



JDS Application Guidelines



The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship in Viet Nam



BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
CỤC HỢP TÁC QUỐC TẾ
International Cooperation Department



From
the People of Japan



Contents

I. Introduction	
1. About JDS Scholarship	2
2. System of JDS Viet Nam	2
3. JDS Operating Committee (OC)	3
4. Award Benefits	3
5. Important JDS Rules	3
II. Framework of JDS Viet Nam	4
1. Framework/ Field of Study	5
2. Detailed Information of Framework	7
III. Application Guidelines for Master Program	16
1. Applicant Eligibility	16
2. Selection Process	17
3. Selection Criteria	18
4. How to Apply	18
5. Tips on Application and Selection (Reference)	20
6. Guidelines for Writing a Research Proposal	23
7. FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)	25
IV. Application Guidelines for Doctoral Program	27
1. Applicant Eligibility	27
2. Selection Process	28
3. Selection Criteria by OC	29
4. How to Apply	30
V. Special Trainings and Events	31
VI. Voice of JDS Graduates	33

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<http://jds-scholarship.org/>

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I. Introduction

1. About JDS Scholarship

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (**JDS**) was launched by the Government of Viet Nam with the assistance of the Government of Japan in 2000.



JDS is funded by the Government of Japan through its ODA (Official Development Assistance) budget.



JDS targets young public employees and others who are expected to play a leadership role in the development of their countries.



JDS provides scholarships to Viet Nam public employees to pursue two-year Master' Degree Courses (instructed in English) and 3-year Doctoral Degree Courses (instructed in English or Japanese, selection procedure in English) at Japanese accepting universities.

Objectives of JDS

- To support for Human Resource Development**
 JDS's objective is to strengthen the public administrative capacities in Viet Nam through providing the opportunity to obtain the Master's and Doctor's Degree to the young capable public employees who are expected to engage in formulating and implementing social and economic development plans and to play a leadership role in the development of the country.
- To Enhance Bilateral Relationships**
 JDS fellows are expected to solidify foundations to further bilateral relations with Japan by utilizing their human network developed through academic and social activities while in Japan.

Beneficiaries of JDS

- For the participants (JDS Fellows)**
 JDS Fellows will acquire expertise to use for policy making and institutional building for the development of their country, and also build human network in and out of Japan through their study in Japan.
- For the organizations (The Fellows' workplace)**
 The Fellows' workplace will attain highly-capable and motivated returnees (JDS Fellows) who can effectively contribute to the organizational missions.
- For the Country (The Fellows' country)**
 The Fellows' country will improve institutional capability of the target organizations which leads to foster country's development.



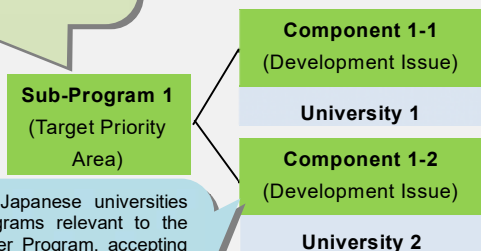
JDS Fellows 23rd Batch at Embassy of Viet Nam in Japan

2. System of JDS Viet Nam

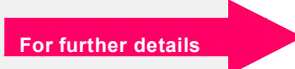
The framework of the JDS Project under the "New System" was made applicable to Viet Nam in 2009 and was revised in 2013, 2017 and 2021. The new approach gives its importance on "**selection and concentration**" on the target priority issues to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the program. A single program (One phase) is designed to accept four batches of Fellows (Fellows in each fiscal year constitute one batch). This year's application is for the 3rd batch in phase 4.

The new JDS Project consists of the sectors called "**Sub-Program**" and "**Component**", which correspond to and deal with the selected target priority areas and the relevant development issues, which were confirmed as indispensable to the economic and social development of the country.

The Fellows of the JDS Project are selected from state organizations whose mission is closely related to the target priority areas (Sub-Program) and the relevant development issues (Component).



Accepting universities are Japanese universities which offers educational programs relevant to the needs of Viet Nam. For Master Program, accepting universities are fixed under each Component, the course period is **2 years**, and the medium of instruction is **English**. For Doctoral Program, accepting universities are not fixed, the course is for **3 years in English or Japanese**.



- P4 "Framework of JDS Viet Nam."
- P7 "Detailed Information of Framework"

3. JDS Operating Committee (OC)

JDS Operating Committee (OC) is the decision-making committee of JDS Project. It consists of both members of Viet Nam and Japanese governments. The OC not only sets the framework and selection policies but also evaluates candidates in a selection round.

JDS Operating Committee (OC) Viet Nam



Government of Viet Nam

Ministry of Education and Training
Ministry of Planning and Investment



Government of Japan

JICA Viet Nam Office
Embassy of Japan in Viet Nam



JICE (Japan International Cooperation Center)

JICE supports a smooth implementation of JDS Project as an agent of Ministry of Education and Training (MOET). Under a contract with MOET, JICE also supports JDS Fellows studying in Japan.

4. Award Benefits

The awards are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the academic program specified by JDS Project. The following benefits generally apply:

- Full tuition fees
- Round trip air fare (International flights only)
Departure: from Hanoi to Japan
Return: from Japan to Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh city
- Arrival allowance
- Accommodation allowance
- Monthly Scholarship
- Book allowance
- Shipping allowance
- Travel and seminar attendance allowance
- Overseas travel insurance
- Supports from the agent
 - Finding accommodation
 - Initial settlement of your life in Japan
 - Emergency situation etc.



A Vietnamese Fellow Danced at Yosakoi Festival in Japan

5. Important JDS Rules

JDS has specific rules in order to realize its project goals and to ensure favorable study environment for the Fellows.

Before departure

- JDS Fellows must submit a JDS pledge to the Operating Committee to commit themselves to follow JDS Rules.

During the stay in Japan

- The Fellows are allowed to bring their family members to Japan only after 3 months from the date of arrival. (Some universities may have their own regulations about bringing family members to Japan)
- The Fellows are prohibited from:
 - Working
 - Driving motor vehicles, and
 - Applying for further studies such as a doctoral course while they are in Japan
- The Fellows must complete the study within the predetermined period of study, and return to his/her country immediately after the study completion.
- If the Fellow is subject to disciplinary action by the University or has no prospect of academic attainment within the predetermined period of study for any reason such as poor grades, family issues, health issues and etc., payment of scholarship shall be cancelled and the Fellow shall return to Viet Nam based on the decision/guidance of the University and the Operating Committee.

After returning to home country

- The Fellows must attend a report session held by the Operating Committee.
- The Fellows are obliged to **return and work for belonging organization in Viet Nam for at least twice the study period in Japan** in compliance with the Pledge required by the Ministry of Education and Training.

Further details will be explained in an orientation conducted after the selection.

II. Framework of JDS Viet Nam

1. Framework/ Field of Study

Framework for Master Program	5
Framework for Doctoral Program.....	6

2. Detailed Information of Framework

1-1. Strengthening of Market Economy System	7
1-2. Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Transportation)	8
1-3. Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Energy)	9
1-4. Human Resource Development for Industrial Development	10
1-5. Agriculture and Rural Development	11
2-1. Health Care/Social Security	12
2-2. Responding to the Threats of Climate Change, Disaster, Environmental Destruction	13
3-1. Strengthening of the Legal System.....	14
3-2. Strengthening of the Administrative Capacity	15

1. Framework/ Field of Study

1.1 Framework for Master Program

Sub program	Components	University	Graduate school (GS)	Slots
1. Promotion of Economic Growth and Strengthening of International Competitiveness	1-1 Strengthening of Market Economy System	1.Kobe University	GS of International Cooperation Studies	2
		2.International Christian University	GS of Arts and Sciences	2
		3.International University of Japan	GS of International Management	2
	1-2 Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Transportation)	4.Saitama University	GS of Science and Engineering	2
	1-3 Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Energy)	5.Hiroshima University	GS of Advanced Science and Engineering GS of Humanities and Social Sciences GS of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society	2
	1-4 Human Resource Development for Industrial Development	6.Kobe University	GS of International Cooperation Studies	2
		7.Hiroshima University	GS of Humanities and Social Sciences GS of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society	2
	1-5 Agriculture and Rural Development	8.Kyushu University	GS of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences	2
		9.The University of Tokyo	GS of Agricultural and Life Sciences	2
		10.Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology	GS of Agriculture	2
2. Response to Fragility	2-1 Health Care/Social Security	11.Nagasaki University	GS of Tropical Medicine and Global Health <i>*There are 3 courses which JDS candidates can apply, in which Tropical Medicine Course is designed for 1 year and requires doctor license and 2-year experience.</i>	4
	2-2 Responding to the Threats of Climate Change, Disaster, Environmental Destruction	12.University of Tsukuba	GS of Science and Technology	4
		13.Kyoto University	GS of Global Environmental Studies	2
3. Strengthening of Governance	3-1 Strengthening of the Legal System	14.Nagoya University	GS of Law	2
		15.Kyushu University	GS of Law	2
		16.Tohoku University	GS of Law	2
	3-2 Strengthening of the Administrative Capacity	17.Meiji University	GS of Governance Studies	3
		18.Rikkyo University	GS of Business	2
		19.International University of Japan	GS of International Relations	2
		20.Ritsumeikan University	GS of International Relations	2
Total				45

1.2 Framework for Doctoral Program

Sub program	Components	Total Slots
1. Promotion of Economic Growth and Strengthening of International Competitiveness	1-1 Strengthening of Market Economy System	5
	1-2 Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Transportation)	
	1-3 Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Energy)	
	1-4 Human Resource Development for Industrial Development	
	1-5 Agriculture and Rural Development	
2. Response to Fragility	2-1 Health Care/Social Security	
	2-2 Responding to the Threats of Climate Change, Disaster, Environmental Destruction	
3. Strengthening of Governance	3-1 Strengthening of the Legal System	
	3-2 Strengthening of the Administrative Capacity	

- For Doctoral Program, accepting universities and slot for each university are not fixed. Applicants can apply to any university which offers the courses that match the above framework.

