

October 2020

**Application Guidelines on Japanese Initiative  
for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)  
in 2021**

This program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on an agreement between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



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**Annex 1. Check List (List of Application Documents to be submitted)**

**Annex 2. Application Form**

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**Annex 4. List of Japanese accepting universities and research fields**

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## 1. Background

More than five millions of Syrians have been forced to leave their home country and fled to neighboring countries and beyond since the conflict started in 2011, and the majority of these refugees have been staying in host communities. Under their severe and harsh living conditions, the international community is required to support those refugees from a humanitarian standpoint. The protracted crisis is depriving the refugees from their opportunities to study, which is likely to become the main reason for considerable loss of human resources for the reconstruction of the Syrian Arab Republic (hereinafter referred to as “Syria”) in the future.

Against this backdrop, the Japanese government announced in May 2016 that Japan would accept a maximum of 150 Syrian young personnel as students over five years with the aim of offering educational opportunities to Syrian youths who will contribute to Syria’s future reconstruction when it takes place. Accordingly, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has established the program “Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees” (hereinafter referred to as “JISR”) in cooperation with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for providing higher education opportunities at a Master’s degree level in Japanese universities to a maximum of 100 Syrian refugees who are staying in neighboring countries.

## 2. Objectives

The objective of JISR is to support Syrian refugees who have potential to contribute to the reconstruction of Syria in the future. This program offers opportunities for young Syrian refugees (hereinafter referred to as “Participants”) to study in graduate courses for their Master’s degrees at Japanese universities. This program intends to foster capable Syrian individuals to lead Syria’s reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts at an appropriate time in the future, while enhancing their understanding of Japanese people, society and systems so as to strengthen the mutual friendship between Syria and Japan.

## 3. Program Outline

- (1) Program Title: **Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)**
- (2) Language of the Program: **English**
- (3) Course: **Master’s Degree Program**
- (4) Number of Participants/year: **Approximately 20 (Lebanon & Jordan combined)**

## 4. Duration

- (1) Overall Program: August 2016 – September 2024  
Participants will be accepted every year from 2017 to 2021.
- (2) Admission Schedule: September/October 2021
  - Participants will come to Japan in September 2021 to take part in a post-arrival orientation

and Japanese Language Program before admission to Japanese universities.

- Duration of enrollment depends on university. Please see “5. Standard Timetable (Years needed for graduation)” of Annex 5. University Information.

## 5. Target Participants

This program targets Syrian refugees known to UNHCR, who are currently residing in Jordan or Lebanon, and who will play leading roles in Syria’s reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts in the private, governmental, or educational sectors in the future.

## 6. Fields of Study at Japanese Universities

Engineering, Agriculture, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Business Administration, Social Science (Peacebuilding, Political Science, Public Administration, etc.), and Japanese Language and Culture are specified as key fields of study.

## 7. Qualifications and Requirements

Applicant must satisfy the following requirements:

<b>(1) Nationality</b>	- Syrian
<b>(2) Age</b>	- Between 22 and 39 years of age (as of September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021)
<b>(3) Refugee Status/UNHCR Status</b>	- Applicant who is registered as a refugee by or known to UNHCR
<b>(4) Education</b>	- Bachelor’s degree holder (equivalent to at least 16 years of academic background) or university student in the final year of an undergraduate program who can present a certificate of expected graduation at the time of application
<b>(5) English language Proficiency</b>	- English skills both in written and oral communication adequate to complete a Master’s course (for those who wish to major in Japanese studies, adequate Japanese skills are also required.)
<b>(6) Academic Ability</b>	- Academic ability adequate to complete a Master’s course
<b>(7) Understanding of the Program</b>	- Applicant is required to have a clear understanding of the objectives of JISR, and to have a strong intention to contribute to the peacebuilding and/or reconstruction of Syria in the future, as well as strengthen the mutual friendship between Syria and Japan
<b>(8) Others</b>	Applicant must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not be receiving a scholarship offered by organizations, foreign or domestics, for a Master’s degree. (It is permissible for applicants to apply for scholarship opportunities aside from JISR. However, after passing the 1<sup>st</sup> selection (see Section 11), the applicant must withdraw applications to other scholarship programs to pursue the JISR scholarship.)</li> </ul>

**\* Important \* هام**

**Consider carefully the following points before applying to JISR.**

يرجى أخذ النقاط التالية بعين الاعتبار قبل تقديم الطلب.

**※Participants can invite/bring ONLY a spouse and children to Japan who are eligible to be granted "Dependent" resident status in accordance with the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of Japan.**

يستطيع المشاركون دعوة/إحضار فقط الزوجة/ الزوج والأولاد إلى اليابان، اللذين يكونوا مؤهلين لمنحهم وضع إقامة "غير مستقل" وفقا لقانون ضبط الهجرة والتعرف على اللاجئين الياباني.

**◇ Once Participants leave their host countries, re-entry into the host country might not be possible due to the immigration policy enforced in that host country.**

قد لا من الممكن يكون العودة إلى هناك مرة أخرى تبعا لسياسة الهجرة في ذلك البلد.

