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Department of External Resources
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நிதி, திட்டமிடல் மற்றும் பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தி அமைச்சு
செயலகம் (3 ஆம் மாடி), த. பெ. இல. 277, கொழும்பு 00100, இலங்கை
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
The Secretariat (3rd Floor), P.O. Box 277, Colombo 00100, Sri Lanka
Website: www.erd.gov.lk **e-mail:** info@erd.gov.lk

මගේ අංකය / எனது இல / My No: TA/JDS/2026/2027

ඔබේ අංකය / உமது இல / Your No:

දිනය / திகதி / Date: 16th October 2026

Attn: Officer In-charge of Foreign Trainings

Secretary to the President / Presidential Secretariat
Secretary to the Prime Minister / Prime Minister's Office
Secretary to the Cabinet / Cabinet Office
Secretary General to the Parliament / Sri Lanka Parliament
Auditor General, National Audit Office
The Governor / Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Heads/ All other Special Spending Units
Secretaries / All Ministries
Heads/ All Departments

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Programme (JDS)
- Call for Applications for the Academic Year 2027/2028

We are pleased to inform you that the Government of Japan has invited nominations from eligible officials of the Government of Sri Lanka for the above prestigious long-term Scholarship Programme.

Under this initiative, the Government of Japan intends to award fifteen (15) scholarships to eligible public sector officers to pursue Master's Degree programmes at leading universities in Japan during the academic year 2027/2028. The selected fields of study and the corresponding universities are set out in Annexure I to this letter.

The JDS Programme aims to support the human resource development of Sri Lanka by providing opportunities for promising young Government officers who are expected to assume leadership responsibilities in the future. Through advanced academic study and exposure to international best practices, the programme seeks to strengthen the knowledge, professional competencies, policy analysis capabilities, and leadership skills of officers engaged in the formulation and implementation of national development policies and programmes.

The Programme is also expected to contribute to the further strengthening of the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Sri Lanka and Japan through the professional networks and mutual understanding developed by participants during their period of study.

Accordingly, you are kindly requested to disseminate this information among eligible officers serving in your Ministry and in the Departments, Agencies, and Institutions falling under its purview, and to encourage suitably qualified candidates to submit their applications in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and procedures.

The Application Guidelines, eligibility requirements, Application Forms, ERD Form, university information, and other relevant documents referred to in this letter are available on the JDS and ERD websites (www.jds-scholarship.org/ and www.erd.gov.lk) for reference and necessary action.

අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් / பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம் / Director General: 94-11-2484693
කාර්යාලය / அலுவலகம் / Office: 94-11-2484500, 94-11-2484600
ෆැක්ස් අංකය / தொலை நகல் / Fax: 94-11-2447633, 94-11-2387153

1. Eligibility Requirements

The principal qualifications and eligibility requirements applicable to the Master's Degree Programme are set out below. These requirements shall be read together with, and shall not be limited to, the criteria specified on the JDS website:

1.1. Be a citizen of Sri Lanka and be 40 years of age or below as at 1 April 2027;
1.2. Possess a recognised Bachelor's Degree;
1.3. Have successfully completed the probationary period and been confirmed in service;
1.4. Be an Executive or Senior Executive Officer as specified in Public Administration Circular No. 06/2006, Annexure II. Applicants are requested to refer, in particular, to Page 2, Section IV, "Senior Level," and Page 5, Sections 3.10 and 3.11 of the Circular, together with Public Service Commission Rules No. 2310/29 dated 14 December 2022, for the relevant definitions;
1.5. Officers serving in managerial positions or performing managerial functions in the Central Bank of Sri Lanka shall be eligible to apply;
1.6. Officers of State-Owned Enterprises shall not be eligible to apply for this Programme. However, such officers are strongly encouraged to consider applying for relevant thematic courses offered under the JICA Development Studies Program;
1.7. Be in good physical and mental health;
1.8. Possess a level of English language proficiency sufficient to undertake graduate-level studies; and
1.9. Not be in receipt of, or scheduled to receive, any other foreign scholarship during the period of the Programme.

Priority shall be accorded to officers whose official responsibilities relate to public policy, economic policy formulation, fiscal management, public financial management, trade and investment promotion, international economic cooperation, trade negotiations, and other related areas.