2. Detailed Information of Framework

<Important Notes>

Fields of study, so called “Sub-Program” and “Component”, correspond to and deal with the target Priority Areas for the social and economic development of Viet Nam.

Information about [Research Area] and [Degree] in the tables below is referred for Master Program only. For Doctoral Program, Research Areas and Degrees to be obtained will be determined by accepting university and the courses for which applicants apply.

Sub-program	1. Promotion of Economic Growth and Strengthening of International Competitiveness	
Component	1-1 Strengthening of Market Economy System	
Background and Needs	<p>Viet Nam sets a governmental target of industrialization by 2020 in its “Socio-economic Development Strategy (2011 – 2020)” and “Socio-economic Development Plan (2011 - 2015)”. These plans place a focus on sustainable growth of the nation through enhancing global competitiveness and capacity building of administrative officials in order to achieve an international integration and a stability of the society. Moreover, “Human Resource Development Strategy (2011 - 2020)” emphasizes cultivation of administrative officials capable of coping with changes in the world with the goal of global integration. It also focuses on strengthening administration, policymaking, and international laws as prioritized areas.</p> <p>In order to achieve national target of industrialization by 2020, Viet Nam needs to develop internationally competitive private sector. To this end, various economic institutions should be improved, and its operation system is necessary to be strengthened to meet the needs of market economy and WTO rules. However, while such economic institutions have improved to some extent, they have not been perfectly operated and human resources to maintain the system needs more capacity development.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to promote international economic integration and trade facilitation, to implement and operate various economic systems required in the course of the transition from planned to market economy, and to foster human resources responsible for modernization of the finance sector through strengthening the function of the State Bank.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal</p> <p>To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of economy.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose</p> <p>To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of economy, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	[Research Area]	<p>Master of Business Administration (MBA)</p> <p>Master of Economics</p> <p>Master of International Studies</p> <p>Master of Arts in Public Economics</p>
	Economic Policy, Fiscal Policy, Monetary Policy, Industrial Policy	

Sub-program	1. Promotion of Economic Growth and Strengthening of International Competitiveness	
Component	1-2 Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Transportation)	
Background and Needs	<p>For achieving sustainable economic growth, Viet Nam should deal with increasing demand for transportation and rapid urbanization. Further, it requires improvement of transportation network that contributes to smooth and safe distribution of goods as well as human mobility. This improvement should be achieved through further development of physical infrastructure such as roads, railways, seaports and airports. Moreover, Viet Nam has to deal with other issues such as development and quality control of human resources to operate and maintain the increasing property for transportation, improvement of institutions to make use of private sector resources, means for traffic safety, and formulation of long-term strategy to develop transport sector.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to foster human resources responsible for strategically important infrastructures and managing urban transportation systems which support sound development of urban cities.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of transportation.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of transportation, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	<p>[Research Area] Urban Development Policy, Environment Oriented City Plan, Sustainable Urban Development</p>	<p>[Degree] Master of Engineering</p>

Sub-program	1. Promotion of Economic Growth and Strengthening of International Competitiveness	
Component	1-3 Improving of Economic Infrastructure and Traffic Accessibility (Energy)	
Background and Needs	<p>Energy consumption and maximum amount of electricity in past 5 years in Viet Nam grew on average 10 % per year, which was faster than its economic growth rates. Demand for electricity was 198,000GWh in 2017, and is currently estimated 350,000GWh in 2025 (1.8 times higher). Also, Viet Nam had been shifted to a net energy-importing country around 2015. In order to achieve long-term sustainable economic growth, new energy sources and electric transmission and distribution network should be developed to help promote electricity supply. It is also important to increase varieties of energy sources for stable electricity supply, develop primary energy and promote energy saving.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to foster human resources responsible for formulating comprehensive energy policies, maintaining power generation infrastructure, and designing technical and safety standards.</p>	
Objective/	<p>1) Overall Goal To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of energy.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of energy, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
Research Area	<p>[Research Area]</p> <p>Energy Policy, Energy Environmental/ Renewable</p> <p>Energy Policy, Electrical Engineering</p>	<p>[Degree]</p> <p>Master of Philosophy</p> <p>Master of International Cooperation Studies</p> <p>Master of Economics</p> <p>Master of Business Administration</p> <p>Master of Engineering</p>

Sub-program	1. Promotion of Economic Growth and Strengthening of International Competitiveness	
Component	1-4 Human Resource Development for Industrial Development	
Background and Needs	<p>Viet Nam has achieved rapid economic growth since the launch of Doi Moi in 1986, partly driven by robust growth of the manufacturing sector in which FDI's inflow has been huge thanks to Viet Nam's cheap labour costs. However, economic growth has been slowing down over the last 20 years due to a lack of innovations and low and declining labour productivity. The value-added products created by the manufacturing sector are still low due to various factors, one of which is unskilled labour force in the manufacturing sector. In order to achieve industrialization with higher value-added manufacturing, Viet Nam's manufacturing sector needs high quality human resources including highly-skilled workers, practical engineers, and corporate managers.</p> <p>However, the vocational education and training (VET) institutions cannot necessarily provide sufficient training programs which satisfy the requirement of the industries due to the lack of experiences and techniques of tutors and insufficient budget to update the training equipment.</p> <p>In addition to training the capable skilled workers in Viet Nam, as a current trend, both Vietnamese and Japanese Governments tend to put more and more focus on nurturing the Vietnamese industrial human resources in Japan under the framework of Japanese technical intern training program and specified skilled worker.</p> <p>Therefore, in order for JICA to support skilling immature labour force in Viet Nam in more effective way, nurturing the capable human resources of the Vietnamese Government and relevant public agencies that are involved in the above-mentioned policy implementation is imperative.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal</p> <p>To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of human resource development for industrial development.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose</p> <p>To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of human resource development for industrial development, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	<p>[Research Area]</p> <p>Labor protection policy, Improvement of working environment, Education for Industrial human resource development and training policy of unskilled labor force, Labor export policy</p>	<p>[Degree]</p> <p>Master of Economics Master of International Studies Master of Philosophy Master of International Cooperation Studies Master of Business Administration</p>

Sub-program	1. Promotion of Economic Growth and Strengthening of International Competitiveness	
Component	1-5 Agriculture and Rural Development	
Background and Needs	<p>Agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries are still important in Viet Nam, accounting approximately 14.7% of the GDP and 37.7% of the working population, although its industrial structure has been changing because of economic growth. However, the income level of rural population which consists of approximately 70% of the nation's population remains low, and the gap of living standards between urban and rural areas is widening. Moreover, Viet Nam has not achieved global competitiveness in agriculture due to inadequate quality and safety assurance for their products. Thus, innovation in techniques for agriculture and generating additional values in their products are vital to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to foster human resources who contribute to modernizing techniques for agriculture, utilizing local resources such as land and water, and vitalizing rural communities and agricultural economies.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal</p> <p>To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of agriculture and rural development.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose</p> <p>To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of agriculture and rural development, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	<p>[Research Area]</p> <p>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Policies, Rural Development Policies, Food Safety/Food Preservation & Processing Technology, Agricultural Cultivation Technology and Mechanization, Livestock Science and Diseases</p>	<p>[Degree]</p> <p>Master of Science</p> <p>Master of Agriculture</p> <p>Master of Philosophy</p>

