# JDS Cambodia 2026

For Master's program

# Application Guidelines

## 1. Overview

This is a quick guide to the application for JDS Cambodia. Please visit the JDS website for all the information below and further details. The following workshop information and video tutorials are also available on the website

### ➢ Promotion seminars for Cambodia

**Please register in advance on the JDS website.**

- **Application seminars** (by JICE)
- **Lecture on Research Plan** (by Doctoral degree holder)
- Introductory movie (by the universities)

### ➢ Video tutorials

The video tutorials are also available for those who are unable to attend the seminars above.

- Introduction to JDS [13 min]
- Application guidelines [18 min]
- How to prepare the application documents [12 min]
- How to write a research plan [27 min]
- Tips for the selection [20 min]

## 2. JDS Scholarship

**The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)** supports human resource development by providing young leaders from target countries with **full scholarships** for **master's degree** (and doctoral one) (provided in English) **in top Japanese Universities**. Since its establishment in 1999, JDS has provided learning opportunities to over 6,000 JDS fellows (JDS Cambodia was established in 2000).

The objectives of the JDS Scholarship Program are as follows

**(1) Support for Human Resource Development**

JDS aims at strengthening administrative capacity of the recipient country through providing post-graduate education opportunities with **talented young government officials** and others who are **expected to engage in formulating and implementing social and economic development plans** and to play a **leadership role** in the development of their country.

**(2) Strengthening of bilateral relations**

JDS also aims to **strengthening partnership between the recipient country and Japan** by promoting **human network building** with government officials and other stakeholders in Japan as trusted allies for the mid-to long- term. Hence, **JDS Fellows are expected to contribute to the enhanced bilateral relations** between their countries and Japan, with well-rounded knowledge of Japan.

**JDS also encourages application from female !!!**

## 3. Field of Study & Target Organizations

This fifth phase of the JDS Cambodia (2025-2028) has three **Sub-Programs (SP)**(= Priority areas) that consists of eight **components** (**CP** = **Development issues** = **Field of study**).

Those who belong to a designated **Target Organization (TO)** and meet the application requirements can apply for **any one of the components**.

For more detailed information, please **download** the **"Framework"** from the JDS website.

### Study Components (CP) and universities

✻ Figures in parentheses indicate the number of slots accepted annually (**Total 22 slots per year**).

✻ Please **download** a sheet of each **"CP info"** and **"University info"** from the JDS website

| | |
|---|---|
| **SP1:** | **Transformation and Development of Industries** |
| **CP1** | |
| **1-1** | **Strengthening of Connectivity (3)**<br>Hiroshima University |
| **1-2** | **Promoting Digital Economy and Society (3)**<br>Kobe Institute of Computing |
| **1-3** | **Private Sector Development (3)**<br>Kobe University |
| **SP2:** | **Achieving Sustainable and Equitable Growth** |
| **CP2** | |
| **2-1** | **Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture Development (3)**<br>University of Tsukuba |
| **2-2** | **Promoting Human Development (3)**<br>Hiroshima University |
| **SP3:** | **Realization of Safe and Secure Society** |
| **CP3** | |
| **3-1** | **Improvement of Administrative Functions (2)**<br>Meiji University |
| **3-2** | **Legal and Judicial Development (2)**<br>Nagoya University |
| **3-3** | **Building of International Relations (3)**<br>International University of Japan |

## 4. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria.

**(1)** Be a citizen of Cambodia

**(2)** Be between **22 - 39 years of age** as of April 1, 2027

**(3)** Hold a **bachelor's degree** (recognized by the RGC or other countries)

※ *Any undergraduate major is acceptable unless specified by the host university.*

**(4)** Be a **civil servant** currently employed by a designated **Target Organization** (See "Framework").

※ *The following categories of applicants are eligible to apply **on a conditional basis**.*

- ***Technical Officers** are eligible **only if** they are at **Director level or above**.*
- *Officers currently working in the **provincial areas** are eligible **only if** they have an intention **to serve in central government in the future**.*

**(5)** Have **at least 2-year full-time work experience at the Target Organization** as of the application deadline.

※ *Contract staff are not eligible*

※ *Probation periods can be counted toward the 2 years*

※ *Periods of contract-based, part-time, or volunteer work cannot be considered as valid work experience.*

**(6)** Possess **sufficient English language proficiency**

※ *TOEFL score 500-550 or IELTS approx. 5.5 is preferable*

※ *TOEFL-ITP test will be arranged for ALL the applicants.*

**(7)** be in good physical and mental condition

Applicants who fall under the following categories are NOT eligible

- Current or prospected recipients of other scholarships.
- Holders of Master's degree or higher obtained abroad through a foreign scholarship,
- Military personnel or those affiliated with military organizations.

