

Joint Japan / World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program for

PUBLIC POLICY AND TAXATION

Program Description 2026



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Message from the Chair of the Department of Economics, Graduate School of International Social Sciences

Public policy - especially sound public finance and a reliable taxation system - is the cornerstone of economic development for any country. Human resources are essential for designing and implementing effective public policy measures. In today's globalized society, where multinational enterprises and cross-border capital flows continue to grow, the academic foundation in economics combined with practical skills in public policy has become increasingly vital. As the first nation in Asia to achieve modern economic development, Japan has a responsibility to share its experiences with motivated students from around the world.

With this in mind, Yokohama National University (YNU) launched the Master's Program in Public Policy and Taxation (PPT Program) in 1996 in cooperation with the World Bank and Japan's National Tax Agency. The program offered a unique blend of academic coursework in economics and a practicum at the National Tax College. Over the years, the program earned a high reputation both within and outside Japan and stood as the longest-running of its kind in the country. It joined a select group, at that time, of only sixteen global universities with World Bank partnership programs—including Columbia University and Harvard University in the US, and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and Keio University in Japan.

After a several-year hiatus, we are pleased to announce the relaunch of the PPT Program in autumn 2026. The renewed program will build on its strong tradition while adapting to the evolving needs of public finance and policy education in a rapidly changing world.

Students selected through a rigorous admissions process will study on our peaceful, tree-lined campus in Yokohama, Japan's second-largest city with a rich international culture. YNU hosts a vibrant academic community, including around a thousand international students. Our Department of Economics, with a history dating back to the 1920s, offers a comprehensive curriculum ranging from foundational economics to applied policy studies and advanced seminars. We continue to update our curriculum to reflect contemporary policy challenges and emerging methodologies in economics.

We are proud to restart this distinguished program and look forward to welcoming a new generation of talented students in 2026.

We warmly invite applications from bright, motivated individuals who wish to deepen their understanding of economics and contribute to the improvement of public policy and taxation in their home countries.



Morinao Iju

Morinao Iju

Chair, Department of Economics

Graduate School of International Social Sciences

Objectives of the Program

The primary motivation for the establishment of the PPT program stems from the belief that the absence of well-structured tax laws and functioning taxation systems is one of the major factors hindering economic development in developing countries. Prompted by this conviction, the Department of Economics of the Graduate School of International Social Sciences (GSISS), in collaboration with Japan's National Tax Agency and the World Bank, has developed a special graduate program tailored to the needs of students from developing countries who are currently working in the field of tax administration and related areas.

The objectives of the PPT program are: first, to help the students develop a basic understanding of public policy and taxation; second, to teach the concepts and methods of an entire taxation process through a practicum provided by Japan's National Tax Agency; and last, to offer specialized courses of study on various aspects of public policy and taxation which are most relevant to the students' home countries. The students trained under this program are expected to return to their home countries to apply their acquired knowledge and skills towards improving public service in their respective ministries and government agencies.



Details of the JJ/WBGSP Scholarship

From 1996 to 2019, the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP) awarded 118 scholarships to participate in the PPT Program at Yokohama National University. The first level of screening of candidates will be done at Yokohama National University. The final decision regarding scholarship recipients will be made by the World Bank.

The scholarship covers the university admission fee, tuition for two years, and medical insurance plus economy class air travel between your home country and the host university at the start of your study program and immediately following the end of the scholarship period. In addition to the two-way air travel, scholars will receive a US \$600 travel allowance for each trip. While on campus during the scholarship period, a monthly stipend will be provided to cover living expenses (accommodation, food, etc., including books).

Admittance to YNU and the JJ/WBGSP Scholarship: A Two-Stage Process

Stage 1 (YNU): After all applicants to YNU are reviewed, a smaller subset of applicants will be judged to have met or exceeded the high academic standards of our Faculty of Economics.

Stage 2 (The World Bank): YNU will be invited to establish a shortlist of up to 30 candidates who were admitted unconditionally (except for finance) to the PPT and who meet the basic JJ/WBGSP eligibility requirements as listed on the JJ/WBGSP website.

Upon validation of the shortlist by the JJ/WBGSP Secretariat, the link to the 2026 JJ/WBGSP application form will be communicated to YNU and YNU will share the link to shortlisted candidates only.

