



Chapter 4

The Impact of Japanese Universities in an African Context

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4.1 Introduction

In the first two chapters, a survey of the state of international university partnerships (Chapter 1), the contextual background of South Africa and Japan and how these contexts define the scope of international partnerships between universities in the two countries (Chapter 2) were presented. These form the framework for the organised information provided in this chapter on the teaching and learning schemes, particularly scholarships and internship programmes, for people from the African region who are interested in studying in Japan. The chapter starts with a general overview of Japan's international students acceptance policy and how the Japanese government handles the policy with recent data on international students studying in Japan from African regions. It also provides an overview of the scholarships that the Japanese government, local governmental organisations, private corporations and citizen groups offer for international students. After the general overview, this chapter then focuses on specialised programmes, including internship programmes, for people from the African region.

4.2 Background on the Policy for International Students in Japan

The 300,000 International Students Plan (hereinafter referred to as the 300,000 Plan), which was announced by Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda in his policy speech in January 2008, aimed to accept 300,000 international students in Japan by 2020 (Matthias & Scott 2015). Six ministries developed the framework of this plan to work together and implement the measures comprehensively (MEXT 2010). These ministries were:

1. Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT),
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
3. Ministry of Justice,
4. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
5. Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and
6. Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

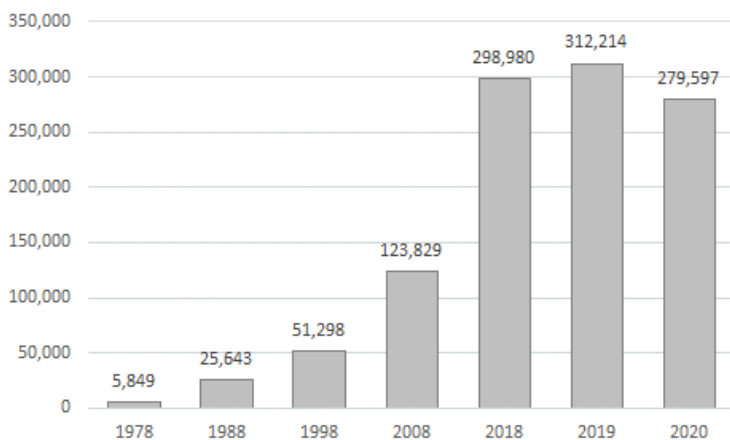


Figure 4.1: The number of international students who study in Japan (1978–2020). Source: JASSO 2020.

Subsequently, according to the Annual Survey of Enrolment of International Students (JASSO 2020), also depicted in Figure 4.1, 312,214 international students were enrolled in Japan on

1 May 2019, which was one year ahead of the plan's target year. Since the 1980s, Japan has been working to increase the number of international students studying there with a primary focus on students from Asia. For instance, in 1983, Japan announced its policy to accept 100,000 international students, called The 100,000 International Students Plan (hereafter referred to as the 100,000 Plan), and this number was achieved in 2003 (Kawaguchi 2019; Sakuma & Yonezawa 2019). Under the 100,000 Plan, international students were expected to return to their own countries after graduation. However, the 300,000 Plan, which the next government proposed, offered to hire international students in the Japanese labour market after graduation (Matthias & Scott 2015). Table 4.1 shows the principal measures of the 300,000 Plan, including the fifth measure stating that the motion of hiring international students after graduation has been accepted.

Table 4.1: The principal measures of the 300,000 Plan

<p>1. Invitation to study in Japan - Motivating students to study in Japan and the development of a one-stop service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Disseminating information about Japanese culture, society, and higher education.(2) Developing a one-stop (centralised) service for those who wish to study in Japan.
<p>2. Improving entrance examinations, admissions, and entry to Japan - Facilitating study in Japan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Improving the functions of universities to disseminate information related to study in Japan, such as entrance examinations through the Internet.(2) Simplifying the examination process and shortening the examination period according to the extent of the stay period after entry into Japan.