**- Participants will leave behind certain family members such as parents, siblings and other relatives, and might be difficult to see them during the period of study in Japan.**

ينفصل المشاركون عن أعضاء العائلة الآخرين كالأم والأب والأخوة والأخوات والأقارب الآخرين وقد يكون من الصعب رؤية بعضهم البعض خلال فترة دراستهم في اليابان.

**◇ Participants might not be able to travel to third countries from Japan; this will depend on the decision of the recipient nation(s).**

قد لا يستطيع المشاركون السفر إلى بلد ثالث من اليابان وذلك سيعتمد على قرار البلدان المستقبلة.

**◇ The status of residence of Participants will be "Student" during the program.**

وضع الإقامة للمشاركين سيكون "طالب" خلال البرنامج.

**- After the end of the program, that is, after graduation from university Participants will not be eligible to receive any allowances and other forms of support from JICA.**

لن يكون المشاركون مؤهلين لاستلام مياومة من جيكا.

**- Participants might not be able to return to Syria or move to other countries due to the immigration policies enforced in those countries. If Participants continue to stay in Japan, they will have to make a living on their own.**

قد لا يستطيع المشاركون العودة إلى سوريا أو الانتقال لبلد آخر بسبب سياسات الهجرة النافذة في البلد المعنى . إذا استمر المشاركون بالبقاء في اليابان فعليهم أن يجدوا مصادر معيشتهم لوحدهم.

**- If Participants continue to stay in Japan, their status of residence might be changed to an appropriate one based on their pathway in accordance with the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of Japan.**

إذا بقي المشاركون في اليابان فإن وضع الإقامة يمكن أن يتغير إلى شيء آخر مناسب و ذلك وفقا لقانون ضبط الهجرة و التعرف على اللاجئين الياباني.

**\*The program will support job-search activities during the program by providing a Japanese language program, internship opportunities, and introducing Japanese companies. However, Participants are required to make their own efforts in order to find a job.**

سيقدم البرنامج البحث على وظيفه خلال البرنامج و ذلك من خلال تقديم برنامج اللغة اليابانية و فرص التدريب خلال الدراسة و التعرف بالشركات اليابانية إلا أنه يطلب من المشاركين بذل الجهد من أجل إيجاد عمل.

## 8. Procedures and Required Documents for Application

**Closing date of submission is January 29th, 2021.**

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

All necessary supporting documents must be attached and submitted at the same time as the form. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

### **Addresses to submit:**

◆ **Jordan**

On-line submission.

Please access to below URL for the application submission.

<https://unhcr.io/JICA/>

**We do not accept application by email.**

**Closing: 23:59 (GMT+2) on January 29th, 2021**

◆ **Lebanon**

Hardcopy submission to UNHCR reception premises.

**Do not submit to the guards, but please drop into a box which is placed at the entrance of UNHCR reception premises between 9am-2pm from Monday to Friday, preferably after noon time to avoid the crowds.**

<b>UNHCR Beirut/Mt Lebanon</b> UNHCR Beirut Reception Centre, Moussa Nammour Street, Ramlet el Bayda Beirut – Lebanon	<b>UNHCR Bekaa</b> Moualaka Aradi Area UNHCR Building Facing Kaysar Ata Ice Cream Factory Baalbeck Highway, Zahle-Lebanon
<b>UNHCR North Lebanon</b> Next to Rachid Karame Exhibition Center- Tripoli	<b>UNHCR South Lebanon</b> Villa Krischt, Al Hosh - Tyre

**Required Documents:**

	Documents	Note	Necessary Sets
1	Check List (Annex 1)	Must be checked before submission of all the necessary documents.	1 original
2	Copy of UNHCR certificate	Issued by the UNHCR Office in Jordan or Lebanon. (mandatory for Jordan and if available, in Lebanon)	1 copy
3	Application Form (Annex 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Field of study, university and professors: 1<sup>st</sup> , 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices if available (Complete Section 1. of the form with reference to Annex 4 and 5)</li><li>- Personal Information</li><li>- Educational Background</li><li>- Work Experience</li><li>- Academic Background</li><li>- Details of Most Recent or Previous Employment</li><li>- Future Plan after returning to Syria</li><li>- Research plan</li><li>- Medical history</li><li>- Information about family members to be brought to Japan</li><li>- Declaration</li><li>- 1 color photo, taken within the past three months, must be affixed. Do not staple.</li></ul>	1 original
4	Graduation certificate(s) of Bachelor's degree	Notarized copies of original certificate(s) are acceptable. If you are currently enrolled in university and are expected to graduate, please submit a "certificate of expected graduation." ◆ Official English translation, if any. (Must contain seal of sworn translator)	1 original
5	Academic transcript(s)	Must contain all the grades earned at your graduating university. Notarized copies of original transcript(s) are acceptable. ◆ Official English translation, if any. (Must contain seal of sworn translator)	1 original