The link to the JJ/WBGSP application form will only be communicated to candidates admitted unconditionally (except for finance) to the PPT and shortlisted by YNU as eligible JJ/WBGSP applicants.

Applications for the JJ/WBGSP scholarship to study the PPT at YNU will need to be submitted under Window 2 between late March and late May 2026. Exact dates of the 2026 application windows will be communicated on the JJ/WBGSP website in the fall 2025.

JOINT JAPAN/WORLD BANK GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM EMPLOYMENT POLICY FOR JJ/WBGSP SCHOLARS

The Grant Agreement between the World Bank and the Government of Japan states: “It is anticipated that scholars would return to their countries to apply their enhanced knowledge and skills towards helping accelerate the pace of economic and social development.”

To maintain high levels of home return, it has been an established agreement between the Government of Japan (the sole Program donor) and the World Bank that JJ/WBGSP scholars are not entitled to seek or accept employment of any kind at any institutions of the World Bank Group during their JJ/WBGSP scholarship period and up until 3 years from their graduation date.¹

The three-year employment restriction applies to World Bank headquarters and field offices. This restriction covers regular staff appointments, short-term consulting contracts, and all other types of employment during the three-year period.

¹ The “World Bank Group” comprises the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

The Academic Program at YNU-Economics

Degree Requirements

In order to complete the PPT program and to be awarded a Master's Degree, each student (World Bank scholar) must write a Master's thesis on a topic that he or she selects under the guidance of an academic supervisor of the Department of Economics of GSISS/YNU. In addition, candidates must complete the following credit requirements for the Master of Arts in Economics.

All students are required to attend the courses of the Internship (Practicum) offered by the National Tax College (NTC) of the National Tax Agency (NTA) of the Japanese Ministry of Finance. The classes are held every Monday by NTC mainly at GRIPS Tokyo (Roppongi) for a period of nine months as illustrated in the table on page 13.

Credits required for Master's Degree

Elective Courses	24
Practicum at the NTA	4
Thesis Instruction	4
Total Credits	32

	Course Title	Credits
Non-Degree Compulsory Courses*	Mathematics for Economists	2
	Computing for Economists	2
	Special Topic Lectures	2
Elective Courses	Microeconomics	2
	Macroeconomics	2
	Statistics	2
	Applied International Finance	2
	Applied International Trade	2
	Comparative Economic Systems (Selected Topics)	2
	Data Science	2
	Economic Development	2
	Economic Growth	2
	Economic Policy	2
	Environment and Development	2
	Global Economy and Multinational Corporations	2
	International Economics and Public Policy	2
	International Finance	2
	Public Economics	2
	Public Finance	2
	Regional Strategies of Economic Development	2
	World Economy	2

Practicum at the NTA	Tax Practicum 1	2
	Tax Practicum 2	2
Thesis Instruction	Thesis Instruction 1	2
	Thesis Instruction 2	2

*These subjects are compulsory but are not credited towards the Master's degree. The 24 credits required for the degree must be taken from the elective courses.

Note that this list is tentative and is subject to change in the next academic years (October 2026 – September 2028).

A. Course Descriptions

Mathematics for Economists: This course is an introduction to concepts and methods of algebra, calculus and matrix algebra for students with no such previous knowledge.

Computing for Economists: This course introduces basic knowledge of computing and how to work with data in economic analysis, using software such as Excel and E-Views or Stata.

Basic Japanese (not listed): Although Japanese is not a required course, we strongly encourage PPT scholars to enroll in one or more Basic Japanese courses offered through our International Student Center. The Center offers many levels of courses, from beginner to more advanced levels, throughout the week. Students are required to take a placement test at the Center before enrolling in any Japanese language course.

Special Topic Lectures (STL): Special Topic Lectures will be held on an irregular basis during a period of 18 months (from the first semester through the third semester). Scholars and researchers from both within Japan and overseas are invited to lecture on topics related to public policy, taxation, international development, and developing economies. Attendance at STL is compulsory and 2 credits will be granted at the end of the third semester, although these cannot be counted towards the degree.

