

Application Guide for
“Scholarship for Nikkei Communities in
Latin America and the Caribbean:
Program for Developing Leaders in Nikkei
Communities”
FY 2026

July 2025



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

FY2026 Application Guide for “Scholarship for Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Program for Developing Leaders in Nikkei Communities”

Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter JICA) calls for applications to the 2026 “Scholarship for Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Program for Developing Leaders in Nikkei Communities” as detailed below.

1. Aim of the Program and Expected Participants

The aim of this program is to assist Japanese emigrants in their resettlement efforts and to help them establish their lives overseas by nurturing future leaders among *Nikkei* communities. To this end, the program gives an opportunity of studying abroad in Japan to Japanese emigrants and their descendants living in Central, South America and the Caribbean. This program is open to those *Nikkei* who have been admitted to study at a graduate school in Japan, including individuals who wish to do so. In light of this, those who are deemed able to fulfill the above-mentioned purpose are invited to apply.

2. Ideal candidate profile

Those who wish to contribute to the development of the *Nikkei* communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and act as a “bridge” or “co-creation partner” between Japan and Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Participating Countries (11 countries)

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

4. Application period

July 1 (Tues.) 2025 – September 26 (Fri.) 2025

The application documents must be sent to JICA overseas office from outside Japan, or to the Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad from domestic applicants in Japan (herein after “JICA overseas office, etc.”) during the said period.

5. Expected Number of Participants

JICA will accept approximately **10** participants.

6. Fields of Study

Areas of research that can benefit the economic and social development of *Nikkei* communities and the countries they reside.

[Note 1]: Those majoring in medicine and odontology/dentistry cannot take part in clinical work, such as examining patients and conducting operations until receiving approval from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare based on the Japanese law.

[Note 2]: Practical training such as special technical skills to be gained at factories is not included as part of the designated fields of study to be conducted at Japanese university.

7. Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for this program, applicants must meet all of the following requirements.

- (1) Be a Japanese emigrant and descendant (In principle, up to third generation *Nikkei*)
- (2) Age: Under 40 years of age as of April 1, 2026 (born after April 2, 1986)
- (3) Academic Background: Completion of undergraduate-level education (bachelor's degree holders) including those expecting to graduate by March 2026
- (4) Admission into Graduate School
 - ① Those who have been admitted as full-time graduate students, and as research students or non-degree/part-time students at undergraduate/graduate level (hereinafter non-regular student), as well as those who are enrolled as above;
 - ② In addition, among those wishing to enter graduate school, individuals who have received informal consent from Japanese graduate school for admission as full-time students upon passing the entrance exam or similarly received such consent as non-regular students.
- (5) Japanese Language Proficiency: Having a sufficient level of Japanese language ability for daily living in Japan.
- (6) Work/Employment: If the applicant is currently under employment, he/she needs to resign or take a leave of absence from work prior to entering university so as to concentrate on his/her studies. During the period in which JICA provides support, with "Student" visa status, the applicant will not be allowed to engage in work, except activities within the scope allowed by the Minister of Justice as "activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted."
- (7) Health: Being in a physically and mentally fit condition

[Note 1]: Military personnel on active duty or civilians employed by the military cannot apply for this program under their present status.

[Note 2]: In principle, those who have already arranged to receive scholarship/financial aid from other organizations, or those who plan to engage in employment during the scheduled study period are not entitled to apply for this program.

[Note 3]: “Research Student” signifies a person who has been admitted conducting research in a specified field of study for a semester or for one academic year, apart from regular curriculum to obtain a degree. *If you are going to submit your research plan only as a research student, allowance will not be provided.

8. Period of Allowance Provision

- (1) After arriving in Japan, allowance will be provided up to a year for those who need research period as a non-regular student (research student or non-degree/part-time student, etc.)
- (2) After the above-mentioned period, when the student enrolls as a full-time status, additional years of allowance will continue to be provided: 2 more years to those entering a master’s course, 4 more years for doctoral course in medicine and odontology, and 3 more years for other fields of doctoral studies respectively. If Japanese language training is required by university prior to entering master’s and doctoral programs, allowance can be provided up to six months during the language training.
- (3) Necessary expenses incurred beyond the period of allowance provision will be borne by the student himself/herself.
- (4) Provision of allowance will be suspended from the second year onward if the student is not enrolled in university as a full-time student, although non-regular student is entitled for allowance for his/her first year.
- (5) For those who start receiving allowance as a graduate student, provision of allowance lasts for the minimum number of years required for obtaining respective degrees. (For example, 1 year provision for a second-year master student, and 3-year long provision for a second-year medicine/odontology doctoral student.)
- (6) Extension of the provision of allowance will not be admitted for those who do not obtain a degree within the designated period of allowance provision.

