



# JDS

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

THE PROJECT FOR  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP  
BY JAPANESE GRANT AID



MALDIVES 2021



From  
the People of Japan



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## For Inquiries

### JDS Website

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

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TEL/ Mobile: (+960) 725 2007

Office Hour: 8:30-12:30 / 13:30-17:00, Sunday to Thursday

3rd Floor, G. Rose Island, Lily Magu, Male' 20128, Maldives

# I. General Information

## 1. About JDS Scholarship

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) was launched by the Government of Maldives with the assistance of the Government of Japan in 2020.



From the People of Japan

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



JDS targets young government officials who are expected to play a leadership role in the development of their countries.



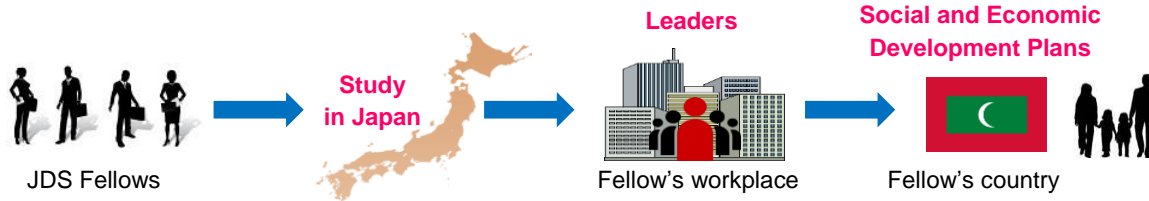
JDS provides scholarships to Maldives government officers to study at Master Degree courses (instructed in English) of Japanese universities

### Objectives of JDS

- To support for Human Resource Development**  
JDS's objective is to strengthen the government's administrative capacities in Maldives through providing the opportunity to obtain the Master's degree to the young capable government administrators 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

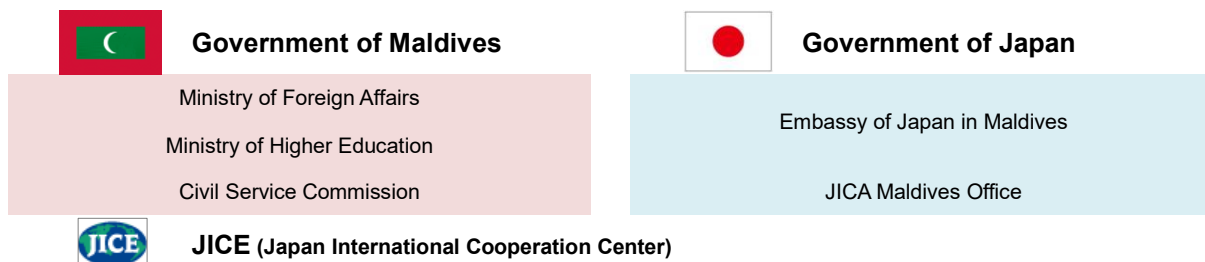
- For the participants (JDS Fellows)**  
JDS Fellows will acquire expertise to use for policy making and institutional building for the development of their country, and also build human network in and out of Japan through the one or two-year study in Japan
- For the organizations (The Fellows' workplace)**  
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



## 2. JDS Operating Committee (OC)

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

### JDS Operating Committee (OC) Maldives



JICE supports a smooth implementation of JDS project, which covers a wide range of services such as arrangements of recruitment and selection, and assistances for JDS Fellows studying in Japan.

### 3. Applicant Eligibility

<b>Nationality</b>	Citizens of the Republic of Maldives
<b>Age</b>	<b>Between 22 and 39 years old</b> as of 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 (Born on/after 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 1982 and born on/before 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2000)
<b>Academic Background</b>	Hold a <b>Bachelor's Degree</b> from universities authorized by the Government of Maldives or other countries
	<b>Other requirements of academic background</b> <u>University of Tsukuba</u> Those who have less than 16 years of formal education (from primary school to university) need to go through the eligibility screening after being selected as Final candidate.
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Civil Servants</b> <b>Permanent Staff at Independent Institutions</b> <b>Permanent Staff at Court and its related organizations</b>
<b>Work Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently employed in the <b>Target Organizations</b> as a <b>full-time employee</b> (Except contract staff).</li> <li>• Have a minimum of <b>2 (two) years of work experience</b>.</li> </ul> <p>&lt; Note &gt;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probation period can be included in the 2 years.</li> <li>• 2 years of work experience can be counted as a total in different Target Organizations.</li> <li>• The service period as a contract staff, part-time staff, and volunteer cannot be included in the 2 years.</li> </ul>
<b>English Proficiency</b>	Have a good command of both written and spoken English. IELTS 6.0 or higher is <b>preferable</b> ※JDS office will arrange IELTS test for those who do not have valid score. ※It is required for all <b>GRIPS Fellows</b> to obtain <b>IELTS 6.0 or higher</b> by the time of university application (Mar 2022).
<b>Health Condition</b>	Mentally and physically in good health.
<b>Others</b>	Must understand the objective of JDS project well, and have a strong willingness to work for the development of Maldives and contribute to the friendly relations between Maldives and Japan after their return
<b>Ineligibility</b>	<b>A person corresponds to the followings is not eligible to apply</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those who are currently receiving (or is scheduled to receive) another scholarship (including other scholarships of Japan).</li> <li>• Those who have obtained a master's or higher degrees</li> </ul>



