



Project for Future Researchers at IITH to Enhance Network
Development with Scholarship of Japan, Phase 2
(FRIENDSHIP 2.0)

IITH-Japan FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Scholarship Application Guidelines for 2024

Project Overview

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started the FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project in December 2021, following the FRIENDSHIP project and based on the agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Japan. The purpose of the FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project is to establish a sustainable platform for academic and industrial collaborations between India and Japan at IITH, expecting that human resources produced through the platform will continuously contribute to academic and industrial development both in India and Japan.

The FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project now offers **IITH-Japan FRIENDSHIP Scholarship 2.0 for doctoral study at Japanese universities**, exclusively for **graduates from master's programs of IITH in science and technology**. The scholarship aims to establish sustainable academic and industrial research collaborations between India and Japan through promoting joint research, joint supervision, and other joint activities during grantees' doctoral study in Japan as participants of "the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) (hereby after referred to as KCCP).¹"

Availability and Term of Scholarship

The scholarship is available for enrollment from October 2024 to April 2025.

The term of scholarship is three (3) years only for doctoral programs^(Note). No extension is admitted.

(Note) JICA admits an additional 6-month scholarship for research studentship before enrolling as a doctoral student when both the prospective supervisor of the Japanese university and the guide for the master's thesis at IITH find it necessary for smooth doctoral studies. In the application form, indicate whether you wish to enter the doctoral program directly or to be enrolled as a research student.

A research student must

- prepare for doctoral research under the supervision of the expected supervisor of the doctoral program, and
- must pass the entrance examination by the end of March 2025 (for April 2025 enrollment);

¹ A program that provides participants with opportunities to pursue higher degrees at Japanese universities. FRIENDSHIP Scholarship 2.0 has its purpose and activities, following the regulations of the JICA KCCP.

otherwise, the student will lose entitlement to the scholarship and need to return to India at the end of research studentship. In the case where the participant does not follow this procedure, the student must waive the airfare for the return flight to India.

Number of Available Scholarships

About 8

Field of Study

Any field of science and technology will be covered; however, priority is those where IITH and Japanese universities have actively collaborated during the FRIENDSHIP programs from 2012 to 2023 and those that IITH emphasizes. Preparatory study of the Japanese language is not requested.

Eligibility

- 1) Nationality: Citizens of the Republic of India;
- 2) Academic Background: Graduates or those who are to graduate by July 2024 from master's programs at IITH in science and technology;
- 3) Health Condition: Mentally and physically sound;
- 4) English Proficiency: Adequate for study in Japan;
- 5) Letter of Acknowledgement by both the supervisor at IITH and the prospective supervisor^(Note) in Japan

(Note) Applicants need to confirm with the prospective supervisor that the entrance examination is given **online**. The scholarship does not support travel costs for taking an examination in Japan. The scholarship is available only for those who apply for and have obtained admission to one of the doctoral programs or research studentships in science and technology offered by Japanese universities.

- 6) Non-eligibility
 - Those who are military personnel or military civilian employees at the time of their arrival in Japan or during the period of payment of the scholarship
 - Those who are to receive any other scholarship during the period of this scholarship

Financial Assistance Provided

Tuition Fees; Living Allowance; Airfare; Insurance; and other allowances following the regulation of the JICA KCCP.

Application

Download and fill in the application form for the IITH-Japan FRIENDSHIP Scholarship 2.0 from the Japan Desk website: <https://www.iith.ac.in/japandesk/>

Submit a set of data files via e-mail to <application.iith@gmail.com>

The following must be attached:

- Certificate of Grade Point Average of bachelor's and master's degree
- Copy of Master's Degree Certificate or Letter of Completion from IITH
- Health Certificate from IITH or other medical institutions (issued within one year)
- Copy of Passport (If applicable)

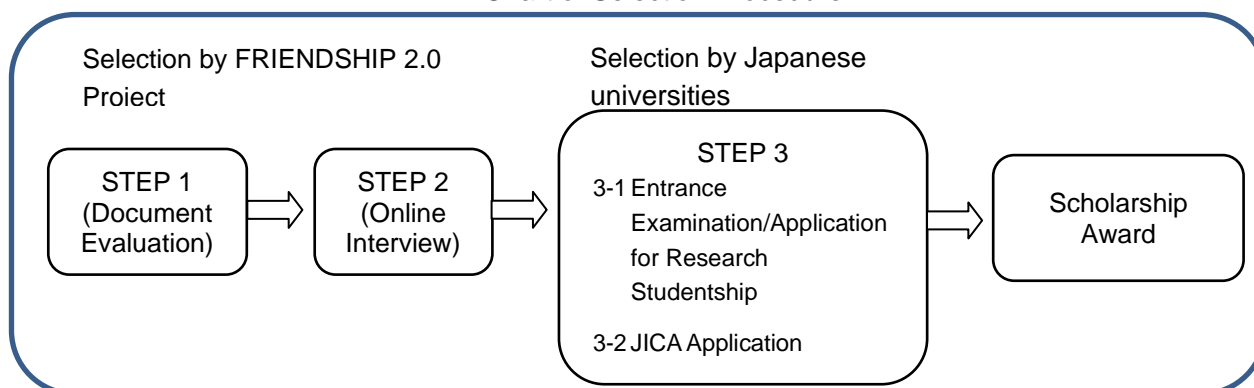
Deadline: 23:59 IST, 15th December 2023

No late/incomplete/handwriting application is acceptable.