9. Details of Allowance and Method of Provision

- (1) Travel Allowance: In-kind provision

For designated itinerary and routes, economy (the most economical) class airline ticket will be provided for traveling between airport located in the capital city of student’s home country or another international airport that JICA designates to an international airport in Japan.

- (2) Transportation Cost: Provision of actual expenses

When the international student travels to and from Japan, transportation costs will be provided based on JICA’s guidelines for traveling between the selected international

airport in Japan to the city in which the host university is located. Upon arrival, transportation cost will be paid to student's bank account after arriving in Japan. For departure, necessary transportation expense will be remitted to student's bank account prior to leaving from Japan. (For those students who become entitled for allowance while in graduate school or living in Japan, transportation cost to travel to the venue of JICA's orientation will be provided as needed.)

(3) Living Allowance: 4,953 yen-5,052 yen (daily amount)

In accordance with JICA's standard for technical training participants (long-term trainees), the above-mentioned daily amount will be provided. However, when the international student takes leave or is absent from school for a long period of time, living allowance will not be provided as a general rule. After student's arrival in Japan, the allowance is to be remitted to his/her bank account every two months. Please note that the daily allowance will be calculated based on JICA's guidelines, taking into account additional stipend for designated areas. The allowance covers the date of arrival in Japan and the date of departure from Japan, as well as hospitalization period. Living allowance is intended to be used for other necessary expenses (such as purchasing books, domestic travel costs for research in Japan) and commuting fare to school as well.

(4) Outfit Allowance on arrival in Japan: 100,000 yen

This allowance will be provided upon arrival in Japan for purchasing necessities for living in Japan. Please note that the allowance is not provided for those who already have a base of residence in Japan.

(5) Moving (Housing) Allowance: 164,000 yen-224,000 yen

This allowance will be provided to cover temporary spending for initial rental contract and buying furniture that is essential for daily living. As a general rule, moving allowance is provided only one time during the study period in Japan. Exact amount of the allowance will be determined in consideration of additional stipend for designated regions according to JICA's guidelines.

(6) Airport Facility Fee: Provision of actual expenses

This fee includes passenger facility charge and security service surcharge at Japanese international airport upon returning to students' home country. JICA will pay the fee to travel agency in addition to airfare on the general condition that the student return to home country on the date authorized by JICA.

(7) Tuition: Provision of actual expenses

① Enrolment Fee and Tuition, etc.

Actual cost, stipulated by school regulations of university or Japanese language institutions, will be provided for those who have arranged to enter school after receiving

the letter of admission to this program. As a general rule, JICA will pay directly to university or Japanese language institution. In cases where JICA cannot do so due to the university's policy (for instance, at some public universities, students have to pay in cash at a designated branch of bank during a specified period,) JICA will pay to the school via student or student will be asked to prepay the fee and JICA will reimburse him/her for the cost. Please note that the provision of cost related to Japanese language studies is limited to those who are required to demonstrate certain level of Japanese proficiency prior to commencing master's or doctoral courses at university as mentioned in Section 8. (2) above.

As education and research expenses, travel expenses and conference participation fees for attending academic conferences held in Japan, and expenses for presenting research results in the doctoral program (paper submission fees, etc.) will be paid based on the application from the students with the approval of the supervisor of the supervisor.

② Examination Fee

JICA will provide the examination fee only when student has applied to school after receiving the letter of admission to this program. In case the students apply to several universities at a time, JICA will pay only for the one that student decides to get enrolled.

[Notes]: Other expenses not mentioned above will be borne by student on his/her own including the following items.

- Enrolment fee for National Health Insurance
- Medical expenses
- Visa application fee for "Short Term" visa needed to visit Japan beforehand for taking an entrance exam, and round-trip travel expense.