## 4. Selection Process

Schedule	Steps	Description
10 Oct – 22 Dec 2021	<b>Application</b>	<b>Closing Date: 2:00 p.m. on 22 December (Wed) 2021</b> Further details → P6 "How to Apply"
	▼	
Mid Jan 2022	<b>Academic aptitude test</b>	<b>English (IELTS) and Math tests<sup>1</sup>.</b> The test results will be reviewed by the universities in later selection stages
	▼	
Late Jan – Early Feb	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Selection</b>	<b>Document Screening:</b> Application Documents and research plan will be examined by the Japanese universities. Those who passed the 1st selection will proceed to the 2nd selection.
	▼	
Late Feb - Early Mar	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Selection</b>	<b>Technical Interview:</b> Faculty members of the Japanese Universities will conduct their interview exams online. Those who passed the 2nd selection will proceed to the 3rd selection.
	▼	
Late Feb - Early Mar	<b>Health Checkup</b>	The health checkup will be arranged at a hospital in Male'
	▼	
Mid – Late Mar	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Selection</b>	<b>Comprehensive Interview:</b> The Operating Committee members will conduct the interview exams.
	▼	
End of March	<b>Approval by the OC</b>	Successful candidates will be approved and notified
Mar – Apr 2022	<b>Application Procedure</b>	JICE will support application for each university
Jul 2022	<b>Orientations</b>	Provided by JICA and JICE
Aug 2022	<b>Departure for Japan</b>	JICE will arrange air-ticket, visa, and also support after the arrival in Japan

\*The selection schedule and implementation method are 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 for yourself).
- ✓ Application Documents with false statements or plagiarism will be immediately disqualified.
- ✓ After each selection, JICE JDS Project Office will notify the result to the candidates who passed by Email.
- ✓ In principle, reasons for the selection-results will not be disclosed.



TOEFL & Math test



1<sup>st</sup> Selection  
Document Screening



2<sup>nd</sup> Selection  
Technical Interview



3<sup>rd</sup> Selection  
Comprehensive Interview

<sup>1</sup> Applicants who have valid IELTS score will be exempted from the English test.  
Applicants for the Ritsumeikan University will be exempted from the Math test.

## 5. Selection Criteria

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

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

## 6. 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
- Air fare
- 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.



## 7. 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.
- The Fellows are prohibited from
  - Working
  - Driving motor vehicles, and
  - Applying for further studies such as a doctoral course 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.

### After returning to home country

- The Fellows must attend a report back meeting held by the Operating Committee.
- The Fellows are obliged to **return and work in Maldives at least the period of twice the studying period (at least four years for Tsukuba and Ritsumeikan University and two years for GRIPS) in the Target Organizations**

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

## II. How to Apply

### 1) List of Required Documents

You are required to upload the following documents in the online application system. Please make sure that you have prepared all the documents before you start your application.

- **Only one file can be uploaded for each document**, therefore please combine the documents into **a SINGLE PDF** in advance, if necessary.
- All documents written in other languages than English need official English translation. (Self-translation is not acceptable.)
- If any of the documents cannot be submitted by the deadline for unavoidable reasons, or any wrong information (e.g. wrong spelling of name, birthday, etc.) is contained in the ID or official documents due to administrative errors, submit "Reason Letter".
- As for University Certificate/Transcript, Reference Letter, and IELTS certificate, JICE may request you to submit the original (or attested original) if you are selected as a final candidate.

Doc No.	Required Documents	File Type	Remarks
1	Short Essays	PDF (One file only)	* <i>Prescribed form</i> - Short essays on "Responsibilities of your work", "Reason for applying the Graduate School", and "Future Contribution"
2	Research Plan	PDF (One file only)	* <i>Prescribed form</i>
3	University Certificate of Degree (Attested)	PDF (One file only)	- Upload <b>attested</b> copies of the original certificate/ transcript - Written in English or accompanied with official translation - Certificates/ transcripts of all the degrees you have obtained, including Diploma and second bachelor
4	University Transcript of Academic Records (Attested)	PDF (One file only)	
5	Reference Letter	PDF (One file only)	* <i>Prescribed form</i> - Must be issued by the supervisor of your workplace. - JICE may contact your referee for verification
6	Employment Certificate	PDF (One file only)	- Must be issued and authorized by Personnel (or Superior) Department of your workplace
7	Permission Letter	PDF (One file only)	* <i>Prescribed form</i> - Must be issued and authorized by the superior of your workplace
8	Photocopy of Passport (or National ID Card)	PDF (One file only)	Those who do not have passport can attach national ID card
9	ID Photo	JPG, JPEG, PNG, GIF	- A Color photo, taken within the last 3 months - 4:3 (height: width) aspect ratio - Must be taken against a plain background
(10)	[If any] IELTS Certificate	PDF (One file only)	- Must be valid until 31 May 2022 (exam taken on/after 1 June 2020)

#### **【Notes for GRIPS Applicants】**

In addition to completing JDS online application form, those who apply for GRIPS are required to submit **the original hard copies** of the following documents **to JICE JDS Project Office**. You may download the detailed instruction sheet, along with the prescribed forms, on JDS Website.

- 1) Reference Letter (Doc No. 5/ JDS prescribed form)
- 2) Employment Certificate (Doc No. 6)
- 3) Letter of Recommendation (GRIPS prescribed form)
- 4) Original Graduation/Degree Certificate(s) and Academic Transcript(s) in sealed envelopes
- 5) [If any] IELTS Certificate (Doc No. 10)

## 2) Online Application (Flow)

### 1. Download the prescribed forms from [JDS Website](#)

Download password will be required - fill out a password request form on the website, then you will receive a password from JICE JDS Project Office by email.