Sub-program	2. Response to Fragility	
Component	2-1 Health Care/Social Security	
Background and Needs	<p>Although health care services have been improving, issues such as the quality of health services, urban and local disparities, high medical expense, and rapid aging population are emerging, and measures are needed to achieve universal health coverage (UHC). It is essential for Vietnam to swiftly establish a sustainable health insurance system with the long-term perspective.</p> <p>Viet Nam has been exposed to a variety of emerging infectious diseases and the government regards preparedness of infectious diseases outbreaks as one of the priority issues. An effective health system will be important in the post-corona era, which can help build resilience by minimizing the impact of infection as well as social and economic development.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to foster human resources who contribute to build health policy and social security system.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal</p> <p>To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of Health care/Social Security.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose</p> <p>To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of Health care/Social Security, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	<p>[Research Area]</p> <p>Healthcare Policies/Administration, Public Health, Social Welfare/Social Work, Health Economic, Tropical medicine/Infectious Disease Control, Health Management</p>	<p>[Degree]</p> <p>Master of Tropical Medicine Master of Public Health Master of Science in Global Health and Medicine</p>

Sub-program	2. Response to Fragility	
Component	2-2 Responding to the Threats of Climate Change, Disaster, Environmental Destruction	
Background and Needs	<p>Viet Nam is one of the nations which are likely to suffer severe impacts caused by climate change such as saltwater intrusions in Mekong Delta through rising sea levels and increasing typhoon damages in midland regions. Moreover, the country faces various challenges, because of the recent economic growth, including increased greenhouse gas emissions due to the rising energy consumption, air and water pollution, increasing waste products, and loss of biodiversity on account of inappropriate land use.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to foster human resources who contribute to policymaking and its operation in order to accommodate and reduce climate change, as well as to handle urban environmental issues, sustainable forest administration, conservation of biodiversity, and disaster prevention.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of environment.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of environment, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	<p>[Research Area] Environmental Policies, Global Environment, Natural Resources and Ecological System Management, Environmental Ethic and Education, Countermeasures against Global Warming, Management of water supply, sewerage system and waste, Urban Environment (General Policies · Legal system), Application of Satellite Data (Disaster Management)</p>	<p>[Degree] Master of Environmental Sciences Master of Global Environmental Studies</p>

Sub-program	3. Strengthening of Governance	
Component	3-1 Strengthening of the Legal System	
Background and Needs	<p>Viet Nam implements legal and judicial reform towards 2020 but there are remaining problems such as inconsistencies among legal documents and arbitrary enforcement of laws and lack of capacity of civil servants. As for the law enforcement, Viet Nam doesn't have enough capacity to cope with newly emerging issues such as cyber security and maritime security. In addition to above, the National Assembly functions to a certain extent under on party system, but has still a lot to be improved in terms of information disclosure, decision making process and legislative capacity.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to foster human resources responsible for planning and operating legislative and judicial policies. These human resources are expected to contribute to strengthen the legal and judicial reform of Viet Nam and law enforcement while acquiring knowledge on Japanese legal and judicial system and cooperating with the other assistance to Viet Nam stated above.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal</p> <p>To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of Strengthening of the Legal System.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose</p> <p>To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of Strengthening of the Legal System, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	<p>[Research Area]</p> <p>Legal/Judicial Policies, The law of the Sea</p>	<p>[Degree]</p> <p>Master of Laws</p>

Sub-program	3. Strengthening of Governance	
Component	3-2 Strengthening of the Administrative Capacity	
Background and Needs	<p>Viet Nam has continuously implemented various administrative reforms to adapt itself to a socio-economic transition. However, there remains several challenges such as administrative agencies with duplicated roles and tasks, growing number of civil servants, and inefficient and complicated administrative system. In addition, there lacks human resources, who are able to analyze and make a necessary policy towards socio-economic changes, because of inadequate knowledge on market economy, ambiguous criteria for recruitment of civil servant and etc.</p> <p>In this sector, JDS project aims to foster human resources who contribute to policymaking, improving management, ensuring justice, fairness, neutrality, and transparency of administration in the whole government including provinces.</p>	
Objective/ Research Area	<p>1) Overall Goal</p> <p>To ensure that JDS Returned Fellows will help to improve the institutional capacities of relevant administrative institutions, which are engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of administrative capacity.</p> <p>2) Project Purpose</p> <p>To ensure that public employees, who are/ will be engaged in policy formulation, planning and implementation in the field of administrative capacity, improve their capability of policy making and implementation.</p>	
	<p>[Research Area]</p> <p>Public Policies, Civil service system, E-government</p>	<p>[Degree]</p> <p>Master of Public Policy</p> <p>Master of Arts in Public Management</p> <p>Master of Public Management and Administration</p> <p>Master of Arts in International Relations</p>

The university information is available on JDS website: <https://jds-scholarship.org/>



Please check carefully university's information and its faculty members to select the most suitable university for your research proposal.

III. Application Guidelines for Master Program

1. Applicant Eligibility

Nationality	Citizens of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and residing in Viet Nam at the time of application
Age	Between 24 and 39 years old as of April 1st, 2024 (Born on/after April 2, 1984 and born on/before April 1, 2000)
Academic Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possess a Bachelor's Degree from universities authorized by the Government of Viet Nam or other countries (Full-time and formal training). • For Component 2-1: Nagasaki University: There are 3 courses which JDS candidates can apply, in which Tropical Medicine Course is designed for 1 year and requires doctor license and 2-year experience. • For Component 3-1: Nagoya University, Kyushu University, Tohoku University: Those who obtained the bachelor's degree in the field of law is preferable.
Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Public Employees are eligible. • Have at least 12 (twelve) months of full-time work experience after graduation (at the time of application) in current organization of public sector with social insurance covered by the organization, particularly in work relevant to the selected Component.
English Proficiency	<p>Have a good command of both written and spoken English.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Final candidates must obtain TOEFL ITP 500 (iBT 46)/IELTS 5.5 (with no sub-band under 5.0) or above (Only the test results issued on/after May 31, 2022 are valid). TOEFL ITP test will be held for applicants after qualification screening of application documents. Those who have a qualified English score can be exempt from the TOEFL ITP test arranged by JDS Project Office. * IELTS training course may be arranged for those who cannot obtain qualified English score after the TOEFL ITP test arranged by JICE.
Health Condition	<p>Mentally and physically in good health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Applicants need to take and pass all medical check-up at the time of Comprehensive Interview. This medical check-up is arranged by JDS Project Office. Applicant who cannot take or pass all medical check-up will be disqualified from JDS scholarship.
Ineligibility	<p>A person who falls under the following category is NOT eligible to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who are currently receiving (or scheduled to receive) another international government scholarship (including other scholarships of Japan). Those who have obtained a master's or higher degree in a foreign country under any kind of scholarship. • Those who were sent for overseas study by the Government of Viet Nam but could not complete their study or did not report their completion as regulated. • Those who were awarded scholarship for overseas study and being in the constraints of compensation training expenses. • Military personnel registered on the active list or person on alternative military service.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JDS Fellows are obliged to return and work in Viet Nam for belonging organization at least twice the study period of master's course in Japan in order to make a contribution to the development of Viet Nam through their work in their organizations, complying with the Pledge required by the Ministry of Education and Training.

2. Selection Process

Schedule	Steps	Description
Application deadline by February 20, 2024	Application	Closing Date: February 20, 2024 (Tuesday) Further details → P18 “4. How to Apply”
	▼	
End of February 2024	Academic Aptitude Test	TOEFL - ITP and Math tests ¹ . The test results will be reviewed by the universities in later selection stages.
	▼	
End of March 2024	1 st Selection	Document Screening: Application Documents and research proposal will be examined by the Japanese universities.
	▼	
Early April 2024	2 nd Selection	Technical Interview ² : Faculty members of the Japanese Universities will visit to Ha Noi to conduct their interview exams. * Unsuccessful candidates at Document Screening and Technical Interview MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO RE-APPLY for a second university. If re-application is opened, list of specific universities and instruction for re-application would be informed via email after announcement of result of Technical Interview.
	▼	
Mid of May 2024	Health Checkup	Comprehensive Interview: The Operating Committee members will conduct the interview.
	3 rd Selection	
	▼	
End of May 2024	Approval by the OC	Successful candidates will be approved and notified.
June 2024	Application Procedure	JICE will support application for each university
June – July 2024	Japanese Training Course	Successful candidates attend Japanese training course organized by JICE
July - August 2024	Orientations	Provided by JICA, MOET and JICE
August 2024	Departure for Japan	JICE will arrange air-ticket, visa, and also support JDS Fellows after the arrival in Japan

<Important Notes>

- ✓ All the selection costs will be covered by JDS Project.
- ✓ Limited transportation and accommodation allowance will be provided to candidates coming from provincial areas for the selections.
- ✓ Applicants may be requested to submit original (or notarized copy) of application documents during selection rounds.
- ✓ Application Documents with false statements or plagiarism will be immediately disqualified.
- ✓ Result of each selection round will be announced to all candidates via email.
- ✓ In principle, reasons of the selection results will not be disclosed.



