



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants (JICA Development Studies Program)

**General Information for Bhutan
on
Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Program
Nagasaki University
School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health
Enrollment October 2025**

ユニバーサル・ヘルス・カバレッジ（UHC）（2025年10月入学）

This handout provides an overview of the “Universal Health Coverage (UHC)” program/course, which is one of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term). The program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between respective governments.

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from partner countries to study at higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to assist in the human resource development plans of the governments of partner countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the partner countries and Japan.

Each country may have its own schedule and/or qualifications for the program. With regard to additional information, please contact JICA overseas office in your country.

Background

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet released the Development Cooperation Charter in June 2023, which stated, “In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together.” JICA believes that this ‘Knowledge Co-Creation Program’ will serve as a foundation of mutual learning process.

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

JICA-DSP is being carried out by JICA as part of official development assistance (ODA) by the government of Japan. JICA-DSP is offered for international scholars accepted as the participants of JICA’s Human Resource Development Project who are enrolled in a degree program at a Japanese university.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/dsp-chair/english/dsp/overview/index.html>

1. Overview

Since 1954, JICA has provided training programs as part of technical cooperation in various fields. In order to further strengthen networks between the target countries in respective fields and to foster young and mid-career bureaucrats, academicians and leading human resources who are capable of influencing policy making processes or contributing to socioeconomic development in their countries, JICA has established the JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP).

The program, “Universal Health Coverage (UHC),” was established in Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) 2020 under the framework of JICA-DSP.

Participants of the UHC program will enroll in Master's/Ph.D. courses related to UHC and have the chance to learn from Japanese developmental experiences through a special curriculum offered by the JICA-DSP.

2. Objectives

- (1) To strengthen the health policy formulation and the implementation and service provision capacity in the Government or academic/health institutions and other relevant organizations to contribute to attain UHC in respective partner countries.
- (2) To build and strengthen strategic partnership between partner countries and Japan.

3. Course Outline

This General Information outlines the Master's degree courses offered by the School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health of Nagasaki University (hereinafter referred to as 'TMGH').

For details, please visit: [COURSES – Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health](#)

4. Duration

In principle, 1 year for the Tropical Medicine Course, and 2 years each for the International Health Development Course and Health Innovation Course.

5. Number of Participants

One (1) participant from Bhutan

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Candidates must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) **Current Duties:** young or mid-career government officials, prospective academics, or personnel from private institutions who are expected to contribute policy formulation or its implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues related to UHC.
- (2) **Nationality:** citizen of the above country eligible for Japan's ODA
- (3) **Age:** In principle, thirty-five (35) years of age or younger (As of April 1st, the year of admission).
*However, under certain circumstances, candidates over the age mentioned above may be accepted. Please contact our JICA office for more information.
- (4) **Educational Background:** A holder of a bachelor's or a higher degree
- (5) **English Proficiency:** adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete master's courses
- (6) **Physical Presence:** must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.
- (7) **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** JICA seeks more female candidates due to the past records of fewer applications from women. JICA is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and provides equal opportunities for all candidates regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- (8) **Others:** must not be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarship during the program.

8. Admissions

Candidates must be selected as *JICA's official candidate* through JICA's internal selection procedure and must pass the general entrance examination¹ of the university to which they have applied, including examinations to enter the candidates' desired course of study.

¹ The results of JICA's screening procedure and University's general entrance examination will not accept any inquiry.

9. Application Guidelines

Candidates must apply through the procedures as described below, which are requirements by both candidate's government and the Government of Japan for the Official Development Assistance.

(1) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:

Each candidate is required to submit the "Application Documents²" listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the candidate's country.

(2) Application Documents for JICA:

Note: In addition to the application documents required by the university, a separate application to JICA as outlined below is also necessary.

- 1) Application Form for the Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long-Term Participants (JICA Development Studies Program), Appendix 1
- 2) Graduation certificate
 - * Officially certified copies of the original
 - * Written in English or accompanied with official translation
- 3) Academic transcript
 - * Must contain all the grades earned at the university attended by the candidate
 - * Officially certified copies of the original transcript
 - * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English
- 4) Photocopy of certificate of English Test
- 5) A copy of Passport or ID with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).
- 6) Two (2) ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy)
- 7) Health certificate (when the candidate applied to the entrance examinations or within 6 months before arrival in Japan, whichever is later³)

(3) Application Documents for TMGH

- 1) As application documents for TMGH are different from documents for JICA, please check Appendix 2 and the university website carefully and follow the detailed instructions for submission documents and application procedures: [Application Documents 2025 \(Masters Programme\) – Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health](#)
- 2) Regarding the entrance examination fee written in the university guideline (Appendix 2), candidates do not need to pay it as JICA will cover the fee.

² Submitted documents will not be returned.

