

Outline of Young Leaders' Program

1. Objectives

The Young Leaders' Program (YLP) is one of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programs commenced in 2001. YLP aims to contribute to cultivate future national leaders in Asian and other countries, moreover, to contribute to establish friendly relationship among various countries and to improve policy planning activities by forming a network among national leaders through deepening their understanding of Japan.

2. Eligible Countries and Participants

Young public administrators, business managers and legal professionals who are expected to play active roles as future national leaders in Asian and other countries have an eligibility to apply for the YLP program. (See below 3 for Courses, Host Universities and details about eligible participants.)

3. Courses and Host Universities

There are five courses in the YLP Program (Government, Local Governance, Business Administration, Law and Healthcare Administration). All courses commence in September or October, and offer a one-year master's program conducted in English. Students who complete the course are awarded a Master's Degree. The host universities of the courses are as follows:

Courses	Host Universities	Number of Accepted Students Per Year	Eligible Participants (Professional Experience*)
School of Government	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	20	Those who have at least 3 years of full-time work experience (preferably 5 years or more) in public administration
School of Local Governance	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	10	Those who have at least 3 years of full-time work experience (preferably 5 years or more) in public administration
Business Administration	Hitotsubashi University	15	Entrepreneurs, business managers and public officials who have at least 2 years of full-time work experience
Law	Kyushu University	15	Those who have at least 4 years of work experience in a law office or in the legal section of a company or government department
Healthcare Administration	Nagoya University	10	Those who have at least 3 years of full time working experience in healthcare fields in public sector at government department

* Please find more details about eligibility of applicants from the Application Guidelines of each course.

4. Recruitment and Selection

The recruitment of applicants and nomination of candidates to the Embassy of Japan are conducted by the recommending institutions^(*). Subsequently, the selection is conducted in the following process.

- (1) First screening by the host universities (through document screening and interview)
- (2) Second screening by the YLP Committee established by MEXT
- (3) Finalization of selection results by MEXT

^(*) Roles of Recommending Institutions

Recommending institutions are government bodies and relevant organizations in the eligible countries qualified by MEXT to take roles of recruitment and nomination of candidates to the YLP program. MEXT also designates courses of which each recommending institution can nominate candidates. The roles of recommending institutions in the process of recruitment and nomination are as follows (See ‘GUIDELINES FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026: YOUNG LEADERS’ PROGRAM (YLP) STUDENTS’ for more details.):

- Notification about the YLP Program and acceptance of applications
- Selection of candidates to be recommended
- Recommendation of candidates to the Embassy of Japan
- Notification of results to candidates

5. Scholarship Benefits for YLP Students (2026)

- (1) Allowance: 242,000 JPY per month
- (2) Education Fees: Fees for tuition, matriculation and entrance examination are exempted.
- (3) Traveling Costs: Airline tickets from his/her home country to Japan and vice versa are provided.

6. Further Information

For more details about recruitment and curriculum guidelines of each course, please find the latest version of the Application Guidelines. Please also see the following websites for details about each course.

- School of Government and School of Local Governance:
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/inter_programs/leader/
- Business Administration
Hitotsubashi University Business School, School of International Corporate Strategy (Hitotsubashi ICS)
<https://www.ics.hub.hit-u.ac.jp/admissions/mba/financing.html>
- Law
Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law
<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ylp-ll-m/>
- Healthcare Administration
Nagoya University, Graduate School of Medicine
https://www.med.nagoya-u.ac.jp/medical_E/laboratory/basic-med/social-science/ylp/