



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

Application Guidelines

on

Japanese Initiative

for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)

JFY2026

Japan Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR) 2026

This handout provides an overview of the “Japan Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)” 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.

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).

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from developing 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 developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

0. 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)

Japan is the very first country and still is one of the very few countries that has modernized from a non-Western background to establish a free, democratic, prosperous, and peace-loving nation based on the rule of law, without losing much of its tradition and identity. With such belief, JICA invites future leaders from partner countries to Japan under KCCP, and offers them opportunity to learn about Japan's unique modernization and development experiences. This special program is called, JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP).

JICA-DSP is provided to all participants of KCCP during their stay in Japan. JICA will offer participants various opportunities through which they can learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences.

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

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1. Overview

More than six million 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 Syrian young personnel as students 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 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 6 (**Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye combined**)

4. Duration

Admission Schedule: November 2026 (For 2026 course)

- Participants will come to Japan in November 2026 to take part in Japanese Language Program until July 2027 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 people residing in Jordan and Lebanon who have been registered as refugees or are known to UNHCR, as well as those residing in Türkiye who have been recognized as refugees by the Turkish government, 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, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Business Administration, Social Science (Peacebuilding, Political Science, Public Administration, etc.), and Health Science are specified as key fields of study. Not limited to the fields listed above, other fields may also be deemed to be acceptable if they contribute to Syria's recovery and reconstruction.

7. Qualifications and Requirements

Applicant must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Nationality	- Syrian
(2) Age	- Between 22 and 39 years of age (as of September 1 st , 2026)
(3) Refugee Status/UNHCR Status	- Applicants who are registered as a refugee or are known to UNHCR For applicants from Türkiye, registration with the Turkish government for a temporary protection ID is required instead of registration with UNHCR
(4) Education	- 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
(5) English Language Proficiency	- English skills both in written and oral communication adequate to complete a Master's course.
(6) Academic Ability	- Academic ability adequate to complete a Master's course
(7) Understanding of the Program	- 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
(8) Others	- Applicants are allowed to apply for other scholarships aside from JISR. However, after passing all selection stages and accepted, the JISR participants are ineligible to receive other scholarships from Japanese government, such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program.

*** 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 يكونون مؤهلين لمنحهم وضع إقامة "غير مستقل" وفقاً لقانون ضبط الهجرة والتعرف على اللاجئين الياباني.

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

بمجرد مغادرة المشاركين لبلدان الاستضافة الخاصة بهم، قد لا يكون العودة إلى تلك البلدان ممكناً بسبب سياسة الهجرة المطبقة في تلك البلدان المضيفة

- **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 countries.**

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 program¹.**

- 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.**

بعد انتهاء البرنامج، أي بعد التخرج من الجامعة، لن يكون المشاركون مؤهلين لتلقي أي بدلات أو أشكال أخرى من الدعم من جاكا

- **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 after the Program, they will have to make a living on their own.**

- قد لا يتمكن المشاركون من العودة إلى سوريا أو الانتقال إلى دول أخرى بسبب سياسات الهجرة المطبقة في تلك الدول. إذا استمر المشاركون في البقاء في اليابان، فسيتعين عليهم أن يعتمدوا على أنفسهم في كسب العيش

- **If Participants continue to stay in Japan after the Program, 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 وذلك وفقاً لقانون ضبط الهجرة والتعرف على اللاجئين الياباني

***The program will support job-search activities towards the end of the program by providing a Japanese language program, internship opportunities, and Job-Hunting Program in Japan. However, Participants are required to make their own efforts to find and secure a job.**

سيقدم البرنامج أنشطة البحث عن وظيفة في نهاية البرنامج وذلك من خلال تقديم برنامج اللغة اليابانية، وفرص التدريب العملي، وبرنامج البحث عن عمل في اليابان. ومع ذلك، يُطلب من المشاركين بذل جهودهم الخاصة من أجل العثور على وظيفة وتأمينها

¹ JISR is not a third country resettlement program. Please note that the participants’ residency status during the program period is “Student”, and permanent residency is not granted.

