



World Customs Organization

Rue du Marché 30, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
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To the attention of beneficiary WCO Members

15.05.2024 / Brussels
24HL0178E

Dear Director General,

I am pleased to inform you that the World Customs Organization (WCO) will award a number of scholarships for the Master's Degree Programme in **Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** at the Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU), Tokyo, Japan. Japan Customs will provide funds for these scholarships under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme (Scholarship Programme).

The Scholarship Programme is designed for **promising young managers from the Customs administrations of developing-country WCO Members**. Candidates should have demonstrated **potential for growth and commitment to the service** of their Administration and should be **fully proficient in English**. The conditions of candidacy and selection are detailed in the attachment. This Master's Degree programme will start in March 2025 and conclude in March 2026.

The Master's Degree Programme comprises two segments : an academic segment and a practical segment. The academic segment starts with focused teaching of foundational skills in strategic management and IPR. It then moves to a range of applied topics that help scholars understand how to design, implement, and evaluate public policies, particularly Customs policy, in accordance with organizations' development strategies. The practical segment is taught in cooperation with Japan Customs, including the Japan Customs Training Institute.

Attached to this letter, you will find a set of documents that set out the administrative provisions governing the Programme, as well as the application procedures and other relevant information from the University. If you would like to nominate a candidate from your Administration for this Scholarship Programme, please arrange for the application to be submitted with all supporting documents, including the Nomination Form from your Administration (downloadable from the below-mentioned Website after online registration).

The application process for candidates is as follows :

- The nominated applicant requests Website access via the online registration option on the AGU's Website (<http://www.aoyamasmiprp.jp/>), which should be completed **by 17:00, 23 August 2024 (Japan Standard Time)**.
- The applicant must then complete the application forms and submit them with all the supporting documents **by 26 August 2024** to the AGU Master's Programme Admissions Office address as indicated on the application Web page.

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Please note that applications received after the deadlines will not be considered. As late submissions, including supporting documents such as proof of English proficiency, are not acceptable, applicants and nominating Administrations are encouraged to prepare the required documents well in advance.

If you have any questions regarding this Programme, a member of your staff may contact Mr. Tetsuo Mizunuma of the WCO Capacity Building Directorate (Tel.: + 32 2 209 96 47; E-mail : scholarship@wcoomd.org), or the Master's Programme Admissions Office at the AGU Graduate School of Business (Tel.: + 81 3 3409 6239; E-mail : info_smiprp@busi.aoyama.ac.jp).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Saunders'.

Ian Saunders
Secretary General