<p>3. Promotion of globalisation of universities - Creating attractive universities:</p> <p>(1) Promoting the International Centre for Education and Research at universities.</p> <p>(2) Increasing the number of courses offered in English.</p>
<p>4. Creating a host environment - Creating an environment where students can peacefully devote themselves to their studies:</p> <p>(1) Improving university housing.</p> <p>(2) Improving the Japanese government scholarship.</p>
<p>5. Promotion of acceptance of international students after completion of studies -Globalisation of society:</p> <p>(1) Strengthening the support for job hunting for international students after graduation.</p> <p>(2) Promoting job internships and the use of job cards.</p>

Source: MEXT 2008

Regarding the origin regions of international students studying in Japan, there was a lack of diversity as shown in Table 4.2. Since 2008, the percentage of international students from other regions has remained low, while the percentage of international students from Asia has remained high.

Table 4.2: The percentage of international students in Japan by region (2008-2020)

Region	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Asia	92.2	92.4	92.3	92.7	93.0	93.4	96.4
Europe	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.4	2.8
North America	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.7
Africa	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7
Latin America	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6

Region	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Middle East	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4
Oceania	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: JASSO 2008-2020

However, there has been an increase in the number of students from the African region as shown in Figure 4.2. In the Strategies for Accepting International Students to Capture Global Growth Report (MEXT 2013), regarding the promotion of accepting foreign students, Africa has been designated as a priority region for developing human resources that contribute to the national interest of economic growth, resources and corporate advancement.

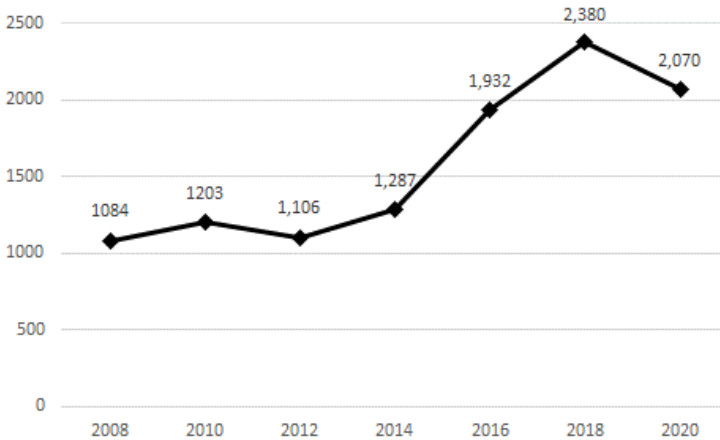


Figure 4.2: The number of students from Africa (2008-2020).
Source: JASSO 2008-2020

An analysis report of the 300,000 Plan (Meeting of Ministries Related to the 300,000 International Students Plan 2021) suggested post-300,000 Plan measures. Relevant ministries should continue to collaborate and cooperate for the acceptance of international students by paying close attention

to the global trends in higher education resulting from the Coronavirus 2019 pandemic. Moreover, they should shift to a perspective that focuses on outcomes, such as retaining outstanding international students who have received a high-quality education in Japan, and building or deepening networks with international students who have returned to their own countries. This could strengthen friendly relationships with those countries. Even after achieving the 300,000 Plan, the Japanese government continues to take measures for international students who are interested in studying in Japan.

4.3 Overview of the Scholarships for International Students in Japan

There are four types of scholarships for international students that are sponsored by different organisations:

1. The Japanese government,
2. Local government and local international associations,
3. Private foundations and
4. On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or reduction systems.

Table 4.3 shows a summary of the scholarships that international students who wish to study in Japan can apply for before they arrive in Japan. The first section summarises what students can expect when applying for Japanese government scholarships through the MEXT scholarship specifically. This includes research students, teacher training students, undergraduate students, college of technology students, specialised training college students and Japanese studies students. The second section summarises what students can expect who apply for scholarships through any of the above four organisations.

Table 4.4 shows the different eligibility requirements of each education level. Additionally, each scholarship that is sponsored by the aforementioned organisations has its own requirements. Therefore, it needs to be confirmed one by one. Apart from these, there are many scholarships that

Table 4.3: Summary of the scholarships available for international students (To be applied for before coming to Japan)

