

JICA Long-Term TRAINING

2013-2014

General Information
regarding the
Master's Degree and Internship Program
of the
Arican Business Education Initiative for Youth
(ABE Initiative)

国別研修

「アフリカの若者のための産業人材育成イニシアティブ（ABE イニシアティブ）修士課程およびインターンシップ」プログラム」

This information pertains to one of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Long-Term Training Programs. This program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both governments.

1. Background

Africa's economy has been steadily increasing since 2000, due to factors such as its abundant natural resources and expansion of trade and investments. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that growth rates in Africa will remain as high as 5.4% up to 2016. While each African nation sets a target for sustainable economic development, political implementation, aimed at turning commodity-based economies into multifaceted industrialized economies through developing primary and secondary industries, is an urgent matter. On the other hand, the International Labor Organization (ILO) points out that the number of youth unemployment in Africa has reached nearly 75 million, almost one third of the youth population (200 million) in the whole region. Given these circumstances, it is expected that the yield of value-added industries and the realization of high productivity of industries in Africa, will resolve the issue as they generate job opportunities, and bring about more stabilized economies. Moreover, Japanese enterprises are showing strong recognition of and interest in a prosperous Africa.

At the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), held in Yokohama in 2013, Japan's Government stated its policy of promoting support for the ongoing dynamic growth of Africa with stronger public-private partnerships. In his speech, Japanese Prime Minister Abe announced the "African Business Education Initiative for the Youth (hereafter, referred to as the "ABE Initiative"), a strategic five-year plan providing 1,000 youths in Africa with opportunities to study at Japanese universities as well as do internships at Japanese enterprises. Prior to the TICAD V, Japanese industries, including the Federation of Economic Organizations (KEIDANREN) and the Japanese government, had made a joint recommendation for TICAD V at "Public-Private Council for the Promotion of TICAD V". These bodies pointed out that there is a need for human resource development in both private and public sectors of Africa in order to cultivate a strong human network between Japan and Africa. The recommendation also mentioned the significance of increasing the number of African people visiting Japan, as well as increasing awareness among Africans regarding the efficiency of Japanese technologies and systems of enterprises. The ABE Initiative was launched based on this recommendation.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been appointed to implement a master's degree and internship program within the ABE initiative framework developed for countries whose official requests have been approved by the Government of Japan.

2. Objectives

The objective of the ABE Initiative master's degree and internship program is to support young personnel who have the potential to contribute to the development of industries in Africa. This program offers opportunities for young African men and women to study at master's courses in Japanese universities as international students (hereafter referred to as participants) and experience internships at Japanese enterprises. It aims to develop effective skills for contributing to various fields. Beyond acquisition of skills and knowledge, this program also intends to cultivate excellent personnel who can recognize and understand the contexts of Japanese society and systems of Japanese enterprises. The expected outcome of

the program is a network of potential contributors to the development of African industries who will also lead Japanese business to engage further in economic activities in Africa.

3. Program Outline

(1) Program Title

Master's Degree Program and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for the Youth (ABE Initiative)

(2) Language of the Program: **English**

4. Duration

(1) Overall Program	<p><u>November, 2013 - October, 2021 (total 8 Years)</u></p> <p>Participants will be dispatched to Japan in 4 groups over the course of 4 years. Participants will be dispatched in September each year from 2014 to 2017. A single participant is allowed to stay in Japan up to 3 years.</p>
(2) First participant group's stay in Japan	<p>Standard Timetable</p> <p><u>September, 2014 - September, 2017</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 Months as a Research Student (See page 7) - 1 or 2 years as a master's student - From 2 weeks up to 6 Months as an internship trainee

5. Target Countries

(1) First Year (1 st Batch: 2014)	<p>Countries will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Republic of Kenya - United Republic of Tanzania - Republic of Mozambique - Republic of South Africa
(2) From the Second Year (2 nd Batch: 2015 – 4 th Batch: 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 54 African countries

6. Target Participants

Target participants are from among the following three types of personnel.

(1) Persons from the Private Sector	Young individuals who are or will be involved in economic activities in the local private sector maintaining and developing strong ties with Japanese companies
(2) Governmental Officials	Young officials, such as civil servants, who take part in governance and policy- making in order to enhance industries to whose development Japanese companies can contribute
(3) Educators	Young individuals who are responsible for educating in Higher Education and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) institutions in Africa, in order to enhance capacity

	building in related industries
--	--------------------------------

Candidates are to be nominated by Japanese organizations such as the Embassy of Japan, the JICA Office, and Japanese private sectors to further the program’s aim of development of the industries in Africa, to which Japanese private sectors are motivated to participate and contribute. Particular allocation will be later designed with respect to each country’s situation.

7. Numbers of Participants

JICA will accept 900 participants until May 2018. Following are the allocated numbers of participants per batch. This number is subject to change due to unforeseen budgetary restrictions.

