

**The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)
For Doctoral Degree Program
Application Guidelines for 2027 Fellows
(Selection process during JFY2026)**

*For details please refer to **8. Application Procedures**.*

1. Purpose (Basic Principle)

This project aims at fostering future leaders with a good understanding of Japan and are capable of;

- 1) Making policy formulation and decision from a broader perspective by drawing on their advanced knowledge and expertise,
- 2) Leading international discourses on various policy issues on behalf of their countries, and
- 3) Exercising their positive influence within their countries and beyond from the global viewpoints by fully utilizing personal networks developed through this doctoral program,

Prospective Applicants must have the potential for becoming future leaders rather than academic researchers who can substantially influence policy affairs, as well as the potential for contributing in strengthening bilateral relations with Japan

2. Eligibility Requirements and Conditions

【Eligibility Requirements】

The applicant must;

1. Have a citizenship of Bangladesh
2. Those who completed a Master's course in Japan (not limited to those who studied under JDS)
3. Be 45 years of age or under as of 1st April, 2027. Born on/after 2nd April, 1981. (Preferably under 40 years of age)
4. Have returned to and worked at the target organization for at least 2 years at time of application, after completion of Master's course in Japan.
5. Belong to the Target Organizations of JDS Project in Bangladesh.(To be confirmed members 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 in Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.)
6. Receive a Professional Reference Letter in the prescribed format from the supervisor of his/her current duty office. (Reference Letter should contain evaluation of applicant's performance at work and relevance of his/her research theme to his/her career.)
7. Have an Academic Reference Letter in the prescribed format from the expected academic adviser(s) of the applying university (Submission of a draft academic guidance outline or a supervisory plan is desirable.)
8. In principle, **have published at least one peer-reviewed article/ paper*** in a related field of the research plan.

However, **applicants who have NOT published any peer-reviewed articles/ papers shall be considered eligible for application, subject to the submission of following two documents:**

- 1) A feasible and appropriate research plan for obtaining a doctoral degree within three years by the applicant
- 2) A research supervision plan for the completion of a doctoral degree within three years by his/ her intended faculty supervisor (to be attached to the supervisor's reference letter)
9. Not to have obtained any Doctoral degree overseas under other foreign government scholarship programs or obtained Doctoral degree under deputation or study leave.
10. Not to be currently awarded or to be awarded a scholarship from other foreign donors.
11. Not to be Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list, and also personnel on temporary leave from the active list.

<Note>

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.

Applicants should either be currently engaged in work aligned with these objectives, or be likely to assume such responsibilities in the future. (Also refer to 1. Purpose)

*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.

【Other Conditions】

The applicant must;

1. In principle, enroll in the same graduate school of the university where he or she obtained a Master's degree.
 ※If there is no suitable academic supervisor in the same university, the applicant may apply to another university. In that case, please write a brief explanation in the designated section of the application why you selected that graduate school/university.
2. Present a research proposal relevant to the development Issues of Bangladesh referred to in the framework of Sub-Program and Components as mentioned below.

Sub-Program (JDS Priority Areas)	Components (JDS Development Issues)	
1. Administrative Capacity Development	1-1	Capacity Development of Public Administration of Central and Local Governments
	1-2	Capacity Development of Judiciary System and Policy
	1-3	Capacity Development of Urban and Regional Development Planning and Policy
	1-4	Capacity Development of Economic Planning & Policy, and Public Finance & Investment Management

3. (In the case of applicants who obtained master's degree under JDS) work in his/her country at least two years after return. Under the Doctoral Degree Program, Fellows must return to their home country upon completion of their master's degree and serve the required reinstatement period in accordance with their respective government regulations before commencing doctoral studies. As a general rule, Fellows are not allowed to remain in Japan and advance directly to a doctoral program without returning to and

resuming their duties in their home country.

4. Be in good health both physically and mentally.
5. Have a good command of both written and spoken English.
6. Successful candidates are required to submit a pledge on the conditions deemed necessary as scholarship participants under the JDS Project.
7. JDS Fellows are obliged to return and work in Bangladesh at least 2 years in order to make a contribution to the development of Bangladesh through their work complying with the Act of Pledge required by the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance.
8. Complete the course within, and not exceeding, three (3) years. **However, if it is judged that the Doctoral degree is likely to be obtained, the extension up to six (6) months may be accepted.**

3. Application and Selection Process

Call for application and selection will be conducted as below. The procedures may be revised for the next year and thereafter.

