



F.No.12040/26/2023-FTC

Government of India

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel and Training

Block- IV, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi

Dated: 03.09.2026

Training Circular

Subject: Applications invited for 02(two) year Master's Degree through Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) programme sponsored by JICA for five universities in Japan from September/October 2027 to September 2029-reg.

JICA is offering scholarships in five universities of Japan (as mentioned below), through which exceptionally bright, young public administrators and government officers who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders, are invited for a fully-funded programme to pursue two-year Master's Degree Course in various areas (as mentioned below):-

Accepting Universities for the JDS Program in India (Academic Year 2027-29):-

Name of the Accepting University	Name of the Masters Programme	Officer Slot/s
Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo	Master of Public Policy, International Programme	3
Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo	Department of Urban Engineering	2
Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University	Master Programme on International Relations	2
Graduate School of International and Public Policy, Hitotsubashi University	Master Programme on International and Public Policy, Foreign Policy Sub-Program (Global Governance Program)	1
Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University	Special Course for Development Policy	1

2. JDS is designed to foster exceptional human resource capable of working to resolve various development challenges in the recipient countries in future by imparting advanced expertise to JDS Fellows through studying at Japanese Universities. It contributes to strengthen the partnership between Japan and the recipient country by graduating a wide range of Fellows who have deep understanding of Japan. The Master's Programme will be taught in

English only and shall be for **2 years**.

3. The **eligibility criteria** is as follows:

- The programme is open to officers of officials of **All India Services** and **Group A Central Civil Services**, Central Secretariat Service, Central Secretariat Stenographer Service (list enclosed). Officers should have completed **minimum 7 years of Group 'A' service**;
- Age: Applicants **must be at least 22 years old** and **shall not exceed 45 years of age** (inclusive) as of April 1st 2027;
- Possession of a Bachelor's degree;
- Proficiency in English language;
- Good health – both mental and physical;
- Must not be serving in the Armed forces or as Defense civilian officers. Additional details have been enclosed in the JDS Programme Brochure (enclosed herewith).
- Must not have previously acquired a master's degree on a scholarship awarded by the Government of India or any other development partners, and must not be currently receiving, or planning to receive, another scholarship for a master's or doctoral degree from the Government of India or any other development partners.

4. **Application:**

- An applicant can apply to **up to two graduate schools**.
- Apply via JDS portal (<https://scholarship.jds21.com/india>) which will be open from **September 2026**).
- University of Tokyo (GraSPP) applicants, in addition to applying on the JDS portal, shall be required to apply separately on the GraSPP portal.
- The proforma application forms are attached in the Application Guidelines document (enclosed).

5. **Selection Process:**

Preliminary screening of applications submitted through the portal shall be done by the **JDS agent**.

A. IELTS

- All applicants must submit IELTS (Academic Module) or TOEFL iBT (except Home Edition) score within 2-year validity (as of 31 May 2027) or a Certificate of English Proficiency issued by a work supervisor as applicable. Please refer to the below table for necessary information.
- The IELTS Fee for examination shall be borne by the JDS agent, after

applicants' completion of the application, upon submitting the receipt.

Accepting University	IELTS/TOEFL	Equivalent certificates accepted
University of Tokyo (GraSPP)*	✓	-
University of Tokyo (Engineering)	✓	Certificate of English proficiency issued by supervisor at work
Waseda University*	✓	-
Hitotsubashi University*	✓	-
Kobe University*	✓	-

*These universities shall require a mandatory IELTS score.

B. Mathematics Exams

- Applicants to **The University of Tokyo (Engineering)** and **Kobe University** shall mandatorily take a Math exam conducted by the JDS agent.
- **Paper-based exam and shall be held in Delhi only.**
- Fee for transportation/accommodation (if necessary) shall be borne by the JDS agent.
- Kobe University requires high school level mathematics, while the University of Tokyo (Engineering) requires higher secondary level of mathematics. Past exam papers and answers shall be published on the JDS portal.

C. Comprehensive Interview

- An Operating Committee (OC), co-chaired by the Indian and Japanese sides, shall first conduct interviews to select applicants eligible to proceed to the universities' document screening and technical interview. The universities shall then evaluate the applicants selected by the OC and recommend candidates for JDS fellowships. The OC shall make the final approval of the candidates selected by the universities as JDS fellows to be sponsored.

D. Document Screening and Technical Interview by Universities

- Document screening and technical interviews are undertaken by faculties of respective Japanese graduate schools in Delhi.
- University of Tokyo (GraSPP) has its own document screening and technical interview in addition to the JDS document screening and technical interview.

Consideration of social inclusion

- i. JDS Programme values diversity and inclusion. It encourages officers of all genders, castes, tribes, classes and those officers ***posted in North East/J&K/LW-affected areas/Divyangjan*** to apply.
- ii. The OC's decision on the selection of JDS fellows shall be final and binding.

6. Undertaking:

(i). Before joining the programme, the officer shall be required to execute a Bond to the extent that "in the event of his/her failing to resume duty or resigning or voluntarily retiring from service or otherwise quitting service, without returning to duty after expiry or termination of the period of the foreign training programme or failing to complete the programme, or quitting the service at any time within a period of 5 (five) years after his/her return to duty, the officer shall forthwith pay to the Government or as may be directed by the Government, on demand all charges and expenses that shall or may have been incurred for the programme i.e. all money paid to him/her or spent on his/her account during the programme period such as pay and allowances, leave salary, cost of fee, travelling and other expenses met by the Government/Agency concerned together with interest thereon from the date of demand at Government rates for the time being in force on Government loans or if payment is made in a country other than India, the equivalent of the said amount in currency of that country converted at the official rate of exchange between that country and India and together with all costs between the attorney and the client.

