

FAQ regarding ABE Initiative

Questions related to "Qualifications and Requirements"		* In detail, Please see [General Information/ 7.Target Participatns(p.3-p.4) , 10. Qualification and equirement(p.4-p.5)] <General Information> http://www.education-japan.org/africa/ac_form/General_Information_5th_batch.pdf
No	Question	Answer
Q1	I'm not between 22 and 39 year's old as of 1st 2018. (e.g. 21years old, 41 years old) Can I apply for ABE initiative? <i>(Age/ General Information (p.4))</i>	It depends on the judgment by JICA overseas office in the country of your nationality. Please contact JICA overseas office for inquiry. *Please also see " Contact List (JICA overseas office list)" http://www.education-japan.org/africa/2-(3)Contact_List.pdf * It is required as a prior condition that you meet other requirements except for "Age".
Q2	I have a degree which is recognized as equivalent Bachelor's degree even though I have 15 years (not 16 years) academic background. Can I apply for ABE initiative? <i>(Education/ General Information (p.4))</i>	Yes, if you are able to apply if you have a degree equivalent to Bachelor's degree. However, we recommend you to inquire desired university(s) to confirm if the university accept or not. There are some universities that require 16 years of academic background in Japan. *Please also see "Detailed University Information" to contact Japanese Universities. http://www.education-japan.org/africa/search/index4.php
Q3	Currently, I do not belong to any organization. Can I apply for ABE initiative? <i>(Target Participants/ General Information (p.3-4))</i>	It depends on JICA overseas office in the country of your nationality. If it is different from General Information, it is listed up "Contact List" or referred "Supplemental Information Sheet." Please check "Contact List" for your confirmation. If you are not sure, please contact JICA overseas office for inquiry. *Please also see " Contact List (JICA overseas office list)" http://www.education-japan.org/africa/2-(3)Contact_List.pdf
Q4	I applied for the ABE Initiative last year. Can previous applicants re-apply? <i>(Qualification and Requirements/ General Topic)</i>	Yes, but please be noted previous application form (1-4th batch) will not be acceptable. All of applicants must use 5th bath application form to apply.
Q5	I cannot understand Japanese at all. Can I apply? <i>(Qualification and Requirements/ General Topic)</i>	Yes. Japanese proficiency is not required to apply. However, basic conversation instructions are given during the orientation immediately after a participant arrives in Japan.

Questions related to "Application Documents"		*In detail, Please see [General Information]and [Instructions] <General Information> http://www.education-japan.org/africa/ac_form/General_Information_5th_batch.pdf <Instraction> http://www.education-japan.org/africa/ac_form/2-(1)Instructions.pdf
No	Question	Answer
Q1	What kind of documents should I submit to apply ABE Initiative? <i>(Application Documents: General Topic)</i>	Please prepare the document(s) described below. 1-(1), Application Form (Excel File) ANNEX 1. Current and Previous Work experience ANNEX 2. Career Plan after graduation ANNEX 3. Research plan 1-(2), Recommendation Letter * Please download the file above from the following (URL) http://www.education-japan.org/africa/ap_form.html Other documents to submit. There is no forms. Please prepare by yourself - University Diploma (Certificate) - Academic Transcript - Copy of Passport (ID) - 6 piece of Color photos (3x4cm) *other than the photo attached on Application Form - Doctor's Letter (only for those applicable) * Please also see " Instruction(p.1)"
Q2	When is the due date for the application documents? <i>(Application Documents: General Topic)</i>	Generally, for the 5th batch applicants will close at the end of October, however, it is subject to change by JICA Overseas Office. We recommend you contact JICA Overseas Office in the country of your nationality for the detailed selection schedule. *Please also see " Contact List " http://www.education-japan.org/africa/2-(3)Contact_List.pdf
Q3	To where do I submit the application documents? <i>(Application Documents: General Topic)</i>	To where you submit your application documents varies depending on county of your nationality. Please contact JICA Overseas in the country of your nationality in this regard. *Please also see " Contact List " http://www.education-japan.org/africa/2-(3)Contact_List.pdf
Q4	Can I submit an application that is handwritten? <i>(Application Documents: General Topic)</i>	No. All of the contents in your application form should be typed, except for your signature. The reason for that is, if we are not able to read what is in the form, your application is automatically rejected regardless of how capable you are.