In respect of all applicants, the highest priority shall be accorded to proposed study topics that are directly relevant to the applicant's career development and are expected to provide clear and demonstrable benefits to the nominating institution.

In the case of officers belonging to All-Island Services, in technical nature, nominations shall be restricted to officers holding managerial positions and performing responsibilities relating to policy formulation, strategic planning, institutional management, and organizational decision-making.

Applicants are also expected to demonstrate a genuine interest in pursuing higher studies in Japan and a strong commitment to applying the knowledge, experience, and professional networks acquired through the JDS Programme in the course of their future public service careers.

2. Deadline for Submission

All application documents shall be forwarded to the Department of External Resources on or before **2.00 p.m. on 20 November 2026**.

The prescribed deadline will be strictly observed. Applications received after the stipulated deadline, incomplete applications, and applications submitted without the required supporting documents shall not be considered for further processing.

Nominating Ministries and Institutions are therefore requested to review the following instructions and requirements carefully before commencing the nomination and application process.

3. Documents to Be Submitted

Each application submitted to the Department of External Resources shall comprise the following:

3.1. A duly completed JDS Application Form, together with all supporting documents specified in the Application Guidelines;
3.2. Copies of the relevant pages of the applicant's passport;
3.3. Copies of the required English language test results, where applicable;
3.4. Passport-sized photographs conforming to the specifications set out in the Application Guidelines; and
3.5. A duly completed ERD Form available on the ERD website.

Ministries and Institutions shall verify the completeness, accuracy, and authenticity of all application forms and supporting documents before forwarding them to ERD.

Applicants shall take particular care to ensure that their proposed study topics are closely aligned with their career development, official responsibilities, and institutional requirements, as such proposals will receive the highest priority during the evaluation process.

4. Requirements Relating to the Covering Letter

To facilitate the efficient processing of nominations and minimize administrative delays, each nomination shall be accompanied by a covering letter duly signed by the Secretary of the relevant Line Ministry or, on behalf of the Secretary, by a senior officer duly authorized for this purpose. In the case of an institution that does not come under a Line Ministry, the covering letter shall be signed by the Head of the respective Department, Agency, or Institution.

The covering letter shall clearly state and/or confirm the following, together with the name and designation of the officer providing such confirmations:

4.1. The reference number of this letter;
4.2. Confirmation that the nominee has completed probation and confirmed in the service
4.3. Confirmation that the nominee satisfies all eligibility requirements of the Programme;
4.4. Confirmation that all required application forms and supporting documents have been duly completed, verified, and properly attached;
4.5. Confirmation that, if selected, the nominee will be released from his/her official duties and granted the necessary leave to participate in the Programme for its entire duration; and
4.6. The following declarations and acknowledgements, duly obtained from and endorsed by the nominee, shall be clearly indicated and attached to the application:

4.6.1. Confirmation that the nominee undertakes to return to Sri Lanka upon the successful completion of the Programme and resume duties in the service of the Government of Sri Lanka.
4.6.2. Confirmation that the nominee acknowledges and understands that, if selected for the Programme, he/she shall be required to enter into a mandatory bond agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka, undertaking to serve the Government for a stipulated minimum period upon completion of the Programme.
4.6.3. Confirmation that the nominee agrees to fully comply with and honour all terms and conditions of the bond agreement and acknowledges that, in the event of any breach, violation, or failure to fulfil the obligations stipulated therein, he/she shall be liable to reimburse the full amount specified under the bond, including all costs and expenses incurred by the Governments of Sri Lanka and Japan in connection with the Programme, in accordance with the provisions of the bond agreement.
4.6.4. Confirmation that the nominee acknowledges that any failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the bond agreement may result in appropriate administrative or disciplinary action, as well as restrictions on eligibility for future foreign training opportunities, in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations, and government procedures.

5. General Information and Requirements

Nominating Ministries/institutions are kindly requested to ensure that all nominations fully comply with the provisions of TA Circular No. 2013/2014 of the Ministry of Finance and Planning dated 24 October 2013, together with any subsequent amendments, additions, or revisions thereto.

