



## World Customs Organization

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04.06.2026 / Brussels  
261L0367E

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. Funds for these scholarships will be provided by Japan Customs under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme (Scholarship Programme).

The Scholarship Programme is aimed at promising young Customs officers from the Customs Administrations of developing country Members. Candidates should demonstrate capability and commitment to contribute to improving the overall performance of their Administrations and should be fully proficient in English. Conditions of candidacy and selection are specified in the attachment. This iteration of the Master's Degree Programme will start in March 2027 and finish in March 2028.

The Master's Degree Programme is comprised of two segments: academic and practical. The academic segment starts with focused teaching of foundational skills in strategic management and IPR. It then moves to a range of applied topics which help scholars understand how to design, implement, and evaluate public policies, in particular Customs policy, in accordance with development strategies for organizations. The practical segment is implemented in co-operation with Japan Customs, including the Japan Customs Training Institute. It is aimed at acquiring knowledge of Customs practices applicable to the participants' home Administration, setting the basis for further improvement of their Customs procedures and advancing their modernization processes.

Attached to this letter, you will find a set of documents explaining administrative provisions governing the Programme, including the application procedures (Annex I) and information for applicants from the academic institution (Annex II).

If you would like to nominate one or more candidates from your Administration for this Scholarship Programme, please arrange for the application to be submitted through the online entry form by 24 August 2026, 09:00 (JST). All supporting documents, including the Nomination Form, must reach the AGU by 24 August 2026.

Please note that applications including supporting documents received after the deadlines will not be considered. Therefore, applicants and nominating Administrations are encouraged to prepare the required documents well in advance.

Should you have any questions regarding this Programme, please have your staff contact Mr. Akihiko Fukuzono of the WCO Implementation and Capacity Development Directorate ([akihiko.fukuzono@wcoomd.org](mailto:akihiko.fukuzono@wcoomd.org)), and 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](mailto:info_smiprp@busi.aoyama.ac.jp)).

Yours sincerely,

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

**Ian Saunders**  
Secretary General