10. Recruitment, Selection and Notice of Admission

(1) Residents of overseas (overseas applicants)

- ① JICA overseas office is in charge of recruiting participants for this program in cooperation with other Nikkei related agencies in the country concerned. Please refer to the information of JICA overseas offices in your country for where to send application documents.
- ② JICA overseas office will conduct document selection and interview the candidates in cooperation with diplomatic missions as needed. The language used will be the same as the mode of instruction to be used at graduate school. Please be sure to demonstrate your willingness to contribute to Nikkei communities and your future plan at the time of interview.
- ③ JICA overseas office will report to its headquarters about the interview results.

- ④ JICA headquarters will make final decision on the admission of applicants after gathering reports from its overseas offices, etc.
- ⑤ JICA headquarters will notify the candidate about the admission status through its overseas office.

(2) Residents of Japan (applicants in Japan)

- ① The Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad will accept applications. Please refer to page 10 for the address to send application documents.
- ② JICA Headquarters will screen the application documents and conduct an interview. The language used in the interview will be the language used in the graduate school classes. During the interview, please be sure to explain your “intention to contribute to the Japanese American community” and “future plans”.
- ③ JICA Headquarters will conduct the final selection of applicants and decide whether they are successful or not.
- ④ JICA Headquarters will notify applicants of acceptance or rejection.

11. Selection Schedule (tentative)

	First round of selection (Document screening)	Notification of first round selection results	Second round selection (Interviews)	Final selection	Notification of Acceptance/Rejection
Residents of overseas	* Depends on the schedule of each overseas office.			Late October - Early November 2025	Mid-November 2025
Residents of Japan	September 26 - October 7, 2025	October 9, 2025	Mid-October 2025		

12. Application Documents

Applicants need to submit the following set of documents to JICA overseas office, etc in the country concerned by mail. Please note that these documents will not be returned to the applicant.

- (1) **Application Form:** One original copy (Form 1)
- (2) **Photo:** One photo (to be attached to the application form)

Photo needs to be taken within the last six months. Length 4cm by width 3cm; from the waist up; facing forward; without a hat. Please write your name and country on

the back of the photo.

- (3) **Personal Information Form:** One original copy (Form 2)
- (4) **Certificate of Health:** One original copy (Form 3)
- (5) **Pledges:** One original copy (Form 4)
- (6) **Essay on your future plan:** One original copy (Form 5)
- (7) **Letter of Recommendation** (if you belong to *Nikkei* organizations): One original copy
*If you do not belong to such organizations, it is not necessary to submit a letter of recommendation. However, the applicant is advised to contact a nearby *Nikkei* organization taking this opportunity.
- (8) **Official Transcript from University:** One original copy or notarized copy
- (9) **Certificate of Graduation, Diploma or Certificate of Expected Graduation:** Either one original or one notarized copy of one of the above documents
- (10) **Certificate of Enrolment** (if you already belong to a graduate school): One original copy or notarized copy
- (11) **Letter of Admission:** One duplicate copy
For those admitted to study at graduate school full-time, or as research students/non-degree students.
- (12) **Informal written consent from professor in charge at graduate school, etc.:** One original copy or duplicate copy (If you have received informal consent on admission as a full-time student or non-regular student after passing the entrance exam as mentioned in Section 7. (4) above.)
- (13) **Certificate/Proof of Japanese Language Proficiency** (if you have not taken an official exam of Japanese language, it is not required to submit this document.): One duplicate copy
- (14) **ID card** (identification card): One duplicate copy
- (15) **Passport** (if you have one): One duplicate copy * if you have a Japanese passport you must submit the Japanese one.
- (16) **Valid Japanese entry visa, re-entry permit, or residence card** (if you have one):
One duplicate copy

* Personal information provided in the application form will be used only for the purposes of 1) determining admission, 2) in the procedure relevant to graduate studies, 3) statistical information compiling the implementation of this program, and 4) the online program offered by the Open University of Japan in collaboration with JICA (see attachment).

13. Notes for Application Documents

- * For documents numbered (1), (3) and (5), please submit a filled-out form either Japanese or English form.(The applicant may write in either Japanese or English.)
For the document numbered (6), essay should be written in the language of instruction at graduate school(Japanese or English).

- * When filling out “ (1) Application Form” and “ (6) Essay on your future plans” in English, **please type it with a computer** in principle. If you must write it by hand, please fill it in a **BLOCK LETTER** so that it is easy to read.
- * Application cannot be accepted unless documents numbered (1) through (6) are completed accurately without missing information, and all other necessary documents are submitted in time for the deadline.

