

Admission for the Transnational Doctoral Programs for
Leading Professionals in Asian Countries

Asian Satellite Campuses Institute (ASCI)
Nagoya University
through

LL.D. (Comparative Law) Program in Law and Political Science
Graduate School of Law

Nagoya University

(October 2025 Admission for Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Vietnam and Uzbekistan)

I OUTLINE

1. Objectives

The Transnational Doctoral Programs for Leading Professionals in Asian Countries aim to offer doctoral degrees to government executives or individuals serving in equivalent leading positions of Asian countries who already possess a master's degree and wish to continue their studies, by providing a quality education program which combines education at Nagoya University (NU) Asian Satellite Campuses conducted in collaboration with NU's main campus, and short-term intensive academic activities at main campus in Japan enabling students to continue their carrier in the current posts while deepening their knowledge and experience.

2. Eligible Applicants and Countries

Eligible applicants: Early government executives, faculty members of university, international organization executives or individuals serving in equivalent leading positions with at least three years of work experience. Applicants must be both nationals of and residents in the countries below:

Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Vietnam and Uzbekistan

3. Host University

Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University (NUGSL)

4. Maximum Number of Students Admitted

There are several openings for students in the program each year. The number of openings is determined each year by NUGSL based on the number and quality of applications and the availability of appropriate supervisors.

5. Areas of Study

Law and Political Science

(For further information please refer to: <https://gsl.law.nagoya-u.ac.jp/about-us/faculty-members.php>)

6. Details of Curriculum

(1) Basic Concepts

The program aims to assist early-career professionals to develop specialized knowledge and skills while conducting original and innovative research in the areas of comparative law and political science. Through this program, we hope that students further their careers and play important leadership roles in their respective countries.

The program provides support to students through day-to-day research guidance both at the satellite offices and from Japan via videoconference and other distance learning tools. Intensive lectures, seminars, and research guidance sessions are also conducted both in the student's country and in Japan.

(2) Requirements for Doctoral Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation must meet the following criteria:

- Constitutes a contribution to the discovery and resolution of theoretical and practical problems in the areas of comparative law or political science.
- Uses mainly comparative law and comparative political science methods. In the case of international relations specialists, however, even concerning an analysis of the functioning of international documents and international institutions, it is permissible to consider the possible applications for domestic law and politics.
- Presents an analysis of relevant research trends and frames and argument on the basis of Japanese or English sources. This criterion applies where the dissertation draws primarily on materials in the language of the home country of the student.
- States a research question, addressed in the dissertation in a well-argued and well-structured manner.
- Shows originality in the progress of the research and comparisons.
- Answers anticipated criticisms in a methodologically sound manner.

(3) Main Features

- The program is designed for students who are capable of carrying out research on an independent basis.
- The student is expected to visit his/her respective local satellite office regularly, where they will be able to consult with local academic staff and access research resources and

facilities. Access to video conferencing facilities is available at the local satellite offices for communicating with the NUGSL academic staff.

- The student will be assigned one academic advisor and two sub-advisors from among the NUGSL faculty members to provide supervision and advice on research methodology, research progress, development of the argument, and completion of the dissertation.
- As a general rule, the advisor will travel to the student's country once a year to provide intensive lectures on the relevant subject(s) to the student. There may be circumstances where the advisor's schedule will not allow such arrangements.
- Depending on the availability of the advisor and upon mutual agreement between student and advisor, the student will travel to Japan once (and possibly twice*) a year, to attend intensive seminars with his/her advisor and sub-advisors and to present an annual research progress presentation. These presentations will be open to the broader NUGSL faculty and will provide the student with an opportunity to receive comments and additional advisory input from other researchers and scholars.
- A highly qualified academic support-team in Japan will regularly engage with students via video conference and e-mail to assist in the development of academic skills and research design to help enable the student to complete his/her degree in close consultation with the advisors.

* If the advisor is unable to travel to the student's country for schooling, NUGSL will consider requests for a second visit by the student to Japan.

(4) Program Duration

For the completion of the Program, the student is expected to have spent three years in the LL.D. program and must submit a doctoral dissertation after receiving the necessary supervision for his/her doctoral research. In addition, the student is required to pass an examination of the submitted dissertation by their supervisory panel.

