

Program in Economic and Public Policy (PEPP)

(ADB-WB Scholarship admission application instructions)

University of Tsukuba

Before starting the application process, please ensure that you fulfill all the [eligibility criteria](#). Then read the following instructions carefully and start the application process via our Online Application System (OAS).

A completed application should be submitted via the OAS by 23:59 Nov 15, 2025 (Japan Time).

You will need to register an appropriate email address for accessing the OAS. Once you register, we will send an email to this registered address. This email will contain a link to start the application process.

NOTE: After registering an address, if you do not receive an email within 10 minutes, check your spam or junk mail folder. If, after searching in your spam or junk mail folder, you still cannot find our mail, please register using another email address. Hotmail and live mail servers in particular may consider our email as undeliverable spam-mail.

The OAS Application Process

The application process consists of the following three main tasks (I~III), completed by step (IV), submission.

- I) Filling in the “Application Form” composed of five tabs
- II) Preparing and uploading required documents
- III) Arranging at least three and up to four letters of recommendation
- IV) Submitting the application

Note that:

- All application materials should be written in English. In case the documents you submit were originally issued in another language(s), please ensure you attach official translations in English.
- All documents to be submitted should contain your name (the name of the applicant) to enable us to ensure the documents correspond to you.

- Documents sent by fax or e-mail will NOT be accepted.

I) **Filling in the "Application Form" composed of five tabs**

Carefully fill in all the required fields on each of the five tabs ⁽¹⁾ according to the instructions. If an error message appears in red, please go back to that field and modify it until the error message disappears. Up until the deadline, you can log-in and log-out during the application process as many times as required. Before logging out, please remember to use the "SAVE" button on each page, otherwise any changes you have made will be lost.

- (1) The five tabs are: Personal Data, Professional Background, Educational Background, Personal Statement, and Research Plan.

II) **Preparing and uploading required documents**

Please find below a list of required documents. You can download blank versions of documents that must be submitted in a set format (indicated by an asterisk* below) from the 'Required Documents' section of the OAS. Other documents may be prepared in your own format.

- (1) Transcript(s) - see (2)

- (2) Diploma(s)

Applicant must provide proof of a four-year bachelor's degree and of academic performance. Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended as well as certified copies of diplomas obtained are required. These documents must bear institutional seals and must be certified as true copies of the original documents. Uncertified photocopies are not acceptable. Documents issued in languages other than English must be accompanied by a certified translation into English.

- (3) Other Diplomas/Certificates (High School, Further Education etc.)

Applicants who have obtained additional qualifications other than a bachelor's degree must provide copies of the diploma(s), certificate(s), and transcript(s) related to such qualifications (if applicable).

- (4) Curriculum Vitae

Outline clearly and concisely the following points: (a) academic honors including the scholarships/fellowships you have been awarded; (b) positions you have held, in particular the experience you have gained in economic/public policy making; (c) any writings you have published or examples of other ways you have publicized your work, including newspaper articles and radio and television broadcasts; (d) public and community services, including politically-related activities; (e) foreign language skills; and (f) any foreign travel undertaken.

- (5) TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC, Cambridge Assessment (or other standardized English test score), or equivalent proof of English proficiency such as a document by an academic adviser or a director in your current workplace:

A TOEFL score of 600, TOEFL iBT score of 100 or higher is preferred for admission.

If taking these exams proves unfeasible, equivalent proof of skills may be acceptable in the form of one of the following: 1) an alternative standardized test score (IELTs, TOEIC etc. – for test score comparisons see: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/score-users/scores-admissions/compare/>); 2) a certificate issued by a relevant institution, current or former professor/academic adviser of the candidate; or 3) a letter issued by a director in the current workplace of the candidate. The Program, however, reserves the right to judge the suitability of material submitted as 'equivalent proof of skills', and may request further documentation.

- (6) Medical Certificate *:

This certificate should be issued by a medical institution to attest you are healthy enough to study abroad. It should contain a date of issue, which should be within three months of your PEPP application submission date. Your doctor should use the designated form that can be downloaded from the OAS.

- (7) Photograph (40 mm×30 mm)

- (8) II/WBGSP applicants only: Statement of Eligibility *

- (9) ADB-JSP applicants only: ADB-JSP Information Sheet *:

- (10) ADB-JSP applicants only: Your Income Certificate (either your latest tax return or certification of your annual/monthly salary)

ADB-JSP applicants only: Your Family's Income Certificate (certification of family income - parents' income if single; and spouse's income if married)

- (11) Optional: Certificate of Research Activities, if any*.

Note: Applicants who have completed university studies in a country where formal schooling lasts less than 16 years (not including years of graduate studies) are required to submit this form and need thereby to demonstrate at least one year of research activity. Other applicants who have research experience may also use this form to submit details of research experience.

