भारत सरकार / **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
रेल मंत्रालय / **MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**
(रेलवे बोर्ड / RAILWAY BOARD(

No. 2026/E(Trg)/10/40 **New Delhi dt: As signed**

The General Managers
All Indian Railways including PUs
CORE/Allahabad
Metro Railway/Kolkata.

The Director Generals/Director,
RDSO/Lucknow
All CTIs.

The Chief Administrative Officer,
PLW/Patiala.

TRAINING CIRCULAR

Sub: One Year Masters Degree Course on School of Local Governance (Public Policy in the Local Government) under Young Leaders' Program (YLP) at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) Japan from October 2027 to September 2028 (one year).

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Deptt. of Personnel & Training (DoP&T) is sponsoring a One Year Masters Degree Course on School of Local Governance (Public Policy in the Local Government) under Young Leaders' Program (YLP) at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) Tokyo/Japan from October 2027 to September 2028. A copy of DoP&T's Circular dt. 01st September, 2026 is attached herewith.

2. The program is designed to train and cultivate national leaders in their respective fields of government who are seeking to take advantage of Japan's experiences of interaction with both Western and Asian countries and to establish a human network through various activities, such as special lectures, colloquium, independent study, field trips etc.

3. Each grantee will be provided monthly with 2,42,000 Yen during the term of scholarship. However, the amount of allowance will be subject to change depending upon the annual budget of the Japanese government for each fiscal year. The Program covers an economy class air ticket to/from Japan, accommodation, School Fees etc. All the local transportation will be borne by the participant. Details of the Program may be seen in the brochure.

3.1 The eligibility criteria and other specifications for the course may be seen in DoPT's attached O.M dt. 01.09.2026 and program brochure.

4. It is requested to give wide publicity to the program to invite applications from willing & eligible officials and forward the same, duly approved by the GM/DG/CAO/Director concerned to Railway Board for further necessary action.

4.1. The officials concerned may also be advised to submit the complete set of application, **in advance, on or before 14th Sep., 2026**, positively to Training Branch (Room No. 359-C, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi), Railway Board. Applications received after the prescribed date will not be considered.

Contd....2/-

5. This circular along with all the attachments (Program brochure, application form etc.) have also been uploaded on the Railway Board Website under the link IR Personnel → Training Circulars.

Digitally signed by
Neelam Sharma
Date: 03-09-2026
10:32:46

Encl: As above.

(Neelam Sharma)
Dy. Director-II, Estt.(Training)
Railway Board.
Ph No. 011-23047105

*****

F.No.12040/09/2026-FTC/IR
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel and Training
[Training Wing]
*****

Block-4, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi-67
Dated: 01.09.2026

TRAINING CIRCULAR

Subject: One Year Masters Degree course on School of Local Governance (Public Policy in the Local Government) under Young Leaders' Program (YLP) at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan from October 2027 to September 2028.

Applications/nominations are invited for special scholarships of one year Masters Degree Program in School of Local Governance (Public Policy in the Local Government) under Young Leaders' Program (YLP) to be held from October 2027 to September 2028 at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) Tokyo, Japan.

2. The Program is designed to train and cultivate national leaders in their respective fields of Government who are seeking to take advantage of Japan's experiences of interaction with both Western and Asian countries and to establish a human network through various activities, such as special lectures, colloquium, independent study, field trips etc.

3. The Program is primarily geared for exceptionally promising young government officials who have already shown their dedication through work experience in public administration. It is open to young public administrators and government official who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders in their home countries.

4. **Course Duration:**

The course is for duration of one year from October 2027 to September 2028 resulting in the conferral of a Master's Degree in School of Local Governance (Public Policy in the Local Government) by GRIPS.

5. **Language Instruction:**

All classes are conducted in English medium.

6. **Qualifications:**

a) In principle the applicant should be under 40 years of age as on 1st October, 2027 (i.e. born on or after 2nd October, 1987);

b) Must hold a Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized/accredited university /college and have achieved shown excellent academic performance;

c) Have at least 3 years of work experience in public administration (preferably 5 years or more) as of October 1, 2027;

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d) Be proficient in English Language;
e) Applicants must be in good health;
f) Selected candidates will have to obtain a 'Student' visa prior to their arrival in Japan;
g) Must not be serving in military service or civilians employed by military forces.

7. Each grantee will be provided monthly with 242000 yen during the term of scholarship. However, the amount of allowance will be subject to change depending upon the annual budget of the Japanese government for each fiscal year. The Program covers an economy class air ticket to/from Japan, accommodation, School Fees etc. (**Details of the Program may be seen in the brochure).**

8. It is requested that the nomination of suitablegovernment officials/officer from CCA/State/UTs government may please be forwarded to this Department in prescribed application format **along with vigilance clearance** of the candidate and other supporting documents in accordance with the eligibility criteria and terms & conditions stipulated in the Program brochure.

9. The complete set of applications should reach this Department through Administrative Ministry/Department/State Government not later than **21st September, 2026**. Nominations received after the prescribed date will not be considered. The details of the Program and the application form may be drawn from this Department's website **(**http://dopt.gov.in**).**

Digitally signed by
AJAY KUMAR SINHA
Date: 01-09-2026
13:01:05

(Ajay Kumar Sinha)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel:011-26706306

Copy to: (Through DoPT's website).

1. Secretaries of all Ministries/Department of Government of India and Chief Secretaries/Administrators of State Governments/Union Territories.
2. All Cadre Controlling Authorities (CCA) of Group 'A' Service.
3. Ministry of External Affairs, Attache (JKM), East Asia Division, South Block, New Delhi.
4. The Embassy of Japan in India, Japan Information Centre, 50 - G, Shanti Path, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110021.
5. NIC with request to post the circular along with the Program brochure and application forms etc on this Department's website.

Outline of Young Leaders' Program

1. Objectives

The Young Leaders' Program (YLP) is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs commenced in 2001. YLP aims to contribute to cultivate future national leaders in Asian and other countries, moreover, to contribute to establish friendly relationship among various countries and to improve policy planning activities by forming a network among national leaders through deepening their understanding of Japan.

2. Eligible Countries and Participants

Young public administrators, business managers and legal professionals who are expected to play active roles as future national leaders in Asian and other countries have an eligibility to apply for the YLP program. (See below 3 for Courses, Host Universities and details about eligible participants.)

3. Courses and Host Universities

There are five courses in the YLP Program (Government, Local Governance, Business Administration, Law and Healthcare Administration). All courses commence in September or October, and offer a one-year master's program conducted in English. Students who complete the course are awarded a Master's Degree. The host universities of the courses are as follows:

Courses	Host Universities	Number of Accepted Students Per Year	Eligible Participants (Professional Experience*)
School of Government	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	20	Those who have at least 3 years of full-time work experience (preferably 5 years or more) in public administration
School of Local Governance	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	10	Those who have at least 3 years of full-time work experience (preferably 5 years or more) in public administration
Business Administration	Hitotsubashi University	15	Entrepreneurs, business managers and public officials who have at least 2 years of full-time work experience
Law	Kyushu University	15	Those who have in principle 4 years of work experience in a law office or in the legal section of a company or government department
Healthcare Administration	Nagoya University	10	Those who have at least 3 years of full time working experience in healthcare fields in public sector at government department

* Please find more details about eligibility of applicants from the Application Guidelines of each course.

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4. Recruitment and Selection

The recruitment of applicants and nomination of candidates to the Embassy of Japan are conducted by the recommending institutions (*). Subsequently, the selection is conducted in the following process.

(1) First screening by the host universities (through document screening and interview)
(2) Second screening by the YLP Committee established by MEXT
(3) Finalization of selection results by MEXT

(*) Roles of Recommending Institutions

Recommending institutions are government bodies and relevant organizations in the eligible countries qualified by MEXT to take roles of recruitment and nomination of candidates to the YLP program. MEXT also designates courses of which each recommending institution can nominate candidates. The roles of recommending institutions in the process of recruitment and nomination are as follows (See 'GUIDELINES FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026: YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENTS' for more details.):

- Notification about the YLP Program and acceptance of applications
- Selection of candidates to be recommended
- Recommendation of candidates to the Embassy of Japan
- Notification of results to candidates

5. Scholarship Benefits for YLP Students (2027)

(1) Allowance: 242,000 JPY per month
(2) Education Fees: Fees for tuition, matriculation and entrance examination are exempted.
(3) Traveling Costs: Airline tickets from his/her home country to Japan and vice versa are provided.