Microeconomics: Microeconomics aims to model economic activities as the interaction of individual agents pursuing their own interests. Topics include consumer and producer theory, competitive markets, market failures, imperfect competition, and game theory. Microeconomic theory will give you a foundational understanding of how markets function and when they fail.

Macroeconomics: In this course, macroeconomics at the intermediate level will be studied. This course develops a simple framework for thinking about the determinants of variables like gross domestic product, unemployment, growth, investment, consumption, interest rates, inflation, current account and exchange rates. This framework is used to address issues of current interest, such as: what is the role of saving in determining the long-run wealth of the country; what is the role of money in accounting for inflation; what are the factors accounting for the recurrent fluctuations in unemployment and output called the business cycle? This framework is also used to make judgments about what policies the government should, or should not, pursue.

Statistics: This course introduces the basic knowledge of Statistics and Econometrics as a tool for economic analysis. This course intends to equip students with (1) basic working knowledge to perform regression analysis on economic data and (2) the ability to understand and analyze the result to make a sound judgment and/or conclusions based on the statistical analysis.

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Statistics are taken in the first semester of the first year to give students the fundamentals to follow later elective courses.

Applied International Finance: This is a graduate-level lecture on exchange rates and open-economy macroeconomics. We will learn various models of exchange rate determination and the non-stationary time-series analysis of the exchange rate behavior. We will also learn how to apply empirical techniques to various issues of exchange rates and open-economy macroeconomics. Finally, recent debates on regional monetary integration and optimal exchange rate regimes will be discussed.

Applied International Trade: This is essentially a course in International Trade and focuses on the trade issues between nations and people. The course will cover a number of issues both theoretical and empirical in international economics. The fundamental theories of trade (primarily the Heckscher-Ohlin model) and trade policies will be reviewed and empirical studies of some of these theories will be critically examined. The final third of the course will cover some empirical methods such as “gravity models”.

Comparative Economic Systems (Selected Topics): Students learn about how to analyze the effect of different public policies in different countries and contexts. Students will also learn commonly used empirical and econometric methods. The students will then acquire the ability to use these tools to compare public policies of different countries.

Data Science: This course provides an introduction to fundamental concepts in statistics and machine learning, aimed at building a strong foundation in data science. Students will learn essential techniques and develop the ability to apply them to real-world datasets. Using the R programming language, participants will acquire practical data analysis skills, including model building and evaluation. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to tackle modern data analysis challenges across various domains.

Economic Development: The objectives of this course are: a survey of the principal theories/ studies of Capital Accumulation and Reproduction and Multi-Sector Analysis; to gain a deeper understanding of the principal theories/studies of Economic Development, Investment Decision and Multi-Sectoral Growth; and, to gain a better understanding of Non-Linear Dynamics, Disequilibrium Dynamics and the notions/indicators about Sustainable Development.

Economic Growth: This course provides an introduction of the theory of economic growth. Using simple analytical models, we examine the fundamental mechanisms of long-run growth, including capital accumulation, population dynamics and technological progress. In addition to core theory, we explore applied topics such as the relationship between innovation and growth, the role of international trade and the cross-country diffusion of technology in a globalized economy. The course also considers current global growth patterns, with particular attention to differences across countries and regions.

Environment and Development: This course is intended to cover major issues related to the theme of environment and development. The lectures will be organized in a manner that helps the students deepen their understanding of basic models, concepts and key ideas concerning environmental policy, sustainable development, economic growth and urbanization. The challenges of international cooperation in the field of environmental protection will also be discussed. Emphasis will be placed upon the study of the philosophy of ‘sustainability’ (i.e., economic development within environmental constraints). Not only a narrow issue of environmental policy (such as emission control and recycling) but a much broader concept of ‘greening’ of economic policy (or ‘greening’ of our national and global economic systems) will be examined. We will also study the issues of good governance (a key element in efficient implementation of conservation policy), ‘failed or collapsed state’ (this concept may be studied from a critical viewpoint) and ‘state-society’ relationship. A good government can be considered a crucial factor in making a ‘sustainable society’ become a reality.