	Japanese Government Scholarship via the MEXT Scholarship						
	Young Leaders' Programme students	Research students (graduate school students & non-degree students)	Teacher Training students	Under-graduate students	College of Technology students	Specialised Training College students	Japanese Studies students
Amount of monthly support	¥ 242,000	Non-degree students: ¥ 143,000 Master's course: ¥ 144,000 Doctoral course: ¥ 145,000	¥ 143,000	¥ 117,000	¥ 117,000	¥ 117,000	¥ 117,000
Tuition fee exemption	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free flight ticket	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Payment period	1 year	Up to 2 years	Up to 1.5 years	5 years	4 years	3 years	1 school year
Grade-based	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Household income-based	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Japanese Government Scholarship via the MEXT Scholarship						
Young Leaders' Programme students	Research students (graduate school students & non-degree students)	Teacher Training students	Under-graduate students	College of Technology students	Specialised Training College students	Japanese Studies students
Screening process	Document screening, written examination and interview					
For inquiries	Embassy recommendation (application through Japanese embassies)					
	Contact the Japanese embassy in your own specific country or region. (https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/mofaserv.html)					
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
University recommendation (Application through Japanese universities)						
Based on the university's exchange agreement, Japanese universities conduct examinations for international student candidates. Therefore, consult the university or school you currently attend and find out the agreement.						
-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Japanese Government Scholarship via the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for privately financed international students		Local government and local international associations		Private foundations		On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or reduction systems

Japanese Government Scholarship via the MEXT Scholarship							
	Young Leaders' Programme students	Research students (graduate school students & non-degree students)	Teacher Training students	Under-graduate students	College of Technology students	Specialised Training College students	Japanese Studies students
Conditions	<p>Eligibility requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately financed international students who have achieved an excellent score in the examination for the Japanese university and want to enrol as regular students in universities (Doctor, Master & Undergraduate courses), junior colleges, colleges of technology, specialised training colleges, and Japanese language institutions. 	<p>Applicable scholarships include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> College of Technology students Specialised training college students University or junior college preparatory Japanese language programme students Students at the Japanese language institutes other than those in 3 above Junior college students University undergraduate students Graduate school-level research students Master's programme students Doctoral programme students Professional degree programme students 					
Amount of monthly support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese language institution student: ¥ 30,000 Others: ¥ 48,000 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¥ 60,000~¥200,000 	

Japanese Government Scholarship via the MEXT Scholarship							
	Young Leaders' Programme students	Research students (graduate school students & non-degree students)	Teacher Training students	Under-graduate students	College of Technology students	Specialised Training College students	Japanese Studies students
Tuition fee exemption		-					
Free flight ticket		-					
Payment period	1 year or 6 months						
Grade-based		✓					
Household income-based		✓					
For inquiries	Contact the school you intend to study at in Japan.						Contact your school.

Table 4.4: Eligibility requirements in MEXT Scholarship

Research students	You must be under 35 years old and a college graduate (includes prospective graduates) or you must have completed 16 years of schooling.
Teacher training students	You must be under 35 years old and a graduate of a college or teacher training college. You must have at least five years of active experience as a teacher in a primary, secondary or teacher training college in your country. (Please note that college and university teachers currently in active service are not eligible for this scholarship).
Undergraduate students	You must be at least 17 and under 25 years old and have completed 12 years of school education or have completed courses in a school comparable to a high school (includes prospective graduates).
Japanese studies students	Applicants must be between 18 to 30 years old. Applicants must be enrolled as undergraduate students in faculties or schools which major in Japanese language or Japanese culture in a university outside Japan at the time when they come to Japan and must be enrolled in the home institution at the time when they return to their home countries.
College of Technology students	You must be at least 17 and under 25 years old and have completed school education comparable to a high school education (a minimum of 11 years beginning in primary school) (includes prospective graduates).
Specialised training college students	You must be at least 17 and under 25 years old and have completed 12 years of schooling or have completed school education comparable to a Japanese high school (includes prospective graduates).

Resource: JASSO 2021a

international students can apply for after arriving in Japan. Since there are many degree courses available in English (as shown in Table 4.5), it is necessary for international students to decide on the education level, university or academic major that they are interested in when applying for a scholarship.

Table 4.5: The number of degree courses available in English

Major field	Universities (Undergraduate)	Graduate schools
Humanities	13	23
Social Science	22	116
Education	0	5
Natural Science	11	176
Engineering	24	463
Agriculture / Fisheries / Veterinary Medicine	3	82
Medical / Health Science	0	89
Arts	0	3
Comprehensive / Interdisciplinary	29	67
Other	12	95

Resource: JASSO 2021b (as of February 2020)

Formerly, the information on studying in Japan was provided by both the Study in Japan Information Guide (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the Study in Japan Portal Site (JASSO). However, to provide easily accessible information that meets the needs of applicants and students, the two websites were integrated and launched on 1 April 2019 as the Study in Japan website (JASSO 2021e).