6. Further Information

For more details about recruitment and curriculum guidelines of each course, please find the latest version of the Application Guidelines. Please also see the following websites for details about each course.

- School of Government and School of Local Governance:
  National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
  https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/inter_programs/leader/
- Business Administration
  Hitotsubashi University Business School, School of International Corporate Strategy (Hitotsubashi ICS)
  https://www.ics.hub.hit-u.ac.jp/mba/ylp
- Law
  Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law
  http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ylp-ll-m/
- Healthcare Administration
  Nagoya University, Graduate School of Medicine
  https://www.med.nagoya-u.ac.jp/medical_E/laboratory/basic-med/social-science/ylp/

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GUIDELINES FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2027 YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENTS

YEAR-LONG SCHEDULE (PRELIMINARY)

SCHEDULE	
2026	
August	Applications for YLP opened.
By Early October	Qualified Institutions recommend candidates to the Embassy of Japan* with necessary documents. ＊However, some are handled by the Consulate-General. The same applies below.
2027	
From January to February	The Japanese universities conduct first screening.
March	The YLP Committee in MEXT conducts second screening.
April	MEXT notifies the institutions of the results through the Embassy of Japan.
August-September	MEXT provides airline tickets to the grantees through the Embassy of Japan.
September-October	Students arrive in Japan.

*Note: This schedule is preliminary. Detailed schedules will be announced separately through the Embassy of Japan in your country.

I INFORMATION CONCERNING RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS

1 Number of Scholarship Recipients

In YLP there are five courses, and each course will accept 10 to 20 students in total. Available courses vary by country.

Depending on the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the number of students to be accepted and the scholarship conditions could differ from those described in the Application Guidelines of each course.

2 Important Points on Eligibility Requirements and Application Procedures

(1) Applicants must have graduated with excellent grades from a university and be able to study at a Japanese university for one year.

(2) Applicants must meet all qualifications and requirements stated in the Application Guidelines of each course. The requirements must be observed strictly, and any personal exceptions will not be allowed.

(3) The number of grantees is limited, and all candidates will be evaluated comparatively. Therefore, candidates who meet all qualifications still might not be selected. (It is also possible that none of the candidates from your institution will be selected.) Please take this point into consideration when recommending candidates.

(4) Some students in the past returned to their respective home countries without completing the program due to mental or physical problems. In addition, some students required long-term treatment because they had come to Japan without completely curing infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, typhus, malaria, dysentery, and so on. With due consideration given to the fact that the students will be staying for a long period in a country with a very different environment from that in the home country, please make very sure of the student's medical condition (including past medical history), and try to ensure that any student with

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an illness requiring treatment receives such treatment before coming to Japan.

(5) Military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan and/or during the period of the payment of the scholarship are not eligible.

(6) Make sure applicants are not applying for another program for which scholarship payments will begin in fiscal year 2027 through the Japanese government, including the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (former Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)).

3 Notification Method

Each institution can decide how to notify students about this Scholarship. However, the notification should be done in the most effective way in order to ensure that outstanding students will apply for the Scholarship.

Application Guidelines may be obtained from the Embassy of Japan or can be downloaded from MEXT's website.
https://www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/highered/title02/detail02/sdetail02/sdetail02/1374094.htm

In addition, applicants should be instructed to seek information about the universities offering YLP courses through websites of each university. (Please see the Application Guidelines of each course for the relevant URLs.)

4 Acceptance of Application Forms

Please make sure that applicants observe the application deadline strictly and submit all the necessary documents with the letter of recommendation issued by the institution itself (including required copies of documents). The recommending institution must verify whether all application forms are completed correctly and not lacking any necessary documents. Please accept the application forms only when any necessary corrections are made by the applicants. When accepting the applications, please make particularly sure of the following points.

(1) Language and translations

Documents should be filled out or written in English. Attach an English translation if they are written in another language.

(2) Documents to be submitted

(a) Application form

(i) The prescribed forms for this year must be used for application. Please fill out the forms clearly (especially the applicant's name) and put the application form and all other necessary documents for each applicant together into one envelope.

(ii) In the column for 'Educational Background', please write the names of the schools or institutions that the applicant attended in the spaces for 'Elementary Education', 'Secondary Education' and 'Higher Education' which correspond to the Japanese education system of 'Elementary Education - Elementary School', 'Secondary Education - Lower/Upper Secondary School' and 'Higher Education - Undergraduate/Graduate school'.

*Note: Please write the exact number of years that the applicant was enrolled in each institution. If an applicant skipped a year in any school or institution, it must be mentioned.

(b) Certified grade transcripts for each academic year

Certified transcripts of the grades earned by the applicant in all the subjects studied for each academic year at the student's undergraduate and/or graduate schools are required. (A degree certificate or a graduation certificate simply showing the ranking of the applicant at graduation will not substitute for academic transcripts. The

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transcripts must show the grade-scale applied.) If the transcript is not duplicable, a certified true copy of the original transcript should be submitted. Every year there are many cases in which the original transcripts are not attached or the submitted copies are not verified. Please read the Application Guidelines carefully.

(c) Recommendation letters

Please make sure to issue recommendation letters from your institution for the applicant. There are many cases in which such letters are not attached. In the letters, there should be included a detailed description of the applicant's personality, academic ability, motivation for studying in Japan and the Japanese language, and experience of study abroad.

For the 'Recommendation Letter from the applicant's direct superior at work' and the 'Recommendation Letter from the applicant's superior at work or supervising professor at the university', only those written on the prescribed forms will be accepted. Please make sure that applicants submit both of the letters.

(d) Certificate of health

Applicants must use the prescribed form and have the doctor fill out all items in the form. Recommending institutions must choose medical institutions for the physical examination.
In the past, some students were affected by illnesses such as tuberculosis and mental disorders after arriving in Japan even though they were certified as having no history of such illnesses in their medical certificates. Please take this fact into account when interviewing and examining applicants. Please also mention in the recommendation letter if there are applicants with disabilities, who need special care to study in Japan. If there is a change in the health condition of an applicant (including any major changes relating to their life plan) after the applicant has submitted his/her health certificate, please promptly provide this information with the Embassy of Japan located in the applicant's country of nationality since it concerns the acceptance system of the accepting university and Japanese medical institutions.

(e) Graduation certificate (English translation must be attached)

A graduation certificate from graduate and/or undergraduate schools must be submitted. Every year there are many cases in which the original certificates are not attached or the submitted copies are not certified. Please read the Application Guidelines carefully.

(f) An essay of 3 pages explaining reason for application and future plans

An essay within 3 pages must be submitted. In the essay the reason for application and the applicant's future plans after the completion of YLP must be explained concisely and concretely.

(g) Certificate of English proficiency

Every year there are many cases of certificates of English proficiency not being submitted. Please make sure that applicants submit them.

(3) Document numbering

The Application Guidelines require applicants to write the document number in the upper right-hand corner of the documents. In case the document numbers are not indicated by applicants, the recommending institution should indicate the numbers on the documents accordingly.

(4) Incomplete application documents

Application documents not completed fully and correctly or lacking necessary documents will not be accepted.

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If applicants cannot get any of the necessary documents because of the circumstances in their home countries, such documents could be substituted by the ones certified to be true by the issuing authority, the government in their home countries or the Embassy of Japan.

5 Applicants Staying in Japan

Recommending institutions can decide, in exceptional cases, whether to accept applications from individuals already residing in Japan. However, it should be noted that applicants residing in their home countries are given priority over such individuals. Furthermore, those who have been currently enrolled in a Japanese university with a status of residence of "Student" as well as those who are enrolled or scheduled to be enrolled as a privately financed international student during the period from the beginning of the application period to the beginning of the scholarship payment are not eligible.