## 5. Application process

### 5-1 Application documents

- Applicants must **upload** the "**application documents**" listed in **Table 1** below in the **online application system**.
- Applicants are **strongly advised to have all the documents ready** before proceeding with the online application system.

**Table 1** For ★ below, please **download the prescribed form** from the JDS website.

| Application documents | Upload format | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** Short essay ★ | One merged PDF | (1) Work responsibilities (2) Reason for choosing the school to apply for (3) future contribution and ambition (4) Bilateral relationships |
| **2.** Research plan ★ | One merged PDF | Reference movie: How to write a research plan [27 min] |
| **3.** University certificate(s) | One merged PDF | ・Degrees from **ALL** the universities from which the applicant graduated<br>・If not written in English, **official English translation** must be attached<br>・If information is provided on the **back page**, include it in the PDF.<br>・Successful candidates must submit the original (or notarized copy) after the selection. |
| **4.** University transcript(s) | One merged PDF | ・Same notes as the note No.3 above |
| **5.** Reference letter ★ | One merged PDF | ・Must be written by the applicant's direct supervisor in English. |
| **6.** Employment certificate ★ | One merged PDF | ・Must be made by the appropriate department of the applicant's workplace.<br>・The original form of the workplace is acceptable if necessary information is covered. |
| **7.** Copy of passport | One merged PDF | ・First and last page of the valid passport.<br>・If passport is not available, submit copy of National ID with official English translation. |
| **8.** ID photo | jpg, png, or gif | ・Color for certification taken within last 3 months in 4:3 (height: width) aspect ratio. |
| **<Pre-notice>**<br>Permission letter | | ・Candidates who have passed 2nd selection must submit a **Permission Letter** before the 3rd (Final) selection. This is a letter to obtain **advance confirmation (pre-approval) of long-term leave of absence** from their employers prior to the final selection to ensure smooth participation in pre-departure orientations and JDS program if they are selected as successful candidates.<br>・A prescribed form will be given to those who pass the 2nd selection. Without this letter, the candidates are not allowed to proceed to the final selection. |

### 5-2 Online application

**Step (1) Prepare Application Documents**

- Gather all the required documents listed in Table 1.
- To download the designated form★, you will need **a password**. Please visit the JDS website, complete and submit the **request form**, and obtain the password.

**Step (2) Convert Documents to PDF**

- Combine and convert each set of documents (Item 1-7) into a single PDF file **per item**, using **portrait orientation only.** *Files in landscape orientation will not be accepted.*
- Ensure that both sides of any double-sided documents are included (e.g., university transcripts).
- **See Full instruction provided in Khmer language**
  https://jds-scholarship.org/country/cambodia/dl/Precaution.pdf

**Step (3) Access the Online Application System**

- Follow the system instructions to enter your information and upload the required files.
- After submission, keep **your "Entry No." and "Application No."** given by the system. This number will be used to manage all stages of the selection process.

**Application period**

**Opening date** November 12, 2026

**Closing date** January 11, 2027 (at 3:00 p.m.)

## 6. Selection process

### 6-1. Selection process

| Schedule | Selection steps ※1, ※2 |
|---|---|
| **Jan 11, 2027** | Closing date of application |
| Mid Jan | Academic aptitude test(s) ※3<br>・TOEFL-ITP ※4 Math test ※5 |
| End Jan ~ Feb | **1st selection** (Screening by the universities) |
| Feb ~ Mar | Health check-up ※6 |
| Early Mar | **2nd selection** (Interview by the universities) |
| Mid Mar | **3rd selection** (Interview by the OC) ※7, ※8 |
| End Mar | **Approval given by the OC** |
| Mar - Apr | Application for each university |
| May - Jul | Pre-departure English & Academic Training |
| Jul | Pre-departure orientations |
| **Aug** | **Departure for Japan** |

※1 Travel subsidies will be provided to applicants from rural areas throughout the selection process.

※2 **Selection results** will be notified via email after each stage.

※3 Test scores will be sent to the universities as selection reference.

※4 All applicants are required to take the TOEFL-ITP test arranged by JICE on the designated date.

※5 **No math test** is required for the following components

1-2 Promoting Digital Economy and Society
3-2 Legal and Judicial Development

※6 Applicants deemed medically unfit to overseas-study by a physician will not be allowed to proceed to the next selection stage.

※7 **OC (Operating Committee)** is the governing body of the project, composed of representatives from the Cambodian and Japanese governments.

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS)
- Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC)
- Ministry of Civil Service (MOC)
- Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)
- Embassy of Japan (EOJ), JICA Cambodia office (JICA)

※8 Candidates who pass the 2nd selection must submit a Permission Letter (See **Table 1**, pre-notice, for detail).