TOEFL & Math test



1st Selection
Document Screening



2nd Selection
Technical Interview



3rd Selection
Comprehensive Interview

¹ Applicants for the following components will be exempted from the Math test. Component 1-5: The University of Tokyo, 2-2: Kyoto University, 3-1: Nagoya University, Kyushu University, Tohoku University, 3-2: Ritsumeikan University

² Interview may be conducted online according to circumstances.

3. Selection Criteria

Selection process	Criteria	Intent and Purpose
1st Selection Document Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic records and background Possibility of future contribution by utilizing acquired knowledge Contents of Research Proposal Relevance between Research Proposal and Sub-Program / Component (Development issues set by JDS) Reference Letter (Annex in the Application Document) 	The Japanese universities evaluate applicants' basic knowledge, ability and academic background. Compatibility to the university course will be also examined.
2nd Selection Technical Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic background and learning ability Capacity for completing the study in Japan Possibility of contributing to the development of the country Compatibility to the university course 	The universities mainly evaluate <u>academic knowledge, candidates' idea about research proposal</u> , etc. Communication and logical thinking skills are also checked through the interview.
3rd Selection Comprehensive Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity for completing the study in Japan Capacity to utilize outcomes of the study over the long term Possibility of contributing to the development of the country and strengthening bilateral relations with Japan 	After the universities check the candidates' academic abilities, the Operating Committee evaluates the <u>candidates' capacity of future contribution to the development of the country and strengthening bilateral relations with Japan</u> , such as purpose of study in Japan, career plan after the study, etc.

* The English and math test results will be reviewed by the universities in the selection stage

4. How to Apply

All applicants are required to submit a set of necessary documents. Please follow the instructions below.

1) Online Application

- All applicants are required to fill out online application form and submit a set of necessary documents to complete your application.
- Application Guideline (AG), and other designated forms are available on JDS website: <https://jds-scholarship.org/country/vietnam>
- For further information on online application, please check the online application manual which is also downloadable from JDS website.
- JICE will send back your submitted Application Form (AF) by E-mail after confirming submission.

2) Submission of Application Documents <https://jice.form.kintoneapp.com/public/jdsvietnam-apply>

■ Important Notice

- If you are not able to access to online application form, contact JICE JDS Office immediately.
- Application lacking necessary documents will not be accepted.
- There might be access concentration on the closing day of the application. However, application submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Once you submit the application, it will not be able to be change.
- Application will be disqualified in case false statements and/or plagiarism is found .

For Inquiries

JDS Website: <http://jds-scholarship.org/>

JDS Project Office in Viet Nam

Office Hour: 8:30-12:00 / 13:30-17:00, Monday to Friday
 Address: 3rd floor, VJCC Building, 91 Chua Lang, Dong Da, Hanoi
 E-mail: jds.vietnam@jice.org
 TEL: 024 3934 7711 / 7712
 JDS Zalo: 0913 238 852

■ Deadline for Application Submission

You must complete and submit the online application by the deadline below.

Application Deadline: 17:00, February 20, 2024 (Tuesday)

3) List of Application Documents

Important Notes

- Required Documents can be downloaded from JDS website: <https://jds-scholarship.org/country/vietnam>
- Please make sure that you have prepared all the required documents before you start to fill in your application.
- Each required document should be in a separated file, not exceeding 10MB and only **a single pdf file** (except for ID photo in JPG, JPEG, PNG, or GIF) can be uploaded to the system.
- All documents written in other language than English need notarized English translation. (Except for Doc No. 7 & 9)
- Use **only A4 size paper for all documents (except for ID photo)**.
- Submit a "Letter of Explanation" in case where wrong information (e.g., wrong spelling of name, birthday, etc.) is contained in official documents due to administrative errors.

Doc No.	Required Documents	File Type	Remarks
1	Short Essays	PDF (Single file)	➤ Please use Prescribed Form on JDS website
2	Research Proposal	PDF (Single file)	➤ Please use Prescribed Form on JDS website
3	University Certificate/Diploma	PDF (Single file)	➤ If in Vietnamese language: Submit official English translation ➤ If in English language, or bilingual English-Vietnamese: Submit notarized copy
4	Official Academic Transcript	PDF (Single file)	➤ Must contain all the grades earned from the university ➤ Submit equivalence degree certificate issued by MOET if degree obtained in foreign countries
5	Reference Letter "Annex" (designated form)	PDF (Single file)	➤ Must be filled out by the current supervisor ➤ Must be typed in English or accompanied with official translation
6	Passport	PDF (Single file)	➤ Submit ONE copy page of personal information with your photo (Identification page) only. (Copy of ID card can be accepted, only if passport is not available)
7	Official Nomination Letter (designated form in Vietnamese)	PDF (Single file)	➤ Must be signed and stamped by the authorized representative of the current organization.
8	Proof of Employment History	PDF (Single file)	Submit an official English translation of labor contract(s) or Decision of Employment <u>showing qualified work experience to JDS requirement</u> .
9	Confirmation of social insurance payment	PDF (Single file)	Submit confirmation of social insurance payment to prove that the period of social insurance covered by the current organization is at least 12 months by the time of application.
10	An ID photo (3cmX4cm)	JPG, JPEG, PNG, GIF	➤ 01 photo size 3cmX4cm (taken within the past 3 months), less than 10 MB (File Type: JPG, JPEG, PNG, or GIF)
11	[Optional]: International English Proficiency Test Result	PDF (Single file)	➤ Optional (IELTS or TOEFL Certificate): Only for those who have a qualified score. ➤ Only the test results issued on/after May 31, 2022 are valid.

4) How to Submit Application Documents

STEP 1 Download the Application Guidelines and Application Documents on JDS website

JDS Website: <https://jds-scholarship.org/country/vietnam/>

- A. Application Guidelines
- B. Application Documents



STEP 2 Prepare the required documents

Please refer to P.19 in Application Guidelines, and make sure to prepare all the required documents in appropriate file format.



STEP 3 Complete your online application

Access online application system on JDS website (<https://jice.form.kintoneapp.com/public/jdsvietnam-apply>) and complete your application by filling out the necessary information and uploading the required documents.

- * If you cannot access the online application system, or you have any problem filling out the form, please contact JICE JDS Project Office.
- * Once you submit your application, you will not be allowed to modify it.



STEP 4 Receive a confirmation E-mail

- ✓ **[Submission Succeeded]**
You will receive a confirmation email.
- ✓ **[Submission Failed]**
You will receive an error message - please contact JICE JDS Project Office immediately, and make sure to complete your application before the deadline.

■ Important Notice

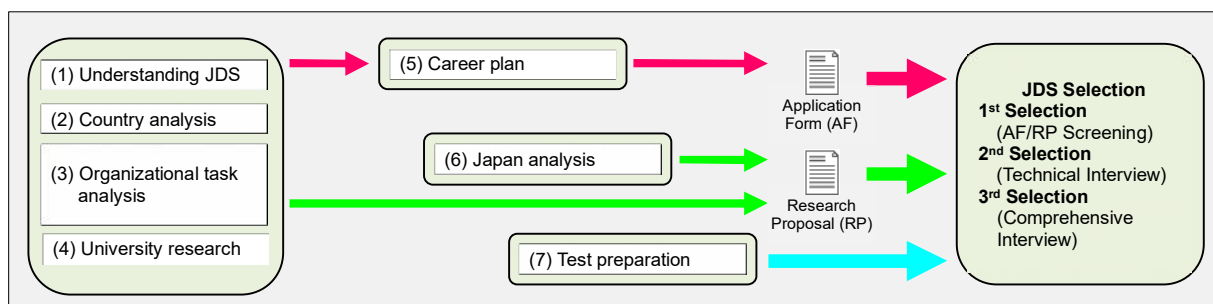
- Application lacking necessary documents will not be accepted.
- Application submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Application will be disqualified in case false statements and/or plagiarism is found.
- Applicants may be requested to submit original (or notarized copy) of application documents during selection rounds.

■ Tips on submission

JDS Office recommends submitting the Application Documents at least [a week earlier than the application deadline to avoid any technical difficulty due to access overload.](#)

5. Tips on Application and Selection (Reference)

The better you prepare for the Application Documents, the more chances to pass the selection you have. Here are some tips on the preparation of Application Form (AF) and Research Proposal (RP).



About the selection and criteria

As shown in the chart above, you are advised to collect detailed information about JDS, Japan and the universities through literature survey and so on before challenging the JDS. Also, it is important to know in advance about its selection and evaluation criteria (P18) and prepare your application documents and RP with a view to winning the selection.

(1) Understanding JDS

Objectives and framework

The objectives of JDS are written in P2. “Sub-Program and Component (SP/CP)” are shown in P5~P15. Most importantly, you have to note the reasons why JDS is provided to the public sector, why SP/CP are set in the JDS framework. The answers to those questions will be an important basis in making preparation for AF and RP.

- JDS is designed to support the human resource development of Viet Nam.
- Public sector can directly and widely contribute to the development.
- SP/CP are set based on the development plan of the Government of Viet Nam and Japan aid policy.