8. Procedures and Required Documents for Application

Closing date of submission is March 6th, 2026

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

All necessary supporting documents must be attached and submitted at the same time as submission of the application form. Those who submitted incomplete applications will be contacted by JISR Administrative staff separately during the selection process. Not providing requested personal data may cause delay and affect the selection.

Addresses to submit:

◆ **Jordan**

Online Application is available to those who apply from Jordan. Apply from the link below.

<https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/qBqJxDSe>

◆ **Türkiye**

Online Application is available to those who apply from Türkiye. Apply from the link below.

<https://enketo.unhcr.org/single/6PJpJFoS>

◆ **Lebanon**

Applications should be submitted at the following UNHCR Community Development Centers (CDCs) during each center's official opening hours, from Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Applicants may submit their application at the nearest accessible CDC listed below. Personal presence is not required; a trusted person may submit the application on your behalf.

Area	Center name and location	Address	Opening Hours
Akkar	Berqayel / Caritas Al Hadatha	Akkar, Berqayel, Al Hadatha Street, Al Hadatha HQ Center	8:30 – 15:00 (winter schedule) 8:30 – 16:00 (summer schedule)
	Wadi Khaled / Caritas Al Hadatha	Al-Hishah, first intersection on the right-side facing Doctors Without Borders Center, Abboud Al-Hassan building, Ground floor	8:30 – 15:00 (winter schedule) 8:30 – 16:00 (summer schedule)

North	Al Minieh / Caritas Al Hadatha	Al Minieh, Main road, Mediterranean Bank Junction, facing Al Abeer Education Campus, Interdependent building, Ground floor	8:30 – 15:00 (winter schedule) 8:30 – 16:00 (summer schedule)
	Beddawi / Caritas Al Ribat	Jabal El Beddawi, Main road, Al Ghamrawi Jewelry Junction, facing Abdou Pharmacy, behind Khadeja Square Mosque, Interdependent building, Ground floor	8:30 – 15:00 (winter schedule) 8:30 – 16:00 (summer schedule)
	Ain El Remmane / Amel	Facing Saint Lourdes Church, Amel Association building	8:00 – 16:00
Beirut Mount Lebanon	Bourj Hammoud / Caritas	Facing Bourj Hammoud Municipality roundabout, the exit leading to Dora, BH 1920 building, 8th floor	8:00 – 16:00
	Rmeileh / Caritas	Rmeileh Seaside road, next to Najm Petrol Station, Samir Najm building, 1st floor	8:00 – 16:00
	Mreijeh / Caritas	Near Lebanese University, facing El Sadek Kindergarten, Matta School building, Ground floor	8:00 – 16:00
	Nahr Ibrahim / Caritas	Nahr Ibrahim Highway, Wilco Building	8:00 – 16:00
	Ras Al Nabeh / Makhzoumi Foundation	Intersection of Omar Bin Al Khattab and Mohammed Mahmassani Streets, Makhzoumi Foundation Building, Relief and Humanitarian Services Unit	8:00 – 16:00
Bekaa	Ghazze / Caritas	Next to the Municipal Garden of Ghazze, Municipal building, 1st floor	8:30 – 16:30
	Bar Elias / Caritas	Deir Zanoun main road, the Chinese Exhibition building, 2nd floor	8:30 – 17:00
	Zahle / Caritas	Star Gate road, next to Faida bridge, Tony Mina building, Ground floor	8:00 – 16:00
	Baalbeck / Nabad	Ras Al Ain, Taoud Street, Saed Building, Ground floor	8:30 – 17:00
South	Saida / Caritas	Set Nafise Street, Maronite Order building, 1st floor	8:00 – 16:30 8:00 – 12:30 (Saturdays)