Global Economy and Multinational Corporations: This course surveys some prevalent theories of international production and the activities of transnational corporations in the world economy. After reviewing the conditions which have led to the growth of transnational activities in the past few decades, we will focus on the theories of foreign direct investment and multinational corporations which are responsible for such activities. The Hymer and Kindleberger approach, the product life cycle model, internalization approach and some other theories will be taken up to be discussed

in this course. In this course, students should learn how multinational corporations do business in the modern world and how multinational corporations have an impact and effect on national economies and taxation in the world.

International Economics and Public Policy: International Economics is comprised of essentially two subfields: International Trade and International Finance. This course will focus primarily on the former, in which we will study the theoretical underpinnings for the gains from trade, the costs of trade protectionism, and the inevitable short-run redistribution of income that occurs as countries interact more and more with each other. This course will give you the fundamentals to understand what economists mean when they say “Globalization is Good.” We will also study the origins and natures of trade surplus and deficits.

International Finance: This course aims to provide students with the theoretical frameworks and practical insights needed to understand issues related to international money and finance. Key topics include the international monetary system, the balance of payments, exchange rate regimes, cross-border capital flows and the role of international financial institutions.

Public Economics: This course will first study the theory of Public Economics and Welfare Economics, then apply the theory to three key policy areas. In ideal markets, outcomes are efficient and government intervention is unnecessary, But sometimes, real-world failures (externalities, public goods, asymmetric information, etc.) may justify intervention. To provide public goods, correct inefficiencies or redistribute income, governments need revenue. Taxation is the main tool, but it creates distortions – optimal tax theory helps minimize efficiency loss. The above theories will be applied to real world problems in 1) Social insurance (e.g., health, unemployment): it protects against risks, but can create moral hazard; 2) Pensions: intergenerational transfers and long-term sustainability; 3) Environmental policy: carbon taxes correct externalities and promote efficiency.

Public Finance: This course offers an overview of Japan’s public sector finances and monetary policy, with emphasis on its history, institutions, contemporary issues and challenges. Participants are expected to gain basic, appropriate knowledge and insights on fiscal and financial issues in Japan and their implications for cases in other countries.

Regional Strategies of Economic Development: In mainstream economics, analytical units are usually at the micro (individual, household, firm) or the macro level (national economy). Some may think that regional economies are only an aggregation of micro agents or parts of national economy and thereby that economic phenomena can be explained by application of the general theories. But why are economic behaviors of people or firms different in each region? Why is there diversity in the prospering or declining process of regional economies in the same country? Why has economic development increasingly been concentrated in limited areas? Recently, specific approaches for regional economic diversity and dynamics have been noticed. They attempt to unravel potentiality of regional economies as a unit of economic analysis, development and policy creation. In this course, we will discuss the existing theories and approaches on regional economic development and select cases of regional economies in the USA, Europe and Asia for considering unresolved problems in modern times and development strategy.

World Economy: This course covers major issues on global economic development in recent years. While Asian countries became the center of growth in the global economy, most countries in Africa are still suffering from poverty and food problems although economic growth has been witnessed since 2000. What is the driving force of economic growth in Asia? Are strategies used for industrialization in Asian countries applicable to Africa's development? Are there possible strategies to solve food and rural problems in both regions? This course will give brief answers to these questions by introducing empirical and theoretical studie

B. Practicum at the National Tax Agency

The National Tax Agency (NTA) is the administrative agency in charge of assessment and collection of all national taxes in Japan, except customs duties.

The NTA offers staff training to NTA officials through its training institution, the National Tax College (NTC). This college also is engaged in academic research on taxation while providing outreach programs for officials of developing countries.

The purpose of the NTA Practicum is to provide students with the opportunity to attend lectures given by tax officials who are currently in charge of tax administration and to visit places where tax administration is actually carried out. The Practicum is also intended to help students gain some practical knowledge in tax administration. Students are required to attend the NTA The Practicum meets every Monday from October 2026 to June 2027. In addition, there will be intensive lectures in March 2026.