However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university, verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, return to their home country (leave Japan) at the time of the scholarship application, and newly obtain a "Student" visa as a MEXT Scholarship student and acquire the status of residence "Student" upon entry to Japan.

II SELECTION OUTLINE

The candidates to be recommended to MEXT through the Embassy of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan should be selected in accordance with the following method and criteria.

1 Method of Selection

Each recommending institution can use a selection method decided at their own discretion, but they are asked to examine accurately each applicant’s English ability, personality, reasons for applying, etc. in full consideration of the objectives and characteristics of each course.

2 Criteria for Selection

Candidates must meet the following criteria along with the required qualifications:

(1) Candidates must have excellent grades and have the ability to study the major course they wish to pursue;
(2) Candidates must be physically and mentally healthy (Special attention should be paid to those with pre-existing conditions such as mental disorders, malaria, tuberculosis, diabetes, hepatitis, etc., as they often develop such conditions after coming to Japan.);
(3) Candidates must have a verifiable identity;
(4) Candidates must be able to easily adapt to an unfamiliar environment and a different culture;
(5) Candidates must have a rich international cultural understanding;
(6) Candidates must not have Japanese nationality (even if you have another nationality);
(7) Candidates must not be military personnel or military civilian employees;
(8) Candidates must not be currently enrolled in a Japanese university with a status of residence of “Student” or enrolled or scheduled to be enrolled as a privately financed international student during the period from the beginning of application to the beginning of the scholarship payment. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university, verifiably complete their studies before the start of the scholarship payment period, return to their home country (leave Japan) at the time of the scholarship application, and newly obtain a "Student" visa as a MEXT Scholarship student and acquire the status of residence of "Student" upon

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entry to Japan;

Please do not recommend applicants who obviously will have difficulty in continuing their studies for the required period of time after coming to Japan (e.g., those who have to do military service, etc.).

III RECOMMENDATION OUTLINE

The nomination of candidates should be made by the recommending institution with their completed application documents by the date designated by the Embassy of Japan. It is the responsibility of the recommending institution to ensure that all necessary documents are provided by the deadline.
In case some of the necessary documents are lacking and need to be submitted later, please make sure to confirm the deadline with the Embassy of Japan. If the document is not submitted by the deadline, or cannot be expected to be ready, the application will be considered as "unaccepted" (impossible to recommend).

IV SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULT

1 First Screening

The candidates who are recommended by each recommending institution are selected by the universities offering YLP courses in the First Screening. The selection will be based on the submitted documents and a face-to-face or telephone/online interview. The universities will recommend candidates to the YLP committee established in MEXT, based on the results of the First Screening.

2 Second Screening

The YLP committee conducts the Second Screening for the candidates recommended by the universities.

3 Announcement of Results

After the Second Screening process, the final selection results will be notified to each recommending institution through the Embassy of Japan. The reasons for the results will not be disclosed. The recommending institutions then notify the results to their candidates, and confirm with the successful candidates their intention to enroll at the accepting university by submitting a Pledge in the designated format from the candidate to the Embassy of Japan.

4 No objection is permitted

The recommending institution should explain to the successful candidates that any objection regarding the decision of the host university or course of study will not be accepted when notifying them of the results.

5 In Case of Withdrawal

If a candidate expresses an intention or wish to withdraw from this program, the recommending institution should confirm the reason for withdrawal and contact the Embassy of Japan with a letter from the candidate containing the reason for the withdrawal and his/her signature. The withdrawal will be notified to the accepting university via the Embassy of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and MEXT.

6 Waiting List

When the number of successful candidates is less than the prescribed number because of withdrawals etc., there

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is a possibility that candidates on the Waiting List will additionally be accepted for Selection. The candidates to be put on the Waiting List will be chosen by the YLP committee during the Second Screening, and the YLP committee will not choose any more candidates after the Second Screening.

The accepting university will contact the successful candidates on the Waiting List to confirm their intention to enroll at the university. Once confirmed, the official result will be notified to the recommending institution via the Embassy of Japan.

V PROCEDURES AFTER SELECTION

In order to prevent various problems after arrival in Japan caused by grantees with insufficient knowledge or misunderstanding of procedures, the following points, in particular, should be fully informed to all selected students. If there are any questions about procedures after selection, please make an inquiry to the Embassy of Japan.

1 Visa

Applicants are required to apply for a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in their home country (in principle, at the embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over their place of residence) and obtain a "Student" visa.

2 Airline Ticket

(1) MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides the grantee via the Embassy of Japan an economy-class airline ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee’s residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita International Airport or any other international airport used on the normal route to the accepting university. In principle, the address in the country of the grantee’s nationality stated in the application form shall be recognized as his/her “residence.” However, if it is certain that the address stated in the form will be changed at the time of departure from his/her country, the new address within his/her home country will be regarded as his/her “residence”.

(2) The provided airline ticket has a fixed date and flight number. Even if it is a transit point, staying for purposes such as visiting relatives or acquaintances, sightseeing, tours, or research during your journey to Japan is not permitted.

(3) The departure date and flight are fixed taking into account hotel arrangements at a stopover location, flight transfer circumstances, arrival procedures, and residency arrangements. Therefore, change of the ticket date by the grantee is not permitted.

(4) The provided airline ticket cannot be transferred to another person, nor can it be exchanged for money. Furthermore, the grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the grantee’s residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc.

(5) The airline ticket will only be provided for the grantee. Family members or others who may accompany the grantee to Japan will not receive any travel expenses or other funds.

3 Date of Arrival in Japan

(1) The arrival period designated by the accepting university will be a period within two weeks before and after the starting date of the course.

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(2) If the grantee intends to arrive in Japan before the arrival period designated by the university, the scholarship for that month will not be paid. In addition, if the student is enrolled after the second day of the month, the student should be informed that the scholarship will not be paid for that month.

(3) The airline ticket will not be provided to any grantees who intend to come to Japan before/after the date designated by MEXT without permission, and there will be no refund after arrival. The grantee will be treated as a student of this program only after the arrival date designated by MEXT. Therefore, if a grantee intends to come to Japan before the designated date, he/she must bear the responsibility for travel arrangements, entrance procedures and living arrangements after arrival.

(4) In principle, the change of grantee's arrival date and flight will not be permitted. However, if any change is required due to unavoidable circumstances for the grantee, please contact MEXT through the Embassy of Japan. In such a case, the grantee must wait for the contact from MEXT after all the procedures including residence arrangements, etc., are rescheduled. In Japan, all courses will begin right after the arrival period. In case of an arrival delay, there is a possibility that the acceptance to this program will be revoked.

(5) If the travel agency demands payment for the difference of the flight fee due to any departure or flight changes made by the grantee without permission and if the grantee pays at the moment of departure, no refund will be given after arrival. Therefore, when any changes occur, please contact the Embassy of Japan to find out the necessary procedures before departure.

4 Withdrawal or Revocation of Acceptance

(1) If a grantee cannot arrive in Japan within the designated arrival period, it will be a great hindrance to the grantee's education at the university as well as the research program. In this case, the acceptance to this program might be revoked.

(2) If a grantee withdraws from the program after receiving the airline ticket, MEXT will collect it through the travel agency.

(3) If a recommending institution has many grantees that withdraw from this program or return to their home country due to personal reasons in the middle of the program, the institution's participation as a recommending institution may be reconsidered. Therefore, when recommending candidates, please make sure to guide them not to withdraw from the program except in unavoidable circumstances.

5 Students Accompanied by Family Members

(1) If successful applicants wish to bring their family members with them, they are requested to inform and consult with their host university prior to departure. The scholarship will not be increased, and no allowances or subsidies will be provided for travel, living, or medical expenses for accompanying family members. Since it is extremely difficult to secure accommodations for family members, it is necessary for the family members to be brought to Japan only after the applicant has arrived in Japan and is ready after consulting with the university. The rules for bringing family members to Japan vary depending on the host university's system, so please make sure to check the application guidelines for the course to which you are applying in advance. If there is anything unclear, please check with the host university in advance, even before the selection is made.

(2) Immigration procedures for the family members will be completely different from those for the grantee. Therefore, please make sure to ask the Embassy of Japan about necessary procedures for the family members before departure.