Selection Procedures

Selection by FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project includes document evaluation (STEP 1) and interview (STEP 2). Successful applicants of STEP 1 are invited to interview. Final candidates after STEP 2 proceed to STEP 3.

<Chart of Selection Procedure>



Selection Criteria of STEP 1 and 2

- 1) Strong motivation to complete the doctoral program at a Japanese university and thereby contribute to academic and/or industrial research collaboration between India and Japan
- 2) Mutual understanding of the research plan between the prospective supervisor in Japan and guide for the master's thesis at IITH
- 3) Potential ability to conduct research at Japanese universities based on the research experiences at IITH, especially participation in the joint research with the prospective supervisor as part of master's research at IITH
- 4) Appropriateness of the research field from the viewpoint of social challenges and relevance

of the research plan with ongoing and/or planned joint research in terms of contribution to establishing sustainable research collaboration between IITH and the prospective supervisor.

STEP 1

The FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project selects candidates for further steps through document evaluation and will notify each applicant of the result by 28th December, 2023. Successful applicants should proceed to STEP 2.

STEP 2 (January 2024): Successful applicants of STEP 1

Candidates are invited to an interview session given by the FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project to be held on either 11th or 12th January 2024. The interview is conducted online. Detailed information will be sent to each candidate via e-mail as necessary. The result of the interview will be notified by 31st January 2024.

STEP 3 (February - May 2024): Successful applicants of STEP 2

3-1 Application for Japanese University

Successful candidates are requested to consult the prospective supervisor and submit an official application for admission to a Japanese university, either as a doctoral student or a research student, in accordance with the application^(Note).

The application fee is borne by JICA. The applicants are required to reimburse the application fee to JICA if he/she cannot get admission.

Only those who have successfully received an admission certificate to a Japanese university are awarded the scholarship.

(Note) Withdrawal is accepted only before 16th February 2024, and only in the cases where both his/her supervisor of master's thesis and supervisor-to-be in Japan recognize it inevitable.

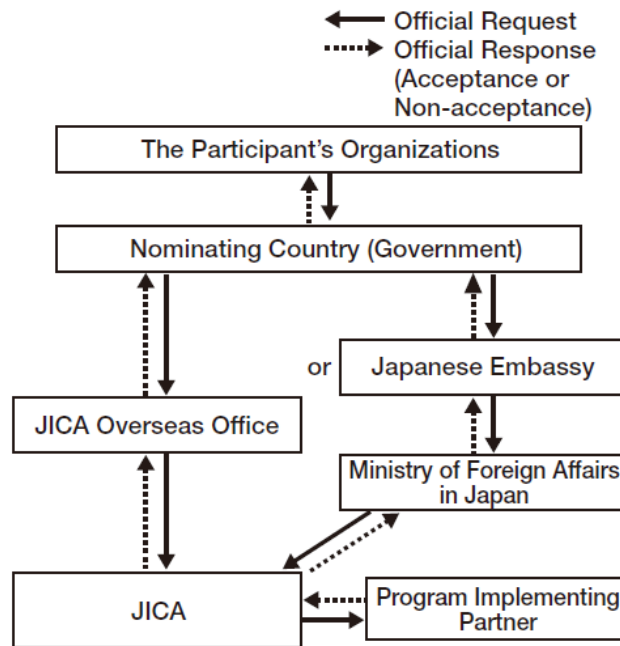
Should successful candidates withdraw from the scholarship, those who are on a waiting list will be successful and eligible to apply.

3-2 Application for JICA

In parallel with 3-1, the FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project will notify and request candidates to prepare and submit the JICA Application Form of KCCP². This form will be shared with JICA and the Government of India.

The candidates are required to follow JICA's instructions for preparing for the JICA Application.

² Based on the application, JICA will send an invitation letter, which is necessary for the visa application as a student in Japan.



Further Information

For any inquiry on the IITH-Japan FRIENDSHIP Scholarship 2.0, e-mail to <enquiry.iith@gmail.com>

Disclaimer

The FRIENDSHIP 2.0 project makes every effort to ensure that the information provided on this page is accurate and up to date. However, the matters covered, including numbers of recipients, values, courses, availability, and structure of scholarship, are subject to regular reviews and renewed as necessary. Applicants are encouraged to address any inquiries in the first instance.