Batch	JFY	Number of Participants
1st Batch	2014	150 Participants
2nd Batch	2015	350 Participants
3rd Batch	2016	300 Participants
4th Batch	2017	100 Participants

8. Master’s Program Fields of Study at Japanese Universities

This program targets key fields such as engineering, agriculture, management, and administration. However, proposed research topics must be relevant to the aim of “capacity building for the industries with strong ties to Japan.” The Steering Committee (See below) will select the candidates locally; a second selection process will then be conducted between the candidates and departments of the chosen universities.

9. Observation Tour and Internship Program of the Japanese Private Sector

Every participant is to participate in observation tours of companies in Japan during the summer vacation internship program and after graduation. All internship programs are carried out in English. Basically, neither the company nor the participant is rewarded or compensated financially. The internship program posts are not fixed, and new participant-company matching is conducted for every batch. Implementing schedules of each internship program are based on the host companies’ considerations in order to ensure the feasibility of the company accepting an intern. Taking part in the internship program after graduation is mandatory for participants who were recommended by private companies at the time of application. Additionally, a Japanese company recommending a particular candidate must accept that candidate as an intern after graduation.

10. Application Qualifications and Requirements

Applicants shall satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Nationality	- Citizens of one of the 54 African countries
(2) Age	- Between 22 and 39 years old (as of April 1 st , 2014 for the 1st

	Batch participants)
(3) Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 16 years of academic background or equivalent - A bachelor's degree
(4) Working Experience /Status	<p>Applicants from government sectors / educators who have both of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 6 months working experience at their current organization. - Permission from their current organization to apply.
(5) English Proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate English proficiency, both in written and oral communication, in order to complete the master's degree. An IELTS score of over 5.5 is preferred.
(6) Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those who clearly understand the objectives of the ABE initiative Master's Degree Program and have a strong will to contribute to the industrial development of their country while broadening and strengthening the linkage between their country and Japan
(7) Others	<p>The following persons are not eligible to apply,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those currently applying, or planning to apply, to scholarship programs offered by other organizations - Military personnel

11. Recruitment and Application

JICA Offices in African countries will conduct explanatory sessions and receive all application documents. Each applicant is required to submit the following documents at the time of application. Note: (7) Letter of recommendation is not required, but those concerned will be quoted in the selection process.

Application Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Curriculum vitae (2) Research plan (3) Declaration of desired university placement: 1st and 2nd choice (4) Undergraduate degree graduation certificate (5) Academic transcript (6) Health certificate (to be submitted after the 4th Selection) (7) Letter of recommendation from home country's government, Embassy of Japan, JETRO, Japanese companies, or JICA.
------------------------------	---

*Pregnancy

Pregnant participants are strictly requested to attach the following documents in order to minimize the risk for their health.

- ① letter of the participant's consent to bear economic and physical risks
- ② letter of consent from the participant's supervisor
- ③ doctor's letter with permission of her training participation.

Please ask JICA Staff for the details.

12. Selection Procedures (1st Batch)¹

(1) 1st Selection

Period	February - March 2014
Contents	Written examinations for English and mathematics
Objectives	To assess applicant's basic knowledge
Venue	To be determined
Results	These will be shared with the Japanese universities to inform their decisions in the Third Selection process (see below). Low scores may result in an applicant being disqualified.

(2) 2nd Selection

Period	February - March 2014
Contents	Prioritization of the candidates through interviews by members of the Steering Committee (see below)
Objectives	To examine the relevance of letters of recommendation presented by government nominees, and public applicants
Venue	To be determined
Results	The Steering Committee will prioritize information to be utilized as material for the Third Selection process. Applicants whose motives and manners are judged to be irrelevant to the purpose of the Master's Degree Program of the ABE Initiative may be disqualified.

(3) 3rd Selection

Period	April, 2014
Contents	Application document screening (mainly from "Research plan", and the "Result of the written examinations for English and mathematics of the First Selection") by Japanese universities
Objectives	To match applicants with university supervisors
Selection and Result	<p>JICA will examine the research plan and the result of the First Selection (scores of the written examinations in English and mathematics) and match applicants' preferences and abilities with the courses offered by Japanese universities.</p> <p>Applicants' first-choice universities will then examine the documents of the candidates' preferences and abilities matched their courses. Universities may select up to two or three times the number of candidates within their capacity to finally accept to proceed to the Final Selection. Applicants are encouraged to contact faculty members at their first-choice universities by email prior to the 4th selection stage, in order to ascertain the appropriateness of the major offered by the university.</p> <p>Applicants not qualifying at this stage may have another chance to be</p>

¹ The schedule for later batches to be determined

	<p>examined at their second-choice universities if seats are available. Each university has a maximum number of students they will ultimately accept.</p>
--	---

(4) 4th Selection

Period	From May to June, 2014
Contents	Interview by Japanese universities (via video conference system)
Objectives	To determine the selected participants
Venue	JICA Office through video conference
Selection and Result	Each applicant will be interviewed through video conference by faculty members of their first-choice Japanese university. Some disqualified applicants at this point may have a chance for another interview with their second-choice university if that university's capacity is not reached.