6 Guidance before Departure Date

When the Embassy of Japan holds an orientation session before departure, the recommending institution must inform the grantees to participate in the orientation.

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7 Unavoidable Circumstances

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, the Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines herewithin, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable Circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including Embassies and Consulates General of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local governments, hereafter referred to as "government"), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other foreign countries' governments due to the outbreak of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike, or lockout.

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APPLICATION GUIDELINES
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2027
YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENT (SCHOOL OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE)

I OUTLINE

1. Objectives

The Young Leaders' Program (YLP) aims to contribute to the fostering of future national leaders in Asian and other countries. Moreover, the YLP seeks to contribute to the establishment of friendly relationships among various countries and to improve policy planning activities by forming a network among national leaders through the deepening of their understanding of Japan. The YLP is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT*) Scholarship Programs.

*MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

2. Eligible Participants

Participants should be young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders in their home countries.

3. Host University

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

4. Number of Students

Approximately 10 students

5. Recruitment and Selection

(1) Method of Recruitment

Recruitment will be conducted through the recommending authorities of each eligible country. Please ask the Japanese Embassy for further information.

(2) Screening Procedure

① First screening by the recommending authorities
② Second screening by GRIPS
③ Final screening by the YLP committee organized by MEXT

6. Curriculum (please refer to "Curriculum Guidelines")

(1) Basic Concepts

The curriculum is designed to train and cultivate young leaders in their respective fields of government, who are seeking to take advantage of Japan's experiences of interaction with both Western and Asian countries and also to establish a human network through various activities, such as special lectures, colloquium, independent study, workshop, etc.

(2) Course Duration and Degree

Course duration is one year, resulting in the conferral of a Master's Degree in Public Policy by GRIPS.

(3) Language

All lectures are conducted in English.

7. Commencement of the Program

October 2027

II INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

MEXT will offer scholarships to foreign students who wish to study at GRIPS as YLP students in local governance for the academic year 2027 under the MEXT Scholarship Program. The application conditions are described below.

1. Field of Study

Local Governance

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2. Qualifications

(1) Nationality:

Applicants must be nationals of countries participating in the YLP (School of Local Governance). An applicant who has Japanese nationality at the time of application is not eligible. However, persons with multiple nationality who hold Japanese nationality and whose place of residence at the time of application is outside of Japan are eligible to apply as long as they choose the nationality of the other country and renounce their Japanese nationality by the time they apply for a visa.

(Note) In this case, as proof of renunciation of nationality, applicants must submit official documents issued by public institutions, such as a certificate of removal from the family register (joseki tohon) or a notice regarding renunciation of nationality issued by the Ministry of Justice, at the time of visa application.

(2) Age:

Applicants must be, in principle, under 40 years of age as of October 1, 2027 (i.e. born on or after October 2, 1987).

(3) Academic background:

Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized/accredited university or college, and have achieved excellent academic performance.

(4) Work experience:

At least 3 years of full-time work experience in total as of October 1, 2027, in public administration (preferably 5 years or more).

(5) English ability:

One of the following test scores is required:

① TOEFL iBT
② IELTS Academic
③ Other equivalent test

Admission priority will be given to applicants who have a TOEFL iBT score of 79/120, 4.5/6 or higher, or an IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or higher, or other equivalent test scores.

(6) Health:

Applicants must be judged to be physically able to pursue study in Japan by an examining physician, who must issue a prescribed certificate of health for the applicant.

(7) Arrival in Japan:

In principle, applicants must be able to arrive in Japan during the period specified by GRIPS, usually within two weeks before or after the first day of the course conducted by GRIPS. If the applicant cannot arrive in Japan during the specified period for personal reasons, travel expenses to Japan will not be paid.

(8) Visa requirement:

Applicants shall, in principle, are required to newly obtain a “Student” visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant’s country of nationality (in principle, at the embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over their place of residence) before traveling to Japan, and then enter Japan with the status of residence of “Student.” Please note that if you do not newly obtain a "Student" visa as a MEXT Scholarship student and do not acquire the status of residence of “Student” upon entry into Japan, your scholarship will be suspended. In case the applicant resides in Japan for exceptional reasons before acceptance, the applicant must change or renew his/her status of residence to that of “Student” by the end of the month prior to the month of the first scholarship payment installment.

In addition, it must be understood that the applicant’s original status of residence such as "Permanent Resident" or "Long-term Resident" might not be necessarily regranted after the expiration of the status as a MEXT Scholarship student.

(9) Return to home country and resumption of work after the scholarship period:

In accordance with the objectives of the YLP, after the scholarship period, applicants are expected to make efforts to build friendly relationships among various countries, including Japan, by creating human and intellectual networks among leaders in countries across the world. To this end, applicants should, in principle, return to their home countries by the end of the final month of the scholarship period and resume their work at the recommending authority or the organization designated by the recommending authorities among others.

(10) Non-Eligibility:

Applicants who fall under any or all of the following categories are not eligible. If identified as doing so after acceptance of the scholarship grantees, the applicants will be required to withdraw from the scholarship:

① Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during

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the period of the payment of the scholarship;

② Those who cannot arrive in Japan by the last date of the period designated by GRIPS;

③ Those who are already enrolled in a Japanese university or other institution with a residence status of "Student" or who are going to be enrolled, or plan to enroll, in a Japanese university or other institution as a privately-financed international student from the time of application to the MEXT Scholarship program in the applicant's country until the commencement of the period for payment of the MEXT Scholarship. However, this stipulation does not apply to privately-financed international students who, even though they are enrolled, or are planning to enroll, in a Japanese university, are certain at the time of the scholarship application to complete their studies and to return to their home country (leave Japan) before the start of the scholarship payment period, and newly obtain a "Student" visa as a MEXT Scholarship student and acquire the status of residence of "Student";

④ Those who are currently also applying to another program under the Japanese Government Scholarship system. This includes the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2026, although their final selection results have not been decided yet, and the programs for which scholarship payments will begin in FY2027;

⑤ Those who are planning to receive other scholarships or fellowships from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others after the start of the scholarship payment period;

⑥ Holders of Japanese nationality, or dual nationality with Japan, who cannot provide proof of having renounced their Japanese nationality when applying for a visa.

⑦ Those who change their residence status to that of other than "Student" after their arrival in Japan;

⑧ Those who plan, from the time of application for the MEXT scholarship program, to engage in long-term research (such as fieldwork or internship) outside Japan or plan to take a long-term leave of absence from the host university;

⑨ Those who will lose their status as a public administrator or government official subsequent to the time of application or before completion of the program.

3. Period of Scholarship

One year, from October 2027 to September 2028

4. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Allowance:

242,000 yen per month. Due to the situation of the Japanese Government's budget, the amount of payment may be subject to change each fiscal year. The scholarship will not be paid to a grantee who is long absent from GRIPS.

(2) Travel costs:

① Transportation to Japan: In principle, MEXT stipulates the travel schedule and route, and provides an economy-class airline ticket from the international airport nearest to the grantee's home address (in principle, the country of nationality) to Narita or Haneda International Airport. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from his/her home address to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within Japan (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage, or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. The grantee shall also bear, at his/her own expense, travel and lodging costs incurred in a third country in case there are no direct flights from the grantee's country of nationality to Narita or Haneda International Airport. In such cases, MEXT will provide an economy-class airline ticket from the grantee's country of nationality to the said third country, and from the third country to an international airport in Japan used on the normal route to the host university. The present address in the country of the grantee's nationality stated in the application form is in principle regarded as the recipient's "home address". If, however, the address stated in the application form will be changed at the time of leaving from his/her country, the changed address (limited to within the country of nationality) will be regarded as the "home address". For cases of travel to Japan from a country other than the grantee's country of residence due to the grantee's personal circumstances, MEXT will not provide an airline ticket. If a grantee will arrive in Japan before or after the specified period stated in "2. (7) Arrival in Japan", travel expenses will not be paid.

② Transportation from Japan: In principle, based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate from GRIPS and return to the home country by the end of the

final month of the period of scholarship (See “3. Period of Scholarship”) designated by MEXT. MEXT, in principle, shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from Narita or Haneda International Airport to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee’s residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee’s residence in Japan to Narita or Haneda international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage, or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc.