(2) Country analysis

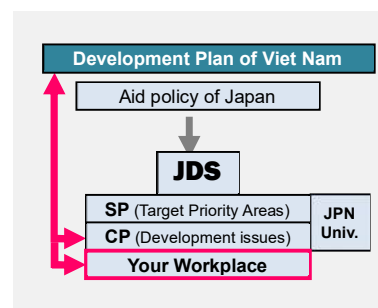
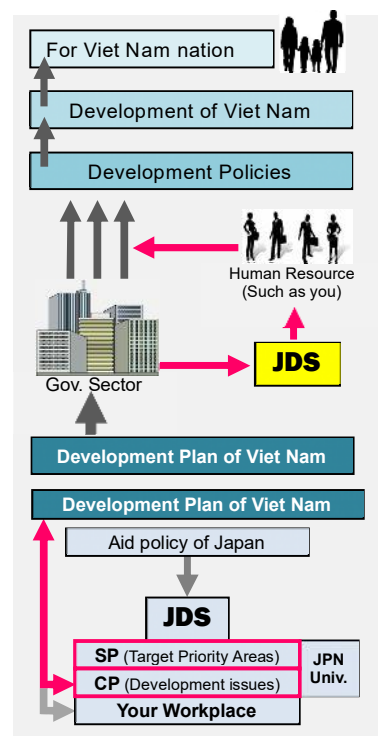
As mentioned in “(1) Understanding JDS” above, “SP/CP” is set based on the development plan of the Government of Viet Nam (Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP), etc.). First, read and understand the background of the SP/CP you wish to apply for (P5~P15) to know what kind of development issues are assumed and what kind of research are expected under JDS. Then, obtain information on development issues of Viet Nam (SEDP, Issues of your organization, etc.) to deepen your understanding on the status of the development. This analysis of present development status will be important not only for making a RP but also for later selection steps (interviews).

- Read and understand the background of the SP/CP you apply for (P5~P15)
- Check such materials as SEDP, issues of your organization, etc.

(3) Organizational task analysis

It is essential for you to know what kind of mission your organization has in the context of the development of Viet Nam. Also, it is important to observe what kind of issues your organization is tackling with and what are lacking to solve the issues. Those observations will help you conduct further analysis.

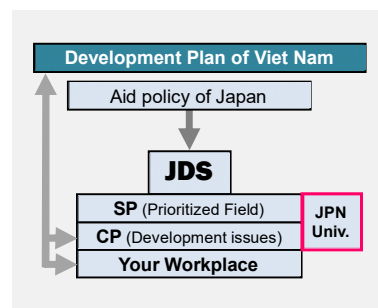
- Check missions and roles of your organization in the context of the development of your country.
- Also observe what is necessary in your organization to solve the development issues of your workplace. Those observations will help you find reasons to study in Japan.



(4) University research

As shown in "Framework for Master Program (P5)", the relevant Japanese universities (courses) are designated under each CP. Those universities are selected to offer you with sufficient knowledge in order to tackle development issues of your concern. As the universities wish to recruit students with necessary academic level and high motivation to learn, you need to demonstrate those points in the following way.

- One of the ways to show your self-motivation is to demonstrate how much you know about the university you are applying for.
- Go to the university website to know their location, history, provided courses, the faculty members, etc.
- Find interesting professors, and check their research areas, current activities, their published academic papers, etc.
- Answering Q2 will help you consider why you choose the university. It will also help you to show how much you are willing to study in the university and how much your research proposal is matching with the university.



(5) Career plan

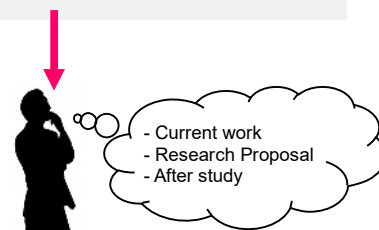
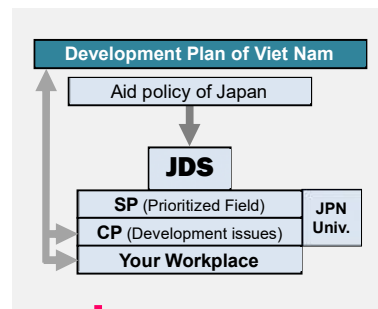
As you can see it in Required Documents, you will be required to fill in Required Documents – Short Essays (Question 1 Responsibilities of your work, Q2 Reason for Applying the Graduate school / course and Q3 Future Contribution) and Research Proposal. Those questions are very coherent in the sense that each question asks [who you are / what you are doing now], [what you want to do in Japan] and [what you can / want to do after your study]. So, those questions ask how you relate your career and the study in the context of the development of your country. This is a clear tip to answer to those questions in the AF.

- Question 1, 2, and 3 of Short Essays, and Research Proposal are NOT separate questions. They are very coherent.

About "Responsibilities of Your Work" (Short Essays – Q1)

Due to lack of understanding of the connections among [Q1], [Q2], [Q3] and Research Proposal, some people do nothing but list up their daily work. As mentioned above, it is important to show your current (or previous) work in the context of the development issues in order to bridge your answers to the next questions (Research Proposal and career plan after study).

- Q1 just asks your current and previous work. But, based on your answers in this Q1, the interviewers (The university and OC) try to guess if you can use acquired knowledge in your work after you return from Japan. Therefore, Q1 and Q3 are two sides of the same coin.



About the Reason for Applying the Graduate school / course (Short Essays – Q2)

It is very important to gather the information about the Graduate school / course you will apply and consider why you choose that university to write a Research Proposal (RP). It will be criteria to check the relevance between your RP and your applied university.

About contribution after study in Japan (Short Essays – Q3)

You may have a problem in answering to this question about how you will contribute to the development after your study in Japan. Considering the objectives of JDS, this is a very important factor throughout the selection process. Every year, some applicants provide answers such as "I will share my knowledge", "I will teach at educational institutions" and so on. Those are, of course, important. But, if you are a JDS interviewer, would you be attracted by such answers?

- If you have finished the research and analysis as in (2) ~ (4) above, you should be able to identify the needs of your country and organization as well as your tasks to fulfill such needs,
- It is important to layout your future career plan (after your study in Japan) in relation to the needs of your country and organization, which also will be a solid and good reasoning to study in Japan.

About Research Proposal

The details about how to write a Research Proposal (RP) is explained in P23. Based on the explanation above, keep in mind that the RP is considered as an extension of your work [Q1], which will also lead to your career plan after your study in Japan [Q3].

(6) Research on relevant issues in Japan

The JDS Fellows are to conduct research on development issues of their home countries. And also, taking into account that they study in Japan, you are also recommended to know in advance, at least, about historical and empirical cases of Japan in your research field.

(7) Test preparation

As shown in "Selection Process (P17)", the results of English and Math tests will be reviewed by the universities in the 1st selection (Application Documents and RP screening by the universities in Japan) and afterwards.

- It is strongly recommended to prepare for those tests, improving your ability by self-study. You can prepare both tests in advance!
- About TOEFL test, get used to the test format using sample test and textbooks.
- About Math test, question and solution of the past years' test are available at JDS website. Using the past tests, check rules and formulas in school textbooks!

TOEFL preparation
ETS web site
<https://www.ets.org/toefl/itp/prepare.html>

Past math test and solution
JDS website
<https://jds-scholarship.org/past/>

6. Guidelines for Writing a Research Proposal

(1) Guideline for writing a research proposal

In the application for JDS, the research proposal for your Master's thesis should ;

- Address the current issues/problems of the socio-economic development of your country and how to remedy these issues/problems.
- Present a detailed work plan on how and what you will do to achieve for the goal of your study.

The research proposal, which is submitted for the application is not deemed to be final. It will be revised during the course work in the line with the Component. The purpose of the research proposal is to help its readers (faculty members of graduate schools) evaluate the significance and potentiality of your research from the following aspects:

- 1) Does the research proposal address the important policy questions of the applicant's country?
- 2) Does the research proposal show that the applicant is strongly motivated and adequately prepared to implement the research successfully?
- 3) Who will benefit from the result of the research? Will the result of the research contribute to solving or clarifying policy questions which are important for applicant's country?

- 4) Does the research help the applicant to participate in the development process of your country more effectively after the completion of the course?
- 5) Is the applicant's academic background strong enough to implement the research proposal?
- 6) Is the applicant's work experience sufficient to pursue the research? (Not necessary if other application material is good enough to show that the answers are positive.)
- 7) Does the research proposal fit well with the program of the graduate school?
- 8) Are the applicant's research questions academically significant?

The importance of each point above, however, depends on the field of study and the graduate program you are applying for. Some graduate programs may require more specific information about the data and method of analysis. Therefore, it is essential to go through the "University Information" as well as the website of the university carefully before writing your research proposal. Writing a research proposal is the beginning of your research. It is highly recommended that you keep improving your research proposal before departure to Japan after being selected as a JDS Fellow.