### 6-2. Selection criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st selection** | ・Academic records and background<br>・Scores of the English and math tests<br>・Research plan<br>・Matching between the research plan and disciplines of faculties of the university course<br>・Reference letter (Annex in the application docs) |
| **2nd selection** | ・Academic competence, Research plan<br>・Capacity of completing study in Japan<br>・Possibility to contribute to the development<br>・Logical thinking, communication skills<br>・Motivation to study in Japan, etc. |
| **3rd selection** | ・Potential to contribute to the development<br>・Potential to strengthen bilateral relationships<br>・Capacity to use outcomes of study over the long term<br>・Capacity of completing study in Japan<br>・Career ambition, motivation to study in Japan |

## 7. Benefits of JDS Scholarship

The JDS Scholarship is provided for the minimum period required to complete the academic program designated by host Japanese universities. The scholarship includes:

- ✓ Round-trip airfare between Cambodia and Japan
- ✓ Full tuition fees
- ✓ Monthly scholarship
- ✓ Arrival allowance
- ✓ Housing allowance
- ✓ Allowances for Seminars, Special programs, etc.
- ✓ Overseas travel insurance
  - ※ All International students are required to enroll in Japan's National Health Insurance program.

In addition, JDS fellows receive the following support from JICE to ensure a smooth and enriching study experience in Japan.

- ✓ Pre-departure English and academic training
- ✓ Pre-departure / post-arrival basic Japanese training
- ✓ JICE-support for finding domicile in Japan
- ✓ Periodical monitoring service in Japan
- ✓ Emergency support system
- ✓ Enrichment program for JDS fellows
  - ・Networking events with young government leaders
  - ・Leadership programs, Special lectures, etc.

## 8. Notes on JDS rules

The JDS Program has specific rules designed to ensure a safe and productive study environment for all fellows in Japan. These rules will be explained in detail during a pre-departure orientation. However, please be aware of the following key points before applying:

<u>While studying in Japan</u>

- It is recommended that family members join the fellow after three months of arrival and enrollment, due to post-arrival programs.
  ** Some universities may have stricter policies.*
- Employment in Japan is prohibited (due to VISA regulations)
- Driving motor vehicles is prohibited (for safety reasons)
- Fellows must complete the academic program within the designated period and return to Cambodia immediately after graduation, in accordance with the project design.

<u>After return to Cambodia</u>

- Fellows are required to attend a report meeting organized by the Operating Committee.
- Fellows must return to their original workplaces and serve for a minimum of two years, as stipulated by JDS rules.

## 9. Contact

### JICE JDS Project Office in Cambodia

| | |
|---|---|
| Office hour | 8:00-12:00 / 14:00-17:00, Monday to Friday |
| Email | jds.cambodia.office@jice.org |
| TEL | 023-217944 / 012-681611 |
| Address | Unit No. 306, Aura Condominium Bldg. #87, St. 63, Sangkat Beong Rang, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh Cambodia |
| JDS web | http://jds-scholarship.org |
| Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/khm.jds |
| JICE | https://www.jice.org/en/index.html |

**Ms. Men Sophea**
(As of August 2025)

Deputy Chief of Bureau,
National Institute of Diplomacy and Internation Relations / General Affairs Department,
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

**JDS 22nd batch (2022-2024)**
**Meiji University**
Graduate School of Governance Studies






# My Master's Journey in Japan:
# An Unforgettable *Research Experience* Worth Pursuing

## ដំណើរឆ្ពោះទៅការសិក្សាថ្នាក់បរិញ្ញាបត្រជាន់ខ្ពស់នៅប្រទេសជប៉ុន៖ បទពិសោធន៍កិច្ចការស្រាវជ្រាវដ៏មានតម្លៃដែលមិនអាចបំភ្លេចបាន

ការសិក្សាថ្នាក់បរិញ្ញាបត្រជាន់ខ្ពស់របស់ខ្ញុំនៅប្រទេសជប៉ុនគឺជាដំណើរដ៏អស្ចារ្យមួយ ជាដំណើរដែលខ្ញុំជឿថាមនុស្សគ្រប់រូបគួរតែពិចារណា ជាពិសេសតាមរយៈអាហារូបករណ៍JDS។ បទពិសោធន៍ដែលទទួលបានគឺមិនត្រឹមតែបន្ថែមចំណេះដឹងផ្នែកសិក្សាទេ ប៉ុន្តែថែមទាំងផ្លាស់ប្តូរជីវិតផ្ទាល់ខ្លួនផងដែរ។