	Documents	Note	Necessary Sets
6	5 color ID photos (4 cm × 3 cm)  Required only for the candidates for JICA interviews of the 1 <sup>st</sup> selection.	<u>Please submit at JICA interview of the 1<sup>st</sup> selection for those who pass.</u> The same photo as the one affixed to Application Form. Write your full name on the back side of the photos. ◆ It must have been taken within the past three months. ◆ Paper copy of photo is NOT acceptable. ◆ Background color should be white.	5 same photos in same size
7	A copy of passport if any (Copy of the following information pages are necessary: <u>passport number</u> , <u>expiration date</u> and <u>national number</u> )	◆ Regardless of expiration date ◆ <u>Family members need to submit passports at the time of application as well</u> , if any, even if expired. ◆ If the successful candidate or his/her family members do not possess passports, or have expired passports, they must be applied for/renewed in order to obtain visa to Japan. ◆ Passport application/renewal fee shall be borne by the successful candidate him/herself. ◆ In case the successful candidate will not be able to apply for/renew his/her passport for the specific reason, travel certificate will be issued when the Japanese government approves the reason to be legitimate.	1 copy
8	A letter of recommendation <u>if possible</u> (It is mandatory for some universities)	From the organization you worked with most recently, or the professors of your graduating university.	1 original
9	Residency permit (Lebanon only)	◆ Regardless of expiration date ◆ If the successful candidate or his/her family members have expired residency permits, they must be renewed in order to leave Lebanon according to the Lebanese law. ◆ The residency permit renewal fee shall be borne by the successful candidate him/herself. ◆ Accompanying family members should also submit their residency permits at a later stage.	1 copy

**\*Please do not staple the documents.**

**\*A letter of recommendation is mandatory for some universities. Please see Annex 4 for**

**further information.**

**\*Please submit an official certificate of a Japanese Language Examination, if any.**

**\*Please submit an official certificate of an English Examination, if any, for reference.**

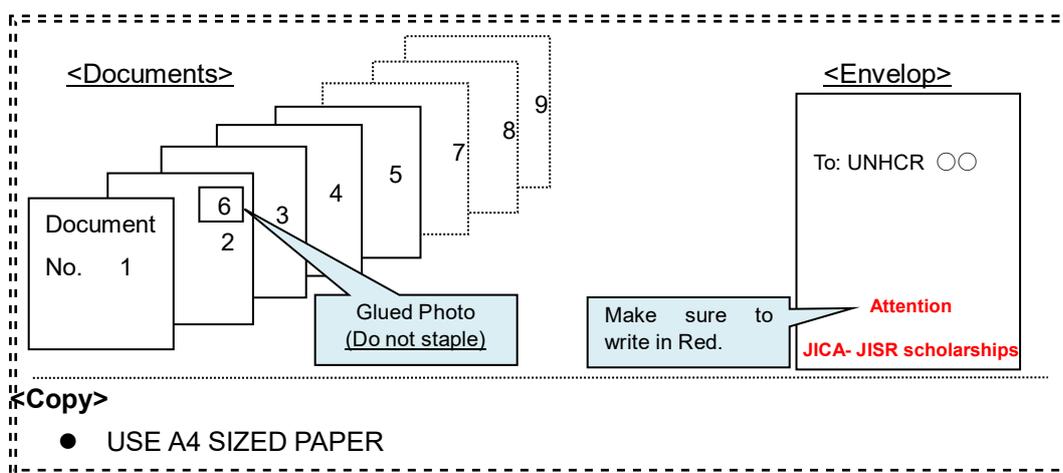
**Please note that every candidate is required to take a written examination for English during the selection process.**

**\*Please do not include any documents/certificates other than mentioned above in the envelop.**

**\*Make sure to keep your own extra photocopy of the application documents.**

**\*Application documents will not be returned under any circumstances.**

◆ **Illustration of the documents to be submitted.**



## 9. Choosing a University

1. Check “Annex 4. List of Japanese Universities and Research Fields” to confirm which Universities/Graduate Schools provide which research fields.

3. Focus on some universities (not only one) which offer research fields that interest you, and compare them. Try to find professors you are interested in to act as your supervisors from “8. Professors and Associate Professors” and read his/her papers if possible.

2. Check “Annex 5. University Information” for details on research fields, years needed for graduation, professors, facilities, and other unique aspects of each university. We recommend checking university websites for more information.

**\*After submitting application documents, some universities will accept e-mail consultations from applicants about majoring fields and research plans.**

## 10. Application Deadline

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Late applications will not be accepted.

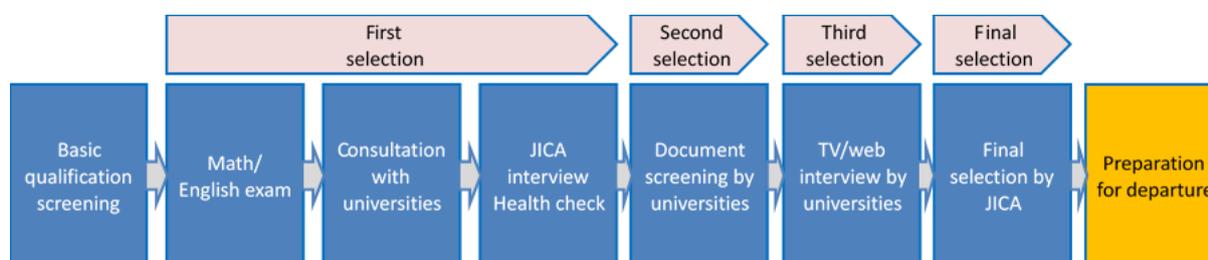
## 11. Selection Procedures and Preparation for Departure

JICA is responsible for the implementation of JISR, and is in charge of total supervision.

