



The Program for
Global Human Resource Development
for Peacebuilding and Development

Call for Applications for the FY2026 Primary Course (International Applicants)

Course dates (in-person component): November 2 – 27, 2026

Deadline for Application Form and language certificates: July 1, 2026 (9 pm Japan time)

The Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development was established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) in order to strengthen the capacity of individuals working for peacebuilding and development. The Primary Course is designed to prepare early career professionals in peacebuilding, international development and related fields to work with a high level of competence, agility and skills. Since FY2024, the course has been delivered by Hiroshima University, in close cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Volunteer programme (UNV).

The FY2026 course combines online pre-training in October 2026 and in-person training from November 2 - 27, 2026 in Tokyo and Hiroshima, Japan. Around 11 participants from Japan and 10 participants from other countries will participate in the course. International participants from the following countries, regions and organizations are invited to apply for this year's program: the Republic of Angola, Burkina Faso, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, State of Libya, the Republic of Palau, State of Qatar, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and Ukraine.

1. Qualifications

- 1) A strong will to work in the field of peacebuilding and/or international development in the future
- 2) At least three years of work experience in peacebuilding and/or development-related fields (e.g., law, public administration, economic development, education, public health, logistics support, IT and digital science, human resources, communications and media, environment, project management, etc.)
- 3) A university degree (Bachelor's degree) or equivalent
- 4) Aged between 27 and 39 years as of April 1, 2026
- 5) English proficiency equivalent to or above the following scores:

- a. TOEFL iBT: At least 23 points in all sections (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking) (for tests taken before January 21, 2026) or at least 5 points in all sections (for tests taken on January 21, 2026 or after);
 - b. TOEIC: Listening and Reading at least 900 points, Speaking and Writing at least 345 points
 - c. IELTS: 6.5 or above in all sections (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking). Academic IELTS is preferable but General is also accepted.
 - d. If not standardized test is available, then please submit the “Recommendation Letter on Candidate’s English Language Proficiency”. GPAD reserves the right to contact the person who has sent the recommendation letter.
 - e. A Duolingo English Test Score may also be submitted, but it will only be used as a reference. Applicants who submit Duolingo scores must also submit the “Recommendation Letter on Candidate’s English Language Proficiency”.
- 6) Health condition suitable for participation in the program and the ability to attend the entire duration of the Course. Selected applicants may be asked to submit a Certificate of Good Health prior to the training.

2. Course Dates and Methods of Delivery

The training will be delivered by experienced trainers, including current and former UN staff, academics from Hiroshima University and other institutions, and other experts. The training uses blended learning that combines online learning and in-person training.

- **Online (2 sessions in October 2026):** Program Associates will participate in 2 online preparatory sessions, where they will be introduced to each other and be given a pre-training assignment, to be completed before the in-person training starts. Participants will be notified of the dates and times in due course.
- **Week 1 (November 2-8, 2026):** Program Associates will meet in Tokyo and start their in-person training. In addition to participating in lectures and discussions, they will visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other organizations involved in peacebuilding and international development.
- **Weeks 2-4 (November 9-27, 2026):** Training will be delivered in person, mainly at the Higashi-Hiroshima campus of Hiroshima University in Hiroshima Prefecture. Program Associates will participate in interactive lectures, group discussions, case studies, role-playing, and other sessions.

3. Content

The training will focus on the following main themes:

- **Substantive Knowledge** including the guiding principles of the United Nations; multilateral approaches to peacebuilding; the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus;¹ economic, social and environmental frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Pact for the Future; and emerging issues such as artificial intelligence.
- **Effective Working Skills** such as program planning and project management skills; communication and presentation skills; and skills associated with UN 2.0 initiative whose key areas are Data, Digital Transformation, Innovation, Strategic Foresight and Behavioural Science.²
- **Career Development Skills** such as UN competencies, values and behaviors; management skills; well-being; and career planning, including job applications and interview preparation.
- **Reconstruction Lessons from Hiroshima** including a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

4. Post-training Follow-up

Following the training, Program Associates will receive a certificate and be invited to join the Global Peace and Development Career Network. This Career Network will provide information and further advice on career development.