The Study in Japan website offers comprehensive information, including the advantages of studying in Japan, planning studies in Japan, life in Japan, job and career in Japan

and networking (JASSO 2021e). Here are some visual samples taken from the website:

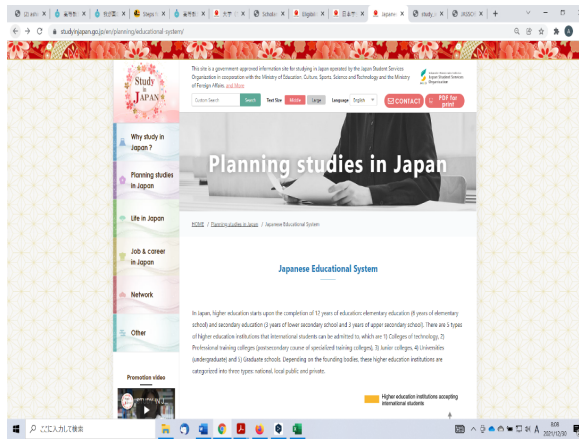


Figure 4.3: General information about Japan

The website has general information on Japan such as the Japanese education system, living costs, accommodation, insurance and part-time work so that the students can get a clear picture of study life in Japan.

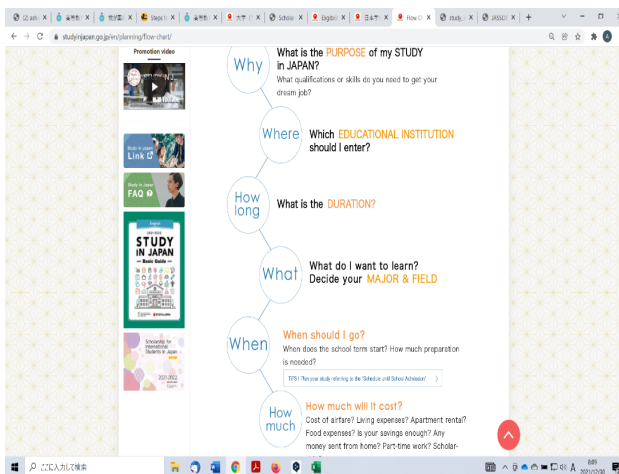


Figure 4.4: The planning flow chart

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Since there are many options for studying in Japan, the website provides step-by-step guidelines to help students decide which institution, academic major and scholarship to choose.

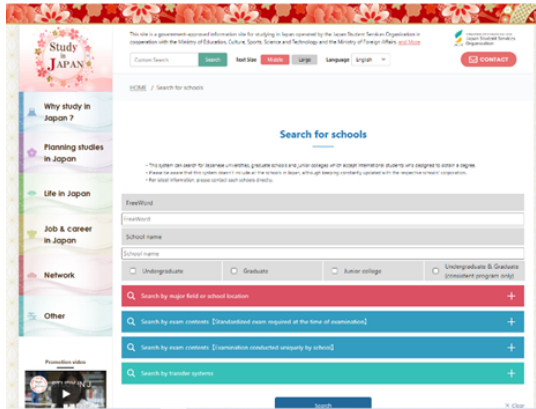


Figure 4.5: The search engine for schools

Students can search the schools of their choice in this engine. They can also search for scholarships from the Scholarship for International Students in Japan list.



Figure 4.6: Events on study in Japan

Students can interact with currently enrolled students through a Virtual Fair (both live and recorded sessions).

4.4 Arrangements for International Students from Africa

As mentioned above, the Strategies for Accepting International Students to Capture Global Growth Report (MEXT 2013) presented priority areas, which are expected to contribute towards the future development of Japan. In 2014, based on this strategy, MEXT launched a programme called The Study in Japan Coordinator Project. This programme allocated coordinators who serve as playmakers in encouraging international students to study in Japan. In light of the 2017 administrative work reviews and the recommendations by the Panel on Promotion of the Acceptance of International Students, MEXT enhanced and expanded the Study in Japan Coordinator Project to carry out the Study-in-Japan Global Network Project since 2018. This was done to develop an all-Japan system for supporting international students that covered a range of activities from student enrolment to student recruitment and follow-ups after they returned to their own countries. Table 4.6 shows where the programme started and how it expanded with the list of coordinator universities and their offices.