(2) Outline of the research proposal (Example)

Title		Describe the nature of your proposed research clearly. Avoid making it too short or redundant.
Introduction	Background	Position your research theme here to <u>state a significance of your research in the research areas</u> . The literature review is not a part to merely describe preceding studies <u>but to sort out what research have done, what have been found and what are unknown in your research field</u> . Also consider relevance with development issues and your organization. List the preceding studies in a reference section at the end of your research proposal.
	Literature Review	
	Purpose and Questions	
Main Body	Methodology	This is the main part of your research proposal. Develop your opinion and give more information. Explain what and how to study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detail your research procedure within the given timeframe. ▪ List sources and quality of evidence you will consult with and the analytical technique you will employ, and the timetable you will follow. ▪ Describe the intended methods of data gathering, the controls you will introduce, the statistical methods to be used, the type of literature or documentary analysis to be followed, etc.
	Expected Results Significance	Tell the reader the important points to stress and address your future plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected learning/findings from your research. • Describe your future plan on how to utilize your research outcome to solve the issues mentioned in the first part after return home. • Describe how your research outcome will contribute to the development of the country and the institutional development of your organization.
Conclusion	Bibliography	Include all the resources which are used in the writing of the research proposal.

For more information, go to the websites on academic writing below.

University of Oxford: Guidelines to Writing a Research Proposal
http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/graduate/apply/research_proposal.html

(3) Warnings about “Plagiarism”

“Plagiarism” is **a serious offense** in the academic field. Plagiarism means using other person’s ideas and words without explicitly acknowledging the source of that information.



University students including JDS applicants and Fellows are members of the academic and must not commit plagiarism in making a research proposal and thesis. Otherwise, you may be disqualified from the selection, or even be discharged from the university, once the plagiarism is found in your research proposal, or academic work at the university.

Such cases are deemed as plagiarism:

- Copying from books or articles written by other authors without permission
- Copying from an internet source without referring to the attribution text or information
- Misrepresentation of someone’s work as one’s original

To avoid plagiarism, you must cite sources and give credit whenever you use:

- Other person’s idea, opinion, or theory
- Any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings – that are not common knowledge
- Quotation of other person’s spoken or written words, or
- **Paraphrase** of other person’s spoken or written words



When you make your research proposal, also pay attention to “Paraphrase”.

Paraphrase is a re-expression of other person’s ideas in your own words. There is accurate and inaccurate way of paraphrasing.

Here are some websites for more explanation on those matters. Applicants must prepare a research proposal carefully to avoid plagiarism.

- Plagiarism and how to avoid it

INDIANA UNIVERSITY BOOMINGTON, Writing Tutorial Service, *Plagiarism: What it is and how to recognize and avoid it.*
<https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/plagiarism.html>

- Paraphrase and examples

The Writing Center @ THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON, *the Writer’s Handbook avoiding plagiarism*
http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_paraphrase.html

<Image>

A Passage Appears in a Source

Critical care nurses function in a hierarchy of roles. In this open heart surgery unit, the nurse manager hires and fires the nursing personnel. The nurse manager does not directly care for patients but follows the progress of unusual or long-term patients. On each shift a nurse assumes the role of resource nurse. This person oversees the hour-by-hour functioning of the unit as a whole, such as considering expected admissions and discharges of patients, ascertaining that beds are available for patients in the operating room, and covering sick

~~Critical care nurses have a hierarchy of roles. The nurse manager hires and fires nurses. S/he does not directly care for patients but does follow unusual or long term cases. On each shift a resource nurse attends to the functioning of the unit as whole, such as making sure beds are available in the operating room, and also in a patie~~

Word-for-Word Plagiarism

Patchwork Paraphrase

~~Chase (1992) describes how nurses in a critical care unit function in a hierarchy that places designated experts at the top and the least senior staff nurses at the bottom. The experts — the nurse manager, nurse clinician, and clinical nurse specialist — are not involved directly in patient care. The staff nurses, in contrast, are assigned to patients and provide all their nursing care.~~

Deemed as Plagiarism

- Citing references

It is important to cite sources you used in your research proposal. Refer to the following useful sites for further details.

About the citing references:
 University of Reading, *Library – Citing References*
<http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/citing-references>

About various citing examples
 University of Maryland, University College, *APA citation examples*
<https://libguides.umgc.edu/apa-examples>

7. FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q1. What is the Sub-Program (SP) / Component (CP)?

They are the fields of study determined based on the priority development issues of each JDS recipient country. JDS Fellows are expected to prepare the research proposal in line with the stated issues. Please study your applying Sub-program/Component before application.

Q2. I can't speak/understand Japanese. Can I apply for JDS?

Yes, you can. Basically, master's programs under JDS are instructed in English. Because of this, English proficiency is more valued than Japanese proficiency.

Q3. I already received a scholarship from other country. Am I eligible to apply for JDS?

No. The following persons are NOT eligible to apply for JDS.

- Persons who are currently receiving or is scheduled to receive another scholarship.
- Persons who had already got master's degree in other countries under any scholarship.

(* However, persons who are studying in master's course or obtained master's degree without foreign assistance in local/foreign universities are eligible.

Q4. Can I apply for a component which is not relevant with my major at university?

Yes, you can. Your major at university is not of criteria for us to refer to your qualification. Only for Component 3-1: Nagoya University, Kyushu University and Tohoku University, Bachelor of Law is preferable.

Q5. Where can I get the Application Documents?

Please access JDS website.

<https://jds-scholarship.org/country/vietnam/>

Application Documents, Application Guideline (AG) and university information can be downloaded from this website.

Q6. I graduated from more than 2 universities. Which diploma/transcript should I submit?

If you write down both universities as Educational Background in the Application, please submit both of them.

Q7. My academic record was officially issued in Vietnamese and English by my university. Does JDS still require a notarized English translation?

No, we do not. Just notarized copy is needed.

Q8. I lost my university diploma and now I only keep some notarized copies. I cannot get a notarized English translation from them. What should I do?

It is responsibility of a candidate to collect all necessary documents for application.

Q9. How do I write a research proposal?

Please refer to "Guidelines for Writing a Research Proposal" (P.23) in this booklet. You can also refer to many literatures about how to make a research proposal on the internet. Please pay attention to avoid "plagiarism".

Q10. Does JDS accept a handwriting application?

No, only online application is accepted.

Q11. Do I need to take English and math test? And do these scores affect the JDS selection?

Yes. Every applicant must take the English examination (TOEFL ITP) except for those submitted a qualified English score. Applicants for the following components will be exempted from Math test: Component 1-5: The University of Tokyo, 2-2: Kyoto University, 3-1: Nagoya University, Kyushu University, Tohoku University, 3-2: Ritsumeikan University. The scores of English and math examination will be reviewed by the accepting universities in the document screening and afterwards.

Q12. If I am suddenly busy on the English examination day, can I take a TOEFL test in a different day instead?

In principle, applicants are required to sit for the TOEFL on the designated day. For special cases, please contact with JDS Project Office for support on this matter.

Q13. How can I know each selection result?

JDS Project Office will announce the result of each selection to all candidates via email.

Q14. Will you give us the university information in detail?

For the information, please refer to the "Accepting University" on JDS website. You can also visit university's website for more details.

Q15. Can you tell me the e-mail address of the university professors who are in charge of JDS?

Please firstly contact JDS Project Office for the further information. It is not recommended to contact professors directly.

Q16. I cannot decide university. Will you tell me which university is best for me?

No, we cannot. It is your responsibility to decide a university to apply for. Please check information of "Accepting University" on JDS website carefully and choose the best one that is suitable for your research proposal on your own.

Q17. Can I change the university after the submission of the documents?

No, you cannot change the university after the submission of the documents for any reason.

Q18. Can I change a graduate school under applied university when selected as a JDS Fellow?

No, you cannot. The graduate schools are fixed in accordance with the sub-programs and components.

Q19. If I am selected as a JDS Fellow, can I stay at a dormitory of the school that I apply for?

It depends on the arrangement of each university. When you are selected as a JDS Fellow, we will inform you with more details of accommodation.

Q20. How should I go to Japan, and how to start to live?

JICE will support all JDS Fellows during the stay in Japan. Fellows' air-ticket and visa to enter Japan will be arranged by JICE. In Japan, JICE will also assist the Fellows in accommodation hunting and university entrance procedure. JICE will support JDS Fellows all the time from your departure to return.

Q21. Is JDS a full scholarship?

Yes. All the costs to study in Japan will be covered by JDS. For further detail, please refer to "Award Benefits" (P.3) in this booklet.

Q22. Can I extend my stay after the completion of master's program?

No. All JDS Fellows MUST return to their country by the designated date after the graduation, complying with the Pledges required by the JDS Operating Committee as well as the Government of Viet Nam. JDS Fellows have an obligation to return to the belonging organization and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country with acquired knowledge and skills.