(5) Approval of the Successful Candidates

Successful candidates passing the 4th Selection will be officially approved as participants of the program by the Steering Committee. Each successful participant's status as "officially dispatched student" is endorsed by their home countries. A new application form (A2A3 form) of each approved participant will be filled out and officially submitted to JICA for formal procedures.

(6) Research Student

Research students are part-time students who utilizes their time to prepare for the entrance examination to be a master's program student. Research students are able to participate in lectures, receive instruction from professors and make use of university's facilities. The period for being a research student is limited to 6 months. Successful candidates who are classified as research students are requested to study for six months, then to take examinations to get into the master's program. Unsuccessful participants will be required to return to their home countries.

13. Implementation Framework

(1) Steering Committee

Several countries that have comparatively close economic relationships with Japan are categorized as "major target countries" and are required to establish individual Steering Committees. At the selection process of each batch, an Steering Committee will be formed in each country in order to prioritize the candidates and approve of successful applicants. The committee members include the Embassy of Japan, JETRO, a representative of the Japanese business community (such as a member of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce), the country's government, and JICA. The JICA representative will serve as chairperson, make decisions about selection policies, and coordinate the schedule. The government representative will organize the acceptance and dispatch of the successful applicants.

(2) Advisory Committee

This will be held annually in Tokyo in order to monitor the progress of the entire program. The members will include representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Federation of Economic Organizations (KEIDANREN), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

(3) Japanese Universities

Based on requests from JICA, Japanese universities will take roles in document screening, conducting final interviews, education and guidance of the participants, and participating in meetings with the purpose of monitoring participants.

(4) JICA and Support Organization

JICA will select and assign the Support Organization to facilitate the operation of this initiative. This Organization will support JICA by performing such functions as running the Steering Committee, recruiting local applicants, selection procedures, implementation of familiarization program upon participants' arrival in Japan, supporting them during their time in Japan, implementation of company tours and internship matching, and following up on the graduates. For other operations during the participants' stays in Japan, JICA domestic centers (at 12 locations in Japan) will be responsible.

14. General Rules and Conditions of Participants

JICA will ensure that the following treatments for participants of the program are equivalent to similar schemes provided by JICA.

- Tuition at Japanese university master's degree programs
- Living allowances
- Round-trip airfare
- Support programs during the study in Japan, including the costs of observation tours

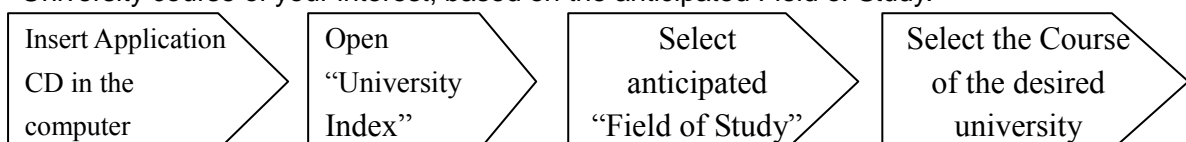
Other costs should be covered by the participants' organizations or other individuals.

15. Application Procedure and University Information

The procedure of choosing the department/course of universities, at which participants wish to study in Japan, is as it follows. There are two options.

(1) Option 1

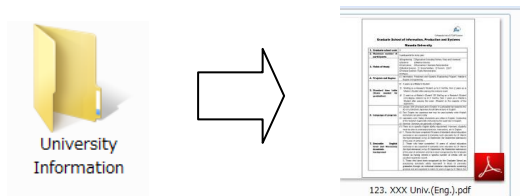
- 1) Refer to the "University Course Index" enclosed in the Application CD, and search for the University course of your interest, based on the anticipated Field of Study.



- 2) Find the “Graduate School Code” in the left column of the index matrix, with respect to your Field of Study.

Graduate School Code	Name of the Graduate School	
123	XXXX University	Engineering

- 3) Go to the “University Information” folder in the Application CD, and search for the file with the “Graduate School Code” of the chosen university/department.



- 4) Read the “University Information” of your choice carefully, before filling in the Application Form.

(2) Option 2

Without the Application CD, you may also access to the website below, where you can download the “Application Form”, simplified version of “University Index”, and “University Information” of respective courses you wish to apply.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/regions/africa/course.html>

Annex 1. Application Form

Annex 2. Form of Recommendation Letter

Annex 3. University Index for ABE Initiative Recommended Courses
(List of Japanese Graduate Schools)

Annex 4. Check List (List of Application Documents to be submitted)