Philosophy<br><br>**International University of Japan (2)**<br>Graduate School of International Relations (GSIR)<br>International Development Program (IDP)<br>- Master of Arts in Economics International Development<br>- Master of Arts in International Development<br><br>**Kobe University (2)**<br>Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies<br>Special Course for Development Policy<br>- Master of Economics<br>- Master of International Studies<br><br>**Waseda University (2)**<br>Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies<br>International Relations<br>- MA (Master of Arts) in International Relations |
| **Target Organizations** | Please refer to **P14** |

**Background:**

(a) Economics Planning and Policy

In the 8th Five Year Plan which had been set forth under the previous administration, the government of Bangladesh has stipulated sustainable management of public finance and appropriate monetary policies as important reforms for attracting private investment although the development plan above was halted following the establishment of the interim government in 2024. In order for Bangladesh to become a middle-income country by 2026 and ensure effective and efficient implementation of individual aid programs by Japan and environment for attracting investment from Japanese private-sector businesses, a sound macroeconomic structure has been indispensable. It is highly meaningful for administrators, including the officials of the Ministry of Finance and the Bangladesh Bank, to acquire knowledge in each field through the JDS Project.

(b) Public Finance Administration/Public Investment Management

The development plan above has also identified public investment management as pivotal development challenge. JICA has been supporting the area of Strengthening Public Investment Management for more than 10 years. JICA is currently implementing Strengthening Public Investment Management System Project aimed at improving efficiency of formulation/review/approval process of Annual Development Programme (ADP) and enhancing coordination with the top plan of ADP for the Planning Division in the Ministry of Planning which manages whole development projects in the public investment management.

In order for the smooth implementation of initiatives mentioned above, it is important to develop human resources who possess the capability to design mid- and long-term policies and national plans; and skills to set up a system to realize these plans.

## 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!
More voice will be updated on JDS Bangladesh Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/jds.bangladesh/



The Japanese horizonless blue sky, the gentle summer breeze, the vibrant Momiji leaves of autumn, and the crisp winter air will continuously refresh your mind and soul. My JDS journey has not only given me the opportunity to experience the serenity of life but has also broadened my academic horizons and strengthened my analytical thinking, integrity, and discipline.

JDS is truly a world class scholarship that provides generous financial support and comprehensive logistical assistance, enabling each fellow to successfully complete their journey. Through this prestigious program, I have successfully completed my Master's degree at Hiroshima University. My major research area was heavy metal contamination and risk assessment in paddy soils and rice grains in Bangladesh. This research significantly strengthened my analytical skills and enhanced my capacity for environmental risk assessment.

Beyond academic achievements, the knowledge and experiences I gained from daily life and Japanese culture will remain as lifelong achievements. Living in Japan has taught me the values of modesty, gratitude, honesty, and sincerity. These experiences have enhanced my academic and professional abilities. The lessons I learned during my time in Japan will continue to guide me throughout every stage of my personal and professional journey. I always appreciate new fellows to take the challenge of becoming a JDS Fellow. At the end, I would like to say, Ganbatte kudasai!

**MR. HASAN MD SAHED, 22nd Batch, Hiroshima University, DAE, Ministry of Agriculture**



I pursued a Master's in Public Policy at Meiji University and chose the JDS Scholarship because of its fair and transparent selection process, standard financial support, excellent networking opportunities, and safe living environment in Japan. These advantages created an ideal platform for me to focus on my academic and personal development.

My experience in Japan has been truly transformative. Academically, I have gained rigorous knowledge of public policy, Japanese culture, the education system and development, and research methodologies. More importantly, living in Japan has taught me how to lead an independent life with confidence and without unnecessary mental pressure. I have learned the importance of discipline, graciousness, competence, and endurance—qualities that I believe will remain valuable throughout my life. Japanese culture has also taught me an important lesson: never break yourself under pressure and always believe in yourself.

The support provided by JICE has been one of the most valuable aspects of my JDS journey. From education to daily life and adapting to a new environment, JICE has provided extensive and thoughtful support.

I have always dreamed of contributing to Bangladesh's education sector, especially in educational policymaking and implementation. I believe JDS is my first important step toward understanding policy, implementation, and related research. After returning to Bangladesh, I hope to apply my knowledge and experience to contribute meaningfully to the development of our education sector.

**MS. NUSRAT JAHAN TANIA, 22nd Batch, Meiji University, DSHE, Ministry of Education**



My JDS journey at Keio University was one of the best and most joyful experiences of my life. The instructors were incredibly supportive, always welcoming questions and encouraging us to learn.

Living in Japan taught me that mutual respect is key. The Japanese people are modest and deeply connected to their traditions; if you appreciate their culture, they will welcome you as one of their own. The initial months may feel challenging, but patience allows you to catch the pulse of the country.

To make the most of my stay, I traveled widely, enjoyed the delicious cuisine, and integrated into local and international communities. This experience allowed me to absorb wonderful traits like punctuality, honesty and proactivity. Navigating life in a new country is simple when you follow its laws and honor its people. Wishing the upcoming JDS batch a successful and memorable journey ahead!