JICA implements JISR with the cooperation of Japan Development Service (hereinafter referred to as “JDS”) and Japan Association for Refugees (hereinafter referred to as “JAR”).

During and after the selection process, JDS/JAR will contact applicants/participants.

Selection procedures of JISR are as follows.



**\*No fees will be charged directly/indirectly by JICA/JDS/JAR before/during/after the selection process.**

**\*Any costs incurred during the selection procedures (except the 3rd selection) including travel expenses to selection venues will NOT BE COVERED by JICA.**

**\*Travel expenses (around \$10) will be borne by JICA for the 3rd selection.**

**\*The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.**

### (1) Basic qualification screening

Period	In February 2021 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ JDS/JAR carries out basic qualification screening and checks all the required documents.</li> <li>✓ Mathematics review materials will be provided in order for applicants to prepare for the mathematics examination by themselves.</li> </ul>

### (2) 1st Selection: Screening by JICA

Period	Early March to mid-May, 2021 (to be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Written examinations for English (TOEFL ITP ) and mathematics <u>*The applicant will not be notified of the results of English and math exams.</u></li> <li>✓ Some universities will accept e-mail consultations from applicants about majoring fields and research plans. This process enables applicants to find appropriate universities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Based on the results of consultations, the applicant may choose preferred universities when this is considered necessary.</li> <li>✓ Interviews by JICA</li> <li>✓ The applicant will undergo a health check at the time of the JICA interview.</li> </ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ To assess an applicant's basic knowledge</li> <li>✓ To check an applicant's understanding of the program objectives</li> </ul>
Venue	To be determined
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Low scores in the written examinations may result in disqualification.</li> <li>✓ An applicant who is judged not to have a clear understanding of the objectives of the program may also be disqualified in the JICA interview.</li> <li>✓ The results will be shared with the Japanese universities for their reference in the 2nd Selection process (see below).</li> </ul>

### **(3) 2nd Selection**

Period	Mid-May to early June 2021 (To be determined)
Procedures	Document screening by the Japanese universities
Objectives	Universities assess whether an applicant's background and research plan match those academic fields offered by the university concerned, based on the documents submitted.
Selection and Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ JDS/JAR will send application documents with the results of the English and mathematics examinations to the applicant's first and second-choice (or third-choice only when necessary) Japanese universities.</li> <li>✓ Universities will then examine the documents to match the applicant with courses /supervisors.</li> </ul>

### **(4) 3rd Selection**

Period	Late May to mid-June 2021 (To be determined)
Procedures	Interviews by the Japanese universities (via video/web conference system)
Objectives	To select final candidates (to be put forward for official approval)
Venue	At designated facilities in Jordan or Lebanon
Selection and Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Each applicant will be interviewed by video/web conference by professors of the Japanese university concerned.</li> </ul>

### **(5) Final Selection (Selection of the Successful Candidates)**

Period	Late June to mid-July 2021 (To be determined)
Procedures	Final selection by JICA
Objectives	To officially approve successful candidates as Participants
Selection and Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ JICA will officially approve the successful candidates as Participants and the results will be announced.</li> </ul>

## **(6) Preparation for Departure to Japan**

Period	Mid-July to September 2021 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Successful candidates may be required to prepare additional application documents.</li><li>✓ Successful candidates and family members will go through the visa acquisition process.</li><li>✓ Accompanying family members to Japan will each have a health checkup, interview, and briefing session.</li><li>✓ There will be a pre-departure orientation for JISR Participants.</li></ul>
Venue	To be determined

## **(7) Departure to Japan**

Period	September 2021 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ JISR Participants will depart for Japan in September.</li><li>✓ Post arrival orientation will be held before admission to universities.</li></ul>

# **12. Intensive Japanese study / Research Student / Master**

## **Student**

There are three different types of accepting JISR participants for the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

### **1) Intensive Japanese Study**

Spending the 1<sup>st</sup> year in a designated organization to focus on studying Japanese prior to enter the university, in which you wish to obtain your master degree. You will concentrate on Japanese so that when you start your Master's course in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, you can understand (read, write, listen and speak) Japanese at the certain level. This enables you to brush up your Japanese skill at the same time of studying in your Master's course in order to get N2 level of Japanese test\* which is basic requirement by Japanese companies if you wish to find a job in Japan.

\* Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (<https://www.jlpt.jp/e/index.html>)

### **2) Research Student**

Enrolling the university, prior to starting your Master's course, as "research student" for the 1<sup>st</sup> year (maximum of 1 year). Research student is a part-time student who utilizes time to prepare for the admission examination for a Master's course and to study Japanese as much as possible with opportunities provided by the university. Research students can receive instruction from supervisors and make use of university facilities.

You will apply for the entrance examination for the Master's course for both of 1) and 2) in a designated period by each university. If a Participant fails the examination for the Master's course, he/she will be disqualified as a JISR Participant and will not be able to receive any allowance from JICA. The Participant and family members may need to apply for another status of residence that will allow them to remain in Japan until such time as they are no longer in need of international protection.