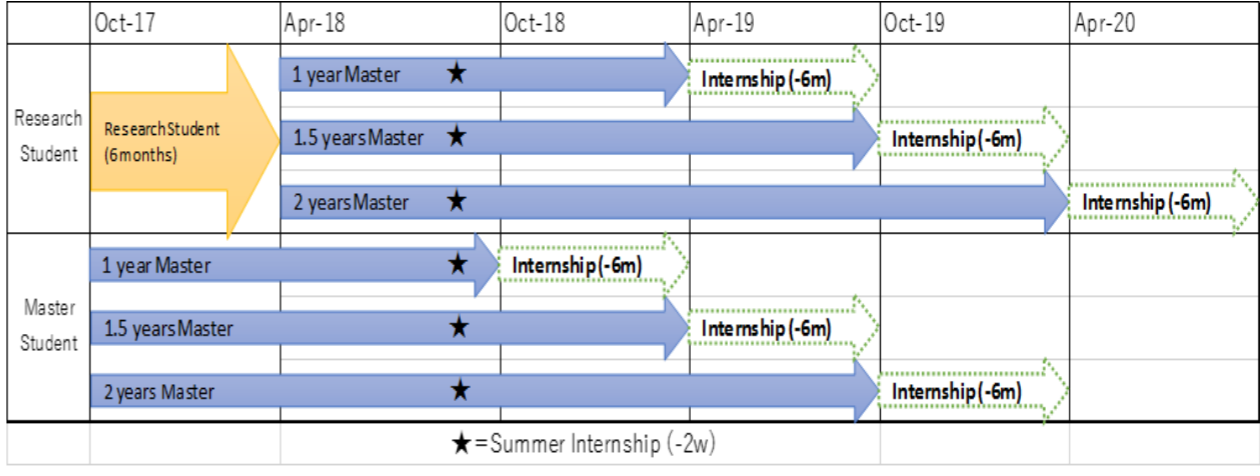
Q5	There is no JICA overseas office in my country. Where should I contact and submit my application documents? (Application Documents: General Topic)	Some JICA overseas offices cover other country(s). Please check "Contact List" to check which JICA overseas office cover your country. *Please also see " Contact List " http://www.education-japan.org/africa/2-(3)Contact_List.pdf
Q6	Is there online application form? (Application Documents: General Topic)	No, in principle, all of application documents should be original (or photocopied of original with original notary seal, hard copy). Please contact JICA overseas office if you are not sure how to submit them.
Q7	How can I decide desired university (1st-3rd choice)? (Application Documents: Declaration of desired University(p.2))	You can find how to find your desired university in Instruction(p.3-p.4). In addition, we strongly recommend you to check "Detailed University Information" to see "Prior Inquiry". * You may be disqualified if you don't inquire to the professor before deadline. In detail, please check Instruction (p.5) *Please also see "Detailed University Information" http://www.education-japan.org/africa/search/index4.php
Q8	I have several degrees from more than 2 universities.Which diploma/transcript should I submit? (Application Form: Education Background(p.3))	If you have graduated more than 2 universities (as higher education), please fill in ALL of universities in the Application Form (Education Background (p.3)), and please submit ALL of diploma(s) and transcript(s) as well. If you have Master's degree already, please submit both of Bachelor's ones and Master's ones.
Q9	It is required to obtain confirmation for nomination. Does it mean I need a signature from my current employer or boss to apply for the program? (Application Form:4. Present Organization and Nomination(p.5))	Yes, if you are currently employed by a company or governmental entity, we need you to provide the organization's consent for you to apply for this program. (It may depend on the judgment by JICA overseas office in the country of your nationality. So, please contact JICA overseas office for inquiry.)
Q10	Is Recommendation Letter required? Which organization (who) should issue it? (Application Documents:Recommendation letter)	Yes, you are required to submit at least one recommendation letter. Please ask one of following organizations to fill in the letter; your country's government, Japanese company, university, your organization, Embassy of Japan, JETRO, or JICA overseas office. * (For applicant who does not have any employer) A letter of recommendation from related organization which you belonged to in the past, such as graduated school and any other relevant person/organization are applicable. *Please also check General Information(p.5-p.6)
Q11	What "notary seal" means? (Application Documents:University Diploma(Certificate) / Academic Transcript)	To officially notarize the copied document, affixed by authorized public institutions or lawyers. *Please also check General Information(p.5-p.6) and Instruction (p.14)
Q12	Can I submit diploma and transcript written in Other Language than English? (Application Documents : University Diploma(Certificate) / Academic Transcript)	If you have the certificate and the transcript written in other than English, please attach official translation for each document. And please do not forget to submit the notary sealed diploma and transcript written in other language than English as well. (We will not allow you to only submit those English translation.)
Q13	Could you return the submission documents? (Application Documents : General Topic)	It depends on JICA overseas office where you submitted Application Documents. Please contact JICA oversea office.


