

Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme
(Scholarship Programme)

【Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights】
2022/2023

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Introduction

1. The major objective of the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme is to provide scholars with the conceptual understanding and technical competence that are required to leaders who lead the organizations in the area of taxation and Customs. Scholars are expected to return to home Customs in order to utilize their knowledge and skills acquired through the programme and disseminate them to home Customs administrations.
2. The Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme (Scholarship Programme) provides a grant covering travel, subsistence, admission, tuition and other approved expenses to enable promising young Customs managers from developing countries to undertake Master's level studies at the Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU) in Tokyo, Japan.
3. The following administrative provisions govern this Scholarship Programme. If a nominee or a concerned person in the nominating administrations has any questions, he/she should address them to the Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO Secretariat before the Scholarship is accepted.

Capacity Building Directorate,
World Customs Organization,
Rue du Marché 30, 1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel : + 32 2 209 96 47
Fax : + 32 2 209 94 96
e-mail : scholarship@wcoomd.org

Conditions of candidacy and selection

4. The candidates should be in good health to productively pursue studies in Japan, preferably below 40 years of age as of 1 April 2022.
5. The recipients of Scholarships under this Programme will enrol for **the Master's Degree programme in Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** programme at the AGU.
6. This Scholarship is for one academic year starting from April 2022. There will be a preparatory course in March 2022 for a few weeks before the start of the Programme. The Scholarship period cannot be extended.
7. The candidates should be Customs officers **fully proficient in English** (a minimum TOEFL score of internet Based Test (iBT) 79 / TOEFL iBT home edition 79 / Paper Based Test (PBT) 550 or IELTS Academic Module 6.0, to prove their language proficiency). They should have a university degree or equivalent qualification.

8. The candidates should have at least **2 years** of work experience in Customs and should have assessed potential for advancement. In the selection, preference will be given to candidates who have experience in IPR border enforcement, and who are expected to work in the IPR-related section of their Customs administration after this Scholarship Programme.
9. Individuals who have already been awarded a scholarship under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme in the past will not be entitled to apply for this Scholarship Programme.
10. After the completion of the Programme, **the candidates should continue to work in their home Customs administration for 3 years at least.**
11. The candidates will be selected by the WCO in consultation with the AGU. The AGU shall inform the candidates about their selection or otherwise. The WCO will send a congratulatory letter to the administrations whose candidates have been selected.
12. In accepting a Scholarship, the candidate:
 - Must fill out and submit Scholar Guidelines to WCO, which will be shared later.
 - Undertakes to work full time on the assigned Programme. It will not be possible to undertake other activities not related to the Programme.
 - Undertakes to comply with the laws and show due respect for the culture and way of life of the host country.
13. The application process for candidates is as follows:
 - The nominated applicant requests website access via **online registration** option on the AGU's website (<http://www.aoyamasmiprp.jp/>), which should be completed **by 13 August 2021** whereupon applicant will be provided with an ID and Password to download application forms.
 - The applicant must then complete the **application forms** and **submit them with all the supporting documents** (including the Nomination Form from your Administration, which is downloadable from below-mentioned website) **by 1 September 2021** to the AGU Master's Programme Admissions Office at below indicated address.
14. **The original set of Application Forms with all supporting materials, including Nomination Form from your Administration,** should be completed and returned to:

Master's Program Admissions Office
Graduate School of Business
Aoyama Gakuin University
4-4-25 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku
Tokyo 150-8366
Japan
Telephone : + 81 3 3409 6239
Fax : + 81 3 3409 4575
e-mail : info_smiprp@busi.aoyama.ac.jp
Website : <http://www.aoyamasmiprp.jp/>

with the envelope marked, "Application for the WCO Scholarship". For more detailed information, please see the "Application Procedures" of the AGU, as enclosed herewith.

15. A duplicate set will be made and sent to the WCO Secretariat by the AGU Admissions Office. Therefore, it is not necessary to send a duplicate set to the WCO Secretariat.
16. Please note that **applications received after the deadlines will not be considered**. As late submissions, including of supporting document such as proof of English proficiency, are not acceptable, applicants and nominating Administrations are encouraged to prepare for required documents well in advance.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodation and living allowance

17. An all-inclusive allowance of 147,000 Japanese yen per month will be granted to cover the cost of accommodation, meals and incidental expenses for the study period. The amount of the allowance is subject to change according to the decision of the Japanese Government. (The allowance will be paid in Japanese yen.)
18. The Scholars will be offered assistance by the AGU to find residential accommodation at a reasonable rent.
19. The candidates should note that the allowance will not be sufficient to cover the expenses of any accompanying dependants. No family-related expenses will be paid or added to the monthly living allowance.

Health certificate

20. The Scholars selected will have to undergo a comprehensive medical examination and submit a certificate from a licensed physician **certifying that they are free from any medical condition that would impair his/her studies during the Programme.**

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Travel costs

21. The cost of travel (return trip) between the Scholar's place of residence and Tokyo will be borne by the Programme budget. For this purpose, an economy class pre-paid air ticket by the most direct route will be arranged by the AGU through a local travel or airline office or by courier in the country of the selected candidate. Transportation cost between the Scholar's place of residence and departure/arrival airport should be borne by the Scholars.
22. Any additional costs entailed with the changes of the pre-arranged itineraries or cancellation of the flight without reasonable grounds after the issuance of e-ticket should be borne by the Scholar or his/her home administration.

Insurance

23. No insurance coverage is provided by the WCO/Japan in respect of personal accidents or damage to or loss of personal effects during transport to or from Tokyo.

Passports - Visas

24. Persons entering Japan must hold a valid passport and visa. Vaccination requirements depend upon nationality, and the Scholar is personally responsible for complying with those requirements. The AGU will provide the selected candidates with a letter certifying enrolment in the Japan-WCO Scholarship in order that he/she may apply to the Japanese Embassy in his/her home country for a **college student visa**, authorizing temporary residence in Japan for the duration of the Programme.

COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAMME

25. Scholars are expected to complete the Programme as scheduled. Early repatriation may be authorized only on medical grounds or for other similarly important reasons. If a Scholar withdraws from the Programme before commencement of the Programme or before its scheduled completion, he/she shall not be entitled to any benefits from the date of the decision. The WCO may request for refund of any expenses that are incurred from his/her withdrawal to the Scholar. In case refund is requested, if the scholar cannot afford this for any reason, the organization to which the Scholar belongs should undertake the obligation.
26. On completion of the Programme, the Scholar is required to go back to his/her home country without delay. In the event of no return, the WCO may request for refund of the scholarship to the Scholar or to the organization to which the Scholar belongs. The WCO/Japan will pay travel costs, as described above, for the Scholar's return journey from Tokyo to the point of first departure. Entitlement to return travel expenses shall cease if the Scholar does not leave Tokyo within two weeks of completion of the Programme, unless he/she has any compelling reason for extending his/her stay.
27. In the event of a Scholar failing to complete the Programme, a request for partial refund may be sent to the Scholar. In case refund is requested, if the scholar cannot afford this for any reason, the organization to which the Scholar belongs should undertake the obligation.
28. After half a year and 3 years respectively from completion of the Programme, Scholars should report to the WCO and the AGU indicating the post they occupy in their home administration and how they have been utilizing the experience they acquired in Japan.