(3) Education Fees:
Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition are waivered.

(4) Accommodations:
In principle, grantees may reside at residence halls provided by GRIPS, which plans to arrange accommodations at TIEC (Tokyo International Exchange Center Residence Hall). Please note that, due to TIEC policy, eligible accompanying family members are limited to (a) spouse only, (b) spouse and children, or (c) children only. However, given the factors such as the limited availability of childcare facilities in the area, grantees who wish to bring their children are strongly encouraged to have their spouse accompany and reside with them as well (i.e., case (b))."

5. Suspension of Payment of Scholarship

Payment of the scholarship will be stopped for the reasons given below. Should any of the following reasons apply, the grantees may be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

① A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
② A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge made to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
③ A grantee violates any Japanese laws and is sentenced to detention for an indefinite period or for a period exceeding 1 year;
④ A grantee is suspended from his/her university or receives other punishment, or is removed from enrollment as a disciplinary action in accordance with school regulations of the accepting institution;
⑤ It has been determined that it will be impossible for a grantee to complete the course within the standard time period because of poor academic grades or suspension or absence from the university;
⑥ A grantee came to Japan without newly obtaining a "Student" visa as a MEXT Scholarship student and acquiring the status of residence of “Student”, or his/her residence status changed to one other than “Student”;
⑦ A grantee has received another scholarship (a scholarship or fellowship from the Japanese government, a Japanese government-related organization or others) not approved for acceptance in conjunction with the MEXT Scholarship;
⑧ If a grantee’s government and/or other state institutions request such cancellation.

6. Selection

(1) Based on the recommendation of authorities, GRIPS will select initial candidates from among applicants by means of a review of the submitted documents and an interview. The evaluation of the submitted documents will determine whether the applicant will proceed to an interview. An interview will be conducted by either of the following; face-to-face in the applicant’s home country, by telephone, or through the internet.
(2) Those who have been selected initially by GRIPS will be put forward to the YLP committee established by MEXT for the final selection.
(3) The final result will be notified to applicants through the Japanese Embassy/the recommending authorities. The reasons for the results will not be disclosed.

7. Education at GRIPS

All lectures and practical training are conducted in English.

8. Application Documents Required

Applicants may apply to GRIPS only once in an academic year.
Note: application for more than one GRIPS program is not permitted.

① Application form for the School of Local Governance Course (1 original; use the designated form)

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Please paste the photograph or insert the digital image (e.g., JPEG) onto the Application form.

② Recommendation letter from the recommending authority (1 original)

③ Two (2) letters of recommendation (1 original for each letter; use the designated form)
Your letters of recommendation must be written by faculty members or job supervisors who are familiar with your academic and/or professional abilities. At least one and preferably two should be written by your immediate superiors at work.

You are required to obtain the letters from your recommenders using the designated form and submit them. Each of your letters must contain the four A4 pages provided. Letters submitted that do not use our designated forms will not be accepted. They must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes signed across the flap by the recommender.

④・⑤Official transcripts of academic record and graduation/degree certificates (1 original for each document)
Note: we advise that when you request issuance of transcripts/certificates in accordance with our requirements, you show the instructions below to registrars at each of the universities that you attended.

You must submit official transcripts of academic record and graduation/degree certificates from all undergraduate and graduate institutions that you attended/graduated from. These must be documents issued by the university and bearing the seal or signature of the registrar, and they must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes bearing the university logo and address; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authorities.

④ Official transcripts of academic record
Official transcripts should contain the following information:
- Name of the degree program/course
- Enrollment period
- Names of all courses taken and grades received
- Grading scale including the maximum grade point/score

If you are currently attending a university, please submit your most recent transcript.

⑤ Official graduation/degree certificates
Official certificates should state the name of your degree and the date the degree was awarded. Provisional or temporary graduation/degree certificates are not acceptable. DO NOT send your original diploma, as documents will not be returned.
If you are currently attending a university, you must submit an authorized statement certifying the specific date of graduation and the title of the expected degree.

Important notes
- Photocopies of transcripts/certificates verified by a notary public are not acceptable.
- If a university has a policy not to issue more than one official transcript/certificate, you may submit official photocopies verified by the university. To be official, these must bear the institution's official stamp or the signature of the registrar. They must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes bearing the university logo and address noted; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authorities.
- If a university cannot issue an official English version of your transcript/certificate, you are required to submit both:
  - The official transcript/certificate (photocopies are not acceptable), written in its original language and bearing the institution's stamp or the signature of the registrar, and
  - An official verbatim English translation of the document, prepared by an accredited translator.

⑥ Official evidence of English ability (1 original)
One of the following test scores is required:
1. TOEFL iBT
2. IELTS Academic
3. Other equivalent test

Admission priority will be given to applicants who have a TOEFL iBT score of 79 /120, 4.5/6 or higher, or an IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or higher, or other equivalent test scores.

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Please note that English test scores are valid for two years from the test date, and therefore, tests must have been taken within two years of the time of enrollment at GRIPS. If you submit the results of a different test of English proficiency, please submit a conversion of the score to TOEFL or IELTS.

How to apply for a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement

There are two categories of English test exemption policy, as follows:

Category 1: Applicants who have completed or expect to complete undergraduate or graduate degrees at accredited institutions located in the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or Ireland will be automatically exempted from submitting an English test score.

Category 2: Applicants who have completed or expect to complete undergraduate or graduate degrees at institutions where the language of instruction is English may request a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement. If you wish to apply for such a waiver, you must submit official documents issued by the educational institution you attended, certifying that your undergraduate or graduate education was conducted entirely in English. If the official transcript of your academic record or graduation/degree certificate includes that information, you need not submit a separate document. These documents must bear the seal or signature of the registrar, and they must be submitted in sealed, unopened envelopes bearing the university logo and address; the envelopes must be signed or stamped across the flap by the issuing school authority. Note: we advise that when you request issuance of documents in accordance with our requirements, you show these instructions to the registrar at the university that you attended.

⑦ Copy of your passport (1 photocopy)

You must submit a copy of the page(s) with your name, nationality, date of birth and photo. If you do not possess a passport, please submit a copy of your family register or certificate of citizenship.

⑧ Essay explaining applicant's aspirations and future plans following program completion (1 original)

You must submit a 3-page essay describing your reason/motivation for applying, future plans and expectations from the program as well as future career goals.

⑨ Answers to the essay questions (1 original)

⑩ Certificate of health (1 original, use the designated form)

A certificate of health must be issued by the medical institution designated by the Japanese Embassy; all items must be completed, and all comments must be written in English in block letters. If there is a change in your health condition (including any serious changes relating to your life plan) after you have submitted your health certificate, please promptly notify the Japanese Embassy of the details since it concerns the acceptance system of GRIPS and the Japanese medical institutions.

Notes for application documents

(1) Please note that if you provide any false or misleading statements or incomplete or inaccurate information in your application, your application may not screened, you may be denied admission, or, if you have been admitted, you may be dismissed from GRIPS.
(2) A complete set of your required application documents must reach your recommending authority by the designated deadline. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
(3) All materials submitted by an applicant become the property of GRIPS and will not be returned. Please make sure to keep one copy of your application for your records.
(4) All documents must be in English. If the document is prepared in other languages, an English translation by an accredited translator should be provided.
(5) Application documents must be prepared solely by the applicant and should be printed computer documents wherever possible (A4 size paper and single-sided printing are preferable). If circumstances require, documents legibly handwritten with a ballpoint pen are acceptable.
(6) If your name as written in your application is different from that on the document(s) you submit, and if there is some reason (e.g. marriage) for the difference, please submit official documentation of that reason (e.g. marriage certificate).
(7) Photocopies will not be accepted.
(8) Digital copies sent by e-mail will not be accepted.

(9) Number the documents from ① to ⑩ (the items numbered in the list) in the upper right corner of each document.

9. Unavoidable Circumstances

In the event of unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances, the Japanese Government reserves the right to change or cancel the arrival date, scholarship, and contents of the application guidelines herein provided, at any time before or after notification of the results of the final selection.