1. Application Period: From October, 2026 to 30th November 2026

Announcement and promotion will be made to eligible candidates in Target Organizations.

Slot (number of the seat) for JDS Doctoral Program 2026 is **three (3)**.

2. Selection by JDS Operating Committee (OC): December 2026 – January 2027

After the Basic Check of applications, the OC will conduct the interview. In case where the total number of applications is more than nine (triple of the number of slots), **document screening** by the OC will be conducted before the interview.

3. Approval of the Candidates by JDS Operating Committee: January 2027

The number of the final candidates must not exceed the maximum number of slots.

4. Health check-up and IELTS exam (in case the successful candidate does not have valid score) : January – February 2027

5. Application to the University: from March 2027

6. Screening by the University: from Mar to July 2027

Each university will conduct its entrance examination for the candidate(s). Each university has their own evaluation criteria, and some universities require an interview or a written test in Japan. (In such case, JDS will support the candidates for the travel cost to Japan)

7. Notification of Screening Result by the University: July 2027

8. Announcement of Successful Candidates by JDS Operating Committee: July 2027

【Tentative Schedule from Application to Enrollment】

2026	2027				
Oct.2026. – Nov.2026	Jan. 2027	Mar. – Jun.	Mar. – July.	Aug.	Sep. or Oct.
Call for Application	Selection by OC	Application for the University	Screening by the University	Arrival in Japan	Enrollment in the University

*OC=JDS Operating Committee

4. Selection (Evaluation) Criteria by JDS Operating Committee (OC)

The JDS Operating Committee will evaluate and select candidates based on the following criteria:

1. Leadership Qualifications and Possibility of Strengthening bilateral relations with Japan
 - Track records of demonstrating leadership
 - Accomplishments and visions to contribute to the development of the country
 - Enthusiasm for future development and growth of the country
 - Achievements at work (e.g. work history, contributions, utilization of outcomes of JDS),
 - Consistency between the career up to the present and the research theme/future vision in terms of contribution to the policy making and implementation
 - Concrete plans to contribute to bilateral relations with Japan
 - Positive and cooperative attitude towards strengthening relations with Japan
2. Relevance of the Research Theme to the Development Issues of Bangladesh

Prospect of the achievement of their research towards improvement of the development issues in their country, etc.
3. Academic Transcripts and Academic Accomplishments in the Master's Course

Sufficient academic results, experiences of publishing peer reviewed papers, experiences of presenting at academic conferences/seminars, etc.
4. Readiness of the Accepting University

Availability of the recommendation letter, evaluation by the expected academic advisor/s, and academic guidance outline, etc.

5. 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
- Round-trip airfare to Japan and others

6. Expenses Paid to the Accepting University

Application fee*, admission fee, tuition fee, and travel costs for the academic advisor/s visiting Fellow' country to assist his or her research will be borne by the JDS Project.

*In case the application deadline for each university is earlier than the approval of the final successful candidates and/or the reserved candidates by the Operating Committee, the application fee to the certain university needs to be paid initially by the applicant himself/herself. Then, if the applicant is approved as a

successful candidate or a reserved candidate, the fee is to be reimbursed through JICE. If the applicant is not approved as a successful candidate or a reserved candidate, the fee will not be refunded.

7. Support for the Fellows while in Japan

JICE will provide post-arrival support services including settlement assistance, monitoring, payment of allowances, and emergency assistance.

8. Application Procedures

Applicants must properly complete **three procedures by the application deadline**: **1. Online application submitted by yourselves**, **2. an academic reference letter is submitted by the supervisor to JICE upon the applicant's request** and **3. Applicants should either attach the permission letter specifically for the JDS 2026 PhD 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. Fulfilling the above will complete your application procedure.**

【Online Application】

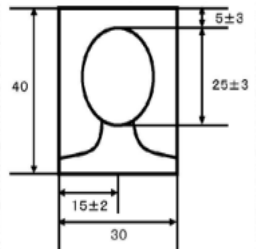
Applicants are required to fill in the Online Application Form and upload the necessary documents to complete your application. First, please go to JDS website (<http://jds-scholarship.org/>) and download prescribed forms for the online application. Please follow the online application procedures in “2) Steps for Online Application” to submit your application by the deadline.

