

FAQ regarding ABE Initiative Application and Program

Q.No	About Application	Answer
1	I have multiple degrees from more than 2 universities. Which diploma/transcript should I submit?	It depends on which university's name you stated in the Application Form. If wrote down both universities as Educational Background in the application, please submit the copies of all of the applicable documents.
2	Can previous applicants re-apply for the ABE Initiative?	Yes, but you may want to revise your application for better result.
3	To where do we submit the application?	We apologize for the inconvenience, but to where you submit your application documents varies depending on where you are from. Please contact the nearest JICA Regional Office, or JICA Headquarters in this regard.
4	When is the due date for the application?	Generally, for the 2nd batch applicants will close at the end of October, however, it is subject to change based on to which country you submit your application. We recommend you contact the nearest JICA Regional Office for the detailed selection schedule.
5	Is the consent letter from employer for applying for ABE Initiative is different from Recommendation letter from employer. If it is, does it have any prescribed form?	The consent letter and the recommendation letter are two different documents. Particularly the consent letter is inevitable in order to apply for this program, but you may ask your supervisor or someone relevant at your office to sign on your Application form (page 3). You are also required to turn in the recommendation letter, but you can ask the same person mentioned above to write it for you, i.e., if it were your intention to go back to your organization after finishing your education in Japan.

6	Are we supposed to submit all these recommendation letters from: employer, government, Embassy of Japan and JICA?	No, you only need to submit least one recommendation letter from either entity. If you wonder what organisation is preferable, please consult with the applicable JICA Regional Office.
7	Could I be exempted from turning in the English language certificate (TEOFL, IELTS) as I apply?	You are not required to attach your English score when you submit the application. However, please be aware that you will be asked to take TOEFL provide by JICA for candidates who did not turn in the English score (during the first selection process).
8	Since there is no JICA Regional Office nearby, can you allow us to do online application?	We do not accept any application online. You are generally requested to submit the original of application form to the proper JICA Regional Office.
9	Am I allowed to receive a recommendation letter from any Japanese company or organization, even though I have never worked for them?	Yes, as long as the company/organization agrees to sign on the recommendation. Also, please be noted JICA does not seek for and provide any company to sign the recommendation for a particular candidate.
10	Can I submit an application that is handwritten?	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.
11	In the third page of the application form, 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?	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.
Q.No	About Scholarship, Program and Life in Japan	Answer
1	Is ABE Initiative a full scholarship?	Yes. Fees for official examinations, entrance and tuition, living allowance, etc. will be covered by the scholarship. Refer to General Information (P.8) “15. Expenses To Be Covered”.

2	How Can I obtain general information about Japan?	Living Guide: http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html Japan in general: http://web-japan.org/ Japanese University for ABE: http://education-japan.org/africa/index.html
3	Are there particular advantages in studying Master Program in Japan?	In general, Japanese universities require less compulsory modules such as "course work ", compared to universities in the United States or most other countries. That means an ABE participant may start working on his/her research theme at the very early stage of the master course, concentrating more on the targeted area of the research.
4	Can I obtain full scholarship even while I am a Research Student?	Yes. JICA provides tuition fee and living allowance.
5	What type of accommodation will likely be in Japan?	JICA provides a participant with a room at regional JICA Center at the arrival to Japan. Afterward, most of the participants move out the facility to dormitories or public/private apartments close to the university.
6	Can any of my allowances be paid into my home country bank account during my stay in Japan?	All allowances are paid in Japan.
7	What does it mean being a "research student" and on how does it differ from a master student?	"Research student" is a term commonly used among Japanese Graduate Schools, which is defined as a part-time student. During this stage, a participant has access to the facilities of the university and get in touch with the professors, while he/she prepares in order to pass the entrance examination for the master's course.
8	What happens in case I fail the entrance examination (to enter the master's course)?	In case a participant fail the entrance examination, he/she have to return to home country.

9	Does the program include a Japanese Language course?	Yes, but only some basic conversation instructions are given during the orientation immediately after a participant arrives in Japan. Also some universities provide Japanese Language Lessons to their foreign students.
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