(1) Application Form

- If the applicant already resides in Japan, please write contact information (i.e. current address, telephone/fax number) both in Japan and in his/her home country.
- If the applicant has prior studying experience in Japan, please write the information in the section for “Visits to Japan.” If the applicant received any kind of scholarship in the past, please write down the title of the scholarship program.

(2) Certificate of Health

- Please use the specified form for a health checkup.
- Please be sure to have all the necessary information filled out in the form after receiving medical examination on all the required check items, because application cannot be processed without presenting all the required information.

(3) Essay on your future plan

- Please write your essay on “How you plan to use the research and acquired knowledge/skills to contribute to *Nikkei* societies and regional development of your home country?” Essay should be written in the language of instruction at graduate school (Japanese or English).

14. Points of Attention

- (1) Each applicant is responsible for making various arrangements including admission procedures into a Japanese graduate school, travel arrangement such as obtaining visa and other arrangement during their stay in Japan. Please be advised that JICA will not be able to assist in housing arrangement nor become a guarantor for renting a place to live.
- (2) For those wishing to conduct short-term research/training, we recommend that one apply to a program titled “Training Program for Nikkei Communities”.
- (3) If a full-time graduate student stays in the country of origin or in a third country for the purpose of conducting research, and the stay exceeds 30 days (counting from the following date of entry, and the previous date of departure), allowance of the period (after more than 31 days until the previous date of return to Japan) will not be provided.
- (4) If the international student stays in the country of origin or in a third country for private

reasons, allowance will not be provided from the departing date from Japan and the previous date of return to Japan.

- (5) If the applicant needs to visit Japan to take examination at university beforehand, he/she is responsible for applying to “Short-Term” visa and arranging round-trip travel, and such costs will be borne by the applicant himself/herself.
- (6) When the international student falls under one of the following instances below, the provision of allowance to the student will be suspended. Student will also be asked to return the allowance which was intended for use after the date of suspension. In addition, international student holding non-Japanese nationality must return to his/her country immediately.
 - ① Having violated the Japanese law or are involved in activities that cause social unrest.
 - ② Having violated the rules and regulations of graduate school, etc.
 - ③ Having violated the terms and accompanying conditions of the finalized provision of JICA’s allowance
 - ④ Suspended studying abroad due to his/her own personal reasons.
 - ⑤ Being unable to continue studies due to significantly difficult mental/physical conditions, and/or injuries /illness, etc.
 - ⑥ Having provided false information in the application form
 - ⑦ Being unable to be admitted into a master’s/doctoral program after one year since the start of the provision of allowance.
 - ⑧ Having not entered university by the end of October of the academic year in which the curriculum starts at the university concerned.
 - ⑨ Having received scholarship from other than JICA or other similar financial support (excluding those that have specific objective for conducting research)
 - ⑩ Other circumstances which JICA deems it applicable.
- (7) International student must report back to JICA quarterly using a designated form regarding the progress of his/her research.
- (8) When seminars inviting all the international students and other gatherings for overseas Japanese descendants are held, each student is required to take part in both the seminars and such gatherings in coordination with the university concerned unless there are unavoidable circumstances.
- (9) Please contact JICA overseas office, etc. in the country concerned for any inquires/clarifications that you may wish to have regarding the information written on this document, or any other questions.

End of document

[Reference Information]

- Research map (search site for researchers)

<https://researchmap.jp/researchers/?lang=en>

- JASSO (information about studying abroad in Japan)

https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html

[Contact and Address for Applications within Japan]

This program is implemented by the “Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad” commissioned by JICA. Any questions should be forwarded to the person in charge at the association as follows:

Address: The Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad

Attention: Ms. Suzuki

3-1, Shinko 2-chome, Naka-ku, Yokohama City, c/o JICA Yokohama Center
Kanagawa Prefecture 231-0001, Japan

Tel: +81-(0)45-211-1784

Fax: +81(0)45-211-1781

E-mail: nikkei-leader@jadesas.or.jp

Attachment ;

- Online Program Guideline on Japanese Modernization Lecture Series
- FAQ for Online Program Guideline on Japanese Modernization Lecture Series