

Application Guidelines for JDS PhD 2024 (PhD 8th batch)

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in Cambodia

1. Purposes (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,

This project is seeking for **prospective applicants** with the **potential to become future leaders, rather than academic researchers, who can substantially make influence on policy affairs.**

2. Eligibility Requirements and Conditions

The applicant must;

1. Be a citizen of Cambodia
2. Be a **JDS Master's graduate who is civil servant or personnel of designated organizations**¹
3. Be **45 years old or younger** (as of April 1st, 2025)
4. In principle, **1) have published, 2) have a prospect for publication, or 3) have a concrete plan for publication with the supervisor at least one peer-reviewed article/ paper.**
5. Must have returned to work **after graduation from the JDS Master's program for a minimum of two years** (*reinstatement rule*), as required by the JDS rules.

※ Note that those who meet the following conditions may apply to the doctoral program without waiting the two years after graduation from the master's program (Even if they are currently enrolled in or have just graduated from the master's program) by **postponing the enforcement of the reinstatement rule** above.

Condition 1 The applicant must have a peer-reviewed publication or have a reasonable prospect of having the publication accepted by the journal and be able to provide evidence of this (Note that simply submitting or being under peer review is NOT considered as the "prospected").

Condition 2 The applicant must obtain permission from his/her current employer to apply for the JDS Ph.D. program and, if accepted by JDS, to return to study in Japan, and must be assured by his/her current employer that he/she will be able to return to work after completing the Ph.D. program. (For details, please refer to the Permission Letter, one of the application documents)

Condition 3 If accepted into the PhD program under the above conditions, the applicant must be obligated to return to work for a minimum of five years, which is the combination of the two-year reinstatement provision with deferred execution after graduation from the master's program and three years, which is that of the PhD program.

- ✓ If the applicant can officially show a reinstatement period between the end of the master's program and the start of the doctoral program, this period may be deducted from the total reinstatement period (five years) above.
- ✓ This obligation period is a minimum rule set by JDS, and if there are other conditions in the workplace, the applicant must comply with them.

Condition 4 *Even in the case of applicants who immediately enter the doctoral program after the graduation from the master's program, they must return to Cambodia once they graduate from the master and participate in the return program arranged by JDS in Japan (in Cambodia, they are also required to complete the registration procedure for the master' graduation and participate in the reporting program). * This is based on the contract and rule of the project.*

¹ National Bank of Cambodia, Electricity of Cambodia, Water Supply Authority, Autonomous Port, Telecom Cambodia

【Other Conditions】

1. Understand the purpose of the JDS Project and the JDS Ph.D. program described above.
2. In principle, enroll in the same graduate school where obtained a master's degree under the JDS.
3. Complete the course within, and not exceeding, three (3) years. However, fellows may be allowed to extend their studies for up to 6 months if they are judged to be highly likely to obtain a degree.

【Ineligibility】 A person falls under any of the following items is not eligible

1. Has been awarded or scheduled to receive other scholarships.
2. is a doctoral degree holder obtained abroad under the support of foreign assistance.
3. Military personnel or those who belong to affiliated organizations.

3. Framework for Cambodia

- The framework below is set for JDS Master Program every 4 years based on Japan's aid policy. This framework is also applied to JDS PhD Program in Cambodia.
- **Applicants for JDS PhD program must propose research relevant to one of the Components (Development issues) below.**

| Sub-Programs | Components | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Industrial Development | 1-1. Enhancement of Industrial Competitiveness | 1-1-1. Infrastructure development |
| | | 1-1-2. Private Sector Development |
| | | 1-1-3. Improvement of Education Quality |
| | 1-2. Agriculture and Rural Development | |
| 2. Better Quality of Life | 2-1. Improvement of Urban Living Environment | |
| | 2-2. Improvement of Healthcare and Social Security System | |
| 3. Strengthening of Governance | 3-1. Improvement of Administrative Functions | |
| | 3-2. Legal and Judicial Development | |
| | 3-3. Building of International Relations | |

4. Acceptance, Period and Style of Study

1. **Acceptable number:** Maximum 2 Fellows
2. **Study Period:** Maximum three (3) years (Enrollment: September 2025, Graduation: September 2028)
3. **Possible Style of Study:**

In principle, 3 years in Japan. But, for Fellows who have a difficulty in leaving their workplace for the 3 years, it is possible for them to stay in Japan, for example, for two (2) years for research and to complete the thesis in the last third year in their home country with a sufficient consultation with the Fellow's academic advisor(s) in advance.

