

Guidelines for Writing a Research Plan

(1) How to write a research plan

In applying for JDS China, please prepare a research plan for your master's thesis with the following points in mind

- Address the issues of economic and social development of your country or the global issues as a theme and show your research to remedy them
- Present a detailed plan of what and how you will proceed to carry out your research.

Your research plan submitted for application is not considered final. It is generally revised through course work and faculty guidance after admission to your university. The purpose of the research plan is for the academic supervisor(s) to assess the importance and potential of the applicant's research in the following aspects:

- 1) Does the research plan address the important policy questions of the applicant's country?
- 2) Does the research plan show that the applicant is strongly motivated and adequately prepared to carry out the research?
- 3) Who will benefit from the result of the research? Will the result of the research contribute to solving or clarifying policy

questions or global issues which are important for applicant's country?

- 4) Does the research help the applicant to more effectively participate in the development process of his/her country or global issues after the completion of the study in Japan?
- 5) Is the applicant's academic background strong enough to carry out the research?
- 6) Is the applicant's work experience sufficient to pursue the research?
- 7) Does the research plan fit well with the program of the school?
- 8) Are the applicant's research questions academically significant?

The importance of each point above, however, vary depending on the field of study and the postgraduate program you are applying for. Depending on the program, you may need to be more specific about your data and analysis methods. Therefore, before writing a research plan, it is important to carefully research not only "university information" but also university websites. Writing a research plan is the beginning of your research. It is highly recommended that you keep improving your research plan before departure for Japan after being selected as a JDS China Fellow.

(2) Outline of the research plan (Example)

Research Title		• Give a title that clearly describes your research. Do not make it too short or redundant
Introduction	Background	• <u>Explain the position and importance of your research topic</u> in your target research area.
	Literature review	• Organize and describe the previous research on your research topic. • It is important that this review does not simply describe previous research, but rather <u>organizes and explains what research has been done so far in your subject area, what is already known, and what is not yet known.</u> • When citing previous research, the references must be indicated in the text and listed at the end of the research plan.
	Purpose and Questions	• Present your research questions on your research topic. • Then indicate what possible answers (causes and reasons) to the questions could be considered (hypotheses) and explain the significance and purpose of researching them.
Main body	Methodology	• Explain the subject of your research, how you obtained the data and materials, the methods to analyze them and the variables you will use. • Also consider the timeframe for carrying out the research (the research must be able to be completed during the study abroad period).
Conclusion	Expected Results Significance	• Explain what results will be obtained by achieving the objectives of your research and how it will be useful for the development of your organization, society and country. • It is also a worth considering how the research will help you to participate in your country's development process and global issue after your study abroad.
	Bibliography	• Indicate all sources of information used in writing your research plan.

Warnings about “Plagiarism”

“Plagiarism” is a serious offence in the academic field. Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without indicating the source of the information.

University students (including JDS Fellows) are considered part of the research community and must not commit plagiarism when preparing their research proposals, reports or theses. If plagiarism is detected, you may be disqualified from the JDS selection process or even expelled from the university.

These cases will be considered plagiarism prizes

- Copying books or papers/ articles written by other authors without indicating the cited bibliographic information
- Copying information directly from the Internet without indicating the references cited
- Pretending that someone else's work is your own.



In order to avoid plagiarism, please indicate the source of your information when you cite the following:

- Ideas, opinions, theories/facts, statistics and charts made by other authors
- Words spoken or written by other authors. Also when they are paraphrased.