Sample Schedule of Practicum at the NTA from October 2025 to June 2026 (2026-7 will differ)

Date		AM (10:00-12:30)	PM (13:45-16:15)
2025-Oct-25	Mon	Opening Ceremony/ Program Orientation	Country Report Presentation (1)
Oct-27	Mon	Country Report Presentation (2)	Research Paper Guidance
Nov-10	Mon	Japanese Tax System (1)	Japanese Tax System (2)
Nov-17	Mon	Japanese Tax System (3)	Japan Tax Administration
Dec-1	Mon	Taxpaper Service (10-12)	【 Study Visit】 Call Center (Tax Enquiries)
Dec-8	Mon	Verification	Research Paper Guidance
Dec-15	Mon	Verification	【 Study Visit】 Regional Tax Office
Dec-22	Mon	Verification	Tax Debt Collection
2026-Jan-19	Mon	Research Paper Guidance	【 Study Visit】 Japan Federation of CPTA's Associations
26-Jan-26	Mon	International Taxation	【 Study Visit】 Call Center (Tax Debt Collection)
Feb-2	Mon	International Taxation	【 Study Visit】 Local Tax Authority
Feb-9	Mon	International Taxation	【 Study Visit】 Tax Education Room
Feb-16	Mon	Research Paper Guidance (Progress Report)	Research Paper Preparation (Progress Report)
Mar-2	Mon	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty
Mar-3	Mon	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty
Mar-5	Mon	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty
Mar-6	Tue	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty
Mar-9	Mon	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty	Intensive Lecture on Tax Treaty
Mar-16	Tues	Human Resource Management	Spare
Mar-23	Fri	ICT System	Research Paper Guidance
Mar-30	Mon	Tax Treaty (Practice Negotiation)	Tax Treaty (Practice Negotiation)
Apr-6	Mon	Tax Treaty (Practice Negotiation)	Tax Treaty (Practice Negotiation)
Apr-13	Mon	Research Paper Presentation (1)	Research Paper Presentation (2)
Apr-14	Mon	Research Paper Presentation (3)	Research Paper Presentation (4)
Apr-20	Mon	Staff Training	(Study Visit) National Tax College Wako Campus
Apr-27	Mon	Evaluation Meeting 10:00-12:00	
Jun-15	Mon		Closing Ceremony/Reception

Lectures at the NTA

Japanese Tax System: Members of the NTC faculty offer this course on the fundamentals of the Japanese tax system and principal tax laws concerning Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Consumption Tax (Japan's VAT). This course is a prerequisite for the subsequent course on Japanese tax administration.

Japanese Tax Administration: Lectures will be given on specific topics such as the administrative work involved with tax examination, taxpayer services, revenue management and collection, and international taxation. Each lecture is given by members of NTA officials as well as the NTC faculty.

Individual Research

Utilizing the knowledge acquired in the coursework, and with the assistance and guidance of professors and assistant professors of the NTC, students are required to write a research paper. For the paper, students choose one major issue/problem that his/her tax administration faces and present a recommendation/solution to the issue/problem. (Therefore, students are strongly urged to bring relevant data and research materials from their own home countries.)

Quasi-Tax Treaty Negotiation

Students will be given an opportunity to conduct a Quasi-Tax Treaty Negotiation. In order to provide students with sufficient knowledge for tax treaty negotiation, a one-week tax treaty intensive course will be held at the Tokyo (Roppongi) Campus of GRIPS in March 2026.



Study Visits (NTC)

To broaden the practical knowledge of the students, various field trips are also planned to visit regional taxation bureaus, tax offices, and so on. These visits allow students to have Q & A sessions with tax officials and observe the actual work in progress.



C. Thesis Instruction (or Seminar)

A requirement for achieving a Master's degree is writing a thesis that is then deemed acceptable by a committee of three professors. Each student will choose an original research topic and be responsible for writing the thesis in English. A faculty member will be assigned to each student as an academic supervisor. Additionally, a special course titled "Thesis Writing in English" will teach students important skills in thesis writing.

Field Trips (YNU)

Field trips are organized, generally on an annual basis, to provide students with an opportunity to observe local and regional governments in action. Visiting places of interest that represent industry, culture, history, nature, etc. of Japan will be part of the field trip itinerary.

