

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Young Female Scientist Programme in Japan

The Young Female Scientist Programme was launched by United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in collaboration with Okayama University in Japan. The Programme aims to build human capital in STI-related fields in developing countries through educational programmes and contribute to achieving of Sustainable Development Goals. The Programme offers five eligible young female scientists from selected African, Southeast Asian, Latin American and Caribbean countries to engage in cutting-edge research activities at Okayama University in Japan for 14 to 30 days.

Successful applicants will travel to Japan between October and December 2025, depending on the availability of receiving faculty and participants. Each participant's programme start date and duration will vary. Any adjustment to the program's timeline and travel plan will be communicated accordingly.

Requirements of Applicants

The applicant must:

1. Hold the nationality of a selected country in Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Be a female scholar under 40 years of age (at the time of application) with an excellent research background, a PhD degree, or a student currently enrolled in a PhD programme.
3. Fluency in English or Japanese.
4. Good health.
5. Experience and interest in one or more of the academic fields below.

Nomination Process

Interested countries are invited to nominate one young female scientist. The relevant governmental authorities should make the nomination to UNCTAD through their Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva are requested to submit one nominee to UNCTAD (sticourses@un.org) **before 15 April 2025**, including the following documents:

1. A scanned copy of the nomination form completed by the relevant governmental authority in the capital (official seals and/or the signature is required).
2. A duly completed application form, a complete CV, and a list of publications.

Matching Procedures

Based on the application documents, UNCTAD and Okayama University will arrange to match participants with receiving faculties and teams. For the matching, UNCTAD and Okayama University might contact participants to work out the details, including research fields, the programme's schedule, etc. While UNCTAD and Okayama University will make the best effort in the matching, there is a possibility that not all the applicants will be accepted to the programme due to the availability of receiving faculties and teams, competition among applicants, and other reasons.

Expenses

Application Fee/ Programme Enrollment Fee: FREE

Fees covered by the Applicants	Provide by Okayama University
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Round-trip Airfare● Transportation● Living Expenses (Food, health insurance, sundry, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Accommodation arrangement in Okayama based on the participants' research period● Provide Accommodation in Okayama (On-Campus / Off-Campus)● Provide Research Environment on Campus

Okayama University will arrange and provide the accommodation on-campus or off-campus during the participants' stay at Okayama. Accommodations will usually be arranged based on the location of their research laboratory. Participants are expected to cover all other costs including their travel, transportation, and living expenses.

Academic Fields Covered by the Programme

Please refer to the university website:

University website: https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/index_e.html

OU x SDGs: <https://sdgs.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>

Search for academic programmes and staff: <https://soran.cc.okayama-u.ac.jp/search?m=home&l=en>

- Education
<https://edu.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>
- Environmental, Life, Natural Science, and Technology
<https://www.elst.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>
- Health Sciences
<http://www.fhs.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>
- Humanities and Social Sciences
<http://shabun.ccsv.okayama-u.ac.jp/english/>
- Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering in Health Systems

- <http://www.gisehs.okayama-u.ac.jp/english/>
- Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- <https://www.mdps.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>

Certification

Upon completion of the Programme, participants are required to:

- 1) Submit a Final Report
- 2) Share their experiences and research results at a Presentation Session in early 2026.

UNCTAD and Okayama University will issue a Certificate after the successful completion of the programme.