Activities for JISPA Scholars

In addition to the provision of scholarships, the IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP) arranges various activities exclusively for JISPA scholars, including a series of policy dialogues with Japanese policymakers and IMF economists, a summer workshop, welcome and farewell receptions, and a thesis presentation. JISPA scholars are also invited to seminars and high-level regional conferences organized by OAP. The partnership universities also arrange an annual field trip.

Follow-up Activities for JISPA Alumni

OAP arranges alumni gatherings in various countries for JISPA alumni and maintains the alumni networking site. The Continuing Education Program for the JISPA alumni (JISPA-CE) has been offered since 2018 to provide career-long support.

PLEASE VISIT THE JISPA WEBSITE for detailed information:

Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Asia
IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
21F, Fukoku Seimei Bldg., 2-2-2 Uchisaiwai-cho
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0011, Japan

TO FOSTER FUTURE MACROECONOMIC POLICYMAKERS

A scholarship for junior government officials in Asia who wish to pursue graduate-level economics at Japanese universities.

Funded by the Government of Japan

Administered by the IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP)
Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Asia

The Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Asia (JISPA) aims to contribute to institutional capacity building of key macroeconomic management agencies in emerging and developing countries in Asia by providing training opportunities for junior government officials.

The JISPA targets highly motivated government officials who may serve as future macroeconomic policy makers with the capacity and vision to contribute effectively to the economic development of their countries.

The JISPA comprises two tracks: (1) partnership track; and (2) open-track.

Partnership Track

The JISPA partnership track allows scholars to study specially designed graduate level courses concentrating on macroeconomics at an IMF partner university. The partnership universities are:

- National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
  - Macroeconomic Policy Program (Master of Public Policy or Master of Economics—two-year program)
  - Macroeconomic Policy Program (Master of Arts in Public Economics—one-year program)
- Hitotsubashi University (HIT)
  - Asian Public Policy Program (Master of Public Policy (Public Economic) —two-year program)
  - International University of Japan (IUJ)
    - Macroeconomic Policy Program (Master of Arts in Economics—two-year program)
  - The University of Tokyo (UTokyo)
    - International Program/Master of Public Policy (Master of Public Policy—two-year program)

Orientation Program: To ensure that new entrants are well prepared to commence their master’s programs and to adjust to life in Japan, the JISPA offers the Orientation Program (OP) to newly accepted scholars under the partnership track. It comprises intensive courses in (1) academic English, (2) mathematics for economics/introductory econometrics, (3) introductory economics, and (4) Japanese. The OP is conducted at the International University of Japan in Niigata.

Open Track

The open track of the JISPA provides support to scholars who wish to study graduate-level macroeconomics or a related field at either the master’s or Ph.D. level at any leading university in Japan. Priority is, however, given to Ph.D. candidates.

Eligibility

To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. A national of one of the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pacific Island Countries, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam
2. Working for a key economic agency such as a central bank, ministry of economy, ministry of finance, or financial regulatory agency
3. A Bachelor’s degree
4. Fluent in English
5. For the open track only: Applicants are expected to be studying at, have been admitted into, or be applying to a graduate program in economics in Japan.

How To Apply

Partnership Track: Apply online at IMF.org/external/oap/schol.htm
Application Deadline: November 1, 2023

Open Track: Apply online at IMF.org/external/oap/schol.htm
Application Deadline: June 1, 2024 for admission in September/October 2024 and April 2025

The application must be completed in English and include the following:

- Research proposal
- Sponsor’s nomination form
- Two reference letters
- University transcripts and diplomas
- Recognized English test reports (such as TOEFL or IELTS)
- Open-track only: A letter of acceptance from a university or a copy of one application to a university, and thesis/equivalent paper from master’s degree

1. Priority is given to applicants: (1) whose age is below 40; (2) who have not yet obtained a master’s degree from a university outside of their own country; and (3) who have the equivalent of two-three years’ work experience in the public sector.
2. The program will also consider all-track working in other areas of government that have a significant impact on the formulation or implementation of macroeconomic policy.

Prepared by

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