Q23. Can I bring my family to Japan during my scholarship?

Yes, you can, but you need to wait for three months since you arrive in Japan. JDS Project regulates that you are not allowed to bring your dependents (spouse and child/children) to Japan for three (3) months after your arrival in Japan so that you can fully concentrate on your study. However, some accepting universities have stricter rules regarding the bringing of dependents to Japan, so those rules shall have precedence and the Fellow shall act in compliance with said rules. No additional expenses for dependents will be covered by JDS project.

Q24. How can I obtain general information about Japan?

■ Living Guide :
<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

■ Japan in general
<http://web-japan.org/>



JDS Fellows on Graduation Day



JDS Fellows, Spring and Kimono



JDS Fellows & Others at G7 Hiroshima Summit

IV. Application Guidelines for Doctoral Program

1. Applicant Eligibility

Nationality	Citizens of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Age	Not over 45 as of April 1st, 2024 (born on/after April 2 nd 1978)
Academic Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a JDS Returned Fellow (a person who completed Master's Degree under JDS), <u>OR</u> a person who has obtained a Master's Degree from a university in a foreign country (outside of Viet Nam under full-time and formal training)
Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be public employee with at least twelve (12) months at the current organization with social insurance covered by the organization.
Health Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be in good health both physically and mentally Applicants need to take and pass all medical check-up at the time of Interview. This medical check-up is arranged by JDS Project Office. Applicant who cannot take or pass all medical check-up will be disqualified from JDS scholarship.
Pre-condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get approval from his/her belonging organization to pursue Doctor's course for 3 years (submission of Nomination Letter in prescribed form is required) Receive a recommendation from the supervisor of his/her current duty office. (Reference Letter should contain evaluation of applicant's performance at work and relevance of his/her research theme to his/her career.) Have a recommendation from the expected academic adviser(s) of the applying university (Submission of a draft academic guidance outline or a supervisory plan is desirable. JDS Doctoral Program accepts enrollment to the course taught in English or Japanese. However, all the selection and admission procedure will be in English.) In principle, have published at least one peer-reviewed article/ paper*. * The following applicants are included under the requirement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an applicant who has published at least one peer-reviewed article/paper an applicant who has a prospect for publication of a peer-reviewed article/ paper an applicant who has a concrete plan to publish a peer-reviewed article in an academic journal in collaboration with his/her intended faculty supervisor.
Ineligibility	<p>A person falls under any of the following items is NOT eligible to apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who are currently receiving (or scheduled to receive) another international government scholarship (including other scholarships of Japan). Those who have obtained a doctoral degree or higher in a foreign country under any kind of scholarship. Those who were sent for overseas study by the Government of Viet Nam (including JDS) but could not complete their study or did not report their completion as regulated. Those who were awarded scholarship for overseas study (include JDS) and being in the constraints of compensation training expenses. Military personnel registered on the active list or person on alternative military service.

<Other Conditions>

The applicant must:

- Contact and receive recommendation letter from the expected academic adviser(s) by themselves.
- Present a research proposal relevant to the development issues of their country referred to in the framework of Sub-Programs and Components (See the table for Framework for Doctoral Program on page 6).
- Return and work within Viet Nam for belonging organization at least six (06) years after completing doctor course in Japan in order to make a contribution to the development of Viet Nam through their work in their organizations, complying with the Act of Pledge required by the Ministry of Education and Training. If JDS returned fellows go for Doctor's course during the regulated reinstatement period after completing Master's courses in Japan, the rest of the period will be carried over.
- Complete the course within, and not exceeding, three (3) years. **However, if it is judged that the Doctoral degree is likely to be obtained, the extension up to 6 months will be accepted.**

2. Selection Process

Schedule	Steps	Description
Application deadline by March 11, 2024	Application ▼	Closing Date: 17:00, March 11, 2024 (Monday) Further details → P30 “4. How to apply”
Mid of March, 2024	1st Selection ▼	Document Screening: Application Documents and research plan will be examined by the JDS Operating Committee (OC). • In case where the total number of applications is more than fifteen (triple of the number of slots), document screening by the OC will be conducted before the interview.
End of March, 2024	Health Checkup	The health checkup will be arranged at a hospital in Hanoi
	2nd Selection ▼	Interview by OC: OC members will conduct the interview exams.
Early April, 2024	Approval by the OC ▼	Announcement of the result of Interview by OC
April – July, 2024	Application and Selection by the University ▼	Each university will conduct its entrance examination for the candidates. Each university has its own evaluation criteria, and some universities require an interview or a written test in Japan. (In such case, JDS will support the candidates for the travel cost to Japan)
July, 2024	Notification of Final Result ▼	Final successful candidates will be announced after selection by accepting universities.
August - September, 2024	Departure for Japan	JICE will arrange air-ticket, visa, and also support after the arrival in Japan

* Above schedule is subject to change

<Important Notes>

- ✓ All the selection costs will be covered by JDS Project.
- ✓ Limited transportation and accommodation allowance will be provided to candidates coming from provincial areas for the selections.
- ✓ Application Documents will not be returned (Please keep a copy of your documents)
- ✓ Application Documents with false statements or plagiarism will be immediately disqualified.
- ✓ A result of each selection will be announced only to successful candidates by JICE JDS Project Office.
- ✓ In principle, reasons of the selection-results will not be disclosed.

3. Selection Criteria by OC

JDS aims at fostering future leaders with a good-understanding of Japan and are capable of:

- Making policy formulation and decision from a broader perspective by drawing on their advanced knowledge and expertise,
- Leading international discourses on various policy issues on behalf of their countries, and
- Exercising their positive influence within their countries and beyond from the global viewpoints by fully utilizing personal networks developed through this doctoral program,

Prospective Applicants must have the potential for becoming future leaders rather than academic researchers who can substantially influence policy affairs. Accordingly, the JDS Operating Committee will evaluate and select applicants based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Intent and Purpose
1. Leadership Qualifications and Possibility of Strengthening bilateral relations with Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Track records of demonstrating leadership ● Accomplishments and visions to contribute to the development of the country ● Enthusiasm for future development and growth of the country ● Achievements at work (e.g., work history, contributions, utilization of outcomes of JDS), ● Consistency between the career up to the present and the research theme/future vision in terms of contribution to the policy making and implementation ● Concrete plans to contribute to bilateral relations with Japan ● Positive and cooperative attitude towards strengthening relations with Japan
2. Relevance of the Research Theme to the Development Issues of the Target Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prospect of the achievement of their research towards improvement of the development issues in their country, etc.
3. Academic Transcripts and Academic Accomplishments in the Master's Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sufficient academic results, ● Experiences of publishing peer reviewed papers, ● Experiences of presenting at academic conferences/seminars, etc.
4. Readiness of the Accepting University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Availability of the recommendation letter, ● Evaluation by the expected academic advisor/s, and academic guidance outline, etc.

4. How to Apply

1) Application documents

<Important Notes>

- Application Form (AF) and other designated forms can be downloaded from JDS website.
- All documents written in the language other than English need notarized English translation. (Except for Doc. No 8 & 10)
- Use only **A4** size paper for all documents.
- Do not staple the documents but clip on them.
- Submit a "Letter of Explanation" in case wrong information (e.g., wrong spelling of name, birthday, etc.) is contained in official documents due to administrative errors.
- Make your own extra copy of the Application Documents before submission.

Applicants are required to submit a set of necessary documents in the following manner.

Doc No.	Application Documents	Remarks
1	Application Form with a Photo (3cmX4cm) (designated form)	➤ Attach a photo (taken within the past 3 months) to the 1 st page of the application form.
2	University Certificate/Diploma (Master's degree)	➤ If in English or bilingual: Submit notarized copy ➤ If in other languages: Submit notarized English translation
3	Official Academic Transcript of Master's degree course	➤ Must contain grades for all the credits earned from the university ➤ Submit equivalence degree certificate issued by MOET
4	Academic Reference Letter (Annex 01) (designated form)	➤ Must be filled out by the expected academic advisor of the applying university ➤ Must be directly submitted from the supervisor to JICE JDS Office via e-mail.
5	Professional Reference Letter (Annex 02) (designated form)	➤ Must be filled out by the current supervisor ➤ Must be sealed in a legal sized envelope upon submission ➤ Must be written in English
6	Copy of Passport	➤ Identification page only
7	[Optional] Official certificate of English ability	➤ The requirement of English proficiency depends on the applying university. ➤ English proficiency test will be arranged by JICE JDS Project Office accordingly.
8	Official Nomination Letter (designated form in Vietnamese)	➤ Must be signed and stamped by the authorized representative of the current organization.
9	Employment Record	➤ Submit a notarized English translation of labor contract(s) or Decision of employment showing qualified work experience to JDS requirement
10	Confirmation of social insurance payment	➤ Submit confirmation of social insurance payment to prove that the period of social insurance covered by current organization is at least twelve (12) months.
11	Questionnaire on Health Condition	➤ Form is enclosed in AF
12	Questionnaire on Source of Information	
13	Application Checklist	➤ Form is enclosed in AF ➤ Check if all the necessary documents are ready before submission.