	Tyre – Maarakeh	33°16'35.9"N 35°13'10.3"E	8:00 – 16:30
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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. Recommended for Lebanon. Not necessary for Türkiye)	1 copy
3	Copy of Temporary Protection ID	Issued by the Turkish government (Mandatory only for Türkiye)	1 copy
4	Application Form (Annex 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field of study, university and professors: 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices if available (Complete Section 1. of the form with reference to Annex 4 and 5) - Personal Information - Educational Background - Work Experience - Details of Most Recent or Previous Employment - Future Plan after returning to Syria - Research plan - Medical history - Information about family members to be brought to Japan - Declaration - 1 color ID photo (4 × 3cm), taken within the past three months, must be affixed. The background should be white. Do not staple. - All personal information is mandatory. 	1 original
5	Graduation certificate(s) of Bachelor's degree	<p>Notarized copies of original certificate(s) are acceptable.</p> <p>If you are currently enrolled in university and are expected to graduate, please submit a “certificate of expected graduation.”</p> <p>◆ Official English translation, if any. (Must contain seal of sworn translator)</p>	1 copy

6	Academic transcript(s)	<p>Must contain all the grades earned at your graduating university.</p> <p>Notarized copies of the original transcript(s) are acceptable.</p> <p>◆ Official English translation, if any. (Must contain seal of sworn translator)</p>	1 copy
7	<p>1 Color ID photo (4 cm × 3 cm)</p> <p>Required only for the candidates for JICA interviews in the 2nd selection.</p>	<p>Please submit at JICA interview in the 2nd <u>selection for those who pass 1st selection.</u></p> <p>The same photo as the one affixed to Application Form.</p> <p>Write your full name on the back side of the photo.</p> <p>◆ It must have been taken within the past three months.</p> <p>◆ Paper copy of photo is NOT acceptable.</p> <p>◆ Background color should be white.</p>	1 photo
8	<p>Copy of passport if any (Copy of the following information pages is necessary: <u>passport number</u>, <u>expiration date</u> and <u>national number</u>)</p>	<p>◆ Submit regardless of the expiration date</p> <p>◆ <u>Family members, who are coming to Japan with the applicant, need to submit their passports at the time of application as well</u>, if any, even if expired. If their passports are not available, please submit ID card or a proof of identification with photo.</p> <p>◆ If the successful candidate or his/her family members do not possess passports, or have expired passports, they must apply for/renew passports in order to obtain visa to Japan.</p> <p>◆ Passport application/renewal fee shall be borne by the successful candidate him/herself.</p> <p>◆ In case the successful candidate will not be able to apply for/renew his/her passport for specific reasons, travel certificate will be issued when the Japanese government approves the reason to be legitimate.</p>	1 copy
9	<p>A letter of recommendation (Annex 3) <u>if possible</u> (It is mandatory for some universities. See Annex 4.)</p>	<p>From the most recent organization you worked for, or the professors at your graduating university.</p>	1 original

10	Residency permit (Lebanon only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Submit regardless of the 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
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***Handwritten application documents are not acceptable.**

***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.**

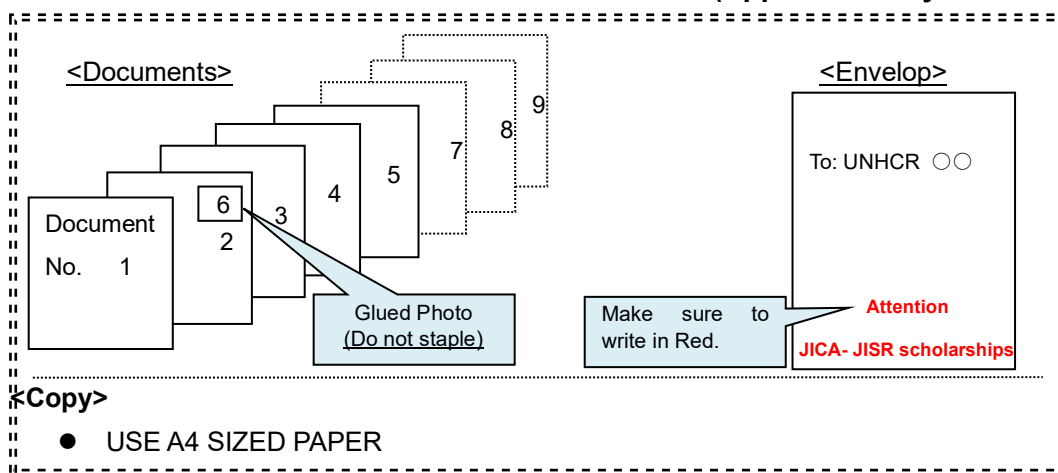
***Please note that every candidate is required to take an English written examination during the selection process.**

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

***Please make sure to keep your own extra photocopy of the application documents.**

*** Applicants are required to present the original Graduation certificate(s) and academic transcript(s) at the time of the written examinations for verification. Copies will be taken during the process.**

◆ Illustration of the documents to be submitted. (Applicable only in Lebanon)



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 “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.