Unavoidable circumstances are defined as events whose effects could not reasonably be prevented or controlled by MEXT or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including embassies and consulate generals of Japan) including but not limited to acts of God, acts of government (including local government, hereafter referred to as government), acts of government authorities (including limitations on travel or immigration enacted by the Japanese government or other foreign countries' government due to the outbreak of infectious disease), compliance with law, regulations or orders, fire, flooding and torrential rain, earthquakes, acts of war (regardless of a declaration of war), revolt, revolution or rebellion, strike, or lockout.

10. Notes

(1) If you plan to have your family members join you in Japan as dependents, after you arrive in Japan you need to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for the status of residence of "Dependent" (which covers only your dependent spouse and children) at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau on behalf of your family members. For more information, please visit Immigration Services Agency website for information on Status of Residence of "Dependent (Family Stay)."

Depending on individual circumstances, there were cases where dependent family members' visa applications were delayed, or even rejected. We advise you to think very carefully about bringing your family to Japan, by taking all matters into consideration.

(2) Before departing for Japan, the grantees should acquire information about Japanese weather, climate, customs, university education, and conditions of the university to be attended in Japan, as well as about the difference between the Japanese legal system and that of his/her home country. The grantees are also recommended to learn the Japanese language necessary for their daily life.

(3) As the first installment of the scholarship payment will be made from one month to one and a half months after the grantee's arrival in Japan, the grantee is recommended to bring at least approximately US$2,000 with him/her to Japan to cover immediate living expenses and other necessary expenses.

(4) The scholarship payments will be transferred to the bank account at Japan Post Bank (JP Bank) opened by each grantee after the arrival in Japan. MEXT will not transfer the scholarship payments to other accounts.

(5) Grantees who have tested positive for infectious diseases including tuberculosis following a medical exam must be treated before arrival in Japan. Grantee's arrival in Japan will not be approved if he/she is not fully recovered by the time of arrival.

(6) Grantees must enroll in the National Health Insurance program (Kokumin Kenko Hoken) at his/her own expense upon arrival in Japan.

(7) It is suggested that grantees acquire an "Individual Number Card (My Number Card)" upon arrival in Japan.

(8) Information regarding the MEXT Scholarship recipient (name, gender, date of birth, nationality, accepting university/graduate school/undergraduate school, field of specialty, period of enrolment, career path after completion of scholarship, contact information [address, telephone number, e-mail address]) may be shared with other relevant government organizations for the purpose of utilization by overseas students programs implemented by the Japanese Government (support during period of study in Japan, follow-up survey, improvement of the overseas student system).

Information regarding MEXT Scholarship Students (excluding date of birth and contact information) may be included in publicity materials prepared by the Japanese Government for promoting the acceptance of overseas students in Japan, particularly in order to introduce former MEXT Scholarship Students who are playing active roles in countries around the world.

These terms and conditions are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship recipients must comply with and submit when they have been granted the Scholarship. Those who consent to this treatment will be admitted as MEXT Scholarship Students.

(9) In principle, receiving another scholarship from an organization (including a government organization of the home country) other than the Japanese government (MEXT or other Japanese government organization) is permitted. However, applicants should consult with the Japanese Embassy in the home country in advance, since some scholarships may not be combined.

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(10) If an applicant is judged not to meet the conditions for landing in Japan, he/she may be rejected.
(11) All personal information that we receive from applicants will be used only for the purposes of admissions screening, collecting statistical information, student registration, and educational affairs.
(12) The English texts attached to the Application Guidelines and the Application Form are for complementary use only. English expressions do not change the Japanese content.
(13) If there are any questions about the content of the written text in this Application Guideline or any other matters, applicants/grantees should inquire at the Japanese Embassy in the applicant's country and follow their instructions.
(14) In addition to the regulations stipulated in this Application Guideline, any regulations that are necessary to implement the Japanese Government Scholarship programs shall be determined by the Japanese Government.

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Young Leaders' Program (School of Local Governance)
Curriculum Guidelines

I Basic Concepts

1. Each subject will deal with theories based not only on the experiences of the so-called modern Western World, but also on those concerned with the historical experiences of Japan and other non-Western countries. While analyzing commonalities in the modernization process along with its various possibilities, the courses seek to find the most desirable method for each country's modernization. (Comparative Approach)

2. Through modernization, our thoughts and ideas undergo deep transformations. However, the curriculum will not be concerned with modern ideas alone, but will also incorporate basic premises from the classical civilizations and ideas of the great thinkers. (Emphasis on liberal arts education aiming at self-relativization and critical thinking)

3. Going beyond instruction that is related to skills and knowledge, the curriculum will emphasize the fostering of students' ideas; identifying problems; and developing the ability to arrive at their own solutions. (Emphasis on discussion and self-study)

4. Through encounters with leading figures from all areas (including other promising young students), the curriculum aims to create human networks and further understanding about Japan.

5. As decentralization progresses in line with a country's economic development, the demand for local governance and government that is capable of responding to various regional issues such as education, health, welfare, and local development rises. This program aims to cultivate leaders and core personnel for such local governance in their respective countries by equipping them with advanced theories on local governance and practices in Japan.

II Students

The course is designed for young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in Asia and Central Europe as future leaders in local governance.

III Courses (Courses offered are subject to change)

1. Required Courses (6 credits)
   - Local Government System and Finance
   - Local Governance in the Changing World
   - Introduction to Japan

2. Recommended Courses (at least 6 credits)
   - Microeconomics I
   - Essential Microeconomics
   - Economic Development of Japan
   - Government and Politics in Japan
   - International Relations
   - Structure and Process of Government
   - Leadership and Knowledge Creation
   - Economic Development Based on ADB Experiences
   - States and Economies in the Indo-Pacific
   - Social Issue Workshop: Lessons from Japanese Experiences
   - Social Issue Workshop for Business-Driven Innovation
   - Workshop on Policymaking for Sustainable Development
   - Cybersecurity
   - Responding to Global Challenges

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3. Elective Courses (Credits for the graduation requirement)
   - Macroeconomics I
   - Government and Market
   - Data Science for Public Policy
   - International Trade
   - Development Economics
   - East Asian Economies
   - Japanese Foreign Policy
   - International Security Studies
   - Human Resources Management
   - Social Security System in Japan and the World
   - Introduction to Data Science
   - The Making of Modern Japan

4. Colloquium (2 credits) (Required Course)
   This course will provide an opportunity to participate in lectures by, and discuss various issues with, many distinguished government leaders and business executives. The colloquium will be organized fifteen or sixteen times a year, from the fall to the spring terms.

5. Independent Study (4 credits) (Required Course)
   There are regular interactive seminars focused on discussions and presentations. Based on the discussions, students will produce a policy paper on a topic of their choice that pertains to local governance, with a perspective of comparison between their home country and another, such as Japan. under the guidance of designated advisors.

6. Workshop (2 credits) (Required Course)
   A Workshop, including a field trip on local governance in Japan, will be conducted in association with several local governments and NPOs.