- (12) Optional: Publications, if any (Note: a graduation thesis is not acceptable)

- (13) Letters of Recommendation: See III)

III) Arranging three to four letters of recommendation

Number of letters: To apply to PEPP, three or four letters of recommendation are required. If you arrange for four letters, we advise you to get two of them from persons who can testify to your academic work, and two from persons who can testify to your

professional experience. If you prepare three letters, you need to obtain at least one from a person who can testify to your academic work, one from a person who can testify to your professional experience, and the remaining one from a person for either academic or professional work. **UPDATE 30 October 2024: *One of the professional letters of recommendation should be from a DIRECTOR or a person of similar ranking within your department.***

How to submit: Letters should be submitted via the OAS by recommenders (see 1 below for details). Applicants whose recommenders have difficulty in submitting their letters through the OAS, however, may instead send them directly to the PEPP office via traditional post (see 2 below for details).

(1) Submission via the OAS

- i) Fill in each recommender's details in the 'Recommender's Information' section.
- ii) Click 'SAVE' (below).
- iii) Click on the 'Send a Request to Recommender X' button (this will open a page detailing the email that will be sent directly to your recommender with instructions on how to proceed).
- iv) Click on the 'Send a Request' button at the bottom of this next page too (The message: 'The request has been successfully sent to the recommender' will appear).
- v) Check with your recommender(s) to confirm they have received an email request with instructions.
- vi) If your recommender has received the email but does not upload a letter within a reasonable time frame, click on the 'Send a Reminder to Recommender X' button below the recommender's details (this will appear after the first request has been sent) and follow the steps to resend the email request as a reminder.

NOTE 1: The email address of your recommender must be an official email address. Official email addresses of Tsukuba University, for example, end in 'tsukuba.ac.jp'. Addresses will be checked for authenticity.

NOTE 2: Please check with your recommenders to confirm they have received their email request. If they have not received an email request after 10 minutes, please ask them to check their spam or junk mail folders. As indicated above, it

may be that our emails have been automatically registered as spam or junk mail. If, after searching in their spam or junk mail folder, your recommender is still unable to find the mail, please ask them for an alternative official email address to use instead. If you change the recommender's email address, please be sure to "SAVE" the changes first on the system, before clicking the "Send a Reminder to Recommender X" button again.

- vii) When a recommender has finished uploading her/his letter of recommendation, the OAS will notify you about this in the 'Current Status' section below.
- viii) Until a recommender uploads his/her letter of recommendation, you may change and save a recommender's details at any point (as long as you have not submitted your application). Note if you change the email details you must click the "Send a Reminder to Recommender X" button again in order to send a request to the new saved email address. *This applies also if you decide to save an alternative recommender's details instead.*

(2) By traditional post:

- i) Fill in each recommender's details in the 'Recommender's Information' section.
- ii) Click 'SAVE' (below).
- iii) Click on the 'Send a Request to Recommender X' button.
- iv) Click on the 'Send a Request' button at the bottom of this next page too (The message: 'The request has been successfully sent to the recommender' will appear)
NOTE: You will not be able to submit your application without doing this even if you ask your recommender to send a letter by traditional post.
- v) Download the Letter of Recommendation form from the "Required Documents" page on the OAS and email this to your recommender together with the address below.
- vi) Ask **your recommender** to print the form, fill it in and dispatch it in a sealed envelope to:

The PEPP Committee, Master's Program in International Public Policy, Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8571 JAPAN

The letters must arrive at the University directly from your recommender, unopened, by the deadline.

IV) Submitting application

- Once you finish steps I) to III), click the "SUBMIT" button on the left of the screen.
- If any error messages in red appear, please check the error as indicated and make any necessary corrections. If there is no error message, the "Final Submit" button will appear, to indicate your application is ready for submission. Click the "Final Submit" button to complete the application process.

NOTE: **Changes cannot be made after clicking "Final Submit".** Your application status will be changed to "Read Only". You will still be able to view your application, but you will not be able to alter any information. For this reason it is highly recommended that you review the information you have filled in and provided before clicking "Final Submit".

After submitting the OAS application

- If you have successfully passed the first screening, you will be notified. Following this, you will be asked to send original or certified true copies of the following documents by traditional post: Transcripts, Diplomas, Certificate of Higher Education and Medical Certificate. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of your application.

NOTE: The PEPP Office will not return any original documents sent from applicants who have not been contacted by the office.

- On the basis of the first screening, applicants will be invited to a Zoom interview.

Academic screening will be finalized mid Jan 2026. Academically successful applicants will be notified on how to proceed with their scholarship application. ADB candidates' details will be submitted directly to ADB by the PEPP office; and World Bank candidates will be provided with required evidence and invited to apply directly to JJWBGSP's 1st Application Window (Note 1: the university cannot answer any questions about this process; Note 2: until this process is complete, your application to the World Bank will not be accepted). Academically successful candidates who have been awarded a scholarship will be notified at the end of April 2026 when all official final results will be announced.

- We cannot respond to inquiries about the status of submitted applications. For more details about the selection schedule itself, please refer to the "[Application process and schedule from application to enrollment](#)" page on our website.

If you have further questions, please contact:

E-mail: pepp_app@un.tsukuba.ac.jp