Academic Calendar

2026	late September	Orientation
	October	Entrance Ceremony
		Beginning of the first semester (1st year)
	late December - early January	Winter Recess
2027	February	End of the first semester
	March	NTC Intensive Lectures (Practicum)
	April	Beginning of the second semester (1st year)
	early August	End of the second semester
	August - September	Summer Recess
	October	Beginning of the first semester (2nd year)
	late December - early January	Winter Recess
2028	February	End of the first semester (2 nd year)
	April	Beginning of the second semester (2nd year)
	June	Submission of Master's thesis
	July	Thesis Defense
	August/September	Graduation Ceremony



Applying for Admission at YNU

Eligibility

1. Be a national of [a JJ/WBGSP eligible country](#). Please refer to the official list [here](#)
2. Not hold dual citizenship of any developed country
3. Be in good health with respect to the capacity to be a productive scholar for the duration of the Graduate Program, as certified by a medical doctor
4. Hold a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent university degree) with superior academic achievement earned more than three (3) years before the Application Deadline
5. Be serving as tax officials in the Government in principle, and have at least three (3) years of work experience in tax policy or tax administration of the Government in their home countries
6. Not received any scholarship funding from the government of Japan or its agencies (including JICA, the Central Bank, and local governments) to help finance a graduate or professional degree (including Law, Medicine, Masters, PhD)

Priority consideration will be given to applicants who:

- (a) are mid-level career officials
- (b) can receive an official leave of absence during the period of study;
- (c) are planning to return to the equivalent position (including the current one) in their home country after s/he completes the program;
- (d) are recommended by appropriate government agencies;
- (e) submitted GRE scores

Application Requirements

The following are the documents to be submitted in addition to the application form to YNU:

1. English Proficiency: Each applicant must demonstrate a proficiency in English sufficient for undertaking instruction in that language. In this regard, a minimum TOEFL score of 79 for the internet based (TOEFL-iBT) or IELTS score of 6.5 or Duolingo English Test score of 105 is required for entrance into the program. In the case that only the paper-based TOEFL is available in your country, the required minimum score is 550. The only documents we accept are official TOEFL scores sent directly by Educational Testing Service (ETS) or official IELTS scores sent directly by the British Council or official Duolingo scores sent to “YNU GSIS-Economics”. Please refer to the TOEFL webpage at <http://www.ets.org/toefl> or the IELTS webpage at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/exam> where you can obtain information regarding the examination. The institution code for Yokohama National University is 0410 for TOEFL. Choose 84 (economics) as the department code. For the Duolingo test, see here: <https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants>

The only exception is the case in which the primary language used for academic instructions and communication at the applicant’s undergraduate institution was English. In this case, you must include an official letter obtained from the university confirming this information. Those applicants who do submit TOEFL or IELTS scores will be given priority in the selection process. We do NOT accept copies of TOEFL and IELTS scores directly sent by the applicants, nor the results of the TOEFL ITP or any other exams conducted by private agencies.

2. Letters of recommendation: For YNU selection purposes, you must have three (3) recommendations. Two (2) must be from a supervisor at your **workplace** or otherwise be in a position to attest to your workplace performance. The other must be from a faculty (**academic**) member of the university from which you obtained your degree. (You can send more than one academic recommendation if you want.) Letters of recommendation must be submitted in an envelope sealed by the recommender.

3. Official academic transcripts: We only accept official transcripts in a sealed envelope issued by your university or school. The transcripts need to cover all years of your Bachelor’s course and any other further post-secondary education.

4. Statement of purpose (1,200 words or less): Please explain briefly: a) why you have chosen to apply for the “Public Policy and Taxation Program” with an MA in Economics at YNU; b) explain what courses you plan to take, and ; c) what research topic you may want to write for your Master’s thesis if admitted. You may also use this statement to express any

strengths you may have which you feel will help you succeed in any of the following: completing rigorous course work in economics; living in Japan, far away from family and friends for two years; success in the mandatory internship at the National Tax Agency, etc. Use the forms provided in the application package or download from our website, attaching additional sheets if needed. Please type or print clearly.

Other

Telephone (or some online communication platform) interviews may be conducted to assess English proficiency and/or to confirm any other information contained in the applicant's file. Applicants who cannot be reached for this interview will become ineligible.

Lastly, although this is not required, if you have taken the GRE, please have the official score sent to the program. The institutional code for Yokohama National University on the GRE is 0410. Those who present GRE scores will be considered favorably in the selection process (See item (e) on page 17).