***DO NOT CONTACT UNIVERSITIES until advised to do so. Applicants have chances for consultations with universities during the selection process.**

10. Application Deadline

March 6th, 2026. Application received after the closing date will not be considered.

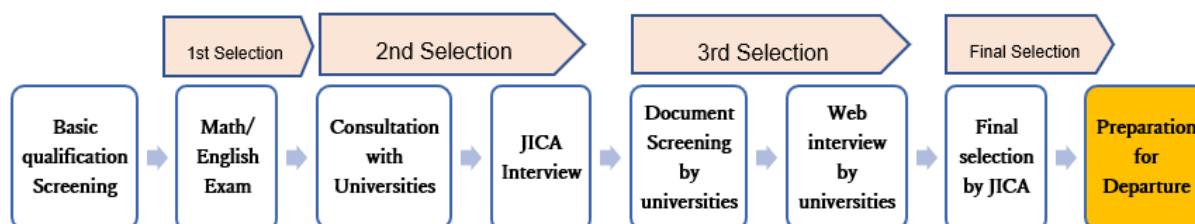
11. Selection Procedures and Preparation for Departure

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

JICA implements JISR with the cooperation of Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) as an Implementing Partner.

During and after the selection process, JICA/JICE will contact applicants/participants.

The selection procedures of JISR are as follows.



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

***Any costs incurred during the selection procedures including travel expenses to selection venues will NOT BE COVERED by JICA.**

***However, travel expenses will be borne by JICA for the 2nd and 3rd selection. The amount of travel expense will be determined based on the location from where the applicant resides.**

***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.**

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

(1) Basic qualification screening

Period	Mid March 2026 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ JICA/JICE as well as UNHCR carry out basic qualification screening and check all the required personal information and documents. ✓ The Government of Japan checks the submitted personal information for eligibility of visa.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To check if the applicant is qualified for the program and eligible for visa.

(2) 1st Selection: Math and English Examinations

Period	Early to Mid April 2026 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Written examinations for Math and English <u>*The applicant will not be notified of the results of Math and English exams.</u> ✓ Those who passed Math and English examinations will move on to University Consultations about majoring fields and research plans.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To assess an applicant's basic knowledge
Venue	To be determined
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low scores in the written examinations may result in disqualification.

(3) 2nd Selection: Consultation with Universities and JICA Interview

Period	Mid April – Mid May 2026 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consultation with Universities on research plan. ✓ Interview by JICA ✓ Health Check: the applicant will undergo a health check.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To check if the research plan matches with the universities applicant wishes to apply. ✓ To check an applicant's understanding of the program objectives, abilities to resettle into a new country, and capability of finishing Master's degree etc.
Selection and Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An applicant who is judged not to have a clear understanding of the objectives of the program may also be disqualified in the JICA

	<p>interview.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ JICA/JICE 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. ✓ This process enables applicants to find appropriate universities. ✓ Based on the results of consultations, the applicant may choose preferred universities when this is considered necessary. ✓ Universities will then examine the documents to match the applicant with courses /supervisors.
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(4) 3rd Selection: Document screening and web interview by universities

Period	Early June to Mid July 2026 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Document screening by universities ✓ Interview by universities
Objectives	✓ To check if the applicant is eligible to study in the Master program based on all the information submitted.
Venue	At designated facilities in Jordan/Lebanon/Türkiye
Selection and Result	✓ Each applicant will be interviewed by web conference by professors at the Japanese university concerned.

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

Period	Late August 2026 (To be determined)
Procedures	✓ Final selection by JICA
Objectives	✓ To officially determine successful candidates as participants based on the results from each selection phase.
Selection and Result	✓ JICA will officially approve the successful candidates as Participants and the results will be announced.