### 2. Prepare the required documents

Make sure to start preparing the documents well in advance



### 3. Access the online application system

Link to the Online Application Form is available on JDS Website

Complete your application by filling out the necessary information and uploading the required documents

### 4. Receive an email

**[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.



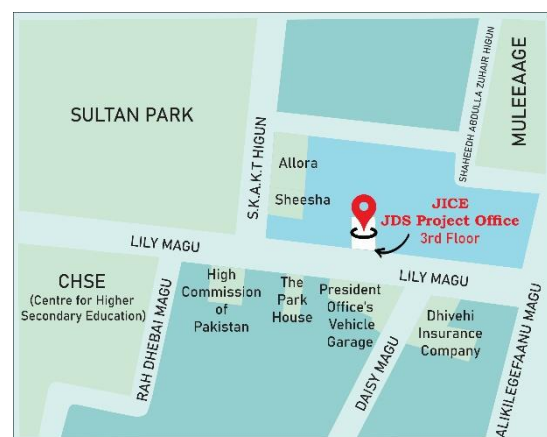
## 3) Important Notice

- 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.
- Application lacking of necessary documents will not be accepted.
- Application after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Application will be disqualified in case any false statement or plagiarism is found.

**Deadline for Application: 2:00 p.m. on 22 December (Wed), 2021**

### <Contact>

**JICE JDS Project Office in Maldives**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, G. Rose Island, Lily Magu, Male'**  
**20128, Maldives**  
**Mobile (+960) 725 2007**  
**Email [jds.maldives@jice.org](mailto:jds.maldives@jice.org)**  
**Office Hour: 8:30 - 12:30 / 13:30 - 17:00**  
**Sunday to Thursday**

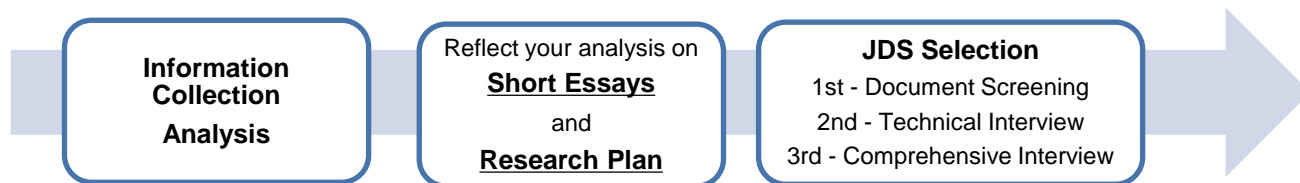




## 1. Tips on Application and Selection (Reference)

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 Short Essays and Research Plan (RP).



Before writing short essays and research plan, you are advised to...

**Collect information, Analyse the information, and Analyse yourself!**

What are the development challenges in Maldives?

What problem / issue do you want to focus on in your research?

Why do you want to study in Japan?

What do you want to be in the future?

**Research Plan Short Essays** (Responsibilities of your work, Reason for applying the Graduate School, and Future contribution)

In answering the questions, it is very important to keep in mind that **those questions are NOT separate questions** - they 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]. Therefore, **those questions ask how you relate your career and the study in the context of the development of Maldives**

For further details, the video is available on the website.

[Tips for the selection](#)



## 2. Guidelines for Writing a Research Plan

The tips on how to prepare a research plan are available in this video. It is recommended you watch it for your preparation.

[How to write a research plan](#)

- ✧ What is research?
- ✧ How important is the research plan in the JDS selection?
- ✧ How and what theme should be addressed?
- ✧ How to review the previous studies? What is “hypothesis”? etc.



### 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.

You may be disqualified from the selection, or even be discharged from the university, if the plagiarism is found in your research plan, 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 – any pieces of information – that are not common knowledge
- Quotation of other person’s spoken or written words, or
- **Paraphrase\*** of other person’s spoken or written words

\* Paraphrase is a re-expression of other person’s ideas in your own words






## Sub-Program (SP) / Component (CP)

### 1. Framework of JDS Maldives

Sub-Program (Priority Areas)	Component (Development Issues)	Accepting Universities	Course	Degree	Slots
1. Responding to Vulnerabilities	1-1.Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management	<b>University of Tsukuba</b> Graduate School of Science and Technology	Master's Program in Environmental Sciences / SUSTEP Program (2 years)	Master of Environmental Sciences	2
2. Sustainable Economic Development	2-1.Economic and Industrial Policy	<b>National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)</b> Graduate School of Policy Studies	Master's Program of Public Policy (1 year)	a. Master of Public Policy b. Master of Public Administration (*Depends on fellow's research area)	2
3.Secure Peace and Stability	3-1.Administrative Capacity Development	<b>Ritsumeikan University</b> Graduate School of International Relations	Global International Relations Program (2 years)	Master of Arts in International Relations	2

For the detailed list of target organizations, please check the following website

<a href="#">Civil Servant – Government Offices</a>	
<a href="#">Civil Servant – Local Councils</a>	
<a href="#">Permanent Staff – Independent Institutions &amp; Court and its related organizations</a>	