(5) Language

Lectures and other guidance are generally conducted in English. A doctoral dissertation shall be written in English. However, those who have completed a master's program in law or in political science, or the equivalent, in Japan with the submission of a certain length of Master's Thesis written in Japanese as partial fulfillment of its degree requirements may opt for writing a doctoral dissertation in Japanese. In this case, lectures and other guidance will mainly be conducted in Japanese.

7. Tuition Fees

Students are fully exempted from admission fees and tuition fees for the standard duration of the Program.

8. Financial and Other Supports

This program offers financial and other supports to students during their visits to Nagoya University to attend intensive supervision seminars conducted by their supervisors and the academic support team.

(1) Stipend (living expenses while in Japan)

A stipend of 75,000 yen will be paid to the student for every 14 days period (or part thereof) in Japan, commencing from the date of the student's arrival in Japan for intensive supervision seminars. This stipend will be paid in cash upon arrival at the Nagoya University campus.

(2) Stipend (travel expenses)

Nagoya University will cover the cost of an economy-class airfare (return) from the international airport nearest the student's home address to Chubu Centrair International Airport for students attending intensive supervision seminars in Japan. Students must personally bear the costs of travel from their home address to the nearest international airport, airport tax, airport usage fees, any special tax charged on the flight, and domestic travel costs within Japan. (The "student's home address" shall in principle be the address given on the application form). The student must bear any insurance for the trip to/return trip from Japan.

(3) Accommodation while staying in Japan

Accommodation for the duration of each intensive supervision seminar will be provided for the student. The student shall pay for all utilities.

Note: The stipend will be terminated under any circumstances given below:

- it becomes clear that the student will not be able to submit a doctoral dissertation within the standard duration as a result of unsatisfactory academic progress or suspension;
- the student is provided with another stipend (except stipends designated for research expenses);
- if the student is enrolled in another PhD course of other institutions; or
- the student receives a request to quit the program from the government or other state institution of the student's home country.

In addition, students who continue to receive the stipend despite meeting one of the conditions mentioned above may be required to return the money received during the period in question.

9. Commencement of Program

October 2025

II APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Prerequisites for Application

- 1) Applicants must meet **one** of the following criteria:
- i) Applicants who have been awarded or are expecting to be awarded a master's degree in law or in political science, or equivalent by **30 September 2025**
 - a. from a university in their home country or a foreign country;
 - b. from a university of Japan (including Nagoya University);
 - c. through correspondence courses managed by a recognized foreign institution while residing in Japan; or
 - d. by completing a graduate course managed by a foreign institution situated in Japan that is recognized as a formal educational system of the foreign country and for which the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology has formally approved.
 - ii) Applicants who have completed their master's at the United Nations University, established on 11 December 1972, by a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as prescribed under Article 1-2 of the Act on Special Measures Incidental to Enforcement of the "Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University" (Act No. 72 of 1977) and who have been conferred with a degree that corresponds to a master's degree, or who expect to be conferred with such a degree by **30 September 2025**.
 - iii) Applicants designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Japan (Notification No. 118 of the Ministry of Education of 1989);
 - iv) Applicants who are recognized by NUGSL as possessing the academic ability equivalent to or above that of a person who has obtained a master's degree in law or in political science, or equivalent, on the basis of the individual preliminary screening of qualifications* by **30 September 2025**.

**Note: Those wishing to qualify under the above categories iii) or iv) should refer to the Note on the Individual Preliminary Screening of Qualifications in "2. Documents required for Application below."*

2. Documents Required for Application

All documents for application should be typewritten or neatly written in block letters in English or Japanese. In the event that certificates, transcripts and other documents are in a language other than English or Japanese, a certified translation into one of these two languages must be attached. Depending on the domestic jurisdiction in each participating country, it should be certified by a notary, school attended, or relevant official. Applicants should not use generative AI tools to generate text or any other content in their application documents.

The following documents are required.

- 1) Application Form No.1;

2) Proposed research plan on prescribed Form No.2;

*Only if you opt for writing Dissertation in Japanese, as noted in I 6 (5), your research plan must be written in Japanese.