For further information on online application, please check the online application manual which is also downloadable from JDS website.

1) List of Application Documents

The required documents for the application are as follows. Document No.12 “Basic Information, Educational Background, and Work Experience forms” does not need to be submitted, but it is useful when you fill out the online application, so please make use of it.

Doc No.	Application Documents	File Type	Remarks
1	Short Essays (Prescribed form)	PDF (ONE file only)	➤ Short essays on “Work Responsibility and Achievement”, “Outcomes of Master course in Japan”, “Leadership Potentialities” “Contribution to Strengthening Bilateral Relationship with Japan” and “Career Plan”
2	Research Plan (Prescribed form)	PDF (ONE file only)	➤ written within 3 pages, with no more than 700 words ➤ Affix your signature on the lower right-hand corner of each page
3	[If any] Official certificate of English ability	PDF (ONE file only)	➤ Submit a grade certificate from an English Language Ability Test such as TOEFL or IELTS *Only the Test taken in the two-year period preceding the application deadline is acceptable ** If you do not have such a test result, you may be requested based on your OC interview result to take the IELTS test arranged by JICE between December 2026 and

			January 2027. ➤ If you wish to enroll at Waseda University, only certificates issued <u>on or after September 22, 2025</u>, are considered valid. In addition TOEIC Listening & Reading Test scores will be accepted only if submitted via the “Official Test Score Certificate Verification Service”.
4	University Certificate/Diploma (Bachelor and Master's degree)	PDF (ONE file only)	➤ Must contain grades for all the credits you earned ➤ If not written in English, attach official English Translation
5	Official Transcript of Records of Bachelor and Master's degree course	PDF (ONE file only)	
6	Passport	PDF (ONE file only)	➤ Photo and information pages of valid passport
7	Work history certificate after completing Master's degree	PDF (ONE file only)	➤ PDS (Personal Data Sheet), or proscribed form from JICE
8	Confidential Statement of Reference from Employer (Prescribed form)	PDF (ONE file only)	➤ Filled out by the current supervisor from your belonging org ➤ If not written in English, attach official English Translation
9	Academic Reference Letter (Prescribed form)	PDF	➤ Must be filled out by the expected Academic Supervisor of the applying university ➤ Must be attached a copy of a peer-reviewed Article/ Paper ➤ <u>Must be directly submitted from the supervisor to JICE JDS Office via e-mail</u> *When requesting the letter, documents such as your CV and Research Plan to assist the expected academic advisor in writing the letter must be attached. *For applicants who have NOT published any peer-reviewed articles/ papers: the following two documents must be attached. -A feasible and appropriate research plan for obtaining a doctoral degree within three years by the applicant -A research supervision plan for the completion of a doctoral degree within three years by his/ her intended faculty supervisor
10	Photo	jpg, jpeg, png, gif (ONE file only)	The photograph must show only the applicant. - The dimensions of the area excluding the border must match those shown in the diagram below. - A person without a hat, facing forward. - Images without background (including shadows). - Those that are clear. 

			- Photos taken within 3 months prior to the Submission date.
11	[If any] Permission Letter from the Controlling Authority	PDF (ONE file only)	Option 1: Applicants may attach the Permission Letter for the JDS 2026 Doctoral Degree Program application from their Controlling Authority in the online application system. Or, Option 2: 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. [For both options above, follow your organization's policy.]
12	[If any] Basic Information, Educational Background, and Work Experience and Others form	-	➤ Not need to be submitted ➤ A form to help you consolidate the information for the online application *By filling out all the information on this form before you start the online application, you can complete the process smoothly.

2) Steps for Online Application

i. Download the prescribed forms from JDS Website

Go to JDS website (<http://jds-scholarship.org/>) and download prescribed forms.

ii. Prepare the required documents

Please make sure all the documents requested in “1) List of Application Documents” are ready. Some documents may take a few weeks to obtain, so we recommend you start preparing as soon as possible.

iii. 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 as well.

iv. 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.
- Application will be disqualified in case false statements and/or plagiarism is found.

■ Deadline for Applications

Deadline for Application: 4:00PM 30th November (Mon), 2026 to JICE JDS Project Office in Bangladesh.

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.

9. Contacts

JICE JDS Project Office in Bangladesh

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

TEL: 02-5502-8008, 02-2222-40400 (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