How to Apply

The following materials constitute your application.

- ◇ Application Form
- ◇ Statement of Purpose
- ◇ 3 Confidential Letters of Recommendation: Workplace (2) and Academic (1+)
- ◇ Official Academic Transcript(s) (from your University-Bachelor's Degree and higher)
- ◇ Address Label (bottom half of your checklist)
- ◇ Official TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo Score or a letter from your undergraduate institution confirming that the primary language used for academic instructions was English.
- ◇ Official GRE Score (if available)

Your application should be submitted to the following address by Airmail or Courier service:

PPT Office

Graduate School of International Social Sciences Yokohama National University

79-3 Tokiwadai, Hodogaya-ku

Yokohama, 240-8501 JAPAN

WE DO NOT ACCEPT applications via fax, email or online. Please note that:

- (1) None of the application materials can be returned to applicants under any circumstances.
- (2) A medical certificate will be required in the online application procedure with the World Bank.

Application Deadline for YNU

Applications for the 2026 admission must reach the PPT Office NO LATER than January 30th, 2026.

Applying for the JJ/WBGSP Scholarship

Eligibility

1. Be a national of a JJ/WBGSP eligible country. [Please refer to the official list HERE](#)
2. Not hold dual citizenship of any developed country
3. Hold a bachelor's (or equivalent) degree earned at least 3 years prior to the Application Deadline date
4. Be employed in development-related work in a paid full-time position at the time of submitting the scholarship application. Have at least 3 years of paid development-related employment since earning a bachelor's degree (or equivalent university degree) and acquired within the past 6 years from the date of the application deadline. The only exception to this criterion is for developing country nationals from a country that is on the list of Fragile and Conflict States featured. Please refer to Annex 3 of the Application Guidelines on the JJ/WBGSP website for the most recent list. In such cases, we do take into consideration the limited employment opportunities in those countries.
5. Not be an Executive Director, his/her alternate, and/or staff of all types of appointments of the World Bank Group, or a close relative of the aforementioned; by blood or adoption with the term "close relative" defined as: Mother, Father, Sister, Half-sister, Brother, Half-brother, Son, Daughter, Aunt, Uncle, Niece or Nephew.
6. Individuals who have previously been offered a JJ/WBGSP scholarship but declined it, or have previously received a JJ/WBGSP scholarship but did not graduate, are not eligible to apply again.

How to Apply

Detailed information on the JJ/WBGSP can be found [HERE](#).

As stated on page 4 of this document, the link to the JJ/WBGSP application form will only be communicated to candidates admitted unconditionally (except for finance) to the PPT, and shortlisted by YNU as eligible JJ/WBGSP applicants.

As part of their JJ/WBGSP application, candidates must submit two professional recommendations from individuals who can attest to their development-related work experience after earning their bachelor's degree. Guidance on the professional recommendations is available in the Application Guidelines and the FAQ on the JJ/WBGSP website.

Please click [HERE](#) for detailed Guidelines on how to apply for the JJ/WBGSP. Please note that the JJ/WBGSP scholarship applications to study the PPT program at YNU will need to be submitted under Window 2 between late March and late May 2026.

Application Deadline for the World Bank Scholarship

As mentioned on page 4 of this document, applications for the JJ/WBGSP scholarship to study the PPT at YNU will need to be submitted between late March and late May 2026. Exact dates of the 2026 application windows will be communicated on the JJ/WBGSP website in the fall 2025.

Names of the finalists will be announced in the second half of June 2026.

Housing

Students enrolled in the Master's Program in Public Policy and Taxation (PPT students) are given priority and will be accommodated in single rooms at Ooka International Residence. This dormitory is prepared to cover the full term of two (2) years to complete the course which has been the common custom.

Since studying should be first priority, families are not to accompany students until after the first six (6) month period. When they become familiar with the living conditions in Yokohama and then they may explore possibilities for finding suitable private accommodations for their family on their own if they so choose. Please note that students are responsible for finding their own housing should they decide to move out of Ooka International Residence. Also, note that scholars receive the name remuneration practice regardless of their family status.