3) Degree or certificate of (prospective) completion of a master's program issued by the university attended and the degree or certificate of graduation from the undergraduate school. Those who have completed or are expected to complete the master's program at NUGSL do not have to submit these certificates;

4) Transcript of academic records of a master's program and transcript of undergraduate studies issued from each university attended. If original documents are not available, please supply certified copies of the original documents. Those who have completed or are expected to complete the master's program through NUGSL do not have to submit these documents;

5) A digital PDF copy of the applicant's master's thesis (or the equivalent research article), its abstract, and a proof of English language proficiency. Please note:

Your Master's Program		See;
Your Master's program language	Its Thesis Requirement	
English	Required	i)
	Not required	ii)
Japanese	Required	iii)
	Not required	v)
Others	Required	iv)
	Not required	v)

i) Those who have completed a master's program in law or in political science, or equivalent, taught in English, which requires a master's thesis as partial fulfillment of its degree requirements, are required to submit a copy of their thesis and its abstract. **While not required, applicants are strongly encouraged** to provide proof of English language proficiency by submitting a copy of their most recent IELTS score of not lower than 6.5 or a TOEFL Score PBT 550/ IBT 88.

ii) Those who have received a master's degree from a master's program in law or in political science, or equivalent, taught in English, which did not require to submit a master's thesis are expected to submit digital copies of equivalent research articles that they have authored in English and its abstract. Such research articles MUST NOT be less than 20 pages (not less than 6000 words). **While not required, applicants are strongly encouraged** to provide proof of English language proficiency by submitting a copy of their most recent IELTS score of not lower than 6.5 or a TOEFL Score PBT 550/ IBT 88.

iii) Those who have completed a master's program in law or in political science, or equivalent, which has the submission of a master's thesis written in Japanese as partial fulfillment of its degree requirements, are required to submit a copy of their thesis and its abstract in Japanese. **Applicants are required to provide proof of English language proficiency** by submitting a copy of their most recent IELTS score of not lower than 6.5 or a TOEFL Score PBT 550/ IBT 88.

*Only if you opt for writing Dissertation in Japanese, as noted in I 6 (5), you are not required to submit the proof of English language proficiency.

- iv) Those who have completed a non-English and non-Japanese master's program in law or in political science, or equivalent, which requires to submit a master's thesis as partial fulfillment of its degree requirements, **are required to submit** a copy of their master's thesis which has been translated into English by the applicant and its abstract in English. Applicants are required to provide proof of English language proficiency by submitting a copy of their most recent IELTS score of not lower than 6.5 or a TOEFL Score PBT 550/ IBT 88.
- v) Those who have received a master's degree from an LL.M. program, or equivalent, taught in a language (including Japanese) other than English, which did not require to submit a master's thesis as its partial fulfillment of degree requirements, are expected to submit digital copies of equivalent research articles that they have authored in English and its abstract in English. Such research articles MUST NOT be less than 20 pages (not less than 6000 words). **Applicants are required to provide proof of English language proficiency** by submitting a copy of their most recent IELTS score of not lower than 6.5 or a TOEFL Score PBT 550/ IBT 88.

5') **【For applicants who are expecting to be awarded a master's degree in law or in political science or the equivalent】**

A digital PDF copy of the applicant's master's thesis (or the equivalent research article), its abstract, and a proof of English language proficiency, in accordance with instructions i) – v) mentioned in 5).

*Even if the applicant has not been awarded a master's degree in law or in political science or the equivalent at the time of application, digital PDF copy of the COMPLETED master's thesis (or the equivalent research article) and its abstract must be submitted at the time of application.

*Those who expect to complete the master's program at NUGSL do not have to submit the digital copy of the master's thesis or its abstract.

6) List of Publications:

A list of books, articles, or theses the applicant has published, including joint publications and e-publications, if any, giving the title, date of publication, name of publisher and a brief summary (3-4 sentences).

7) A letter of recommendation on prescribed Form No.3:

A letter of recommendation must be written by the person for whom the applicant is currently working in a professional capacity. Whenever possible, applicants may also provide a letter of recommendation written by a faculty member of a university attended, who knows them well. The letter of recommendation must demonstrate the applicant's ability to play an important future leadership role in their respective country.