7. Other Educational Activities
   Japanese Language Class:
   All lectures are conducted in English, making it unnecessary for students to master Japanese. However, Japanese language courses will be offered to students who wish to further their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

IV Further information

For more information on GRIPS, please visit: https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/

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APPLICATION FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP

日本政府（文部科学省）奨学金留学生申請書

Young Leaders' Program Student for 2027 School of Local Governance)
ヤング・リーダーズ・プログラム留学生（地方行政コース）

ＩＮＳＴＲＵＣＴＩＯＮＳ（記入上の注意）

1．The application must be typewritten if possible, or neatly handwritten in block letters. （明瞭に記入すること。）

2．Numbers should be in Arabic figures.（数字は算用数字を用いること。）

3．Year should be written in the Anno Domini system. （年号はすべて西暦とすること。）

4．Proper nouns should be written in full, and not be abbreviated. （固有名詞はすべて正式な名称とし、一切省略しないこと。）

*Personal data entered in this application will only be used for scholarship selection purposes, and contact information such as e-mail addresses will only be used for forming related human networks after the student returns home and for sending of information by the Japanese Government.
（本申請書に記載された個人情報については、本奨学金の選考のために使用するほかは、特に E-mail アドレス等の連絡先については、帰国後における関係者のネットワークを作ること、及び必要に応じ日本政府より各種情報を送信する以外には使用しない。）

5．Please complete each section as fully and accurately as possible. Please respond to all questions. The information you provide is essential in reviewing your application. Please note that if you provide any false or misleading statement or incomplete or inaccurate information in your application, your application may not be screened, you may be denied admission or, if you have been admitted, you may be dismissed from GRIPS.（提出書類の記載事項が事実と相違していることが判明した場合には、入学後であっても入学を取り消すことがある。）

1．Name in Full in Your Native Language
（姓名（自国語））
_____ (Family Name/Surname) , _____ (First Name) (Middle Name)

In Roman Block Capital Letters (as written in your passport)
（ローマ字、パスポート表記がある場合は、それに合わせること）
_____ (Family Name/Surname) , _____ (First Name) (Middle Name)

(Sex)
☐ Male（男）
☐ Female（女）

(Marital Status)
☐ Single（未婚）
☐ Married(既婚)

2．Nationality
（国　籍）
_____

2－2．Possession of Japanese Nationality
（日本国籍を有する者）
☐ Yes, I have.（はい）
☐ No, I don't have.（いいえ）

3．Date of Birth（生年月日）

19 _____ Year（年） _____ Month（月） _____ Day（日）

_____ Age（年齢）：as of October 1, 2027
(2027 年 10 月 1 日現在の年齢)

Photograph
Taken within the last 6 months, providing a clear, front view of your entire face.
Write your name and nationality in block letters on the back of the photo.

（写真（６×４㎝））

4．Present Occupation（現職）

Present Position（役職名） _____

Department/Section（部署） _____

Employer（勤務先） _____

Address（住所） _____

Postal Code（郵便番号） _____

TEL （電話番号） _____

Work Email（職場Ｅメールアドレス） _____

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5. Residential Address (現住所)

Address (住所) Postal Code (郵便番号)

If the above present home address will be changed at the time of leaving from your country, please specify the changed address below. (渡日時の住所が上記現住所から変更になることが確定している場合は、下記に記入すること。)

TEL (電話番号) Personal Email (個人メールアドレス)

* If possible, write an E-mail address where you can be contacted for periods that include the time before you come to Japan, your stay in Japan and the period after you return home.
(可能な限り、渡日前～日本留学中～帰国後にわたり使い続けることが予想されるＥメールアドレスを記入すること。)

6. Field of Study Specialized in the Past (Be as detailed and concrete as possible.)
(過去に専攻した専門分野 (できるだけ具体的に詳細に書くこと。))

7. Education History (学歴)

		Full Name of Institution & Location (学校名及び所在地)	Year and Month of Enrollment (入学年月)	Year and Month of Graduation (卒業年月)	Duration of Schooling (修学年数)	Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years and Levels (学位・資格、専攻科目、飛び級の状況)
Primary Education (初等教育)	Elementary School (小学校)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	
Secondary Education (中等教育)	Lower Secondary Education (Middle School/Junior High School) (中学校)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	
	Upper Secondary Education ((Senior) High School) (高校)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	*-1
Tertiary (Higher) Education (高等教育)	Undergraduate (Bachelor's) (大学)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	
	Graduate (Master's/ Doctoral) (大学院)	Name (学校名) Location: City & Country (所在地: 都市、国)			years (年) and months (月)	

Total Number of Years and Months of Education (以上を通算した全学校教育修学年数) As of October 1, 2027 (2027年10月1日現在)	_____Years and_____months (年) (月)

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＊If the blank spaces above are not sufficient for information required, please attach a separate sheet. In such case, please stipulate that the information is on a separate page.
((注) 上欄に書ききれない場合には、適当な別紙に記入して添付すること。その場合は、別紙に記入する旨を上記学歴欄に明記すること。)

Notes: 1. Exclude kindergarten and nursery school education. (幼稚園・保育所教育は含まれない。)
2. Preparatory education for university admission should be included in upper secondary school. (いわゆる「大学予備教育」は中等教育に含まれる。)
3. If you have passed a high school equivalency examination (and did not graduate from high school), indicate as such in the fifth column (Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years and Levels) with *-1.(高等学校卒業程度資格を有している場合には、その旨を＊-1 欄に記入すること。)
4. Any school years or levels skipped should be indicated in the fifth column (Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years and Levels). (Example: Skipped senior year for early graduation)
(いわゆる「飛び級」をしている場合には、その旨を該当する教育課程の「学位・資格、専攻科目、飛び級の状況」欄に記載すること。(例：３年次を飛び級により短期卒業))
5. If you attended multiple schools at the same level of education due to moving house or readmission to university, write the names of the schools in the same column. (住居の移転や大学の再入学等を理由に、同教育課程で複数の学校に在籍していた場合は、同じ欄に複数の学校の在籍を記載すること。)
6. Calculate and write the total number of years and months of education you will have completed at the time of your enrolment at GRIPS, based on your total time as a student (as detailed above, including extended leave such as summer vacation). (修学年数合計は在籍期間を算出し、記入すること。(長期休暇も含める))

8. Employment Record (List your current and previous employment (up to three positions) **in reverse chronological order**, starting with your most recent position.)
(職歴：過去の役職から現職も含めて３つ記入すること)

*****At least 3 years of full-time work experience in public administration is required.*****

(行政機関等において、常勤職員として３年以上の実務経験が必須)

Name and Location of Organization (勤務先及び所在地)	Department/Section (部署名)	Position (役職名)	Job Description (職務内容)	Period of Employment (勤務期間) YYYY/MM to YYYY/MM
Present occupation: To be shown in the former page (現職：前のページに表記済)				From To Present
				From To
				From To

＊If the blank spaces above are not sufficient for information required, please attach a separate sheet.
((注) 上欄に書ききれない場合には、適当な別紙に記入して添付すること。)

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9. Extracurricular and Regional Activities （課外活動又は地域社会での活動）

（課外活動又は地域社会での活動）	（期間）

10. English Proficiency（英語能力）

Score of TOEFL iBT (TOEFL のスコア) _____ or Score of IELTS Academic (IELTS のスコア) _____ Date of the Test (受験日) 20 _____
Year（年）Month（月）Day（日）

11. Accompanying Dependents : Provide the following information if you plan to bring your spouse and children.
（同伴家族欄（日本に同伴する予定の配偶者・子供がいる場合に記入すること。））

＊ Note that only (a) a spouse or (b) a spouse and children are allowed as accompanying dependents.
Grantees are required to take all necessary procedures for their Dependent Visa after arriving in Japan, and such visa applications may be delayed, or even rejected.
All expenses incurred by the presence of dependents must be borne by the grantee.

（注）なお、扶養家族として同伴できるのは、(a)配偶者、または(b)配偶者と子のみ。奨学生は日本到着後、扶養家族ビザの取得に必要な手続きをすべて行う必要がある。ビザ申請は遅延または却下される場合がある。同伴者に必要な経費はすべて自己負担である。

Name (氏　名)	Relationship (続　柄)	Age (年　齢)

12. Person to be notified in applicant's home country, in case of emergency:
（緊急の際の母国連絡先）

ⅰ) Name in Full
（氏名） _____

ⅱ) Address
（住所） _____

TEL（電話番号） _____

E-mail（E メールアドレス） _____

ⅲ) Occupation
（職　業） _____

ⅳ) Relationship
（本人との関係） _____

If you understand and accept all the matters stated in the Application Guidelines for the Japanese Government (MEXT) scholarship for 2027 and apply for it, check the box on the right. (2027 年度日本政府（文部科学省）奨学金留学生募集要項に記載されている事項をすべて了解して申請する場合は右記の□にチェックを入れること。) ☐

Date of Application
（申請年月日） _____

Applicant's Name
(in Roman Block Capitals)
（申請者氏名） _____

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School of Government
School of Local Governance

Essay Questions

The following essay questions will provide us with more information about you and your reasons for applying to the Young Leaders' Program.