(6) Preparation for Departure to Japan

Period	September to Late November 2026 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Successful candidates may be required to prepare additional application documents. ✓ Successful candidates and their family members will go through the visa acquisition process. ✓ Health Check: the accompanying family will undergo a health check. ✓ There will be a pre-departure orientation for JISR Participants.
Venue	To be determined

(7) Departure to Japan

Period	Late November 2026 (To be determined)
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ JISR Participants will depart for Japan in November at the earliest. ✓ Post arrival orientation will be held before starting Japanese Language Training.

12. Intensive Japanese study / Research Student / Master Student

There are two different types of accepting JISR participants for the 1st year.

1) Intensive Japanese Study

Spending the 1st year in a designated organization to focus on studying Japanese prior to enter the university, in which you wish to obtain your Master's degree. You will concentrate on Japanese learning in advance, so that, you can understand (read, write, listen and speak) Japanese at the certain level by the time of starting your Master's course in the 2nd year. This enables you to develop your Japanese skill and obtain N2 level of Japanese certificate*, during your Master's course, which is basic requirement by companies in Japan if you wish to find a job in Japan.

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

2) Research Student (Mandatory for participants who applied for Hiroshima university)

Joining as "Research Student" at the university in the 1st year of the JISR program (maximum of 6 months), prior to starting your Master's course, is mandatory for participants who applied for Hiroshima university. Research Student will be able to utilize time to prepare for the admission examination for a Master's course and receive instruction from supervisors and make use of university facilities. It is required for the students who are accepted to Hiroshima University to spend 6 months as "Research Student" while taking Intensive Japanese Study training.

3) Entrance Examination

If required by the university you wish to be enrolled in, you shall take the entrance examination during either period 1) or 2) If a participant fails the entrance 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.

After spending the 1st year studying Intensive Japanese and/or studying as Research Student, JISR participants will enroll at the university as master's course students in the 2nd year. 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 timetable (Years needed for graduation)" of university which you wish to be enrolled. You will find the similar sentences as below;**

- 1) Learning Japanese for the period of 8 months at a designated organization with other JISR participants, then starting Master's course in the 2nd year of the JISR program for the next 2 years.**
- 2) Learning Japanese for the period of 8 months at a designated organization with**

other JISR participants and studying as a Research Student for 6 months in the latter half of the term simultaneously, then studying for 2 years as a Master's Student after passing the entrance exam and accepted.

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 December 2025

Allowance Item	Amount of payment	Frequency	Notes
Tuition	Actual cost	Each semester	To be paid by JICA directly to the university
Living allowance (during Japanese Intensive course/Research student)	¥5,000/day (at a hotel)	On arrival, and Every two months	The rate varies depending on where the participant lives. While the participant is staying at the JICA Center after arrival in Japan, the rate is 2,800 yen/per day (breakfast and meal card* for lunch and dinner are separately provided). *You can receive the Meal Card Fee in cash (1,100 yen/day), if JICA approves the appropriate reasons of the cancellation after your arrival.
Living allowance (during Master Student)	¥144,000~ ¥147,000/month	Every month	It will be paid through university. The rate varies depending on the address of your university.
Airfare (Economy class) to Japan	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～ ¥224,000	1 time	The maximum amount depends on where the university is located.
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	These will be held by JICA/JICE

***The amount is subject to change in accordance with JICA regulations.**

*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, 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 own 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 life in Japan and obtain information relevant to living with his/her family (such as public and local support systems for foreigners, medical and education services, etc.). Family members are required to arrive in Japan no later than six months prior to the completion of the program.

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

Participants are responsible for accomplishing their visions and goals and taking care of both their academic journey and private life at the same time. Inviting family to Japan requires deep consideration and preparations, and this should be dealt with in Participant's own responsibility. Participants also hold responsibility for all necessary procedures on inviting family to Japan. If necessary, JICA/Implementing Partner will assist the family of a Participant with housing, enrolling children in schools and life counseling. Family members will also be given opportunity to learn Japanese language upon their request.