The letter of recommendation must be provided in an envelope that has been properly sealed by the referee.

- 8) One photograph (4.5 cm × 3.5 cm) affixed to the application form. The photograph should be no more than six months old at the time of application. The applicant is also required to write his/her name and nationality on the back.
- 9) An official document certifying the nationality or citizenship for those applying from abroad (e.g., a copy of passport).

Note on the Individual Preliminary Screening of Qualifications:

- 1) Those wishing to qualify under the criteria iii) or iv) in the section II 1 1) above should submit the following documents **by 4 April 2025 (Fri)** to the Local ASCI office, in order to receive the Individual Preliminary Screening of Qualifications as possessing equal academic ability at master's level:
 - (1) Application for the Individual Preliminary Screening of Qualifications on prescribed form;
 - (2) Curriculum vitae on prescribed form;
 - (3) Certificate of academic research experience issued by the head of the institution the applicant is affiliated with, or by a person who is in a position to supervise the applicant, on prescribed form;
 - (4) Proof of educational history since graduation from high school (e.g. Certificate of graduation, withdrawal, or period of enrollment from high school and/or university attended);
 - (5) Academic transcripts of the concerned schools;
 - (6) Reports on academic achievements or practical experiences on A4 paper in approx. 1,000 English words;
 - (7) Research proposal on A4 paper in approx. 1,500 English words; and
 - (8) Three copies of any academic papers or books written by the applicant.
- 2) Applicants will be notified of the result of the Individual Preliminary Screening of Qualifications around **11 April (Fri)**. Those who are recognized as possessing academic ability equivalent to a university graduate should submit the documents required for application, listed above, by the **Application Deadline (below)**.

3. Applications from persons with disabilities

Those persons who require special consideration for the interview due to impairment or disability should consult with NUGSL prior to applying.

Consultation period: By 4 April 2025 (Fri)

Consultation method: Applicants must submit the following documents to the Local ASCI office.

Request for special consideration: Candidates should write on A4 paper (no particular format required) regarding matters such as the nature of their disability, the special consideration they need to take part in the selection process. A health certificate from a qualified health practitioner in support of the above request for special consideration is also needed.

4. Related Notes

- 1) Incomplete and late applications will not be considered. After applications have been submitted, changes to documents will not be permitted.
- 2) Any false statement, misrepresentation or omission by the applicant in the application may form the basis for denial of admission or dismissal from NUGSL.

5. Handling of Individual Information

Any information regarding individuals which has been obtained in the course of invitations for applications or from details contained in application documents shall be used for the purpose of notifications concerning the application in question, entrance examinations, announcements of results of entrance examinations, enrollment procedures and any other items subsidiary to those situations. It will also be used for the administration of the school register and for academic records connected with student academic affairs after enrollment.

Moreover, accepted students who are executive government administrators or government researchers and who are considered to be potential contributors to the resolution of development-related issues in their home country, may be granted financial support from JICA as trainees of JICA's long term training, the "International Doctor Degree Program for Leading Professionals" (Please refer to the attached documents). The following personal information about the successful applicants will be provided to JICA for the purpose of the selection of JICA's trainees:

Name, Age, Nationality, Current affiliation, Contact information (mailing address, Phone, E-mail), Academic records, Professional experiences and Research proposal

Any information obtained concerning individuals will be handled appropriately, and never be used for any reason other than its administrative purpose.

6. Application Deadline

Deadline for submission of application documents: **25 April 2025 (Fri)**

7. Application Fee

There is no application fee.

8. Contact Addresses

Please submit your application to your local ASCI office:

Cambodia

Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center (CJCC) 2nd floor
Russian Confederation Blvd, Khan Toul Kork, Phnom Penh, P.O Box 953
Tel: +855-(0)23-882-461

Lao P.D.R.

Regarding submission, please contact law-exam@t.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp.

Mongolia

309 Tuushin Tower, (Tuushin Hotel)
Prime Minister Amar street 15, Ulaanbaatar 14200
Tel & Fax: (Office) : +976-(0)76115758
Tel: (Office mobile): +976-(0)89182798

Vietnam

Regarding submission, please contact law-exam@t.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp.