Ministries and Institutions are further requested to scrutinise and verify all applications carefully before submission. This is essential to facilitate timely processing and to avoid administrative delays that may result in the loss of valuable scholarship opportunities, particularly in view of the limited period available for completing the scholarship selection process.

Applicants are strongly advised to review thoroughly the Application Guidelines, eligibility requirements, Programme conditions, and information relating to the study programme offered by the selected university before submitting their applications.

6. University Consultation Process

Applicants shall strictly follow the procedures prescribed by JDS/JICE in respect of all communications and consultations with universities.

Applicants shall not submit additional information to, or independently communicate with, the relevant universities outside the prescribed procedures unless specifically requested or authorised to do so by JDS/JICE.

7. Consistency of Applicant's Name

Applicants shall ensure that their names are stated exactly as they appear in their passports throughout all Application Forms and supporting documents.

Any discrepancy in the applicant's name across the submitted documents may result in delays or difficulties in processing the application.

8. Promotional Seminars

Online and in-person promotional seminars will be organised under the JDS Programme. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in these seminars and to review all application guidance materials before submitting their applications.

The dates, times, and other relevant details of the seminars will be published on the JDS and ERD websites.

9. Internal Approvals and Commitment to Participate

Nominating Ministries/Institutions must ensure that all required approvals are obtained and that nominees are fully aware of the Programme requirements and committed to participate if selected. Before submitting nominations, institutions should confirm the nominee's availability for the entire Programme, ability to obtain the necessary leave, and receipt of all relevant institutional approvals.

As withdrawals after selection will only be considered under exceptional and unavoidable circumstances, Ministries/Institutions are expected to exercise due diligence before nominating candidates. Submission of a nomination constitutes a firm commitment by both the nominee and the nominating institution to participate in the Programme if selected.

10. Relevance of Studies to Official Duties

Nominating Ministries and Institutions shall ensure that the proposed field and topic of study are closely aligned with the nominee's present duties, anticipated future responsibilities, institutional requirements, and national development priorities.

The highest priority shall be accorded to applicants whose proposed study topics are demonstrably relevant to their career development and are expected to provide tangible benefits to their respective institutions.
Preference shall also be given to officers who are expected to continue serving in the relevant field upon completion of their studies and who are well positioned to apply the knowledge, skills, and expertise acquired through the Programme to their official responsibilities.

11. Retention of Copies and Final Selection

ERD may not retain copies of all documents submitted with an application. Furthermore, application documents will not be returned by JICE upon completion of the selection process.

Accordingly, applicants and nominating Ministries and Institutions shall retain complete copies of all Application Forms and supporting documents submitted for their official records and future reference.
The final selection of candidates shall rest solely with the Government of Japan.

12. Strict Compliance with Requirements

The Government of Japan has consistently supported the capacity development of Sri Lankan public officials through its longstanding development cooperation partnership with Sri Lanka. Within the framework of this partnership, the JDS Programme stands as a flagship initiative aimed at strengthening public sector capacity and promoting the development of highly skilled human resources. It is therefore expected that officers nominated for the Programme will remain committed to its objectives and, upon returning to Sri Lanka, apply the knowledge, skills, and experience gained through their studies to strengthen their respective institutions and contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

In this regard, your assistance in identifying and nominating suitably qualified officers who are well positioned to derive the maximum benefit from the Programme and to contribute effectively to the development of their respective institutions and the country would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to receiving a strong pool of qualified applications within the stipulated timeframe and highly appreciate your continued cooperation and support in facilitating the nomination process and the subsequent stages of the scholarship process.

Tharanga Liyanage
Additional Director General
for Director General

Copies:

1. Chief Secretaries, All Provincial Councils
2. District Secretaries, All District Secretariats

Enclosed:/ Annexure 1, Programme Brocher

Annexure 1

Identified Fields of Study and Universities

Component - Field of Study		University
Public Policy Studies	Public Policy Studies	International University of Japan
		Meiji University
		University of Tsukuba
	International Relations and International Development	Nagoya University
Economics	Microeconomic Studies	Kobe University
		Hiroshima University
	Public Finance and Investment Management	Nagoya University
	Industry Development Policy and Investment Promotion	International University of Japan