Table 4.6: List of coordinator universities and offices in each project

Study in Japan Coordinator Project	→	Study-in-Japan Global Network Project
Okayama University (Myanmar) Yangon office	→	Okayama University (ASEAN countries) Yangon office (Myanmar) Mandalay Office (Myanmar) Bangkok (Thailand)
Hokkaido University (sub-Saharan Africa) Lusaka office (Zambia)	→	Hokkaido University (sub-Saharan Africa) Lusaka office (Zambia) Nairobi office (Kenya)

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The University of Tokyo (India) Bengaluru office	→	The University of Tokyo (Southwestern Asia) New Delhi office (India) Colombo office (Sri Lanka)
University of Tsukuba (Brazil) São Paulo office	→	University of Tsukuba (South America) São Paulo office (Brazil)
		Hokkaido University, University of Tsukuba, Niigata University (Russia and the CIS countries) Moscow office (Russia)
		Kyushu University (Middle East and North Africa) Cairo Office (Egypt) Ankara Office (Turkey)
		Japan Student Services Organization (Headquarters in Japan) Tokyo office (Japan)

Source: MEXT 2021a & 2021b

For people who wish to study in Japan from sub-Saharan Africa, there are two local offices located in Lusaka, Zambia and Nairobi, Kenya managed by Hokkaido University. On the Study in Japan for Africa website (Hokkaido University 2021), students can obtain specific information about African regions (Figure 4.7), such as students belonging to sub-Saharan Africa who are currently studying at universities in Japan (Figure 4.8). This will allow the students to understand what studying in Japan is like based on the experiences of the currently enrolled students. The website also posts information about the upcoming school fairs (Table 4.7). School fairs used to be held in different places, however, due to the Coronavirus 2019 pandemic, online fairs are primarily being held.

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Figure 4.7: Study in Japan for Africa website

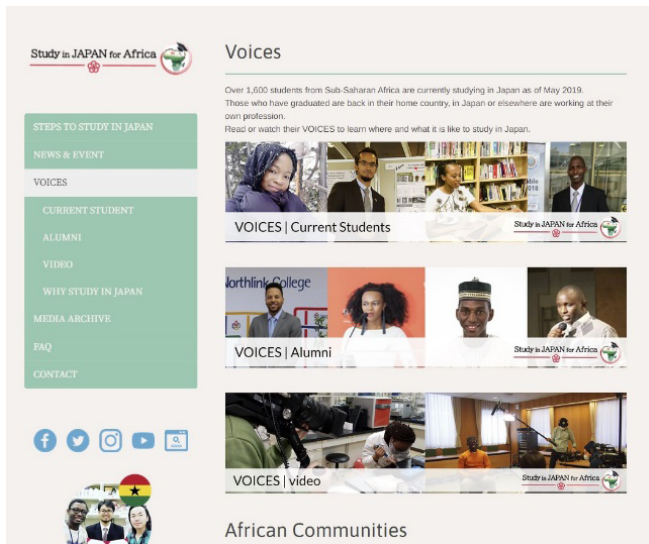


Figure 4.8: Voices

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Table 4.7: List of school fairs