³ If the candidate passes the university entrance examination, a health certificate of JICA format will be required. Without the certificate, admission may become rejected.

- 3) Submission of softcopies of the application documents are excepted. Application documents must be submitted by email to JICA overseas office for confirmation, and JICA HQ will then send the documents to the university.

(4) Procedures in General:

Based on the above documents, candidates are nominated and endorsed by their country's government, and later approved by JICA⁴. After this procedure, screening will be conducted at the universities selected by the candidates.

Please kindly note that universities may reject the candidate's application when the required documents, or the submitted research plan is not accepted by the universities.

Candidates must follow each university's application procedure after the screening. If the candidates withdraw their applications after their official applications to the universities, candidates must inform their withdrawal to the university by letter.

(5) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

- 1) Fees for English proficiency test or other necessary fees for preparation of application documents can be reimbursed only within the same Japanese fiscal year (from 1st April to 31st March of the next year) when the general entrance examinations are taken. Details of the reimbursement vary by each area and should be consulted with the nearest JICA overseas office of each candidate.

JICA shall determine whether the candidate is eligible to participate in training in Japan. JICA shall make a decision on acceptance or rejection based on several factors such as entrance examination results, planned number of participants, medical examination results and others. Reason for the decision will not be disclosed.

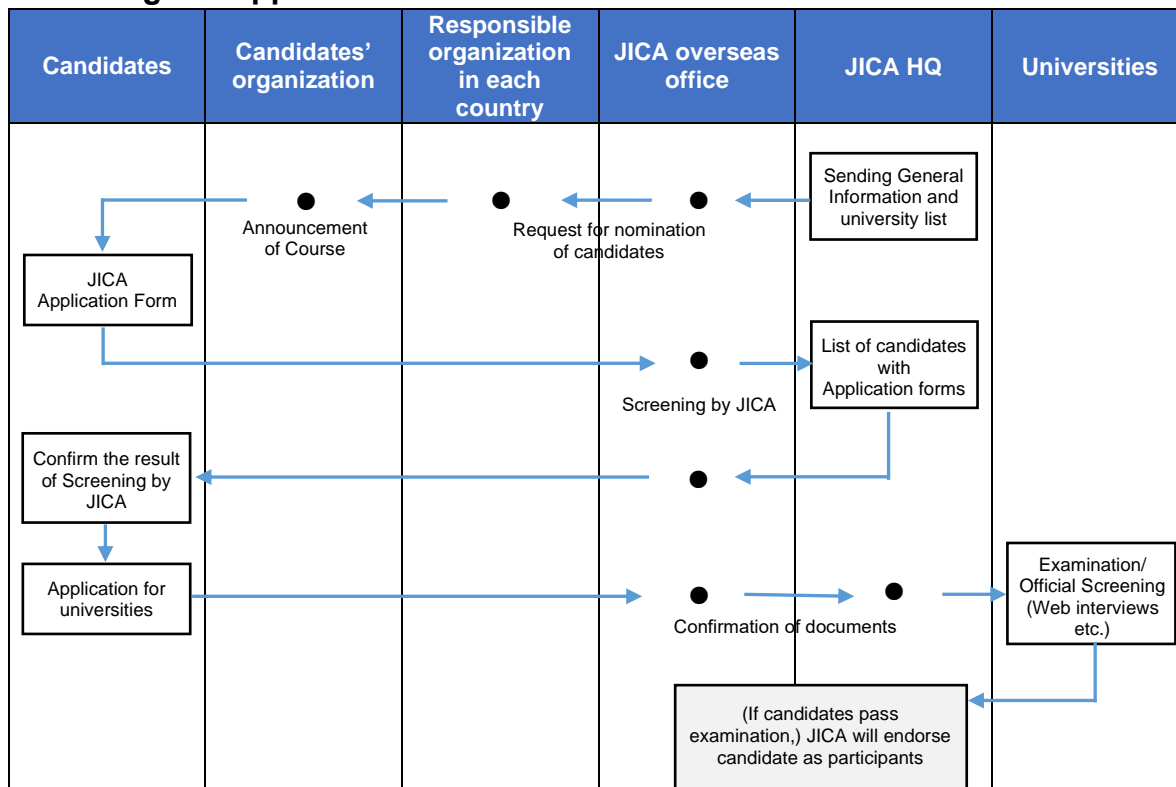
⁴ The Government of Japan will examine candidates who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.

10. Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. For the schedule related to TMGH, please visit: [Application Documents 2025 \(Masters Programme\) – Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health](#)

Process schedule	
Date	Process
Please confirm the deadline of KCCP application form within the JICA overseas office in respective countries	Nomination of candidates in respective organizations
	Selection of candidates by responsible organization in each country
	“Application Documents” must be submitted to JICA overseas office in charge of the country of candidates.
March 21 st , 2025	Screening by JICA
March 24 th , 2025 – April 11 th , 2025	Candidates must submit a softcopy of application documents to JICA overseas office. After checking, JICA overseas office will send the documents to JICA HQ and JICA HQ will submit the documents on behalf of the candidate
	*Candidates must follow the entrance examination schedule set by each university.
May 29 th , 2025	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from TMGH to JICA
June – July 2025	Determination by JICA as KCCP (Long-term) participants
July - August, 2025	Preparation for study in Japan if candidates are determined as KCCP (Long-term) participants.
September, 2025	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of <i>the October 2025 Term</i> at TMGH

JICA Program Application Flowchart



*Schedule and program contents might be adjusted appropriately due to unforeseen circumstances.

11. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA

- 1) Under the JICA Long-term Trainee Allowance standards, JICA will cover expenses and allowance to participants accepted to the program/course. See the table below for further details. Note that the payments (e.g., for tuition, research support expenses, school support expenses) will not be paid to the accepted participants themselves, but directly to the university or other relevant institutions.

Expense category	Payment amount	Payment frequency
Tuition (examination fees, entrance fees, course fees)	Actual costs	According to the request from universities
Living Allowance	JPY 117,000–148,000 per month*	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance**	JPY103,750~106,000	Once (upon arrival in Japan)
Moving Allowance***	Up to JPY164,000-224,000	Once (during the training period)**
Research Support Expenses****	Actual costs (up to JPY360,000 per year)	
Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (the costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are NOT included).	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	

*Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

**Once, after opening bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have the bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during the period.

***Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.

****Research Support Expenses are allowed to be provided via the university and be disbursed with the consultation and approval of the candidate's supervisor.

12. Expenses NOT To Be Borne By JICA

JICA will not bear costs other than the allowances described above. JICA is not responsible for the following expenses:

- (1)** Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
- (2)** Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3)** Transportation expenses to obtain Japanese Visa
- (4)** Domestic travel expenses at the candidate's home country
- (5)** Departure tax
- (6)** Airport tax/airport facility charges outside of Japan, including third countries
- (7)** Customs duty
- (8)** Excess baggage charges
- (9)** Compensation for lost and/or damaged baggage
- (10)** "No show charge" to the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11)** Lost - ticket fee
- (12)** Accommodation fee for day-use hotel in return flight
- (13)** Transportation expenses other than official programs
- (14)** Telephone bill or mini-bar tab at accommodation
- (15)** Medical costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment
- (16)** Medical cost related to the same illness over 180days
- (17)** National Health Insurance fee

Note: If participant does not follow the regulation of JICA, the participant may have to bear such other costs of necessary expenses.

13. Conditions for Participation⁵

The accepted candidates/participants of KCCP are required

- (1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA,
- (2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own,
- (3) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,
- (4) to understand that inviting participant's family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,
- (5) to return to their home country on the designated flight by JICA, when they finish the program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination,
- (6) to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course,
- (7) to enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when participants receive JICA's instructions to do so.
- (8) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments, ("Plagiarism" especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),
- (9) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (10) to agree to be discontinued of the program, should the participant (a)violate Japanese laws, JICA's regulations, or University's regulations, (b)commit illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, (c)become critically ill or seriously injured after arrival in Japan.
- (11) to be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table of "11. Expenses To be borne by JICA,"
- (12) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (13) not to drive a car or motorbike, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (14) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
- (15) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule,
- (16) to accept that the Government of Japan will examine candidates who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan,

⁵ 記載必須。本内容はアプリケーションフォーム様式にも記載有。

- (17)** to submit a Health Certificate in JICA format at the candidate's expense, when the candidate applies to the entrance examinations or within 6 months before arrival in Japan, whichever is later.
- (18)** to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if deemed necessary by JICA. The cost of acquiring the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA unless it is required due to the candidates' fault.
- (19)** to promptly resubmit your medical history, if there are changes in your health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease,
- (20)** to be in good health to participate in the program. In order to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest when consulting the doctor for your Health Certificate,
- (21)** not to be receiving nor plan to receive another scholarship during the program,
- (22)** to understand not to make other applications for different JICA training courses at the same time, and
- (23)** to understand that the maximum duration of "Overseas research" and "Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)" is 60 days, in principle.
- (24)** to accept to take tuberculosis related inspections organized by JICA after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA and university.
- (25)** to approve the following conditions on summary of the thesis;
 - 1) Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.
 - 2) Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA.
 - 3) Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
 - 4) Taking Photocopy of the thesis shall be allowed by anyone with JICA's permission. I, the undersigned, acknowledge and agree to the above conditions regarding the summary of my thesis.



CORRESPONDENCE

For enquiries and further information, please contact your nearest JICA office.