### 3) Master Student

Enrolling the university, as a master student from the 1<sup>st</sup> year and you will spend 2 years in a Master's course. You will graduate within 2 years and need to find a job in Japan if you wish to stay in Japan.

**\*Please refer to Annex 5. "5. Standard time table (Years needed for graduation) of universities." for each university's type you wish to enter. You will find the similar sentences as below.**

- 1) Learning Japanese for about 1 year at a designated organization with other JISR participant, then starting Master course for two years.
- 2) Starting as a Research Student for 6 months or 1 year, then 2 years as a Master's Student after passing the entrance exam
- 3) 2 years as a Master's Student

## 13. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA

JICA will provide the following expenses to Participants of the program. Other costs shall be borne by Participants.

\*Amounts valid as of September 2020

Allowance Item	Amount of payment	Frequency	Notes
Tuition	Actual cost	Each semester	To be paid by JICA directly to the university
Living allowance	¥4,953 ~ ¥5,052 yen/day	On arrival, and Every two months	The rate differs depending on where the Participant lives. When the Participant is staying at the JICA Center upon arrival in Japan, the rate is 2,317 yen (provided breakfast and meal card for lunch and dinner).
Airfare (Economy class)	Actual cost	Arrival	Air ticket will be arranged by JICA.
Outfit allowance	¥100,000	On arrival (1 time)	To purchase necessities for living in Japan.
Moving allowance (lump-sum payment for rental contract)	¥164,000 ~	1 time	The maximum amount depends on where the university is located.

	¥224,000		
Medical Expenses	Actual Cost	Each time	There are some exceptions such as pre-existing illness, dental treatment, etc.
Japanese Language Training Program and other supporting programs	Actual Cost	Several times	The event will be held by JICA/JDS/JAR

\*The amount is subject to change.

\*Living Allowance includes all expenses for daily living (rent, utility charges, meals, cost of furniture and fixtures, communication fees, premium for National Health Insurance), cost of books, expenses for domestic and overseas trip fees, transportation expenses, cost of visa extensions, etc.

## 14. Inviting Family Members to Japan

### Terms

Family: A spouse and children

See Section 7. \*Important\*

### (1) Time to invite

In principle, JICA recommends that Participants invite their family to Japan at least six months after the time of their arrival, since it will take approximately three months to complete the administrative registration, house-renting, course registration at the university and so on. In addition, Participants need to familiarize themselves with Japanese life and obtain information relevant to living with family (such as public and local support systems for foreigners, medical and education services, etc.).

However, JISR Participants arriving in Japan together with their family will be also accepted considering their status as refugees, if the necessary documents have been prepared (visa, exit permit, etc.).

### (2) Support from JICA

Basically, it is self-responsibilities of participants and their family to take care of themselves in order to be self-sufficient and fit in well with Japanese society. If necessary, JICA/JDS/JAR will assist the family of a Participant with housing, entering children in school and counselling on life.

### (3) Expenses

JICA will provide the following expenses for the family of a Participant

- Airfare to Japan

- Family allowance (Spouse : 13,000 yen/month, Per Child : 6,500 yen/month)
- Medical Expenses (There are some exception such as pre-existing illness, dental treatment, etc.)
- \* Spouse can work only after obtaining a permission to work (Shikakugai-katsudokyoka) from the immigration office within the scope of the law.
- \* JICA/JDS/JAR will not support the spouse to find a job.

## 15. Internship at Japanese Companies/Organizations

Participants are expected to do internships at Japanese companies during spring/summer breaks for practical experience in order to find a job in Japan after graduation. Internship programs are carried out in English or Japanese. JICA/JDS/JAR will assist Participants in finding companies by holding business fairs with Japanese companies several times during the program. In principle, no reward or compensation will be paid to companies or Participants. Details of internships will be fixed according to a hosting company's schedule.

## 16. Rules and Regulations

### Example of Rules and Regulations

- (1) To observe all Japanese laws & regulations.
- (2) To refrain from violating any regulations of the enrolled university.
- (3) Not to drive a vehicle or motorbike.
- (4) Not to change your field of study, the designated course or the graduate school.
- (5) Not to work part-time without JICA's prior approval.



(There are certain conditions and rules to follow; it is only possible 1) after starting a master course, 2) during long vacations that are set by each university you belong to, 3) under permission of your professor, 4) within the legally prescribed hours, 5) when it doesn't affect the progress of your study, 6) you find it by yourself, and so on.)

Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant in the university with remuneration maybe permitted if that does not interfere with your study/research and approved by your academic advisor.

- (6) Not to change accommodation without the permission of JICA.
- (7) Not to leave Japan without the approval of JICA.

## 17. Study and Life in Japan

### **Providing high academic standards and attractive programs**

Japanese scientists have been awarded Nobel Prizes in Physics, Physiology or Medicine and Chemistry. The numbers of degree programs conducted in English are increasing. This environment allows you to learn cutting-edge science and technology in Japan. You can also study not only law, economics, science and engineering, but also environment, information and disaster prevention.