(ii). **Controlling Authorities shall ensure that selected JDS fellows are relieved from duty only after furnishing of bond, duly accepted by Controlling Authorities, to Training wing, DoPT.**

7. Scholarship & other allowances admissible to JDS fellows:

(Currency below are in Japanese Yen (JPY))

Entitlements	Frequency	UTokyo (GrasSPP)	UTokyo (English)	Waseda	Hitotsubashi	Koblenz
Round trip air ticket and other transportation fees (Tickets are provided by JDS agent)	Once for trip to Japan and once for return to India	Actual airfare				
Travel insurance (Arranged by JDS agent)	Annual	477,810				
Outfit Allowance	Once, upon arrival in Japan	100,000				

Housing allowance preparation	One time	224,000				
Scholarship	Monthly after arrival in Japan	147,000				
Traveling and Seminar Allowance	Monthly during school enrolment for a maximum of 24 months	30,000				
Research Support Allowance	JPY150,000 paid at once, JPY50,000 administered by JDS	200,000				
Admission fee (Directly settled by JDS agent)	One time	282,000	282,000	300,000	282,000	282,000
Tuition fee (Directly settled by JDS agent)	Annual	535,800	535,800	1,376,000	535,800	535,800
Summer Preparatory Program (Directly settled by JDS agent)	Once (Only UTokyo(GraSPP))	300,000				

Note: Dependents of JDS fellows may accompany to Japan at their own cost.

8. Other terms and conditions:

- Application Form 2 is to be filled by the Controlling Authority (Central Ministry/Department or State/UT Government) under whom the officer is currently posted. For those officers who are on any deputation, no objection from parent Ministry/Department/Cadre may be obtained before filling in Form 2 by the current controlling authority.
- Application Form 2 of officers working in Ministries/Departments under the Central Staffing Scheme shall be filled by the Controlling Authority only after receipt of **No Objection Certificate (NOC) from EO Division, DOPT as well as parent cadre/department.**
- In addition to the above, the Officers on deputation with the Central Government under the Central Staffing Scheme of DOPT and applying for JDS programmes should have completed **minimum two (2) years of service on Central Deputation** as on the date of application.
- Applicant shall be **clear from Vigilance angle.**
- Officers who have undergone any long-term domestic programme sponsored by DoPT, viz., IIMB, MDI, TERI, NDC, APPPA or any Scholarship course of the duration of one year and above or any foreign training programme for a duration of six months and above shall not be

eligible to apply for JDS programme.

- vi. The prescribed APAR/ACR grading for consideration of an officer for JDS shall not be below 'Very Good' in each of the previous 5 years before the year of application.
- vii. The officers are advised to refer to websites of the accepting universities/schools for any specific information related to admission process.
- viii. CAs shall give clearance to only those officers who may be spared/relieved at the time of commencement of the training programmes.
- ix. **The first year of the training programme shall be treated as "Training on duty" and after completion the first year, the remaining one year shall be reckoned as Study Leave as admissible to the officer, subject to sanction of study leave from Competent Authority. Officers selected as JDS fellows after the Comprehensive Interview shall be required to apply for Study leave before the Competent Authority for the second year and their candidature is subject to sanction of the same.**
- x. The Ministries/Departments/State/UT Governments/Cadre Controlling Authorities are expected to utilize the skills acquired by the officers in the relevant field, on their return from JDS programme and hence, may permit those officers who are likely to be utilised in the relevant field of study.
- xi. The incomplete applications and those not accompanied by duly filled-in proforma by the designated controlling authorities shall not be considered and are liable to be rejected without any further notice.
- xii. The details of returning JDS fellows shall be circulated to all Central and State Civil Service Training Institutes (CSTIs) and they shall be available as guest faculty for providing training on the related subjects. They shall also be available as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to curate relevant courses on iGOT-Karmayogi portal.
- xiii. The officers selected as JDS Fellows shall submit a case study, a theme paper based on their training received in the accepting universities. They shall also submit a debrief note on how they plan to assimilate the training received into their future roles. These reports shall be submitted to DoPT Training Wing with a copy endorsed to the respective parent Ministry/Department/cadre. Those officers on deputation shall endorse a copy of these reports to their controlling authorities as well.

Digitally signed by
AJAY KUMAR SINHA
Date: 03-09-2026
18:39:23

(Ajay Kumar Sinha)

Under Secretary to Government of India

Telephone: 011-26706306

Email ID: ajay.sinha@nic.in

To,

1. The Secretaries of all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
2. The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/ UTs.
3. All CCAs (as per list attached)
4. Mr. Fumio Yamazaki, Minister (Economic), Embassy of Japan in India.
Embassy of Japan, New Delhi
5. Shri Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (EA Division), Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi,
6. Dr. Anuradha Guru, Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, North Block, New Delhi
7. Mr. Takuro Takeuchi, Chief Representative, JICA, India Office
8. JDS (agent), New Delhi
9. NIC, DoPT with a request to upload the circular under 'What's New' section.
10. NIC, DoPT Training Wing, Old JNU Campus with a request to upload the circular in Training Wing website.

Copy to :-

1. PSO to Secretary(P).
2. PPS to Joint Secretary (Training).
3. PPS to DS (Academy).