**MS. MABIA KHATUN, 22nd Batch, Keio University, LPAD, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.**




In my experience, pursuing my Master's degree under the prestigious JDS Scholarship has been a defining and transformative milestone in my academic, professional, and personal life. The Yamaguchi University, Japan's third oldest national university, establishing in 1815 with motto, "Discover it. Nourish it. Realize it. A Place of Wisdom", perfectly captures its commitment to innovation, rigorous research, and nurturing human resources dedicated to contributing to both local communities and international society.

My time at Yamaguchi University provided a world-class educational experience supported by an exceptionally knowledgeable and dedicated faculty member. The professors offered invaluable guidance throughout the research process, helping me acquire advanced analytical skills, empirical research techniques, and actionable insights. Beyond academic excellence, the comprehensive support of the JDS scholarship—from adequate financial assistance to seamless administrative help with housing, banking, and local registration that allowed me to focus completely on my studies without worry.

Yamaguchi city life is defined by peace, tranquility, and natural beauty with vast landscapes, quiet horizons, and scenic environment. Daily life felt exceptionally smooth because of Japan's remarkably safe environment, comfortable climate, and well-organized public systems. Returning from late-night lab sessions alone by bicycle, which I did frequently during my thesis work, was always completely safe and stress-free.

Living in Japan also transformed my personal outlook through daily interactions with the local people in new shape. Japanese society inspires a deep appreciation for politeness, honesty, efficiency, and unwavering sincerity toward one's responsibilities. People are genuinely helpful and kind, always willing to assist whenever needed. Learning basic Japanese and experiencing the rich local culture made this journey even more fulfilling.

Ultimately, my experience at Yamaguchi University has not only broadened my research capabilities and professional networking, but it has also equipped me with vital insights into policy formulation and implementation. Arigatou Gujaimasu.

**MR. MD MASUDUL HAQUE, 22nd Batch, Yamaguchi University, Ministry of Public Administration**



I chose the JDS Scholarship to pursue an MA at Kobe University because of its unique curriculum that bridges theory and practice in international cooperation and policy-making. I sharpened my analytical skills from esteemed professors in areas such as comparative politics, global governance, and institutional reform—knowledge that is already proving vital to my work in Bangladesh. The research methodologies I mastered at Kobe are directly applicable to my career, enabling me to approach policy challenges in Bangladesh with a more nuanced, evidence-based mindset.

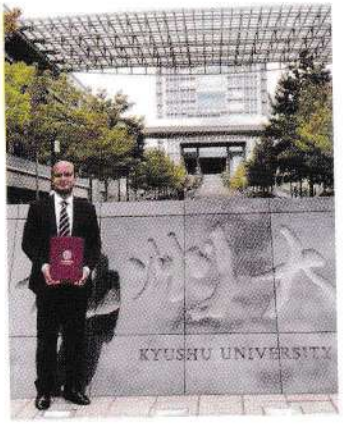
Beyond financial assistance, JDS provides comprehensive support for adapting to life in Japan—from housing to bank accounts and city registration—allowing me to focus entirely on my studies. It is a gateway to a global network of scholars and policymakers, and a profound journey of self-discovery.

Beyond the walls of the university, life in Kobe is a perfect blend of urban dynamism and serene coastal beauty. Nestled between the sparkling sea and the majestic Rokko mountains, Kobe offers a tranquil yet vibrant setting—perfect for deep intellectual focus and personal reflection. Experience of living Kobe taught me discipline, resilience, and the Japanese value of meticulousness. The peaceful environment, cordial support from JICE coordinator and the supportive, knowledgeable professors made this journey truly transformative.

Dear prospective applicants: JDS is not just a scholarship—it is a life-changing opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally. Embrace the challenge. It will be worth it.

**MS. KAZI SADIA SULTANA, 22nd Batch, Kobe University, DSHE, Ministry of Education**

I was very curious about Japanese culture from my childhood. JDS program gave me scope to pursue LL.M in International Economic and Business Law at Kyushu University. The quality of education in Japanese universities is top-notch. My two-year sojourn in Japan was fantastic and memorable indeed. I was mesmerized by the natural beauty and rich culture of Japan, specifically their etiquette. Every moment I spent in Japan was very enjoyable and didactic. I am really enthralled by Japanese 'ikigai'. Best wishes for the future JDS scholars. Gambatte!




