

**F. No.21000/29/2014-IC (ICD)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (WCO Cell)  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Tower 2, Jeevan Bharti Building,  
New Delhi, Tel: 011-21400124

Dated:  
18/12/2020

To,

All Members of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs  
All Pr. Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners of Customs and Customs (Preventive)  
All Pr. Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners of GST / Customs  
All Pr. Director Generals/ Director Generals  
All Joint Secretaries/Commissioners working in the Board

**Subject: Master's Degree Programme in Public Finance at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan (2021-2022)-reg.**

Sir/Madam,

The Secretary General, World Customs Organization has informed that the WCO will award a number of scholarships for the Master's Degree Programme in Public Finance at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan. Funds for these scholarships will be provided by Japan Customs under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme (Scholarship Programme). This Master's Degree Programme will start in September 2021 and finish in September 2022.

2. The Scholarship Programme is aimed at promising young managers from the Customs administrations of developing-country members. Candidates should have demonstrated potential for growth and commitment to the service of their administrations and should be fully proficient in English. The Master's Degree Programme comprises two segments: an academic segment and a practical segment. The academic segment provides rigorous, economics-oriented training aimed at developing a broad understanding of the theoretical, empirical and institutional aspects of Customs policy implementation and administration. The practical segment is taught in co-operation with Japan Customs, including the Japan Customs Training Institute, pursuing acquirement of enough knowledges and Customs practices applying for their home administration for further improvement of Customs procedures and modernization

3. The eligibility criteria/ condition of candidacy and selection, application process etc. for the scholarship have been laid down in the **Annexure-I & II**, some of which are as under:

- The candidates should be in good health to productively pursue studies in Japan, preferably below 35 years of age as of 1 April 2021
- The recipients of scholarships under this Programme will enrol for a Master's degree in the Public Finance Program at the GRIPS.
- This Scholarship is for 13 months academic year starting from September. The Scholarship period cannot be extended.
- 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.

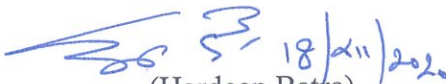
- Candidates should be Customs officers fully proficient in English (a minimum TOEFL score of iBT 79 or IELTS Academic 6.0). Applicants should have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent.
- They should have at least two-year work experience in Customs field as of 1 September 2021, and should have assessed potential for advancement.
- After the completion of the Programme, the candidates should continue to work in their home Customs administration for 3 years at least.
- The candidates will be selected by the WCO in consultation with the GRIPS. The GRIPS shall inform the candidates about their selection or otherwise. The WCO will send an appropriate congratulatory letter to the home administration on final selection of a candidate.

4. Further, it is informed that the as per the O.M F.No. 21000/29/2014-IC (ICD) Pt. dated 17.01.2020, it was decided that the officer who proceed for aforesaid programme will be treated as on study leave. (**Annexure-III**)

5. It is requested to forward application of the willing and suitable officers, who fulfill the criteria specified by the WCO, along with the **vigilance clearance and APAR grading for the last 5 years in the attached proforma** by e-mail to [indiaawco-cbec@nic.in](mailto:indiaawco-cbec@nic.in) with a copy to [hardeep.batra@gov.in](mailto:hardeep.batra@gov.in). The forwarding office must ensure that the applicant is free from vigilance angle. The nominations should be sent on or before **8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**. **Incomplete applications and those received after the stipulated date will not be entertained.**

6. It is requested that the officers may be advised not to send their applications / nominations to WCO directly. Further, they should not enter into any correspondence with WCO in this regard. The nominations of suitable officers will be sent to WCO after approval of the Board.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Hardeep Batra)  
Commissioner (WCO Cell)

Encl

- i. Annexure-I (Japan-WCO HRD Programme, Public Finance)
- ii. Annexure-II (Application Guidebook 2021)
- iii. Annexure-III
- iv. Proforma

Copy to the Web Manager, CBIC with request to upload it on CBIC website.