Moreover, Japan uses technology which has been developed over many years for technical cooperation in developing countries. In addition, students from all over the world such as Africa and Asia to the Middle East, Europe and the US, come to conduct research at Japan's graduate schools. These networks are sustained even after graduation.

### **Seeking employment in Japan after graduation**

It is not easy for international students to be hired by Japanese companies. A high level of Japanese language ability as well as communication and professional skills are considered important by companies when hiring international students. Therefore, learning Japanese language and culture is strongly encouraged. In job hunting activities, internships are valuable opportunities to gain work experience. Some benefits and goals of participating in internships include experiencing Japanese labor practice, learning Japanese business manners and utilizing what they experience in internships to examine and select industries.

For more information about the employment of international students in Japan, please have a look at the following website.

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/job/guide.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/job/guide.html)

### **Learning in an international environment**

International students from more than 170 countries and regions of the world are studying at universities and Japanese language schools in Japan. Recently, student dormitories where international students and Japanese students live together have been increasing in number. They offer a broader view of Japan as well as diverse cultures of the world.

Reference: Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO) website

For more information: [http://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study\\_j/sgtj.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study_j/sgtj.html)

### **Challenges of studying abroad**

Although studying abroad is an opportunity to understand other people's thoughts and cultures, international students often face challenges in adjusting to new academic and social environments.

For example, in Japanese graduate schools, students are required to actively participate in field research and laboratory activities in addition to attending lectures. Students must demonstrate a positive attitude both in lectures and coursework rather than passively listening to what the professor says. Please do not forget that your professor may rate your academic score lower if you are not punctual or slip out of the classroom too often.

In addition, according to statistics, foreign residents represent 1.6% of the total Japanese population and the literacy rate of Japanese is more than 99%, which means that people use Japanese language in everyday life basically everywhere including public and administrative organizations. Unfortunately, such an environment makes it very difficult for non-Japanese speaking people living in Japan without any assistance.

To make both your academic and private life smooth and peaceful in Japan, you may need to make extraordinary efforts.

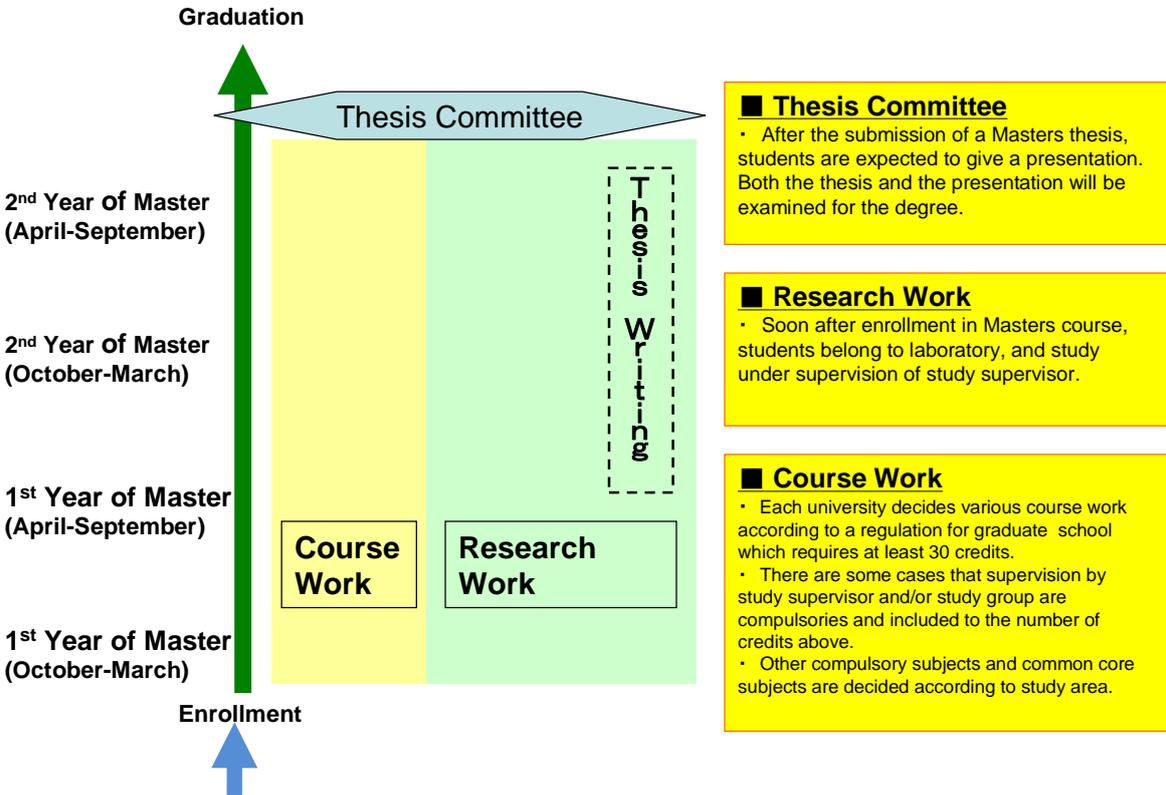
**Japan Development Studies Program**

Participants have an opportunity to join in Japan Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP). The Program aims to provide opportunities to learn about Japan’s modernization and development experiences, which differ from those of Europe and the U.S., and its wisdom as a country that provided cooperation toward the progress of developing countries after World War II.