5. Application and Selection Process

1. **Application Period** **September 14 to November 14, 2024**
2. **Application** Online application (See Section 11 below)
3. **Selection**
 - (1) Basic (Qualification) Check (by JICE)
 - (2) **(Document screening by the Committee) (Mid-End Nov)**
 - ※ This screening may not be conducted depending on the number of applications.
 - (3) Health check-up (arranged by JICE)

- (4) Interview by the Operating Committee (**Early Dec**)
- (5) Approval of the final candidates by the Committee (**Mid-End Dec**)
 - ※ This is a “conditional acceptance” because each university may have further selection.
- (6) Application for the Universities (**Apr - Jun 2025**)
- (7) Screening by the University (**Apr - Jun**)
 - ※ The application and screening process (6) and (7) depends on the universities. Some require an interview or written exam in Japan (the traveling cost for the exam will be covered by JDS)
- (8) Notice of acceptance by the University (**Jul**)
- (9) Announcement of Final Successful Candidate (**July 2025**)

4. Notes

- (1) All the selection costs will be covered by the JDS project.
- (2) Any false statements or plagiarism found in the application will result in immediate disqualification.
- (3) The results of each selection step will be notified by the JICE JDS office.
- (4) The reasons of the selection results will not be disclosed.

6. Selection (Evaluation) 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
 - 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)
 - Visions, plans, and possibilities to strengthen bilateral relations with Japan
2. Relevance of the Research Theme to the Development Issues of the Target Country
 - Prospect of the research towards improvement of the development Issues in their country, etc.
3. Academic Transcripts and Academic Accomplishments in the Master Course
 - Sufficient academic results, experiences of publishing peer reviewed papers, experiences of presenting at academic conferences/ seminars, etc.
4. Readiness of the Accepting University
 - Recommendation letter, evaluation by the expected academic advisor/s, and academic guidance outline, etc.

7. Award Benefits

1. The scholarship grant is equivalent to that of MEXT Scholarships for Doctoral course
2. Amount for each allowance is equivalent to that of JDS Master's program.
3. Round-trip airfare to Japan
4. Other financial supports: Application fee for the university, admission fee, tuition fee, traveling cost for academic advisor(s) to support for the fellows' research.

8. Support for the Fellows while stay in Japan

Support services for the Fellows in Doctoral courses will be equivalent to those for Master courses. The implementing agent will provide post-arrival support services including settlement assistance, monitoring, payment of allowances, and emergency assistance.

10. After returning home

The Fellows will be required to participating in a reporting program held by the Operating Committee in their home country. Moreover, **JDS Ph.D. program for Cambodia sets a minimum 3-year contribution** to the Fellow's workplace and the development of Cambodia.

11. Application Procedures

For application, please prepare **the following documents**, then fill out the **online application form**, from which you can **upload these documents** and submit your application.

Online Application form and documents for upload

| Notes | |
|--|--|
| Online Application Form (AF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please contact JDS office to obtain the access link to the online application. ➤ AF contains the following entry fields Check list / Applicant info / Education background / Career background / Upload page for the documents below / Questionnaires, etc. ➤ After you submit your application, the system will send you a copy of your application form |
| Application documents for upload | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>The following documents are recommended to be prepared before proceeding to the online application</u> ✓ The prescribed forms specified by “★” below can be downloaded from JDS website (Ph.D. page) ✓ For each item below, convert and combine them into ONE PDF file to each for upload <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ※ Important Please make all documents PDF in portrait orientation, even those written in landscape orientation. The landscape PDF will be rejected due to the system specifications. ※ Documents with information on both sides, such as transcript, should be submitted including the reverse side. | |
| 1 | ★Short essays |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The short essays include the following descriptions Work responsibility and achievement / Outcomes from JDS master's program / Leadership potentiality / Expected contribution to strengthen bilateral relationships with Japan / Career plan ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| 2 | ★Research plan |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Be relevant to one of the development issues (components) set in the framework (See 3) ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| 3 | Graduation Certificate (Master's degree) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attach official English translation If not written in English ➤ Original or attested original can be required during or after the selection |
| 4 | Transcripts (Master's degree) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| 5 | ★Reference letter (1) (from university) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Must be filled by an academic advisor of applicant's choice at the application university ➤ Must be directly submitted from the advisor to JICE JDS office via e-mail Note that this letter does NOT necessarily indicate acceptance by the university |
| 6 | ★Reference letter (2) (from workplace) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Must be filled by the current supervisor of the applicant ➤ Must be written in English or accompanied by official English translation ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| 7 | Copy of passport |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can be replaced by national ID if passport is not available (* must be accompanied by official translation if not written in English) ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| 8 | ★Employment record |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Must be issued and authorized by responsible department of applicant's workplace ➤ Form at workplace can be accepted as long as necessary information is covered ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| 9 | ★Permission letter |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Must be issued and authorized by the responsible person or department at applicant's workplace for your application and study in Japan ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| 10 | Photo file |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Color photo taken within the last 3 months (File extension: jpg / jpeg / png / gif) ➤ 4:3 (height: width) aspect ratio and must be taken against a plain background |
| 11 | English score (if any) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Score sheet of TOEFL or IELTS taken within the last 2 years is accepted ※ Convert and combine into ONE PDF file |
| Applications that fall under any of the following conditions will not be accepted or will be disqualified Incomplete documents / Application after the deadline / Falsifications or deception of application documents or information | |