## 2. Information of Each Sub-Program / Component

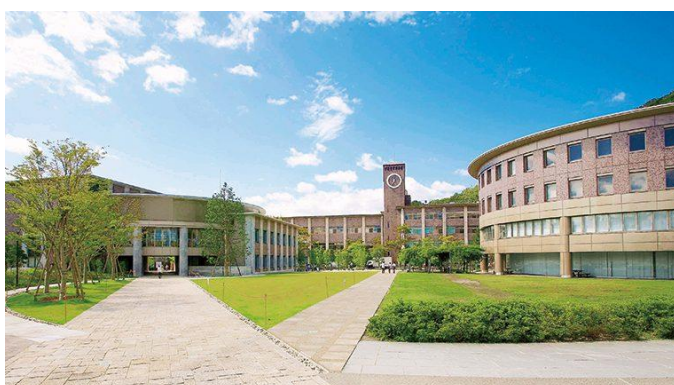
<b>Sub-program (Target Priority Area)</b>	1. Responding to Vulnerabilities
<b>Component (CP) (Development Issues)</b>	<b>1-1. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management</b>
<b>Accepting University</b>	<p><b>University of Tsukuba</b>                  Graduate School of Science and Technology                  Master's Program in Environmental Sciences / SUSTEP Program</p> <p>&lt;Available degree(s)&gt;                  Master of Environmental Sciences</p>
<b>Expected Research Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation and institution building for improvement of living environment through environmental consideration, risk reduction to major industries, waste management, etc.</li> <li>• Measures to prevent flood, coastal erosion etc. due to sea level rise and storm surge</li> <li>• Promote utilization of biomass</li> <li>• Sustainable development of marine resources</li> <li>• Policy formulation and institution Building for tsunami and storm surge measures</li> <li>• Strengthen disaster prevention capacity for non-structural measures</li> <li>• Policy formulation and institution building for civil engineering and urban engineering etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Direction of Study (Background of CP)</b>	<p>Maldives is a small island state consisting of 1,190 large and small atoll islands and vulnerable to rising in sea levels due to climate change and natural disasters. Climate change is expected to have not only a direct effect on the living environment but also adverse effects on tourism and fishery, which are the main industries. It is likely that the State may have significant influence in its entirety, and disaster-prevention measures not only for the capital Male' island but extending up to local islands, which are broadly distributed, is an important issue.</p> <p>At the Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023, among issues toward realization of a “Jazeera Dhirulhun”, five related sub-sectors such as “Environmental Protection &amp; Preservation”, “Clean Energy”, “Waste as a Resource”, “Water &amp; Sanitation” and “Resilient Communities” were stated. The Maldives government, together with making a statement that it will become a carbon neutral country by 2020 (reducing the use of fossil fuels within the country, suppressing emissions of greenhouse gasses, bringing the amount of net emissions and absorption of greenhouse gasses to zero), has adopted the stance of actively approaching the issue of global warming by setting goals for covering 60 percent of all electric power which is produced in all Maldives islands with renewable energy by 2020. The relation between such efforts of the Maldives government and JDS' target priority areas is significant.</p>



<b>Sub-program (Target Priority Area)</b>	2. Sustainable Economic Development
<b>Component (CP) (Development Issues)</b>	<b>2-1. Economic and Industrial Policy</b>
<b>Accepting University</b>	<p><b>National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)</b>                  Graduate School of Policy Studies                  One-year Master's Program of Public Policy</p> <p><b>&lt;Available degree(s)&gt;</b>                  a. Master of Public Policy                  b. Master of Public Administration                  . (*Depends on fellow's research area)</p>
<b>Expected Research Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation and institution building for promoting local industries</li> <li>• Financial management</li> <li>• Promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</li> <li>• Industrial promotion in the area of fisheries &amp; marine resources, agriculture and tourism</li> <li>• Labour, employment &amp; migration issues</li> <li>• Economic and industrial diversification</li> </ul> etc.
<b>Direction of Study (Background of CP)</b>	<p>The Maldivian economy is based on tourism, which accounts for about 25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Maldives has received the assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 1) the foreign currency revenue from tourism declined because of the global financial crisis and weak euro, and 2) foreign currency reserves dropped drastically due to the difficulty in financing in the international capital market. Meanwhile, steering of the financial burden (enormous debt) associated with large-scale infrastructure improvement over the last several years (bridges, land reclamation, house construction, etc.) has become the critical policy issue in promoting the National Development Plan. In light of the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment adopted at Osaka G20 in June 2019, it is vital to consider maintaining/promoting fiscal soundness of the Maldives State. Moreover, the Maldivian economy is largely dependent on tourism, having a vulnerable structure subject to external factors.</p> <p>At Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023, in the areas of "Blue Economy," two related sectors such as "SMEs", "Economic Diversification" were stated as issues, and industrial promotion such as in the area of "Fisheries &amp; Marine Resources", "Agriculture", "Tourism," and "Labour, Employment &amp; Migration" are also highly related issue with this JDS target priority areas. Making efforts for diversification in the areas of economic policy and industrial policy and supporting the development of industries, having high development potential and small and medium-sized enterprises, are of great significance.</p>



<b>Sub-program (Target Priority Area)</b>	3. Secure Peace and Stability
<b>Component (CP) (Development Issues)</b>	<b>3-1. Administrative Capacity Development</b>
<b>Accepting University</b>	<p><b>Ritsumeikan University</b>                  Graduate School of International Relations                  Global International Relations Program</p> <p>&lt;Available degree(s)&gt;                  Master of Arts in International Relations</p>
<b>Expected Research Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation and institutional building for counter-terrorism and strengthen the governance</li> <li>• Enhancement of culture for historical heritage, traditional arts etc.</li> <li>• Strengthen the local governance</li> <li>• Decentralization</li> <li>• Enhancement of justice and fair governance capacity etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Direction of Study (Background of CP)</b>	<p>At the Maldives Partnership Forum held in July, 2019, the government of Maldives made a commitment statement that “governance is the backbone of all areas” and so it will work on the enhancement, etc. of justice and fair governance capacity and local governance. Regarding the relationship with neighboring countries, in light of being a small island state, strengthening the capabilities of the judiciary and security is required. A policy to strengthen local authority having also been expressed, the importance for enhancement of local administration is increasing. To support improvements in its effectiveness and capacity improvement using Japan’s knowledge/technology is significantly meaningful.</p>



### III. Special Trainings and Events

JDS Program provides the following opportunities for JDS Fellows only 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.



