Joint Japan / World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP)  
Request for Proposal # 20-0475  

Frequently Asked Questions  

Updated: September 4, 2019

*Please read this document prior to submitting an inquiry to Corporate Procurement regarding Request For Proposal # 20-0475. September 3rd updates are in blue text and September 4th updates are in red text.*

**TOPIC: DEADLINE AND OTHER PROCESS QUESTIONS**

What is the correct deadline to submit a proposal?

The **CLOSING DATE AND TIME has been extended until:** **SEPTEMBER 08, 2019 @ 10.00 PM EST.** Please note that Proposals should be sent to gsdpsolicitation@worldbank.org.

If I am a JJWBGSP preferred or partnership program, do I have to submit a proposal?

Yes, the outcome of this RFP will replace the existing JJWBGSP partnership and preferred programs. The list of prior preferred programs are no longer posted on the JJWBGSP website, and the World Bank will not be extending any existing JJWBGSP partnership agreements.

Is this a one-time funding announcement, or will there be other opportunities in the future to apply for this scholarship program funding?

We do not intent to open up this opportunity again for another 5 years.

**TOPIC: WHO CAN SUBMIT A PROPOSAL**

Can a program that offers a dual degree submit a proposal?

A dual degree programs can submit a proposal for this RFP if the dual degree program is offered and administered by only one university and the students complete both degrees within 24 months.

Do current partnership and/or preferred programs remain on the list, whether or not the programs responds to the RFP?

No. The current list of preferred programs will not be extended beyond the students who have already been awarded JJWBGSP scholarships. Both former partners and preferred programs must complete the RFP in order to compete for the opportunity to be selected as a partner or preferred program for JJWBGSP scholarships that begin after June 2020.
Do universities/programs that responded to the February 2019 Request for Information have to respond to this Request for Proposal to be considered for the opportunity to be selected as a partner or preferred program for JJWBGSP scholarships?

Yes

Will you consider making an exception to the mandatory criteria for a master degree program to submit a proposal?

No. The Bank will not respond to such inquiries.

Can a University include more than one master degree proposal in its submission?

No. Each submission is for one master degree program.

If a master degree program offers multiple concentrations / majors, should there be a proposal for each concentration?

If the university offers a broad program, such as a “Master Degree in International Development” or a “Master Degree in Development Studies” and requires the graduate student to “major” or “concentrate” among a number of development subjects, then the university is required to submit a separate proposal for each of those “majors” or “concentrations” it wants JJWBGSP to consider for a preferred or partner program.

For all other programs, if majors/concentrations differ in the amount of tuition/costs, then the financial proposal must reflect the major/concentration with the highest cost. Do you consider practicums to be an internship?

Fotonote 2 in the technical proposal defines what we mean by “internship.” If your program offers a practicum but you do not believe it falls under our definition of an internship, then in the curriculum description, you need to provide sufficient detail as to the design/content of the practicum that distinguishes it from an internship.

Can a University submit more than one proposal?

Yes.

Does the master's degree program provide information about their admitted students to JJWBGSP as part of the scholarship application process?

JJWBGSP scholarship applications are solicited and managed by the World Bank. The JJWBGSP scholarship applicant is required to upload an unconditional letter of admission (except for securing funding) issued by the university.

Partner programs will also be required to provide the names and email addresses of students admitted to the master degree program who are shortlisted by the program for consideration of a JJWBGSP funded scholarship.
How often and when does the World Bank select its scholars?

For partner master degree programs, the selection of JJWBGSP-funded scholars is done once per year and the timing depends on the enrollment and admissions schedule of the master's degree program.

For preferred programs, the deadline for the scholarship applications takes place once per year and each year the date is the closest Thursday to April 15, and the awarded scholars are informed no later than July 15th.

Will JJWBGSP offer a scholarship to a developing country national that has not yet been admitted to the preferred or partner master degree program?

No. The scholarship applicant must provide a Letter of Admission for the upcoming academic year from the University that is unconditional (except for securing funding).

TOPIC: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Section 2, technical form no. 1, point no. 18: "Except for applicants put on a waiting list, admission letters are sent out by April 15 for the following academic year" does this apply for the preferred and partner master degree program?

If the program is chosen to be on the JJWBGSP list of preferred master degree programs, April 15th is the deadline by which the university must send out by email all letters of admission to the program. That date is set because the once per year JJWBGSP scholarship application deadline is April 15th for those applicants seeking funding to attend a JJWBGSP preferred master degree program, and scholarship applicants are required to upload their letter of admission to the selected preferred master degree program in their JJWBGSP scholarship application form.

If the program is chosen to be on the JJWBGSP list of partnership programs, the JJWBGSP Secretariat will administer the scholarship applications for that partnership so as to align with the partnership program's calendar of admitting their students -- as we have done with partnership programs in the past.

The cover of technical proposal 6 shows "DUE ON AUGUST 30", but the schedule shown in section 1-1.2 shows August 26.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is August 30, 2019 at 11.59 pm EST. August 26, 2019 is the deadline for submitting “Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal”.

Section 2, technical form 3, Q2.7: “Outreach activities with professor/teaching staff in the local community staff” shall we enter the number of people only for this question (Percentages are asked for other questions)?

Please enter the percentage "the share of students in this master's degree program who took up this opportunity within the past two years”.

Where can we find our "selection No" which we are required to write in page 3 of section 2, technical from 1?
Selection no. is the RFP number (RFP NO. 20-0475)

On Section 4 of Technical Form 3 ("Capacity to Admit JJWBGSP-Eligible and Qualified Developing Country Applicants"), you ask a series of questions about "admitted" students. Do you want students who were offered admission to our program or students who actually matriculated into our program?

Please provide the numbers of students who were offered admission to your program.

**TOPIC: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL PREPARATION**

Do we include admission or other fees to we include in Part IV?

Part IV refers to costs that the university would incur in the task of shortlisting JJWBGSP eligible admitted students. It does not include fees that applicants pay in order to submit an application to the program. So, for example, TOEFL or other exams required for an application to the Master’s program do not apply.

**TOPIC: BENEFITS**

Does JJWBGSP cover costs to bring and support family members of the JJWBGSP-funded scholar?

No.

How does JJWBGSP manage the case in which an awardee of a JJWBGSP scholarship has been offered other sources of funding?

JJWBGSP applicants and scholars are required to inform JJWBGSP if he/she has been offered a partial or full scholarship from another institution, organization or the university that can be applied to airfare, tuition, living expenses, and health insurance. The World Bank will then deduct from the JJWBGSP scholarship award the amount that the scholar is being offered by the other institution(s).