**18. Important Features of Japanese Graduate School**

Reference: Japan Student Service Organization, "Student Guide to Japan"  
[http://www.jasso.go.jp/study\\_j/sqtj\\_e.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/study_j/sqtj_e.html)

◆ Graduate School System in Japan: Example



Period for intensive Japanese study / Research Student (Maximum of 12 months)

### **- Curriculum:**

Compared to US Master's programs, there are less compulsory modules and common core modules in Master's programs in Japan.

Soon after enrollment in a Master's program in a Japanese university, students are expected to begin their research activities in a laboratory (or Kenkyushitsu in Japanese) according to their choices. There is an advantage that students can experience research work from early period of their Master's course.

Taking classes with a passive attitude is frowned upon at graduate school in Japan - students are expected to have an independent mind to conduct research based on their own research theme.

### **- Requirements for completing a degree:**

According to graduate school regulations, the average required number of credits is about 30. However, you need to confirm the university information, as the number of modules required to complete a degree differs depending on the university.

## **19. FAQ**

No	Question	Answer	Related part in Application Guidelines
<b>Application Requirement</b>			
1	What kind of UNHCR certificate do I have to submit as an application document?	Applicants in Jordan and Lebanon need to provide a copy of their UNHCR certificate. Applicants in Lebanon who are unable to obtain a UNHCR registration certificate, may still qualify provided they indicate the reasons they are unable to do so.	Section 5, 7 and 8
2	Is it possible to apply for this program without being a registered refugee?	This program is intended for Syrian refugees who are known to UNHCR who are currently staying in Jordan and Lebanon.  If you are not registered with UNHCR but are interested in studying in Japan, you may consider applying for a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship.	Section 5, 7 and 8
3	I do not have a valid passport. Is it possible to leave for Japan?	If the successful candidate or his/her family members do not have or have expired passports, they must be renewed in order to obtain visa to Japan. (Passport renewal fees shall be borne by the successful candidate).	Section 8

		In case the successful candidate will not be able to apply for/renew his/her passport for the specific reason, travel certificate will be issued when the Japanese government approves the reason to be legitimate.	
4	I do not have my valid residency permit in Lebanon. Is it possible to enter Japan?	Successful candidates (and family members) must renew residency permits by themselves in order to leave Lebanon according to the Lebanese law. Renewal fees must be borne by the successful candidate.	Section 8
5	Am I exempt from taking a written examination for English if I submit an official certificate such as TOEFL ?	No. Basically, every applicant needs to take a written examination for English.	Section 11
6	Do I need to take a math test?	Yes, all applicants must take the math test.	
7	I am not able to prepare a letter of recommendation.	A letter of recommendation is mandatory for some universities. Although other universities do not necessarily require its submission, it is recommendable that you submit one if at all possible.	Section 8
8	I am currently a university student who is about to complete my Bachelor's Degree. Can I apply?	Yes, you may. However, the applicant must provide an official letter from the university in which he/she is currently enrolled confirming the applicant's expected graduation.	Section 8
<b>Field of Study and Research Plan</b>			
9	How can I write my research plan for the application form?	Please refer to the objectives of JISR and "Section 8. Research plan" in the application form.	Section 2 and "Section 8 Research Plan" in the application form

10	Can I e-mail or contact university supervisors regarding my research plan or ask whether my application will be accepted?	There is a consultation period during the JISR selection process. If universities accept e-mail consultations, applicants can consult university professors about his/her research plan.	Section 9 and 11
<b>About a Research Student Status</b>			
11	What does it mean to be a "Research Student" and how does it differ from a Master's student?	A "Research Student" is defined as a part-time student. During this stage, a Participant prepares for the admission examination for a Master's course with instructions from his/her supervisor. Research students are also able to use the facilities of the university and utilize their time to study Japanese language.  A student in a Master's course, normally during a period of two years to completion, focuses on a specific field of study to obtain a Master's degree.	Section 12 and 18
12	What will happen to my status as a student of the JISR program if I fail the admission examination while I am a research student?	If a Participant fails the admission examination, allowance from JICA will be terminated. The Participant and family members may need to apply for another status of residence that will allow them to remain in Japan until such time as they are no longer in need of international protection.	Section 12
13	Can I obtain full scholarship even while I am a Research Student or during the period of taking Intensive Japanese Study?	Yes, JICA provides tuition fees and a living allowance for all Participants.	Section 4
14	How can I choose how to spend my first year of Japan from 3 options; 1) Intensive Japanese Study 2) Research Student 3) Master Student	First, you need to understand the three different categories by reading Section 12.  Then, you will check Annex 5. "5. Standard time table (Years needed for graduation) of universities." for each university's type you wish to enter.  You will find the similar sentences as below.  1) Learning Japanese for about 1 year at a designated organization with other JISR participant, then starting Master course for two years.	Section 12