#### 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.



#### JDS Joint Seminar

JDS Joint Seminar is held half a year before returning home, inviting all JDS fellows from each university.

During this seminar, 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.

## IV. FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

### Program

**Q1. Is JDS a full scholarship?**

**YES.** All the costs to study in Japan will be fully covered by JDS. For further details, please refer to “Award Benefits” in this booklet.

**Q2. Do you have a Ph.D course?**

**NO.** All components are Master’s Degree Course in Maldives.

**Q3. Is this an online course?**

**NO.** The JDS fellows will study in Japan. It’s a good opportunity to meet and learn with different people from around the world.

**Q4. Can I apply for any university/course in Japan?**

**NO.** The component and university are determined according to the priority development issues of each JDS recipient country. You can select the component/university from the framework.

**Q5. Can I extend my stay after the completion of a program?**

**NO.** Every JDS Fellow MUST return to their country by the designated date after graduation in compliance with the pledges required by the JDS Operating Committee. 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.

### Eligibility

**Q6. I am working for a private company but I have work experience at a government office. Am I eligible?**

**NO.** The requirements are “Currently employed in the Target Organizations as a full-time employee”

**Q7. I don’t have two years of work experience at the current workplace. Can I count my previous work experience?**

**YES.** You can summate all the experience periods among different Target Organizations. But please kindly note that it should be the experiences in the target organizations.

**Q8. I have already received a scholarship from another 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 other scholarship

### Application

**Q9. Where can I get the prescribed forms for my application?**

Please access JDS web-site: <http://jds-scholarship.org/>

The prescribed forms, Application Guidelines (AG) and university information can be downloaded from this website.

**Q10. Can I apply for two components (universities)?**

**NO.** You cannot apply for more than one component. Please select one component which is relevant to your work responsibility.

**Q11. Should I submit all the application documents by the deadline?**

**YES.** But in case you cannot submit some of the documents due to unavoidable reasons, please inform JICE in advance and submit the letter of reason with your signature.

**Q12. I cannot get a permission letter from my workplace. Can I apply without the letter?**

**NO.** In JDS, it is important to return to the workplace after study completion. Therefore, the permission from the workplace is required.

### Selection

**Q13. Do I need to take the English test?**

**YES.** Basically, all applicants must take the English examination (IELTS). However, applicants who have valid IELTS score will be exempted from the English test. If you don’t have a valid score, JICE will arrange the English exam.

**Q14. I want to apply for Ritsumeikan University. Is the Math test required?**

**NO.** The math test is required for the applicants applying for the University of Tsukuba and GRIPS.

**Q15. Do I need to come to Male’ for the interview?**

**YES.** But it is subject to change according to the infection status of COVID-19. For the applicants from the local island, JICE will provide a transportation subsidy.

**Q16. How can I know the selection result?**

After each selection, JICE JDS Project Office will notify the result to candidates who passed by Email.



### JICE JDS Project Office

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## Annex: University Information

### **University of Tsukuba (National)** **Graduate School of Science and Technology**

#### ◆ Program name

Master's Program in Environmental Sciences  
(SUSTEP Program)

#### ◆ Degrees:

Master of Environmental Sciences

#### ◆ Credit and years needed for graduation:

30 credits, 2 years

#### ◆ Address:

1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8577 JAPAN



### **Features of University**

The University of Tsukuba was established in 1973 as the first comprehensive university in post-WWII Japan to spearhead nation-wide university reform policy. The main campus is located in the northern part of Tsukuba City, 60 km northeast of Tokyo with one of the largest campuses of the country (2,700 hectares). The City center is only 45 minutes from Tokyo by train or bus. There are direct bus services to the Narita International Airport, the Haneda Airport, and Tokyo Disneyland.

The University has emphasized openness, innovative systems for education and research, and new university self-governance. Through its unique curriculum and research incentives, it has cultivated many leaders and scholars with advanced knowledge. The size of the University has expanded since its foundation and, as of May 2020, 9,797 undergraduate students and 6,789 graduate students are studying in two campuses. Among them were 2,251 international students from 107 countries. The total number of faculty members is 2,034.

We have always strived to be a unique, active, and internationally competitive university with superlative education quality and research facilities. Our effort has proved to be successful as the Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology recognized our University in 2009 as one of the thirteen "leading universities" in Japan. In 2014, the Ministry also selected us as one of 13 Top Universities to be funded for attaining the highest global research and education. In 2020, it further gave us legal designation as 9 top "designated universities" with more freedom in conducting world-class education and research in order to be among world's top universities. The University has produced three Nobel Prize laureates in physics and chemistry along with many distinguished scholars in sciences and humanities. Our distinguished kinesiology and sports department has produced several Olympic medalists.

Another distinctive characteristic of the University is to have many affiliated universities and several overseas offices throughout the world. As of June 2020, there are more than 392 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), which encompass 70 countries. Our international offices are located in 12 countries.