Your essays must be typed. Please use A4-size paper or 8 1/2" × 11" paper. Strictly limit your responses to the maximum number of words designated for each question. Use standard double-spaced lines. Your name should appear at the top of each separate sheet of paper. The number of the essay question should precede every essay. Staple the essays together and submit them with the other application materials.

1. What are your most significant accomplishments, activities, and life experiences to date? Please emphasize the events which highlight your unique abilities and personality. (maximum 500 words)

2. What is your leadership philosophy? Describe key individuals and/or experiences that shaped your philosophy. (maximum 500 words)

Supplemental Question

3. How did you become interested in the Young Leaders' Program? Please list specific information sources such as publications, alumni, faculty, and websites. (maximum 200 words)

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Recommendation Form

To the Applicant

Please complete only the top portion of this form. Your recommender should complete the rest of the form.

Applicant's Name (Family)	(Given)	(Middle)

To the Recommender

The person whose name appears above is applying for admission to the Young Leaders' Program.

Please provide your recommendation on your own letterhead or stationery. The Admissions Committee values the recommender's direct contact with the candidate. In your letter, please answer the following questions as candidly and specifically as possible:

Please return this form and your recommendation to the applicant in a sealed envelope, with your signature across the seal. The applicant will submit the sealed, signed envelope to us as part of the completed application package.

The Admissions Committee is aware of the time and care necessary to prepare this form. We gratefully acknowledge your help.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. How often have you observed the applicant? (Please tick one box)

☐every day ☐3 or 4 times a week ☐1 or 2 times a week ☐1 or 2 times a month

☐less than once a month

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3. Please provide a short list of specific activities which demonstrate the applicant's salient talents and strength, e.g., leadership, creativity.

4. Please discuss observations you have made concerning the applicant's leadership abilities. (Please tell the reason to judge that the applicant has a possibility to be a leader in your home country.)

5. Please discuss observations you have made concerning the applicant's interpersonal skills.

6. Please discuss observations you have made concerning the applicant's innovative/creative capabilities.

7. Please comment on specific ways the applicant could improve professionally.

8. Please give us your appraisal of the applicant in terms of the qualities listed below:
What reference group are you using to make your appraisal?

	Inadequate opportunity to observe	Below average (Bottom third)	Average (Middle third)	Good (Top third)	Very good (Top 15%)	Excellent (Top 10%)	Outstanding (Top 5%)	Exceptional (Top 2%)
Leadership potential								
Interpersonal skills								
Imagination and creativity								
Motivation and drive								
Personal integrity								
Self-confidence								
Personal maturity								
Sense of humor								
Self-discipline								
Intellectual ability								
Emotional energy								
Analytical/quantitative ability								
Ability in oral expression								
Time management								

9. Please write if you have any comment.

Please provide telephone numbers should the Admissions Committee feel a need to contact you regarding the reference.

☐ Business Telephone Number _____

☐ Home Telephone Number _____

Recommender's Signature _____

Recommender's Name (please print) _____ Date _____

Position or Title _____ Organization _____

Business Address _____

Home Address _____

健康診断書（2027年度版）

（医師に記入してもらうこと）
日本語又は英語により明瞭に記載すること。

CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH (for 2027)

(to be completed by the examining physician)
Please fill out (PRINT/TYPE) in Japanese or English.

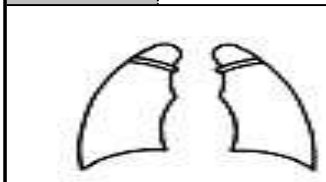
氏名 Name	Surname 姓	Given name 名	Middle name ミドルネーム
性別 Gender	☐ 男 Male ☐ 女 Female	生年月日 Date of Birth	年 月 日 yyyy mm dd

1．身体検査 Physical examination

(1)身長 Height	cm	(2)体重 Weight	kg
(3)血圧 Blood pressure	mmHg～ mmHg	(4)血液型 Blood type	☐A ☐B ☐AB ☐O ☐RH＋☐RH－
(5)脈拍 Pulse	/min ☐ 整 Regular ☐ 不整 Irregular	(7)色覚異常の有無 Color blindness	☐ 正常 Normal ☐ 異常 Impaired
(6) 視力 Eyesight Value	裸眼 Without glasses 右/R 左/L	(8)聴力 Hearing	☐ 正常 Normal ☐ 異常 Impaired
	矯正 With glasses or contact lenses 右/R 左/L	(9)言語 Speech	☐ 正常 Normal ☐ 異常 Impaired

2．胸部聴診及びX線検査 （6ヶ月以内） Physical and X-ray examinations of the chest (within six months)

撮影年月日 Date of X-ray	年 月 日 yyyy mm dd	フィルム番号 Film No.	



(1) 肺 Lungs	☐ 正常 Normal ☐ 異常 Impaired
(2) 心臓 Cardiomegaly	☐ 正常 Normal → (4)へ Go to (4) ☐ 異常 Impaired → (3)へ Go to (3)
(3) 心電図 Electrocardiograph	☐ 正常 Normal ☐ 異常 Impaired
(4) 胸部X線所見 Comment for the chest X-ray	

3．現在治療中の病気 Disease currently being treated

☐ 無 No ☐ 有 Yes（病名 Name of disease： ）

4．既往症 Past illness/disorder

該当するものにチェックし、完治時期/治療中を記入、いずれも該当しない場合は「なし」にチェックすること。

If it's applicable, tick ☑ and fill in the date of recovery/under treatment. If NOT contracted any of them in the past, tick "None of below".

☐ なし None of below	
☐ 結核 Tuberculosis	☐ その他1 Other disease name ( )
☐ マラリア Malaria	☐ その他2 Other disease name ( )
☐ その他感染症 Other communicable disease	☐ その他3 Other disease name ( )
☐ てんかん Epilepsy	☐ その他4 Other disease name ( )
☐ 腎疾患 Kidney disease	☐ その他5 Other disease name ( )
☐ 心疾患 Heart disease	☐ その他6 Other disease name ( )
☐ 糖尿病 Diabetes	
☐ 薬剤アレルギー Drug allergy	
☐ 精神疾患 Psychosis (Depression, Anxiety, ADHD, OCD etc)	
☐ 四肢機能障害 Functional disorder in the extremities	

5．ワクチン接種歴 Vaccination History

接種済みの場合、接種回数を記入
If already vaccinated, indicate the number of vaccinations

	Time(s)		Time(s)
☐ MMRV (Measles, Mumps. Rubella, Zoster)		☐ Hepatitis B	
☐ MMR (Measles, Mumps. Rubella)		☐ Chicken pox	
☐ MR (Measles, Rubella)		☐ Meningitis	
☐ M (Measles)		☐ Polio	
☐ Mumps		☐ Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus combined	

6．検 査 Laboratory tests

(1) 尿検査 Urinalysis	糖 Glucose	☐ Negative ☐ Positive	蛋白 Protein	☐ Negative ☐ Positive	潜血 Occult blood	☐ Negative ☐ Positive		
(2) 貧血検査 Anemia test	赤沈 ESR	mm/Hr	白血球数 WBC count	/cmm	血色素量 Hemoglobin	gm/dl	貧血 Anemia	☐ Negative ☐ Positive
(3) 肝機能検査 LFT	GPT (ALT)	IU/ l	GOT (AST)	IU/ l	γ-GTP	IU/ l		

7．医師の診断・意見 Physician's impression of the applicant's health

(1) 総評 Overall impression	
(2) 継続的治療・投薬の必要性がありますか。 Is there a need for regular treatment and medication?	☐ なし No ☐ 必要あり Yes → (1)へ記入 Fill in (1)
(3) **志願者の既往歴、診察・検査の結果から判断して、現在の健康の状況は充分に留学に耐えうるものと思われますか？ In view of the applicant's history and the above findings, is it your observation that his/her health status is adequate to pursue studies in**	☐ **はい Yes** ☐ **いいえ No** **必ず「はい」又は「いいえ」にチェックしてください。「はい」にチェックがない場合、 大使館は申請を受理しません。Please be sure to check either "YES" or "NO". If you do not tick "YES", the Embassy will NOT accept the application.**

医師署名 Physician's Signature		日付 Date	
検査施設名 Office/Institution		所在地 Address	

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