Study in Japan School Fair			
Date		Venue	
2015	Sep.	South Africa	University of Pretoria
2016	Feb.	Tanzania	University of Dar es Salaam
2016	Oct.	Kenya	University of Nairobi
2017	Feb.	Ghana	University of Ghana
2017	Sep.	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University
2018	Feb.	Rwanda	University of Rwanda
2018	Sep.	South Africa	University of Cape Town
2019	Feb.	Uganda	Hotel in Makerere city
2019	May	South Africa	Hotel in Pretoria city
2019	Sep.	Kenya	Embassy of Japan in Kenya
2020	Nov.	Ghana	Hotel in Pretoria Accra city
Study in Japan Online Fair			
Date		Media	Theme
2020	May-Jul.	Online	Study in Japan Online Fair in Cote d'Ivoire
2020	Aug.	Online	Study in Japan Online Fair Mauritius
2020	Sep.	Online	Study in Japan Online Fair in South Africa
2020	Sep.-Oct.	Online	Study in Japan Online Fair in Madagascar
2020	Sep.-Oct.	Online	Study in Japan Online Fair in Ethiopia
2020	Jan.	Online	[Webinar Series 1] Study Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) at undergraduate in Japan
2020	Jan.	Online	[Webinar Series 2] Study Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) at undergraduate in Japan
2021	Feb.	Online	[Webinar Series 3] Study Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) at undergraduate in Japan
2021	Mar.	Online	STUDY IN JAPAN WEBINAR 2021: Graduate Studies in Engineering, Science, Agriculture and Technology
2021	June	Online	Information Webinar Undergraduate program at Meiji Gakuin University
2021	Aug.	Online	Study in JAPAN Online Fair for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021 Undergraduate, Graduate Program
2021	Aug.	Online	Study in JAPAN Online Fair for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021 Graduate Program
2021	Sep.	Online	Study in JAPAN Online Fair for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021 Graduate Program

4.5 The ABE Initiative, Pilots of African Business and SDGs Global Leader Programme

The African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) is a programme that offers opportunities for African students to study master's courses at Japanese universities and experience internships at Japanese companies (JICA 2019b). It aims to foster young students who can contribute to the development of industries in Africa and be a 'navigator' for Japanese firms' operations in Africa (JICA 2019b). This programme was implemented in 2014, and of the 1,219 students who came to Japan, 775 students had already completed the programme as of April 2019. The uniqueness of this programme not only lies in opportunities to study master's courses but also to experience internship programmes in Japan, as shown in Figure 4.9. At graduate schools, the students under this programme study engineering (30%), economics and management (26%), agriculture (12%), information and communication technology (9%), politics and public policy (6%), science (4%), medicine and healthcare (2%) and other fields (11%) (JICA 2019b). As of 2019, 548 companies were registered for the internship. The largest numbers of registered companies in the industry sector are manufacturing (29%), services (18%), wholesale and retail (14%), information and communications (10%) and academic research and specialty technology services (9%) companies (JICA 2019b).

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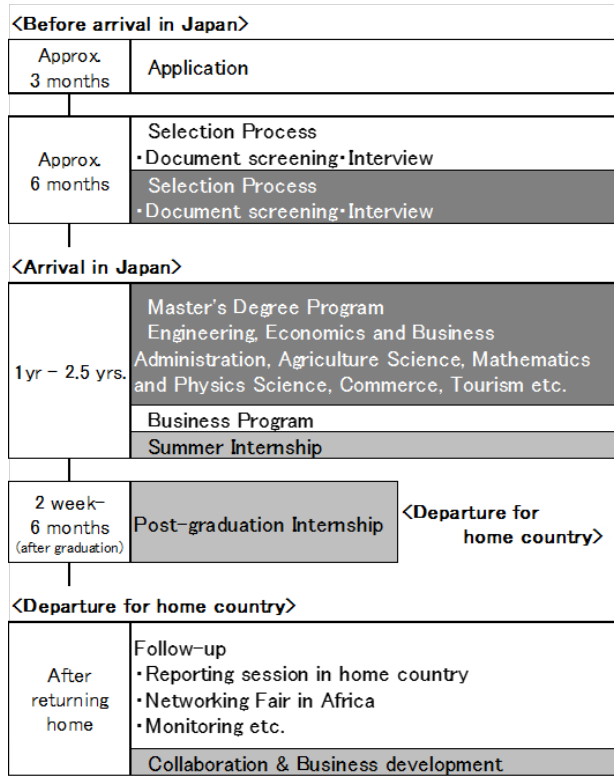


Figure 4.9: ABE Initiative programme overview. Source: JICA 2019b

The basic qualifications and requirements for this programme are:

- Nationality: Citizens of one of the 54 African countries,
- Age: Less than 40 years and
- Educational background: Bachelor's degree (or equivalent to at least 16 years of academic background).

Depending on the applicant, the qualifications and requirements may differ, therefore, the applicants need to obtain detailed information such as general information, application forms and university lists. The difference between this programme and other programmes is that they have different organisers. This programme is organised by the

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and interested individuals need to contact the JICA overseas offices (Table 4.8). These offices provide information on applications, universities and internship companies.