Uzbekistan

International Business Center 14 F
107-B, Amir Temur Street, 100084, Tashkent
Tel: +998(0)712389405/06/07
Fax: +998(0)712389405

Please direct or e-mail inquiries related to application procedure to:

allcampuses.asci@law.nagoya-u.ac.jp

Application materials are available from the below address:

URL;

<https://gsl.law.nagoya-u.ac.jp/admissions/doctor.php>

9. Other

In November 2021, with the clarification of the scope of control of “deemed exports” under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (“FEFTA”), a portion of the provision of confidential information must comply with FEFTA. Technology provided by universities and research institutions to faculty and staff is FEFTA is subject to control. As a result of this change, faculty applications will also be subject to FEFTA controls.

When applying for this solicitation, you will be required to submit an Applicable Specific Category Determination Form in accordance with the Applicable Specific Category Determination Flowchart. In addition, faculty members are required to submit a “Confirmation Form” at the time of employment. The form can be obtained from the following URL.

URL <https://www.i.nagoya-u.ac.jp/resume/>

III SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Selection Method

The selection process involves the following steps: document screening, examination of a master’s thesis and/or equivalent research articles, and an interview.

The selection process may be amended. The detailed contents of any such changes will be published on the NUGSL website.

1) Document screening and examination of a master’s thesis

Those who pass document screening and examination of their master’s thesis and/or equivalent research articles will proceed to the interview stage.

2) Interview

An interview takes place via videoconference basically at the Asian Satellite Campus office in the applicant’s home country. Detailed information about the interview date and venue will be provided via e-mail to the applicants who successfully pass the document screening stage.

2. Final Announcement of Selection Result

All applicants will be notified of the outcome via e-mail by early September.

3. Enrollment Procedures

Successful applicants will be notified of the registration procedures for admission to the graduate program via e-mail.

IV ADVICE TO APPLICANTS

Applicants will be judged on whether or not they can demonstrate that they have the capability to carry out independent doctoral-level research and write a dissertation of an acceptable standard, within the designated three-year timeframe. Your application should demonstrate to the admissions committee that you can communicate effectively in English, have developed a feasible topic, and possess a good understanding of your chosen topic. As a component of the application, you need to write a convincing proposal as it will be key to progressing beyond the first-stage document screening process. Your research proposal must be clear, concise, well supported, well-reasoned, and provide a solid basis for academic research. For applicants who are invited to undergo second-

stage screening, the research proposal will also play a key role in shaping the interview and choosing potential supervisors.

Further, applicants should endeavor to demonstrate a degree of originality in their proposed research. Below are questions that applicants may wish to ask themselves when finalizing their application and preparing for interviews:

- 1) The admissions committee will be concerned whether your application can demonstrate whether you possess both general knowledge in a specific research field of law or politics and specialized skills and knowledge necessary to conduct research on your proposed topic.
 - a. Have you provided enough evidence of sufficient foundational knowledge and research skills to demonstrate that you would be capable of commencing a substantive research project immediately upon being admitted to NUGSL?
 - b. Have you demonstrated whether you are familiar with major scholars and the most recent trends in your chosen field of research?
 - c. Have you provided a sense of the critical issues in your chosen field of research?
 - d. Have you provided evidence that you have the capability to address the critical issues within a broader context?
- 2) Setting the purpose and objectives of the project is one of the most challenging tasks in the research. Your topic and direction must be workable, novel, and provide a sense of attractiveness to the audience. It would help if you also endeavored to explain how you believe pursuing your proposed topic at Nagoya University would be of benefit.
 - a. Have you provided evidence that you can complete your proposed topic within three years?
 - b. Have you demonstrated how your topic relates to law, how it is unique, and what gap it intends to fill?
 - c. Have you outlined the significance of your topic?
 - d. Do you feel that your topic is a good fit for research at NUGSL? If so, how?

In closing, the faculty in NUGSL appreciates the choice that you have made in applying to this program. Members of the faculty feel that such a decision will present opportunities for learning and personal growth even at this beginning stage of the application. All staff in the department encourage you to do your best in this preparatory stage while applying your best skills and efforts to the application process.

Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University (February 2025)