### **Features of Graduate School**

In April 2020, the University of Tsukuba established the new graduate school system by incorporating 85 graduate programs into three schools. The Graduate School of Science and Technology is one of them. It consists of 21 master's programs and 21 doctoral programs, including life and earth sciences, systems and information engineering, and pure and applied sciences. Of these, 35 programs, including the Master's Program in Environmental Sciences and the Doctoral Program of Environmental Studies, offer all required courses in English so that students can complete their degrees without learning Japanese. In order to improve our education quality for students, the University established the Office of Quality Management for Teaching and Learning. This is one of the very best places to advance your professional knowledge in sciences and technologies in Asia.

### **Features of the Program**

#### **Master's Program in Environmental Sciences**

##### (a) Building the Foundation

After admission, JDS Fellows will belong to the Master's Program in Environmental Sciences, and they will set out the process of acquiring master's degree in environmental sciences in two years. In order to receive the degree, they need to acquire 30 credits or more from the courses that are recognized by the Master's Program. They also complete master's thesis and pass oral examination.



One unique aspect of our Master's Program is that compulsory seminar and fieldwork courses are designed to expand Fellows' knowledge and skill in wide-ranging topics, including sustainability studies, remote sensing, waste management, environmental engineering, environmental economics, meteorology, forestry, ecology, agricultural policies, biology, soil sciences, and environmental leadership and ethics. Here students have rare opportunities to understand that rural/urban developments and environmental issues are interconnected. This education process is uniquely heightened by a set of field activities, in which students learn how to examine some specific case in the field within this interconnected context.

**(b) Road to Becoming Leader/Expert**

With this basic training as their intellectual foundation, students then focus on some specific topics for their research interests. Here JDS Fellows can choose to take a certificate program called "Sustainability Science, Technology, and Policy (SUSTEP)." This aims to foster global leaders in sustainability related science with broader interdisciplinary understanding. After completing requirements, a student will receive a certificate and a diploma supplement. The supplement verifies the contents of student's learning history, including GPA.

Another distinctive feature of the SUSTEP program is that students have rare opportunities to meet and interact with distinguished leaders and experts from not only Japan but also Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, and other countries at seminars the SUSTEP Program organizes a few times each year. Through these opportunities, JDS Fellows can establish international networks that can benefit their future career development.

However, global leadership and expertise do not simply mean that students take courses and listen or go abroad for conferences. In our degree program, JDS Fellows actively participate in learning processes. We provide courses that foster their presentation, writing and debating skills in English. The quality of these courses can match the ones at North American graduate schools. In 2020, the SUSTEP program receive University President's award for its excellent in teaching and research. In addition, JDS Fellows can take academic writing seminars for writing reports and journal articles in English.

**Our JDS Specials: Tailor-Made Program**

Our educational activities for the JDS Special Program have focused and will focus on four major areas: (1) academic seminar, (2) overseas seminars and field surveys, (3) internship trips in Japan, and (4) the improvement of the educational environment. Each year the SUSTEP Committee of the Master's Program in Environmental Sciences discuss and decide detailed plans for seminars and activities that meet the needs of JDS Fellows. This "tailor-made" practice has become norm among our committee members.

(1) For the international seminars, we invite distinguished experts from renowned universities or research institutions. In these seminars, JDS Fellows not only listen to lectures but present their research topics. The students then receive comments on their presentations from these guest experts so that the Fellows can improve their researches and capacities. This interaction also means to expand the Fellows' academic networks, which can be useful after their graduation.

(2) If necessary, JDS Fellows will travel to the country/region to enhance knowledge about their theses research topics with at least one faculty member of the University of Tsukuba. There they learn how to conduct research and survey for data collection. Also, faculty members will establish/maintain the network with JDS alumni in order to self-evaluate the effectiveness of our JDS Special Program. This will provide opportunity to improve our program for JDS Fellows.

(3) The SUSTEP program committee will organize domestic internships that meet the research interests of JDS Fellows each year. In the past, we have taken JDS Fellows to places where they could observe and examine the issues that are related to Japanese waste treatment facilities, recycling technology and policies, forest conservation, protected area policies, rural development, biodiversity and Satoyama, local environmental conservation and traditional knowledge, tourism and local economy, environmental disaster prevention and public works policies, urban planning, pollution, climate change and energy problems. As the city of Tsukuba has about 40% of Japan's national research institutions, and as our faculty members have collaborative relationships with some of them, we sometimes organize internships in collaboration with them.

(4) In the last ten years, the Master's Program in Environmental Sciences has managed webpages that are specifically designed for JDS Fellows. The webpages have provided information for current JDS Fellows, graduates, and prospective Fellows. In 2012, the English version of the official website for the Master's Program in Environmental Sciences was renewed to enhance teaching capacity. In 2014, we uploaded another website for the SUSTEP program along with our promotion video (available also in YouTube). The video was made entirely by our students and faculty members. By using the websites, JDS and other students can now receive course information, reading materials and important news about courses. We intend to improve the quality of on-line accessibility and the education environment for JDS Fellows.

Another good news for upcoming JDS Fellows to our Program is that the entire building that our program uses (Natural Science Buildings) is completely renovated with enhanced earthquakes resistance and security. The Fellows have a free Wi-Fi access in their study rooms. There is also a lounge space with kitchen facility. Laboratories and classrooms are designed for multiple purposes to facilitate group discussion or study.

## National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (National Graduate School of Policy Studies)

### ◆ Program name

One-year Master's Program of Public Policy

### ◆ Degrees:

- a. Master of Public Policy
- b. Master of Public Administration

### ◆ Credit and years needed for graduation:

30 credits, 1 year

### ◆ Address:

7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8677 Japan



### Features of University

Located in the heart of the fascinating city of Tokyo, The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) is an international premier policy school with the aim of contributing to the betterment of democratic governance around the world. We excel at providing interdisciplinary education for future leaders in the public sector and conduct research on contemporary policy issues to generate innovative solutions.