Table 4.8: List of JICA overseas offices

Angola	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kenya	Niger	Sudan
Benin	Djibouti	Madagascar	Nigeria	Tanzania
Botswana	Egypt	Malawi	Rwanda	Tunisia
Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Morocco	Senegal	Uganda
Cameroon	Gabon	Mozambique	South Africa	Zambia
Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana	Namibia	South Sudan	Zimbabwe

Resource: JICA 2019b

JICA also manages the scholarship called the SDGs Global Leader Program. According to the SDGs Global Leader Course Brochure (JICA 2019a), this programme aims to foster junior or mid-level government officials, academics and leading human resources in various fields. The programme facilitates this aim by providing a Master's or Doctoral programme in universities and internship programmes at companies in Japan. This programme is for 7 regions in the world, but as Table 4.9 shows, the numbers for Africa are high. It means the opportunity for people from Africa is more open. Those who are interested in this programme need to contact the JICA overseas office, same as ABE Initiative.

Table 4.9: Enrolment Capacity by Region (Tentative)

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Southeast Asia	24	32	33	43	43
Pacific	17	20	25	25	25
South Asia	7	8	5	5	5
Middle East and Europe	0	1	3	3	3
Central and East Asia	4	4	7	7	7
Africa	1	59	60	75	75
Latin and Caribbean	2	11	10	10	10

Resource: JICA 2019a

One can hear directly from international students who are currently studying in or have completed those programmes from Japanese universities (Table 4.10). All relevant information is available on the JICA website.

Table 4.10: Information resources of ABE Initiative & SDGs Global Leader Program

The ABE Initiative Program	SDGs Global Leader Program
JICA Website Master's Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) (JICA, 2021a) https://www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/africa/internship.html Brochure Development of Industrial Human Resources in Africa ABE Initiative (JICA, 2019b) https://www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/africa/c8hovm00008orbbu-att/abe_1907_en.pdf	JICA Website SDGs Global Leader (JICA, 2021b) https://www.jica.go.jp/dsp-chair/english/dsp/course/content/sdgs_global_leader.html Brochure Course Brochure: SDGs Global Leader (JICA, 2019a) https://www.jica.go.jp/dsp-chair/english/dsp/course/content/ku57pq00002ma5q9-att/course_brochure.pdf

4.6 Collaboration Between Japanese and South African Universities

Part of the international outreach of Japanese universities has been to South Africa, for example, the recent establishment of the South Africa-Japan Centre for Collaboration at Stellenbosch University, South Africa (Stellenbosch University 2022). This centre represents the culmination of a long-standing collaboration between Stellenbosch University and Japan reaching back over twenty years. The objective of the Stellenbosch University-Japanese Centre (SUJC) is to:

- promote South Africa-Japan academic relations by encouraging Japanese Studies at Stellenbosch University,
- encourage teaching and research collaboration between Stellenbosch University and Japanese universities,
- Host educational and cultural events for the broader community and
- Collaborate with other similar centres in Africa and internationally.

Since 2022, this partnership between Japanese and South African universities has been ongoing, facilitated by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) (see NRF 2022). However, in their thorough review of partnerships between South African universities and universities abroad from 2011-2021, Heleta and Jithoo (2023) conclude that such partnerships continue to be dominated by European partner institutions, and as far as partners outside of Europe feature, these tend to be limited to Brazil, Russia, China, India and Nigeria. Japan does not register.

4.7 Conclusion

Japan has been working to increase the number of international students since the 1980s. The 100,000 Plan was announced in 1983 by the Japanese government, but it primarily focused on the Asian region. Subsequently, the 300,000 Plan was announced in 2008 with the aim to accept 300,000 international students by 2020. Even though the

Japanese government took the policies, most international students studying in Japan still tend to be from Asia. However, various efforts are being made to increase the number of students from Africa such as setting up the Study in Japan Coordinators system specifically for African regions and establishing programmes that target people from Africa. Despite an impressive array of engagements in Africa and some engagement in South Africa, at present, Japan is not a key contact point for South African institutions in their internationalisation drives. This contrasts with the promise of internationalisation, as explained in previous chapters, when comparing Japanese and South African higher education and societal contexts. In the next chapters, several case studies will showcase Japanese universities' involvement in Africa, serving as a model for both Japanese and South African universities considering and leading Japanese–South African partnerships.

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