**MR. MOLLA MOHAMMAD SHAHEEN, 16th Batch, Kyushu University, Bangladesh Police, Ministry of Home Affairs.**



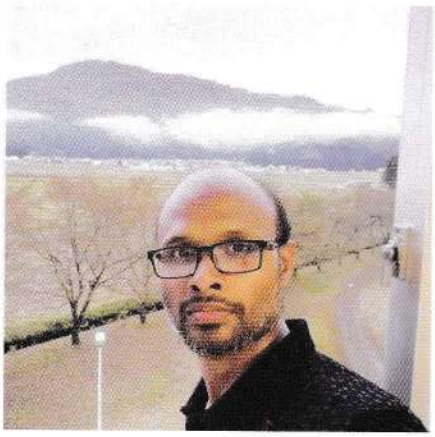
JDS is one of the best scholarships for government officials, who want a hassle-free journey from the beginning of the application process until their return home. From the initial application to returning to Bangladesh, the JDS Project provides continuous support. After departing from Dhaka, JDS fellows typically stay in Tokyo for about 15 days and then move to their universities few days before academic semester. JDS project staff will arrange your accommodation based on your needs by that time, so if you don't speak much Japanese yet, don't worry! When you join your university laboratory, you also receive special attention from your supervisor, especially because of your professional experience in Bangladesh. In my case, whenever we attended meetings, my professor would often introduce me by saying, "Meet Mr. Manik, who has 10 years of experience in the field of agriculture." Another great opportunity, particularly for JDS scholars at the University of Tsukuba, is that the JDS program runs under the Sustainability Science, Technology, and Policy (SUSTEP) Certificate Program. This program allows JDS scholars to learn from a wide range of international fields and participate in various domestic trips across Japan. Finally, my sincere suggestion to future JDS fellows is: don't forget to explore Japan! Japan is truly a country that looks like a picture brought to life. The places you visit, the people you meet, and the experiences you gain will create unforgettable memories that you will carry with you forever.

**MR. MD MANIK SARKER, 22nd Batch, University of Tsukuba, DAE, Ministry of Agriculture**



As a JDS fellow at the International University of Japan (IUJ), my journey has been much more than earning a degree; it has been a journey of learning, growth, and discovering a new way of seeing the world. Living in the dormitory and having access to the 24-hour lab, library, study facilities and school bus made our everyday academic life comfortable and convenient. IUJ helped me build a strong foundation in research, statistics, econometrics, and interdisciplinary learning through supportive faculty guidance. Studying with students from more than 40 countries gave me the opportunity to learn from different cultures, experiences and perspectives. Amazing study tours, local community events, hiking and many cross-cultural activities made the experience enjoyable. Besides, the continuous guidance and cooperation of JICE throughout the entire JDS journey from the beginning until the end, were truly invaluable. The knowledge and skills I gained at IUJ have contributed to my professional life, helping me become more organized, efficient, analytical and confident in my current workplace. Looking back, JDS has reshaped not only my academic and professional capabilities but also my worldview and aspirations. I am sincerely grateful to JICE, JDS, IUJ and everyone who supported me throughout this wonderful journey.

**MS. SANJIDA AKTHER, 22nd Batch, International University of Japan, Bangladesh Bank**



The JDS Scholarship was a transformative experience in my academic and professional journey. I completed my MA in Economics at the Graduate School of International Relations, International University of Japan (IUJ), where I found a carefully structured and interlinked curriculum, highly qualified professors, and an excellent academic environment. Learning about Japan's development journey also gave me valuable perspectives on how a developing country like Bangladesh may shape its own future through appropriate policies and interventions.

My research on Bangladesh's public debt dynamics taught me how different aspects of a society form a complex network of mutually dependent systems, and how their relationships can be examined through empirical models. This perspective has proved extremely valuable in my work as a civil service official, helping me better understand public-sector institutions, their functions, and the implications of policies.

I remain especially grateful to the late Professor Yusuke Jinnai, whose Statistics course transformed my understanding of quantitative analysis. His ability to make a challenging subject accessible gave me the confidence to engage with econometrics and empirical research. I will always remember the intellectual confidence he gave his students.

Beyond academics, living in Minamiuonuma was an unforgettable experience. Japan's discipline, punctuality, research culture, and breathtaking natural beauty enriched my personal understanding of a developed Asian society.

Before going to Japan, I primarily thought of JDS as an opportunity for academic achievement. After completing it, I learned to understand the real-world applications and potential consequences of interventions within complex, mutually dependent socio-economic systems. I encourage prospective applicants to look beyond the degree, engage deeply with their research and professors, and make the most of Japan both academically and culturally.

**MR. MD. ATIQUE S.B. SATTAR, 22nd Batch, International University of Japan, Ministry of Public Administration**



Dear Prospective JDS Applicants,

As a returned JDS Fellow of Graduate School of Asia- Pacific Studies of Waseda University, I would be happy to share my experience and provide guidance to those who are interested in applying for the prestigious JDS Scholarship.

Waseda, the leading Japanese University offers an excellent academic environment, world-class faculty, and a truly international learning experience. My time as a JDS Fellow was academically enriching and personally transformative.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, study experience at Waseda, or life in Japan, please feel free to reach out. I would be glad to share my experience and help prospective applicants as much as I can.

Best wishes for your JDS application and future academic journey at Waseda university.

**MR. MD BASHIR UDDIN, 1st Batch, Waseda University, Bangladesh Beter, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**



**JICE JDS Project Office in Bangladesh**
L-261, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon,
107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

**Email:** jds.bangladesh@jice.org, jds.bangladesh1@jice.org,
**TEL:** 02-5502-8008, 02-2222-40400 (ext. 4261/4973)
**Office Hour:** 9:00-12:30/13:30-17:00, Sunday to Thursday

**JDS website**

http://jds-scholarship.org/

**Facebook**
**JDS Bangladesh**
https://www.facebook.com/jds.bangladesh/

© 2026 Japan International Cooperation Center