Founded in 1997 as a stand-alone graduate institute, GRIPS is comprised of world-class academics and distinguished practitioners with expertise in public sector policy formulation and management. Around 20% of the faculty and 70% of students are recruited from outside Japan. Our vibrant, diverse student body consists of almost 400 members hailing from 63 countries and regions – all with the ambition to advance good governance across the globe or contribute to policy related research.

We offer a diverse array of Master's and Doctoral Programs, from which students cultivate the ability to analyze issues and suggest solutions, develop interdisciplinary knowledge and skills that span related fields, and gain practical expertise. In addition to our degree programs, we also offer executive level short term training programs across a wide range of themes.

Since our inception, our achievements in promoting good governance are considerable and far-reaching. Today, our impressive Alumni network of over 4,000 strong are actively shaping policy in more than 100 countries around the world.

### Features of Graduate School

The educational mandate of GRIPS is to cultivate high-level policy professionals and researchers. Our degree programs are designed to train students to envision a wide range of solutions to various policy issues. Our degree programs combine broad disciplinary curricula with an applied research focus and foster a commitment to international, national, and regional policy issues. This multifaceted approach provides the basis for a comprehensive understanding of economic development and socio-political change. We update our courses and develop new ones on the basis of ongoing policy research and changing policy issues.

For international students, the minimum residential requirement to obtain a Master's degree is one year, and hard working students can satisfy all requirements for the degree within that time. For doctoral students who have completed a Master's program at GRIPS, the minimum residential requirement is one additional year. After successful completion of all coursework, doctoral students can continue working on their dissertations at GRIPS or in their home countries.

## Features of the Program

One-year Master's Program of Public Policy (MP1)

This program primarily targets mid-career public officials with excellent academic and work credentials and with managerial experience and strong leadership potential. The program equips future managers and leaders with the basic skills and knowledge needed for policy analysis and management. The program has produced a steady stream of highly qualified international professionals in the public policy arena.

The program consists of required courses and elective courses. All MP1 students are provided a common interdisciplinary and analytical foundation through the core courses. Students acquire more specialized knowledge by selecting courses in one of four concentration areas: Economic Policy, International Development Studies, International Relations, and Public Policy. A wide range of elective courses offers students the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge. Practical courses are offered by government officials with extensive experience in actual policy formulation and implementation.

MP1 students produce a policy report in one of the four concentration areas. The Policy Debate Seminar I facilitates students' development and exchange of ideas for their policy reports in concentrations of their choice. In the Policy Debate Seminar II, students finalize their study and write up their policy reports with helps of their supervisors.

MP1 is primarily aimed at mid-career professionals and staff members from local or national governments and international organizations. Highly qualified individuals with an interest in public policy are also welcome to apply.

## Message for Applicants

GRIPS' current policy on education, research and management is strongly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Our curriculum highlights the 17 goals of the SDGs: we work to raise awareness and knowledge of the SDGs amongst our students—many of whom will go on to become future leaders of their countries. We are also keen on encouraging research that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Currently, international students make up 60% of our student population. Even by global standards, we are a particularly international research and education institution. In this environment, international students have the opportunity to engage in friendly competition among themselves and with the people who will lead Japan in the future. On the other hand, our Japanese students have the chance to create bonds with those who will go on to be future leaders in their home countries around the globe.

GRIPS is centrally located in Tokyo and has extensive access to the Japanese government and its agencies and to other major stakeholders. This proximity allows our students to observe important Japanese policymaking action closely as they conduct their research. In addition to high-quality graduate education, we offer training programs that meet the needs of various stakeholders including the government agencies of a wide array of countries; we also accept funded research that draws on our faculty's expertise. The world in the 21st century faces a great number of urgent issues that require action on both national and international scales. These issues, reflected in the SDGs, impact on areas including economic development, security, the environment, population, equality, and technological progress. GRIPS will continue to conduct research addressing these issues, and to nurture policy professionals who are motivated and equipped to take on global challenges.

Before arrival in Japan, students are encouraged to consider what subjects to take in order to gain basic knowledge necessary to analyze and design public policy of your interest, by reviewing the curriculum and syllabus of courses offered at GRIPS. To prepare for research on topics of interest, it is a good idea to search for the availability of existing studies in the literature and data on possible research topics while you are in your home country. This will help you conduct research and write a policy paper efficiently when you enter GRIPS. Brushing up on academic English by reading academic papers etc. is also recommended.

## Ritsumeikan University (Private) Graduate School of International Relations

### ◆ Program name

Global International Relations Program

### ◆ Degrees:

Master of Arts in International Relations

### ◆ Credit and years needed for graduation:

30 credits, 2 years

### ◆ Address:

56-1 Toji-in Kitamachi, Kita-ku, Kyoto  
603-8577 JAPAN



## Features of University

Ritsumeikan's history begins with its establishment as a private academy in 1869 by Prince Kinmochi Saionji, an eminent international statesman of modern Japan and advocate of Freedom and Internationalism. In 1900, Saionji's protégé Kojuro Nakagawa retained Saionji's spirit and established the Kyoto Hosei School, an evening law school that was open to working people. With Saionji's blessing, the name of this school was changed to Ritsumeikan Private University in 1913. At present, the Kinugasa and Suzaku campuses in Kyoto, as well as at the Biwako Kusatsu Campus in Shiga and the recently opened Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) in Osaka combined are home to about 36,000 students learning under the core educational philosophy of *Peace and Democracy*. In order to nurture just and ethical global citizens, Ritsumeikan is working to foster creativity and the development of individual talents on a solid foundation of academic achievement.