2) Submission of Application Documents

Deadline of Application submission: 17:00, March 11, 2024 (Monday)

Applicants submit one (01) set of Application Documents by hand or by post to JICE JDS Project Office in Viet Nam

JICE JDS Project Office in Viet Nam

3rd floor, VJCC Building, 91 Chua Lang, Dong Da, Hanoi

Tel 024 3934 7711/7712 / Email: jds.vietnam@jice.org

Office Hour: 8:30-12:00 / 13:30-17:00, Monday to Friday

■ Important Notes

- Application lacking necessary documents will not be accepted.
- Application submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Application will be disqualified in case any deliberate falsifications or forgeries found in the documents.
- Application Documents will not be returned for any reasons.

V. Special Trainings and Events

JDS Program provides the following opportunities for JDS Fellows in addition to research at university.

Asian Government Leaders Networking Event

This special event aims to establish long-term cooperative relationships between JDS Fellows and Japanese government officials by providing opportunities of interaction and mutual learning. JDS Fellows participate in the event and expand their personal networks with Japanese government officials, who would become their counterparts in the future.



Pre-returning Program

JDS Pre-returning Program is held around 6 months before fellows' returning home, inviting all JDS fellows from each university.

During this event, the Fellows have opportunities to attend a series of programs, including leadership program and a special lecture given by a prominent scholar. It also helps them build a network with JDS fellows from various countries.

Photo source: © JICA



Potluck Party Event

In addition to networking events in the academic/professional field, a potluck party for international students studying at different universities under different projects is organized annually. Participants wearing unique traditional costume of their own countries, bringing their traditional cuisines and enjoying the friendly conversation create a very cozy atmosphere at the event.

Pre-departure Orientation in Viet Nam

All JDS Fellows will attend pre-departure orientation for one week in Hanoi. During pre-departure orientation, they will be informed about JDS regulation and life environment in Japan to ease their concern before their departure. Also, they will have a group discussion among JDS fellows in the same component which provide a chance for fellows to have peer discussions in the same development fields. JDS fellows will also attend Send-off party after the pre-departure orientation.



JDS Fellows 23rd Batch at Send-off Ceremony in Hanoi

Japanese Language Training

All JDS Fellows participate in Japanese language training after their arrival in Japan. This training provides Fellows with the lessons on Japanese characters (hiragana, katakana, and kanji), greetings, and how to introduce themselves. In addition, they deepen their understandings of Japanese culture, lifestyle and manners, and learn the procedures necessary for staying in Japan such as government office, post office, and bank.

Post-arrival Orientation in Japan

All JDS fellows will attend Post-arrival orientation for two weeks in Japan to be able to adapt new life in Japan. JDS fellows will be supported to find accommodation, open a bank account, register for National Health Insurance and etc. They will also have various training such as lecture on Japanese culture, safe management, and Japanese language training mentioned above.



JDS Viet Nam Fellows practicing fire-fighting skill during arrival orientation in Japan

V. Voice of JDS Graduates

Professor. Doctor **Giang Thanh Long**
 Director, Institute of Public Policy and Management (IPPM)
 National Economics University
 JDS 1st batch (2001-2003)
 Hitotsubashi University, Asian Public Policy Program



1. Please tell us your career path after JDS.

I got involved in the joint research between National Economics University (NEU) and GRIPS (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies) at Viet Nam Development Forum Hanoi in 2003 after studying at Hitotsubashi University under JDS. During the joint research project, I could meet Prof. Kenichi Ono of GRIPS who has been my mentor. I obtained PhD in public policy at GRIPS in 2008 using the MEXT scholarship. In 2012, I was promoted to associate professor. In early 2014, I was promoted to be Director of Institute of Public Policy and Management at National Economics University.

2. What was the biggest harvest during study at Hitotsubashi University under JDS?

I happened to find my lifetime theme, "Population and Social Security" when I was helping APPP professors in preparing an international conference on pension reforms in Asian countries in 2002. At that time, only a few studies on aging and pension issues for Viet Nam. I have deepened my knowledge and experience on this theme and become an expert in the area of aging and social security in Viet Nam.

3. How have you utilized your personal connections obtained in Japan?

I maintain strong ties with Japan and conduct joint studies with Japanese universities. One of the biggest advantages of studying in Japan is human network. I could develop the human network with many experts not only from Japan but also from other Asian countries in the field of population and social security while I was studying at Hitotsubashi and GRIPS. Even after returning to Viet Nam, we frequently see each other somewhere in Asia for international conferences or joint researches. These opportunities make our ties stronger.

4. Besides study, what have you learnt from Japan?

In addition to academic knowledge, I have gained a lot of lessons learnt from Japanese people such as respect for others, team work, detailed planning before doing, and time management. For example, as we are working under very tight schedule and quality pressures, if you are late for the meeting, you take time of others. We need to be punctual. I share such an important lesson to my students.

5. Can you share alumni activities of Hitotsubashi University, APPP?

Hitotsubashi University, APPP holds a seminar in Hanoi every year and I have attended these activities as the chairman of alumni. Whenever our professors visit Hanoi, we organize gathering dinners together with other graduates. We have maintained the strong network among the graduates, and we support each other in our work.

6. What is your future career plan?

I would like to strengthen the collaboration with Japanese universities to establish a higher education program, such as a master's program in public policy or social security. In addition, I will continue to contribute to the Vietnamese society by utilizing outcomes of my research for policy advocacy.



Hitotsubashi University held a reception in March 2014 in Hanoi.

7. What would you say to potential candidates about studying in Japan under JDS?

JDS, with enthusiastic and caring staff as well as sufficient financial support, will provide you a great facilitating condition to live and study in Japan. For any field of study and university which you are applying, I believe that you will meet and work with excellent professors, support staff and friends from Japan and all around the globe. And I am also confident that you will be able to contribute further to Viet Nam's development with your knowledge and expertise after your post-graduate studies there in Japan.

Mr. Nguyen Vu Linh

Director
Bach Ma National Park
Viet Nam Administration of Forestry
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
JDS 4th batch (2004-2006)
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT)
Graduate School of Agriculture



1. Please let us know your career path after JDS.

After 4 years working experience as director of Center for Ecotourism and Environmental Education, Bach Ma National Park, I went to Japan for studying at TUAT under JDS in 2004. I returned to Bach Ma National Park in 2006 and was promoted to vice director in 2009. I am currently taking charge of management of most of activities in the national park such as ecotourism, environmental education, community development, negotiation, etc. Since 2012, I have taken charge of some of the nature conservation which is one of the most important activities in the national park.

2. How have you utilized your personal connections obtained in Japan?

I applied for the JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project jointly with my academic supervisor at TUAT. The project started in 2008 and finished in 2013. I was engaged in the implementation of the project for improving rural living and nature conservation by multipurpose use of charcoal and wood vinegar in the Bach Ma National Park. I could obtain both knowledge and personal connections at TUAT. I try to maintain and develop the network I gained in Japan and contribute to improvement of the bilateral relationship between Viet Nam and Japan. These days, Bach Ma National Park has accepted the on-site field research exercise of the JICA field study program for international cooperation of university students.

3. What are the advantages and merits of JDS?

What I have obtained is not limited to the academic knowledge. I learned a lot from the Japanese mindset toward work and daily behavior. For example, I realized the importance of the communication in establishing and developing cooperation and partnership with others. I learned not only specialized knowledge but also how I should act to achieve desired outcomes. The most important thing is daily work. In order to get a chance, you have to prepare for it. Otherwise, you will lose the chance when it comes to you.

4. What would you say to potential candidates about studying in Japan under JDS?

Professors at TUAT took us to many places. They try to make close relationship with students and are very helpful. Particularly, I feel that Prof. Yamada is like my older brother. I could develop a close relationship with him. Besides the study, I traveled around Japan with my friends by using the train pass for youth, "Seishun 18 kippu". I respect for Japanese people. Whenever Japanese tourists visit Bach Ma National Park, I try to help them.



Mr. Linh (second left) has come back to Bach Ma National Park with expertise and human network with Japanese experts.



He learned from Japanese mindset toward work and daily behavior.



JDS Project Office in Viet Nam

Address: 3rd Floor, VJCC Building, 91 Chua Lang, Dong Da, Hanoi

Email: jds.vietnam@jice.org

TEL: 024 3934 7711 / 7712

JDS Zalo: 0913 238 852

JDS Page: [facebook.com/hocbongtoanphanchinhphunhatbanjds](https://www.facebook.com/hocbongtoanphanchinhphunhatbanjds)

JDS website

<http://jds-scholarship.org/>

