JAPAN-IMF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ASIA 2023–24

MESSAGE FROM CURRENT JISPA SCHOLARS

Ms. Irene Angela Cuya
Partnership-Track (AY2020-22, MA)
National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines

JISPA has provided us with various opportunities to acquire tools and skills that are suitable for analyzing relevant macroeconomic issues of present times. The JISPA curriculum strikes a good balance between theory and application of macroeconomic policies. It combines solid theoretical foundations of macroeconomics taught by the JISPA partner universities, and practical applications learned from workshops and dialogue with policymakers from Japan. In addition, the scholarship program provides great support to its scholars, especially in this period of the pandemic. JISPA is highly recommended for scholars who wish to pursue graduate studies in Japan.

Mr. Md Arif-Ur-Rahman
Open Track (AY2019–21, Ph.D.)
Bangladesh Bank

I am highly grateful to the JISPA for its valuable assistance to fulfill my dream of higher education. To keep up with the current changing world, the arrangements of JISPA for learning and sharing knowledge through web meetings are praiseworthy. Being a part of this esteemed program, I feel honored. I will wholeheartedly try to contribute my acquired knowledge and research skills in economic decision-making to supporting my country’s sustainable growth and development.

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.

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*Responses provided by a very limited number of scholars who joined the only available field trip.

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)

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

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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 partnership university. The partnership universities are:

- **National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)**
  - Macroeconomic Policy Program (Master of Public Policy or Master of Arts in Public Economics—one year program)
  - Macroeconomic Policy Program (Master of Arts in Public Economics—two year program)

- **Hitotsubashi University (Hit)**
  - Asian Public Policy Program (Master of Public Policy (Public Economics)—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 Nihonbashi, Japan, and held from mid-July to late-September (2.5 months) prior to commencing studies at the partnership universities.

**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.

**Benefits**
The JISPA covers all reasonable expenses for scholars’ studies in Japan.

- Full university admission and tuition fees
- Research related allowance and monthly living allowance
- Medical insurance
- A round-trip airfare and travel allowance
- Orientation Program tuition fees (partnership track only)
- Annual field trip fees (partnership track only)
- Computer/software allowance (partnership track only)
- Research related fees, including field research and conference attendance fees (open-track Ph.D. program only)

The scholarship covers expenses incurred by the scholar only.

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

- 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

- Working for a key economic agency such as a central bank, ministry of economy, ministry of finance, or financial regulatory agency

- A Bachelor’s degree

- Fluent in English

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, 2022

**Open Track:** Apply online at IMF.org/external/oap/schol.htm

**Application Deadline:** June 1, 2023 for admission in September/October 2023 and April 2024

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)\(^2\)
- Open-track only: A letter of acceptance from a university, and thesis/equivalent paper from master’s degree

3 Open-track applications will be accepted from April 15 until June 1, 2023.
4 Application for the open-track scholarships are still available as a result of the above-mentioned selection, another application will open with the deadline of December 1, 2022 for admission in April 2024.
5 India, the Philippines, and select Pacific Island Countries are exempt from submitting proof of language ability.

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\(^{1}\) Some of the courses and/or seminars might be offered online depending on the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

\(^{2}\) The program will also consider officials working in other areas of government that have a significant impact on the formulation or implementation of macroeconomic policy.