(3) Expenses

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

- Airfare to Japan
- Family allowance (Spouse : 6,500 yen/month, Per Child : 10,000 yen/month)
 ※ For those aged 16 at the start of the fiscal year to 22 at the end of the fiscal year,
 an additional ¥5,000 is added.
- Medical Expenses (There are some exceptions such as pre-existing illness, dental treatment, etc.)

* Spouse can work only after obtaining permission to work (Shikakugai-katsudokyoka) from the immigration office within the scope of the law.

* JICA/JICE will not support the spouse to find a job.

* The allowance amount is subject to JICA's Rules and Regulations. If it changes, the revised amount will be provided.

15. Internship at Japanese Companies/Organizations

Participants are expected to do internships at Japanese companies during spring/summer breaks for practical experience that helps to find a job in Japan after graduation. Internship programs are carried out in English or Japanese. JICA/JICE 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 the 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 in Japan.
- (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 as well as Paid Internship maybe permitted if that does not interfere with your study/research and approved by your academic supervisor.

- (6) Not to change accommodation without the permission of JICA.
- (7) Not to leave Japan without the approval of JICA.
- (8) Change (Extension or shortening) of the Period of Training will not be considered.
- (9) To acknowledge that regulations and instructions of JICA, including allowances, are subject to change, and to agree to comply with any revised regulations should changes occur.
- (10) When you first enroll in university as a research student, you need to pass the admission examination to be a Master's student. If you fail it, you will be disqualified as a JICA participant without earning a Master's Degree.

17. Study and Life in Japan

Providing high academic standards and attractive programs

Japanese educational institutions have produced numerous scientists who have been awarded Nobel Prizes in Physics, Physiology or Medicine and Chemistry. In the recent years, the numbers of degree programs conducted in English are increasing, making it possible for international students, including JISR Participants, to learn cutting-edge science and technology in Japan. This environment allows you to study not only law, economics, science and engineering, but also environment, IT and disaster prevention.

Japanese technology is also utilized in development assistance for developing countries and is recognized worldwide. In addition, students from countries across the globe – from Africa

and Asia to the Middle East, Europe and America – gather at Japan's graduate schools to conduct research in these advanced fields, building networks that persist 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.

https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/after_study/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: <https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/other/sgtj/>

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 the learning attitude would be taken into consideration for grading and 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 3.2% 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

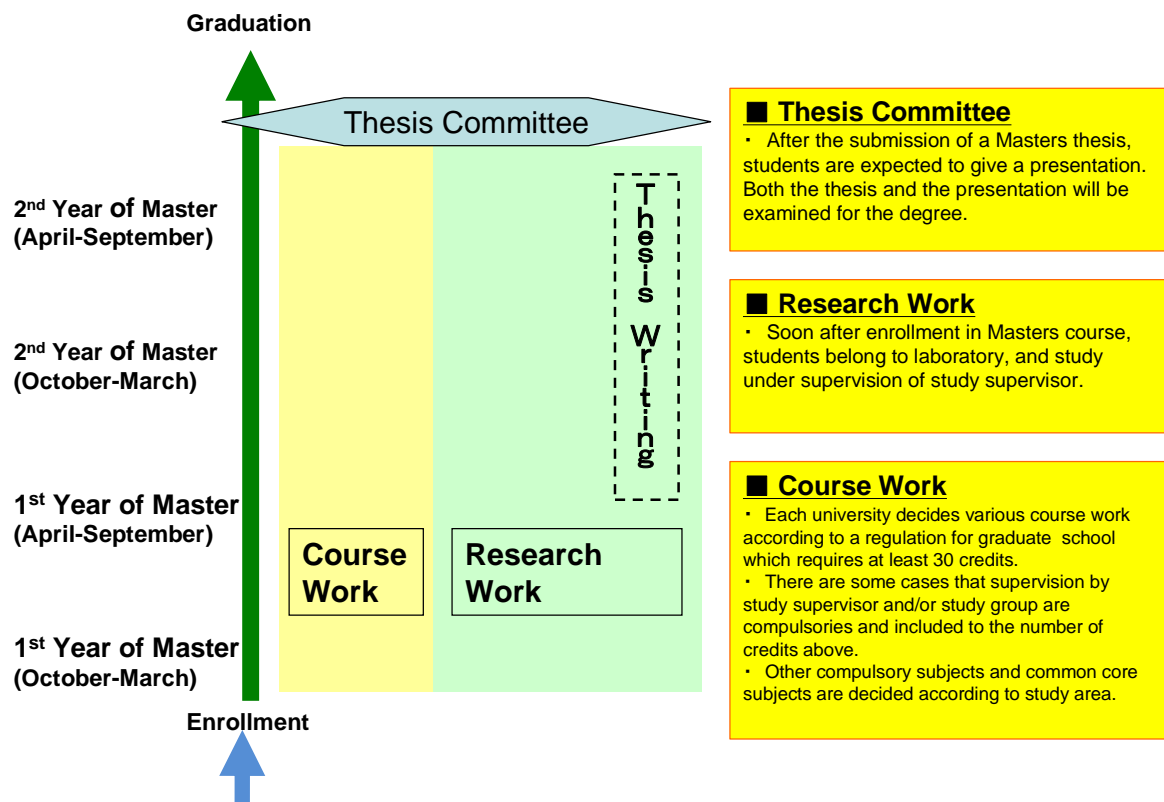
Participants have an opportunity to join in Japan Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP). The Program aims to provide opportunities to learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences, which differ from those of Europe and the U.S., and its wisdom as a country that provided cooperation toward the progress of developing countries after World War II. Please also refer to "0. Background"