**ការផ្តោតទៅលើការស្រាវជ្រាវ គឺជាផ្នែកដ៏ល្អបំផុតមួយនៃការសិក្សានៅប្រទេសជប៉ុន**។ ខ្ញុំបានរៀនពីបទពិសោធន៍ជាក់ស្តែង និងបានអនុវត្តកិច្ចការការស្រាវជ្រាវពេលកំពុងសរសេរនិក្ខេបបទថ្នាក់បរិញ្ញាបត្រជាន់ខ្ពស់របស់ខ្ញុំ។ ផ្ទុយពីឆ្នាំសិក្សាកន្លងមក ដែលការស្រាវជ្រាវហាក់គ្រាន់តែជាការស្មានឬការស្រមើលស្រមៃប៉ុណ្ណោះ ប៉ុន្តែពេលនេះខ្ញុំត្រូវតែបញ្ចប់គ្រប់ដំណាក់កាល ចាប់ពីការប្រមូលទិន្នន័យ ការសរសេរអត្ថបទសិក្សាសង្ខេប ការវិភាគទិន្នន័យ រហូតដល់ការបង្ហាញលទ្ធផល។ ខ្ញុំមិនអាចរៀនបានច្រើនអំពីដំណើរការស្រាវជ្រាវពីកន្លែងផ្សេងដូចដែលខ្ញុំបានរៀនដោយផ្ទាល់នេះឡើយ។

លក្ខណៈពិសេសតែមួយគត់នៃសាកលវិទ្យាល័យជប៉ុន រួមទាំងសាកលវិទ្យាល័យ Meiji ដែលខ្ញុំបានសិក្សាគឺ **ប្រព័ន្ធ Zemi** ។ Zemi គឺជាថ្នាក់សិក្ខាសាលាតូចមួយ ដែលសមាជិកទាំងអស់ចែករំលែកវឌ្ឍនភាពនៃការស្រាវជ្រាវរបស់ខ្លួន ផ្តល់មតិស្ថាបនា និងលើកទឹកចិត្តគ្នាទៅវិញទៅមក។ ការជួបជុំជាប្រចាំជាមួយមិត្តរួមថ្នាក់ និងគ្រូដឹកនាំរបស់ខ្ញុំបានផ្តល់ឱ្យខ្ញុំនូវការគាំទ្រ និងការលើកទឹកចិត្តដែលមិនអាចកាត់ថ្លៃបាន ជួយខ្ញុំឱ្យយកឈ្នះលើបញ្ហាប្រឈមទាំងឡាយ និងកែលម្អការងារស្រាវជ្រាវរបស់ខ្ញុំផងដែរ។ ការពិភាក្សាទាំងនេះមិនត្រឹមតែធ្វើអោយប្រសើរឡើងនូវការស្រាវជ្រាវរបស់ខ្ញុំប៉ុណ្ណោះទេ ប៉ុន្តែថែមទាំងបានកសាងមិត្តភាពដ៏រឹងមាំជាមួយមិត្តអន្តរជាតិដទៃទៀតផងដែរ។

លើសពីការសិក្សា ការរស់នៅក្នុងប្រទេសជប៉ុនផ្តល់ឱកាសដល់ខ្ញុំទទួលបានបទពិសោធន៍ផ្ទាល់ពីវប្បធម៌ និងរបៀបរស់នៅរបស់ជនជាតិជប៉ុនជាក់ស្តែង។ ការសម្របខ្លួនទៅនឹងប្រព័ន្ធរស់នៅក្នុងស្រុកបានជួយខ្ញុំបង្កើតទម្លាប់ល្អជាងមុន និងរបៀបរស់នៅប្រកបដោយវិន័យដែលមិននឹកស្មានដល់ ប៉ុន្តែជាគុណប្រយោជន៍ដ៏មានតម្លៃ។

ការវិលត្រលប់មកមាតុភូមិកំណើតវិញក្នុងនាមជានិស្សិតបញ្ចប់ការសិក្សាពីសាកលវិទ្យាល័យនៅប្រទេសជប៉ុន ជាពិសេសពីសាកលវិទ្យាល័យ Meiji គឺពិតជាមានកិត្តិយសណាស់។ ស្ថាប័នជប៉ុនត្រូវបានទទួលស្គាល់ជាសកលសម្រាប់ការអប់រំដែលមានគុណភាពខ្ពស់ និងស្តង់ដារស្រាវជ្រាវយ៉ាងម៉ត់ចត់។ ខ្ញុំសូមលើកទឹកចិត្តយ៉ាងមុតមាំឱ្យអ្នកទាំងអស់គ្នាដាក់ពាក្យសុំអាហារូបករណ៍ ហើយចាប់ផ្តើមដំណើរស្រាវជ្រាវផ្ទាល់ខ្លួនរបស់អ្នកនៅប្រទេសជប៉ុន។ វានឹងជាបទពិសោធន៍អស្ចារ្យ និងមិនអាចបំភ្លេចបាន ហើយដែលវានឹងចូលរួមកំណត់អនាគតរបស់អ្នកផងដែរ។