



Comms Intern Report 2024

International Monetary Fund Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

2024 Comms Intern

H.A.

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs,
Master of International Affairs

At the request of the intern, personal information is not included in this report.



Recruitment Schedule in 2024

4/5	5/6	5/8	5/14	6/5	11/30
Application Submission	Written Examination	Interview	Offer	Internship Start	Internship End

Q1. What is your major and what was your motivation for the application?

I am a second-year student at Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, concentrating in International Finance and Economic Policy. Driven by a passion for working at an international organization in the future, I have been seeking internship opportunities that would allow me to experience a multicultural working environment. Among the many international organizations, I chose to apply to the IMF because I am deeply interested in its role in providing macroeconomic policy recommendations to member countries and addressing emerging challenges such as climate change and gender equality.

Q2. What did the application process entail?

I began the application process by submitting a CV, cover letter, samples of my communications work, and two letters of recommendation. After passing the initial screening, I was invited to complete a two-hour written test, where I was tasked with drafting social media posts in English and Japanese and developing a proposal for a communications event. Following this, I participated in a 30-minute online interview, where I discussed my motivation for applying, career goals, my proposal from the written test, and my experience with communications activities.

Q3. What were your main tasks in the internship?

My key tasks as an intern included: 1) creating social media posts for a Japanese staff interview series, highlighting Japanese staff working at the IMF; 2) drafting social media posts featuring quote cards and testimonials from scholars of the Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Asia (JISPA); and 3) proposing and developing interactive activities for an event booth at Global Festa, Japan's largest international cooperation event. An essential part of my responsibilities was obtaining content clearance from all stakeholders, which involved closely coordinating with Japanese staff, scholars, and colleagues at IMF headquarters to ensure that our messaging was accurate and aligned with the IMF's main goals. In addition to these core tasks, I also drafted an article for the OAP newsletter (published every two months), translated the English OAP website into Japanese during its renewal, and updated OAP leaflets to reflect the latest data.

Examples of content developed during the internship

Quote cards for Japanese interview series



Quote card for social media promotion

JISPA testimonials

2024

Mr. Fumiya Ueda, The University of Tokyo Partnership Track 2022, is IMF's Fiscal Economic, General Director of Policy, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia.

"My JISPA journey has been 'Transformative, Fulfilling, and Connecting.' Studying at the University of Tokyo can be competitive, yet I have embraced the challenge of the program, JISPA, surrounded by encouraging peers from 16 ministries. The two-year program is truly rewarding, and the practical skills I needed for my academic and practical life are needed for my friendship developed along the way. I truly JISPA family, and the extensive network of JISPA and IMF/OAP personnel. At the end of the program, I feel that the JISPA program has contributed to my personal growth and personal connections, contribute to my people and country."

It is an honor to be part of JISPA family once and for all. Beyond academic growth, my exposure to Japanese culture allowed me to evolve into a more refined version of myself.

Urangoo Erdenebileg
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, 2022-2024

Mr. Yohan Arman, IMF Partnership Track 2022, Director General of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia.

"Applying for the JISPA program was the best decision of my life. It provided me with an invaluable network of support for my degree and professional development, including interesting workshops, and seminars. The opportunity to meet the IMF Managing Director, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, at the OAP Anniversary celebration event. These were once-in-a-lifetime experiences and priorities. I believe my fellow JISPA scholars also felt the same. I would like to thank the Japanese Government for this amazing scholarship, and the IMF has done an excellent job organizing the JISPA program."

IMF.org/JISPA

Testimonials on website and quote card

Global Festa activities

IMFエコノミストに挑め！
100年後はどんな世界？

上級編

Q1. 先進国1人当たりの実質GDP*は、1980年から2023年に毎年平均1.7%伸びました(その間の日本の平均は1.56%)。100年後、1人当たりの実質GDPは:

a. 現在と同じ (100%増)	b. 現在の5倍 (1000%増)	c. 現在の20倍 (1900%増)	d. 現在の50倍 (4900%増)
1000%増	10000%増	19000%増	49000%増

100 Year Quiz based on the Managing Director's speech that talked about economic possibilities and 21st century multilateralism

数字で見ると見ると

IMFの歩み

世界の歩み

IMFの歩み

Created the OAP's first-ever pamphlet for children

Q4. What was most memorable from the internship?

The most memorable moment was seeing people enjoy the interactive activities I created for Global Festa. In designing the quizzes and pamphlet, I took time to carefully plan activities that would be engaging, informative, creative, and fun for both adults and children. With over 540 people participating, I felt a sense of accomplishment on having successfully contributed to the communications efforts of the IMF and OAP.

Q5. What did you learn from the internship experience?

I gained first-hand insight into the challenges of the IMF's public relations activities. Macroeconomics is inherently complex and can feel distant from people's everyday lives, making the IMF's work difficult to communicate. While developing activities for Global Festa, I faced the challenge of simplifying the IMF's message without losing its essence. This experience underscored how vital communication is for international organizations: the IMF can only fulfill its mission effectively when it is trusted, and when people have a clear understanding of its work.

Q6. Message to future applicants

This internship offers excellent learning opportunities. Not only will you gain insight into the public relations efforts of an international organization and the work of the IMF, but you will also deepen your understanding of current macroeconomic trends and policy tools through event organization and participation in the Macroeconomist Training Program. Additionally, the workplace environment at OAP is fantastic—my colleagues were incredibly supportive, always willing to help and provide feedback. I am deeply grateful to my peers at OAP for making this internship such a rewarding and educational experience. For anyone interested in gaining experience with international organizations or communications, I highly recommend applying for this role.