5. Participation Fees

No fees will be charged for non-Japanese participants accepted for the training. The costs of the in-person training in Japan will be covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (travel fees between the country of residence and Japan; travel within Japan; travel insurance; accommodation; and a daily allowance to cover miscellaneous expenses). Please note that participants will need additional money to cover food and other personal expenses (minimum US\$ 600 for the 4 weeks). Further details will be shared with the applicants after they apply.

¹ Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus

<https://www.undp.org/crisis/humanitarian-development-and-peace-nexus>

² UN 2.0 and Quintet of Change

<https://www.un.org/two-zero/en>

6. Application Process

1) Required Documents

A. Application Form

Please download the “Primary Course Application Form” from the GPAD website and fill it in. The Application Form should be submitted as a **Microsoft Word** file (please do not convert to PDF).

→ [Primary Course Application Form](#)

B. Supplementary Employment Information Form

If you need additional space to fill in your employment information, please use the “Supplementary Employment Information Form”, which can be downloaded from the link below.

→ [Supplementary Employment Information Form](#)

C. Certificate of English Proficiency

A certificate or score sheet of an English proficiency test such as TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS, taken in the last five years. A photocopy is acceptable. If you are not able to submit a certificate of English proficiency, applicants may submit a “Recommendation Letter on Candidate’s English Language Proficiency” from someone who can attest to the applicant’s language level.

→ [Recommendation Letter on Candidate’s English Language Proficiency](#)

2) Submission Address

Please email your Application Form together with the certificate of English proficiency to: gpad-primary@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp . In the subject line, please write “2026 Primary Course application (your first and last name and your country name)”.

7. Application Deadline

- Deadline for sending Application Form and language certificates:
Wednesday July 1, 2026 (9 pm Japan time)

8. Selection Process

The selection process for non-Japanese participants entails the following steps:

- 1) Document screening
- 2) Interview - applicants who pass the document screening will be contacted by the

Japanese Embassy in their country of origin for the interview.

- 3) Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process **around the end of August 2026.**

9. Status of the Participants

The participants will hold the status of “Program Associate” with its entitlements and obligations for the duration of the program, irrespective of the participant’s affiliation to any other organization.

10. Obligations of the Participants

- 1) Participants are expected to carry out the program with utmost diligence.
- 2) Participants will be asked to sign a covenant regarding their participation in the program.
- 3) Participants will submit a final report and provide input to improve the program.
- 4) Participants will reply to the follow-up inquiries regularly made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan about their latest status after the completion of the program.

11. Additional Notes

- 1) Hiroshima University is committed to comply with all the rules and regulations stipulated in the Personal Information Protection Act of Japan and other laws regarding the protection of personal information. The personal information of applicants (e.g., name, date of birth, gender, etc.) will be used only for the selection of program associates and communication of the selection results. In addition, the personal information of successful applicants will be used for accommodation, travel and visa arrangements.

Please note that some tasks may be outsourced by the University to external contractors and individuals (lecturers and career consultants). In such cases, the University will only provide the contractors with the personal information needed for them to carry out the contracted work.

- 2) Photographs taken during the Program will be managed appropriately and may be used for public relations.
- 3) Submitted documents will not be returned.
- 4) If any required documents are missing, or if the necessary information is not provided in the application documents, your application may not be accepted. Please make sure to check all required documents and the information you provide before submitting them by email.

12. Further Information

For more information, please contact:

Global Peace and Development Career Network (GPAD)

International Office, Hiroshima University

Kagamiyama 1-3-2, Higashi-Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan 739-8511

Email: gpad-primary@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp

Website: <https://gpad.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/>