18. Important Features of Japanese Graduate School

Reference: Japan Student Service Organization, "Student Guide to Japan"

<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/other/sqti/>

◆ Graduate School System in Japan: Example



Period for intensive Japanese study / Research Student (Maximum of 6 months)

- Curriculum:

Compared to Master's programs in the United States, 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 the 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. Conditions for Participation

The applicants/participants of JISR 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 discontinue the program, 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,
- (5) to acknowledge that a leave of absence from school is not permitted in principle,
- (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 you receive JICA's instructions to do so,
- (8) to understand that the maximum duration of the program is three years, which includes up to one year for Japanese language study at a designated institution (where participants may concurrently engage in research activities for up to six months, overlapping with Japanese language study, if required by their universities), and two years for the master's program,
- (9) 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),
- (10) To acknowledge that regulations and instructions of JICA, including allowances, are subject to change, and to agree to comply with any revised regulations should changes occur,
- (11) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (12) 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,
- (13) 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 “13. Expenses To be borne by JICA”,

- (14) 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,
- (15) not to drive a car or motorbike in Japan, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (16) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
- (17) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule due to the participant's personal reasons that exceeds the scope approved by JICA,
- (18) to accept that the Government of Japan will examine applicants 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,
- (19) to submit a Health Certificate in JICA format during 2nd selection,
- (20) 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,
- (21) to promptly resubmit your medical history, if there are changes in your health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease,
- (22) 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,
- (23) not receiving nor plan to receive other scholarships from Japanese government, such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program,
- (24) to understand not to make other applications for different JICA training courses at the same time,
- (25) To understand that, during the Program period, the maximum duration of “Overseas research” and “Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)” is 60 days, in principle,
- (26) to accept to take tuberculosis related inspections organized by JICA after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA and university,
- (27) to approve the following conditions on summary of my 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.
- ② to ④ above are subject to obtaining the prior consent of the participant,
- (28) To indicate all educational background, including currently enrolled university, if any,

(29) To understand that the use of Generative AI such as Chat GPT to create Application Forms including Research Plans, and your research papers may not be acceptable and may result in rejection of your application or termination of training, if discovered, according to each University's policy,

20. FAQ

No	Question	Answer	Related part in Application Guidelines
Application Requirement			
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. Applicants in Türkiye are required to provide a copy of their temporary protection ID issued by the Turkish government instead of UNHCR certificate.	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 and currently staying in Jordan or Lebanon, or Syrian refugees who are known to Turkish government and currently staying in Türkiye. If you are not registered as a refugee in the country where you reside, 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). In case the successful candidate will not be able to apply for/renew his/her passport for the specific reasons, travel certificate will be issued when the Japanese government approves the reason to be legitimate.	Section 8