### Achievements

Ritsumeikan University has been selected as a designated institution of the "Top Global University Project" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. The ministry-appointed panel of experts selected 37 institutions among 104 applications and these institutions hold the "Top Global University" status as of October 1st, 2014, to the end of fiscal year 2023.

The "Top Global University Project" has been established as a way to give financial support to 37 public and private universities aiming to promote comprehensive internationalization and become world-class research and education institutions. With our selection for this prestigious project, Ritsumeikan University will serve as a model for globalized schools.

## Features of Graduate School

### History and Achievement

The Graduate School of International Relations (GSIR) at Ritsumeikan University was established in 1992. Our graduates are particularly active in international organizations, the Foreign Ministry, governments in their home countries, international aid, and globally active private enterprises. They have received high acclaim in the international community. In Japan, we are the only official member of the Association of Professional School of International Affairs (APSIA), which is a global network of respected graduate schools specialized in international relations. Throughout its more than 20 years of history, the Graduate School has been accepting approximately 1,200 international students including international students from 51 countries as well as JDS, World Bank, and MEXT-funded students. Those students play an important role as the administrative officer in each country after their graduation.

## Features of the Program

The GSIR's Master of Arts in International Relations program is designed to offer two programs, in Japanese and English. Global International Relations Program (English-Based Program) consists of four clusters: Global Governance Cluster; Sustainable Development Cluster; Culture, Society and Media Cluster; Global Japanese Studies Cluster. Each cluster also consist of basic subjects regarding international relations (Core Courses), and the subjects designed to foster a deep and specialized understanding of each subject from various disciplines (Advanced Courses) as well as the subjects of Area studies and Academic Writing.

For JDS Fellows from Maldives, the Graduate School of International Relations offers a curriculum which aims to cultivate professionals of international cooperation knowledgeable in international economy, international politics, international cooperation, and environmental issues. In order to achieve this aim, our program includes the following features.

### **(1) Coursework Required for International Cooperation Professionals**

Students in this program develop an advanced, academic balance necessary for International Cooperation professionals based on courses composed of the following four pillars.

#### *1. Learning of Fundamental Theories of International Relations:*

Students will learn fundamental theories necessary for negotiating and policymaking as an international cooperation professional from courses such as international relations, international political economy, international economics, and international law.

#### *2. Learning International Cooperation and Development of the Asia-Pacific Region:*

Students will study international politics, economics, and past experiences surrounding the Asia-Pacific Region. Through attending the courses and seminars, and having discussions, students will be able to find solutions to issues as they examine many case studies of international cooperation and development of various countries including Japan and ASEAN countries. Students also enhance their understanding of diplomacy by participating in symposiums with international aid agency staff members and diplomats that are held frequently.

#### *3. Learning about Japan's Experiences:*

Emphasis is placed on gaining a basic understanding of Japan's economy, politics, and diplomacy. Students will learn the background knowledge between ASEAN countries and Japan and their relationship reviewing Japan's past development experiences.

#### *4. Learning about Environmental Consciousness:*

Students study various environmental issues caused by rapid economic development. They also develop the ability to make policy recommendations which are conscious of effective use of energy, resources and environment through learning experiences of various countries regarding environmental issues, globalization, and the relationship between economic growth and the environment.

### **(2) Improve Work Expertise through Systematic Master's Thesis Guidance**

Students study in-depth research topics related to their area of work and are placed in a seminar class (Advanced Seminar) of a specific academic advisor during their period of enrollment. Through weekly seminars, students deepen their technical knowledge and complete their Master's thesis after oral defenses (Research Proposal Meeting, Interim Progress Meeting). A guidance system is setup with multiple faculty members focused on the final oral defense. In the beginning, students will develop fundamental competency on Master's thesis composition and research methods through skill-based courses. Our quality faculty is a big feature of the program for those aiming to be economic diplomacy professionals and focus on our main research areas that include politics, economics, law, society and socio-cultural global governance, international cooperation and development, and multicultural issues. Students have the opportunity to utilize our extensive faculty body and receive detailed instructions on various research topics of international students.

### **(3) Building of Network of Personal Contacts & Researching Alongside Graduate Students from Multinational Backgrounds through the Special Seminar**

Both the English-based and Japanese-based programs are designed to allow domestic students from around the country and international students from around the world (148 students from 28 countries as of May 2020) to study side by side. Students will take the special seminar, Professional Training: International Cooperation and Diplomacy, which is designed for JDS Fellows and aims to foster young governmental officials. In this course, international and Japanese students, under the guidance of multiple professors from a variety of professional backgrounds, debate on topics such as international politics, business management, sustainable development, and local government policy for sustainable development, and more. Those topics include Japan's experience with economic development and pollution issues.

### **(4) Academic English & Everyday Japanese Language Training**

Students will brush up on academic English and take part in everyday Japanese language training. All courses can be taken in English. Courses such as Academic Writing will help improve students' academic writing and comprehensive management skills. Another goal is that all students acquire a beginner's level of Japanese. International students will acquire the ability to use basic conversational Japanese and to write in the language via the Japanese Conversational Program. This will enable students to develop basic Japanese language ability and better understand Japan's culture and affairs. As an improvement to the current program in Comprehensive Japanese I and II, students will discuss international relations issues using Japanese.



## JICE - JDS Project Office in Maldives

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