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ADB-JSP 2026: Practical Application Blueprint

A Practical Guide for International Scholars

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Key Facts: ADB-JSP 2026 Blueprint

- **Total Awards:** Approximately 135 fully-funded master's scholarships are awarded annually across the Asia-Pacific region.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

- **Host Institutions:** 27 Designated Institutions (DIs) across 9 countries, with 17 located in Japan.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, List of Academic Institutions, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program/institutions>, Accessed June 2026]

- **Highest Stipend Location:** Singapore (NUS) offers up to S\$3,200 monthly [~\$2,360 USD as of June 2026].

[Basis: Author estimate compiled from NUS official guidance and historical stipend data]

- **Earliest 2026 Deadline:** East-West Center (USA) closes December 1, 2025, for the August 2026 intake.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, List of Academic Institutions, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program/institutions>, Accessed June 2026]

- **Critical Eligibility Rule:** Applicants must have at least 2 years of full-time professional work experience post-bachelor's degree.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

2. Program Overview & Eligibility Context

The Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP) remains one of the most prestigious funding avenues for professionals in the Asia-Pacific region. Established to build human capital, the program strictly targets development-related fields. Recent shifts emphasize the necessity of securing admission to a Designated Institution (DI) before ADB considers the scholarship application.

2.1 Core Requirements & Return Obligation

The ADB-JSP enforces strict eligibility criteria. The most critical requirement is the "Return Rule," which mandates that scholars return to their home country for at least two years post-graduation to apply their acquired skills.

[Source: AsianDevelopmentBank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

- **Verify Age Limits:** You must be 35 years old or younger at the time of application.
- **Calculate Work Experience:** Ensure you have exactly 24 months of full-time, post-degree professional experience. Internships do not count.
- **Secure Admission First:** Apply directly to the DI for your master's program. ADB does not accept direct applications.

Warning: Applying to a non-approved program at a Designated Institution will result in automatic rejection. Always cross-reference the specific master's program with the official ADB-JSP approved list.

2.2 Eligible Countries for 2026

Eligibility is restricted to nationals of ADB borrowing member countries. As of June 2026, 40 countries are eligible, including India, Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Vietnam. Dual citizens of any developed country are strictly excluded.

[Source: AsianDevelopmentBank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

3. Financial Coverage & Stipend Breakdown

The ADB-JSP provides comprehensive financial support, covering full tuition, housing, subsistence, medical insurance, and round-trip airfare. However, the monthly stipend varies significantly depending on the host country and institution.

3.1 Comparative Stipend Estimates by City

Understanding the local purchasing power of your stipend is crucial for selecting the right institution. The table below outlines the estimated monthly allowances across major host cities.

Host Country / City	Institution Example	Estimated Monthly Stipend (Local)	Estimated USD Equivalent
Japan (Tokyo)	Science Tokyo	JPY 147,000	~\$930 USD
Singapore	National University of Singapore	Up to S\$3,200	~\$2,360 USD
Hong Kong	University of Hong Kong	HK\$20,000	~\$2,560 USD
Thailand (Pathum Thani)	Asian Institute of Technology	11,500 - 15,000 THB	~\$310 - \$410 USD

Illustrative example based on institutional data as of June 2026. Individual results vary. Exchange rates approximate.

[Basis: Author estimate compiled from Science Tokyo, NUS, HKU, and AIT official financial aid portals]

- **Budget for Initial Costs:** Bring personal funds for the first month, as stipends may take weeks to process upon arrival.
- **Check Family Policies:** The ADB-JSP does not cover expenses for dependents. If bringing family, you must prove independent financial capacity.
- **Claim Annual Allowances:** In Japan, scholars receive an additional JPY 100,000 for books and JPY 116,250 for thesis preparation annually.

[Source: Science Tokyo, ADB-JSP Scholarship Benefits, <https://www.titech.ac.jp/english/international-student-exchange/prospective-students/scholarships/adb-jsp>, Accessed June 2026]

4. Participating Institutions & Deadlines

The program operates through 27 Designated Institutions. You must apply directly to the institution, adhering to their specific internal deadlines, which are often months before the academic year begins.

4.1 Key 2026 Application Deadlines

Deadlines vary widely. Missing an institutional deadline means missing the ADB-JSP opportunity for that year.

Institution	Country	Intake Month	Application Deadline
East-West Center	USA (Hawaii)	August 2026	December 1, 2025
University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	September 2026	January 30, 2026
Asian Institute of Technology	Thailand	August 2026	March 31, 2026
Science Tokyo	Japan	September 2026	Early April 2026
University of Tokyo	Japan	September 2026	June 30, 2026

Illustrative example based on official institutional deadlines for the 2026 intake. Always verify exact dates on the DI website.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, List of Academic Institutions, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program/institutions>, Accessed June 2026]

Common Mistake: Submitting the ADB-JSP Information Sheet directly to the Asian Development Bank. ADB does not accept direct applications. You must submit all scholarship forms to your chosen Designated Institution.

5. Application Strategy & Selection Criteria

Selection is highly competitive. ADB and the Designated Institutions evaluate candidates based on academic excellence, professional experience relevance, and the potential for development impact in their home country.

- **Draft a Strong Development Plan:** Clearly articulate how your master's degree will solve specific socioeconomic issues in your home country upon your return.
- **Align Work Experience:** Highlight how your 2+ years of professional experience directly relate to ADB's development priorities (e.g., climate change, infrastructure, public health).
- **Prepare Income Documentation:** You must submit your latest Income Tax Return or certification of annual salary, as well as certification of family income.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What happens if my country graduates from ADB borrowing status after I apply?

Eligibility is determined at the time of application. If your country graduates before you apply, you are ineligible. Always verify the current list on the ADB site before starting your application.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

Q: Does the ADB-JSP cover expenses for my spouse or children?

No. The scholarship provides financial support solely for the scholar. Family expenses, including travel, housing, and insurance for dependents, are not covered.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

Q: Can I apply if I have 1.5 years of work experience but will reach 2 years by the time the program starts?

No. You must have at least two (2) years of full-time professional working experience at the time of application.

[Source: Asian Development Bank, Scholarships in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>, Accessed June 2026]

Q: Can ADB-JSP scholars work part-time while studying?

ADB-JSP supports full-time study. Rules regarding part-time employment depend on the host country's visa conditions and the policies of the Designated Institution. Always verify with immigration authorities.

7. Sources & Disclaimer

A. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT & IMMIGRATION

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D. ESTABLISHED MEDIA & RESEARCH

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- Edu Live — ADB-Japan Scholarship Program (JSP) 2026, <https://www.edu-live.com/posts/adb-japan-scholarship-program-jsp-2026>, Accessed June 2026

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