Lastly, the World Bank Scholarship strictly prohibits the scholar from working while engaged in their studies.



Medical Care

YNU has a health service center where you can receive an annual medical examination and routine health care from doctors free of charge. Students are required to join The National Health Insurance Program, which will entitle students to be covered for 70% of the medical costs at a clinic or hospital.



Yokohama National University

Yokohama National University (YNU) was established in 1949 under the National School Establishment Law as one of the new national universities in the post-WWII era. YNU has grown to become a prestigious university with a large number of excellent graduates actively working in Japan and around the world. They are making significant contributions in all fields including academic, political and business communities as well as the civic sector.

YNU has four undergraduate colleges: Education and Human Sciences, Economics, Business Administration, and Engineering Science. There are five graduate schools: Education, Social Sciences, Engineering, Environment and Information Sciences and Urban Innovation. There are currently 634 full-time teaching staff and 9,498 students enrolled in

undergraduate and graduate programs. A total of 639 international students from over 70 countries are studying at YNU.

In April 1999, four graduate schools in social sciences (Economics, International Development Studies, Business Administration, and International Business Law) were merged into one body, named the International Graduate School of Social Sciences (IGSSS). IGSSS further expanded into the Graduate School of International Social Sciences (GSISS) in April 2013 to provide for more integrated education through Master's and Doctoral Programs. GSISS seeks to cultivate professionals ready to exercise leadership in today's increasingly complex global society where many mutually conflicting objectives should be met simultaneously.

Since 1995, the Faculty of Economics has hosted several Master's Programs conducted in English including the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP) in Public Policy and Taxation (PPT). YNU also has a separate JJ/WBGSP program called the Infrastructure Management Program or IMP. Other past programs have included: the Indonesian Government Scholarship Program (IGS), the Indonesia Linkage Master Program (ILP) and the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program in Law and Public Policy (LPP) among others. These special programs conducted in English are a distinctive feature of GSISS. YNU has been a leading university in the internationalization of university education in Japan for three decades.

Note: Some of these programs have been terminated. The PPT program was briefly suspended in 2022, but will restart in 2026.

City of Yokohama

Yokohama, where the main campus of Yokohama National University (YNU) is located, is famous for its international character and history. Yokohama's port area was a tiny fishing village when the Tokugawa Shogunate, forced to abandon its policy of isolation and open its doors to the world, chose Yokohama in 1859 to be one of several ports opened up to Western countries. Trading houses and foreign settlements flourished as Yokohama became a focal point for the modernization of Japan and gateway to Western civilization.

Yokohama is situated on the western coast of Tokyo Bay about 30 km south of Tokyo, the capital of Japan. With a population of about 3.8 million, Yokohama is now the second largest city in Japan and has the nation's largest international trading port. The Keihin Industrial Area

along the coastline of Yokohama is home to many leading Japanese corporations of heavy chemical and light manufacturing industries as well as high-tech warehouses of international E-commerce and logistics companies. As a world-leading trade port, it functions as an important hub in the global economy, as well it plays a vital role in the Japanese economy. “Yokohama Minato-Mirai 21”, a development project along the waterfront area, serves as a center for international companies and high- technology research and development institutes. It has a conference center, offices, hotels, high-rise residences, shops and restaurants.

Yokohama is well-known as an international, cosmopolitan city and receives around 35 million tourists every year. Japan’s largest Chinatown, the scenic area known as “the Bluff” with historic Western-style home, and the modern waterfront area all contribute to making Yokohama an exotic juxtaposition of Japanese, Western and Chinese cultures and a popular tourist destination. The green and relatively expansive campus of YNU sits comfortably on the hills only a few kilometers from the port area.

Yokohama has four distinct seasons, as does most of Japan. Yokohama enjoys a mild climate throughout the year with an average temperature of 16-17 °C. Spring and fall are very pleasant and a wonderful time for enjoying the outdoors. Summer can be hot and humid, with temperatures occasionally exceeding 35 °C. The weather in winter is mild (5-10 °C) with little snowfall. But Yokohama has something for every season – cherry blossoms in spring, summer festivals, colorful autumn leaves – just to name a few. Every day is an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful sights and enriching experiences of the city of Yokohama.