4	I do not have my valid residency permit in Lebanon. Is it possible to enter Japan?	Successful candidates (and the 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 cannot prepare a letter of recommendation.	A letter of recommendation is mandatory for some universities (see Annex 4). Although other universities do not necessarily require it, submission is encouraged if possible.	Section 8
8	I am currently a university student who is about to complete my Bachelor's Degree. Can I apply?	Yes. 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
Field of Study and Research Plan			
9	How can I write my research plan for the application form?	Please refer to the objectives of JISR and "Section 6. Research plan" in the application form.	Section 2 and "Section 6 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?	Please refrain from contacting the universities directly on your own at the initial stage. There is a consultation period during the JISR selection process. During this period, JICA/JICE will compile the candidates' research plans and contact the universities. Applicants can consult university professors about his/her research plan once instructed to do so.	Section 9 and 11

About a Research Student Status			
11	What does it mean to be a “Research Student” and how does it differ from a Master’s student?	<p>Prior to starting the Master’s course, “Research Student” is required to prepare for the admission examination for a Master’s course under the guidance of his/her supervisor. Research students are able to use the facilities of the university. It is required for the students who are accepted to Hiroshima University to spend 6 months as “Research Student” while taking Intensive Japanese Study training.</p> <p>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.</p>	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.	
14	How can I choose how to spend my first year in Japan from 2 options; 1) Intensive Japanese Study 2) Research Student (Optional)	<p>First, you need to understand the two different categories by reading Section 12.</p> <p>Then, you will check Annex 5. “5. Standard timetable (Years needed for graduation) of universities.” for each university you wish to be enrolled.</p> <p>You will find the similar sentences as below;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Learning Japanese for the period of 8 months to 1 year at a designated organization with other JISR participant, then starting Master’s course in the 2nd year of JISR program for the next 2 years. 2) Participating as a Research Student for 6 months in the 1st year, during your Japanese study, then studying for 2 years as a Master’s Student after passing the entrance exam 	Section 12

		Enrolling to Research Student is mandatory for those who are accepted to Hiroshima University.	
Scholarship			
15	I am currently receiving an UNHCR scholarship to obtain a bachelor's degree in Jordan/Lebanon/Türkiye 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 all selection stages and accepted, the JISR participants are ineligible to receive other scholarships from Japanese government, such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program	Section 7 and 11
Family Related Issues			
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/Türkiye 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/Implementing Partner will assist your family with housing, schooling of children, and counseling if necessary. Specifically, JICA will provide airfares to Japan, family allowance. In addition, Participants will be able to benefit from a Child Support Allowance, which is administrated by the Government of Japan and municipal authorities. Participants need to visit a municipal office and file an application.	Section 14
Life in Japan			
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.	Section 12 and 17
20	Do I have to study Japanese?	JICA places a high value on studying Japanese language and culture for staying in Japan. English is not widely spoken in Japan, and the Japanese language is essential for your daily life including your employment/work. Therefore, JICA and university provides the opportunities to study Japanese to the greatest extent. 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 language proficiency for their successful employments.	
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).	Section 7
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.	
Internships, Job opportunities in Japan and Others			
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/Implementing Partner will assist Participants in finding companies.	Section 15
24	Can I work in Japan during this program?	Yes, Participants are eligible 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 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 Job-Hunting Program.	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 http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/information/tnl-01.html 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

21. Contact Information

You have an opportunity to ask questions about applying for JISR and about handling of information submitted in Application Form 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:
Jordan/ Lebanon/ Türkiye: apply.jisr26@gmail.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.
- ✓ Do NOT ask general questions that you can find in Annex 5. University Information.
- ✓ Do NOT ask irrelevant questions.
- ✓ Do NOT send e-mails repeatedly if you do not get a response immediately.
- ✓ Do NOT send e-mails once the application is closed.
- ✓ Do NOT ask about the results of the selection or reasons for failure after the selection.
- ✓ Inquiries by phone or any other means except by e-mail to the address above are not permitted.

