

<b>Sub-program (Target Priority Area)</b>	2. Sustainable Economic Development
<b>Component (CP) (Development Issues)</b>	<b>2-1. Economic and Industrial Policy</b>
<b>Accepting University</b>	<p><b>National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)</b>  Graduate School of Policy Studies  One-year Master's Program of Public Policy (1 year)</p> <p>&lt;Available degree(s)&gt;  a. Master of Public Policy  b. Master of Public Administration  . (*Depends on fellow's research area)</p>
<b>Expected Research Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation and institution building for promoting local industries</li> <li>• Financial management</li> <li>• Promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</li> <li>• Industrial promotion in the area of fisheries &amp; marine resources, agriculture and tourism</li> <li>• Labour, employment &amp; migration issues</li> <li>• Economic and industrial diversification etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Direction of Study (Background of CP)</b>	<p>The Maldivian economy is based on tourism, which accounts for about 25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Maldives has received the assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 1) the foreign currency revenue from tourism declined because of the global financial crisis and weak euro, and 2) foreign currency reserves dropped drastically due to the difficulty in financing in the international capital market. Meanwhile, steering of the financial burden (enormous debt) associated with large-scale infrastructure improvement over the last several years (bridges, land reclamation, house construction, etc.) has become the critical policy issue in promoting the National Development Plan. In light of the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment adopted at Osaka G20 in June 2019, it is vital to consider maintaining/promoting fiscal soundness of the Maldives State. Moreover, the Maldivian economy is largely dependent on tourism, having a vulnerable structure subject to external factors.</p> <p>At Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023, in the areas of "Blue Economy," two related sectors such as "SMEs", "Economic Diversification" were stated as issues, and industrial promotion such as in the area of "Fisheries &amp; Marine Resources", "Agriculture", "Tourism," and "Labour, Employment &amp; Migration" are also highly related issue with this JDS target priority areas. Making efforts for diversification in the areas of economic policy and industrial policy and supporting the development of industries, having high development potential and small and medium-sized enterprises, are of great significance.</p>
<b>Voice of the Fellow</b>	<div data-bbox="416 1379 719 1787" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Mr. Ahmed Musid</b>  <i>Family Protection Authority</i></p> <p>Thanks to the JDS scholarship, I had the amazing opportunity to study at GRIPS, a renowned public policy school. The resources offered by the university, including the library, online materials, and dedicated study spaces, significantly improved my research skills and academic writing abilities. Moreover, the knowledgeable professors at GRIPS and the multicultural atmosphere expanded my expertise.</p> <p>I am grateful for the support and guidance provided by JICE to help me adapt to life in Japan. They assisted us with basic Japanese language learning, settling down, and overall well-being. Living in Tokyo has been a remarkable experience, with Japan's unique culture, rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and latest technology leaving a lasting impact. Exploring different parts of Japan has allowed me to experience its diverse seasons and immerse myself in the warmth and kindness of its people.</p> <p>This scholarship opened doors for academic advancement and enriched my personal growth. It has inspired me to strive for excellence, embrace new cultural experiences, and make a positive impact in my chosen field.</p>