Questions related to "Selection Procedures"		In detail, Please see [General Information](p.7-8) <General Information> http://www.education-japan.org/africa/ac_form/General_Information_5th_batch.pdf
No	Question	Answer
Q1	Please tell me the Selection Procedures. (Selection Procedures: General Topic)	Please check General Information (p.7-p.9). * Application period may be differed in each country. Please check with the JICA office in the country of your nationality. *Please also see " Contact List (JICA overseas office list)" http://www.education-japan.org/africa/2-(3)Contact_List.pdf
Q2	Could I be exempted from English exam (1st selection) turning in the English language certificate (TOEFL, IELTS) ? (Selection Procedures General Topic)	No. You are required to take English exam (1st selection/TOEFL) even if you have an English Language certificate.
Q3	Is there example of the 1st Selection exam (Math and English)? (Selection Procedure: 1st Selction)	You can see example of the exam at the site below. * Examples of Math Exam http://www.education-japan.org/africa/news/index.php#h290818 * TOEFL (Test Taker Handbook) https://www.ets.org/s/toefl_itp/pdf/toefl_itp_test_taker_handbook.pdf
Q4	Does it cost to take 1st-4th selection? (Selection Procedure: General Topic)	There are no fees to be charged directly by JICA/JICE (commissioned organization of the program implementation) during the selection process. Any costs incurred during the selection procedures including travel expenses, documents preparation (photos, official notification etc.) and any other personal expenses will NOT BE COVERED by JICA/JICE but should be covered by an applicant.

Q5	Please tell me the reasons for disqualification. <i>(Selection Procedure: General Topic)</i>	The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.
Q6	What does it mean being a "Research Student" and on how does it differ from a Master Student? <i>(Selection Procedure: General Topic)</i>	"Research Students" are part-time students who utilize their time to prepare for the entrance examination for a master's courses. Research students are able to join lectures, receive instruction from professors and make use of university facilities. The period for being a research student is limited to 6 months.

Questions related to "Program and Life in Japan"

In detail, Please see [General Information] and [Instructions]
 <General Information>
http://www.education-japan.org/africa/ac_form/General_Information_5th_batch.pdf

No	Question	Answer
Q1	Is ABE Initiative a full scholarship? <i>(Program and Life in Japan / Allowance)</i>	Yes. Fees for Tuition at Japanese university master's degree programs (and research student), allowances for living expenses will be covered by scholarship. Refer to General Information (p.9-10) "15. Expenses To Be Borne by JICA".
Q2	Can I obtain full scholarship even while I am a Research Student? <i>(Program and Life in Japan / Allowance)</i>	Yes. JICA provides tuition fee and living allowance during Research Student period.
Q3	Can any of my allowances be paid into my home country bank account during my stay in Japan? <i>(Program and Life in Japan / Allowance)</i>	It is not possible because the bank card for withdrawing the allowance will be distributed by JICA after you arrive in JICA Tokyo. All allowances are paid in Japan.
Q4	How is the internship arranged? <i>(Program and Life in Japan / Internship)</i>	<p>Summer Internship opportunity is MANDATORY and will be arranged by matching between your availability and offers from companies. Post-Graduation Internship can be arranged ONLY IF Japanese company offer you the opportunity. The company, period of internship and location will be informed 2 months before the graduation.</p>  <p>★ = Summer Internship (-2w)</p>
Q5	What happens in case I fail the entrance exam (to enter the master's course)? <i>(Program and Life in Japan / Entrance Exam: For Research Student)</i>	In case a participant fail the entrance exam he/she has to return to home country.
Q6	Can my family come to Japan together? <i>(Program and Life in Japan / Inviting your Family)</i>	<p>If you would like to invite your family and stay together with them, it is better to invite them AFTER 6 MONTHS of your arrival, and also after you enroll in the university as regular student.</p> <p>You should be responsible for all expenses, and should take all necessary procedures and responsibilities regarding inviting your family to Japan. JICA does not provide any support or additional assistance other than issuing certain documents necessary for the invitation procedure.</p>
Q7	Can I go back to my country or travel abroad during vacation? <i>(Program and Life in Japan / Temporary Leave to Travel Home and/or to a Third Country)</i>	<p>ABE Initiative participant is allowed to leave Japan temporarily to travel to his /her home and /or a third country on official duties related to work for his / her government; for humanitarian reasons or any other reason approved by JICA. The payment of Living Allowance is suspended (not be paid) while you are away from Japan.</p> <p>In addition, "Overseas Research" is permitted if you fulfill several conditions. JICA continues providing you with Living Allowance when "Overseas Research" period" is 30 days or less. All travel expenses have to be borne by you.</p>