		2) Starting as a Research Student for 6 months or 1 year, then 2 years as a Master's Student after passing the entrance exam 3) 2 years as a Master's Student	
<b>Scholarship</b>			
15	I am currently receiving an UNHCR scholarship to obtain a bachelor degree in Jordan/Lebanon and am about to graduate. Can I apply for JISR?	Yes, you can apply for JISR if you can submit a graduation certificate for your Bachelor's Degree and an academic transcript. A provisional certificate may be acceptable if the official one can be submitted during the selection process.	Section 7 and 8
16	Can I apply for another scholarship for a Master's degree while I am applying for JISR?	Applicants are allowed to apply for other scholarships aside from JISR. However, after passing the 1st selection, the applicant must withdraw from their other applications to pursue the JISR scholarship.	Section 7 and 11
<b>Family Related Issues</b>			
17	Can I go to Japan with my family?	Yes, Participants can invite/bring ONLY a spouse and children to Japan who are eligible for "Dependent" status in accordance with the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of Japan.  Participants need to be aware that they will leave behind other family members once you leave their host countries, and re-entry into Jordan/Lebanon might not be possible due to the immigration policy enforced in that host country.	Section 7 and 14
18	What kind of family support will be provided?	JICA/JDS/JAR will assist with housing, schooling of children, and counselling if necessary. Specifically, JICA will provide airfares to Japan, family allowance (Spouse : 13,000 yen/month, Child : 6,500 yen/month/child).  In addition, Participants will be able to benefit from a Child Support Allowance, which is administrated by the Japanese Government and municipal authorities. Participants need to visit a municipal office and file an application.	Section 14 and 15
<b>Life in Japan</b>			

19	Can I find shops and restaurants for halal food in Japan?	Yes, you can find some restaurants offering halal foods and buy halal food in some shops in Japan or on-line.	
20	Do I have to study Japanese?	JICA places a high value on studying Japanese language and culture for staying in Japan. Therefore, JICA and university provides the opportunities studying Japanese as much as possible. Participants are strongly encouraged to continue studying Japanese even after enrollment in a Master's course especially for seeking employment in Japan after graduation. Participants are expected to have a business level of Japanese for their successful employments.	Section 12 and 17
21	What type of accommodation will I have in Japan?	Initially, JICA provides you with a room in a regional JICA center or a hotel during the Japanese Language Training Program upon arrival in Japan. After the program, most Participants move to university dormitories or public/private apartments before enrollment. You can refer to the dormitory information of each university in University Information (Annex 5).	
22	What is the status of residence in Japan during/after this program?	During the program, Participants' residency status is "Student." The residency status for a spouse and children is "Dependent." After completion of the program, if Participants continue to stay in Japan, the status of residence might be changed to an appropriate one in accordance with the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of Japan in view of the circumstances in Syria.	Section 7
<b>Internships, Job opportunities in Japan and Others</b>			
23	I would like to do internships at Japanese companies.	Participants can do internships at Japanese companies during the spring/summer break if they wish. JICA/JDS/JAR will assist Participants in finding companies.	Section 15
24	Can I work in Japan during this program?	Yes, Participants are able to work after obtaining official approval from JICA with some conditions. Please see Section 16 for some of the conditions to be fulfilled.	Section 16

25	What kind of support will be provided for job hunting in Japan after completion of this program?	Participants are required to make their own efforts in order to find a job in Japan. The program will support job-search only <u>during the program</u> by providing a Japanese language program and internship opportunities, and introducing Japanese companies.	Section 15 and 17
26	Can I apply for Refugee Resettlement in a third country for work after completion of this program?	The Program does not prevent Participants from applying jobs abroad. Please note that it depends on the recipient country concerned whether your employment and visa issuance are ensured.	
27	Can I apply to be naturalized in Japan?	With regard to naturalization, please refer to conditions specified in the Nationality law of Japan <a href="http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/information/tnl-01.html">http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/information/tnl-01.html</a> However, the program objective is to support Syrian refugees who have the potential to contribute to the reconstruction of Syria. Therefore Participants are expected to return and play a leading role in Syria's reconstruction and peacebuilding at an appropriate time in the future.	Section 2 and 5

## 20. Contact Information

You have an opportunity to ask questions about applying for JISR by **E-mail in English ONLY.**

Before inquiring, please be sure to check 'Section 20. FAQ', and send an e-mail only if you do not find the relevant question(s) and answer(s).

### **How to Inquire:**

1. The e-mail subject line should be in the following format.  
title: [JISR]date(year/month/day)+Your name
2. Send your e-mail to: [apply-jisr@jds21.com](mailto:apply-jisr@jds21.com)
3. Write the host country
4. Write your question in English
5. Wait for a reply. Sometimes it may take around a week



**\*Inquiries to universities and professors are not permitted except during the consultation period.**

### **Notes:**

- ✓ Follow the guidelines above, otherwise you might be DISQUALIFIED.
- ✓ Do NOT contact Japanese Embassies about JISR program.

- ✓ Do NOT ask general questions that you can find in Appendix 5. University Information.
- ✓ Do NOT send e-mails repeatedly if you do not get a response immediately.
- ✓ Do NOT ask about the results of the selection or reasons for failure after the selection.
- ✓ Inquiries by phone or any other means are not permitted.