<p>Q8</p>	<p>Are diseases and injuries covered by insurance while I'm in Japan? (Program and Life in Japan /Medical Insurance)</p>	<p>JICA Medical Card is issued for every JICA participant to assist with medical treatment in Japan. It covers 100% of medical treatment expenses while you are unqualified for National Health Insurance (before you enroll in National Health Insurance). While you are qualified for National Health Insurance, it covers 30% of total treatment expenses as National Health Insurance covers 70%. However JICA Medical Card does not cover your family's treatment and there are exceptions for your treatments as below.</p> <p>(a) Medical treatment for illness or injury caused by willful misconduct (b) Medical treatment of pre-existing illness (c) Corrective surgery that does not require an urgent operation (d) Cosmetic surgery (e) Immunization, or routine medical examinations and vaccinations (f) Treatment related to and resulting from pregnancy and/or childbirth (g) Dental treatment (h) Purchase or repair of eyeglasses (i) Medical treatment over 180 days of the first treatment (j) Medical Checkup (k) Other some treatments defined by the insurance conditions</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="982 593 1533 801"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Period</th> <th colspan="2">Amount covered by</th> </tr> <tr> <th>JICA Medical Card</th> <th>National Health Insurance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Just after arrival, During the overseas research trip (*While you are unqualified for National Health Insurance)</td> <td>○ 100%</td> <td>—</td> </tr> <tr> <td>During your stay in Japan</td> <td>○ 30%</td> <td>○ 70%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Amount covered by		JICA Medical Card	National Health Insurance	Just after arrival, During the overseas research trip (*While you are unqualified for National Health Insurance)	○ 100%	—	During your stay in Japan	○ 30%	○ 70%
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<p>Q9</p>	<p>How Can I obtain information about life in Japan? (Program and Life in Japan /General Topic)</p>	<p>You can obtain some information from the site below.</p> <p>Information about Japan http://www.education-japan.org/africa/about_japan.html#anc01</p>											
<p>Q10</p>	<p>What type of accommodation will likely be in Japan? (Program and Life in Japan / Housing)</p>	<p>JICA provides a participant with a room at JICA Domestic Center or Hotel upon your arrival in Japan. Afterward, most of the participants move out the facility to dormitories or public/private apartments close to the university.</p> 											
<p>Q11</p>	<p>Are there any things not allowed as an ABE Initiative participants? (Program and Life in Japan / Things not allowed)</p>	<p>ABE Initiative participant is not allowed to do following things;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Violation of the Japanese Laws and Regulations 2) Part-time Job <p>You are NOT allowed to work, because the purpose of your stay in Japan is to engage in study/research. Teacher's assistance in your university may be permitted if the tasks are closely related to your research and your supervisor/professor approves.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Driving Vehicles 4) Changing Accommodation without the Permission of JICA 5) Being Absent from your Accommodation for a while without Informing JICA 6) Leaving Japan without the Approval of JICA 7) Extension of the Program Period of Period <p>Any extensions of the stay in Japan for the reasons of admission to a PhD course or no completion of degree within the scheduled term will NOT be considered.</p>											
<p>Q12</p>	<p>Does the program include a Japanese language course? (Program and Life in Japan /General Topic)</p>	<p>Yes, you will have basic conversation classes upon your arrives in Japan. In addition, some universities provide Japanese language lessons to foreign students.</p> <p>* Japanese language course is not for academic purpose but for daily life in Japan. * You can obtain the credits required for master's degree in English, but some universities do not have all classes in English.</p>											