

Waseda University (Private) Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies

Program name

Master's Program in International Relations

◆ **Degrees:**

Master of Arts in International Relations

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**

30 credits, 2 years

◆ **Address:**

Nishi-Waseda Bldg. 7F, 1-21-1 Nishi-Waseda Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051 JAPAN



Features of University

<https://www.waseda.jp/top/en/>

Located in the heart of Tokyo, Waseda University is a leading private research university that has long been dedicated to academic excellence, innovative research, and civic engagement at both the local and global levels since 1882. The University has produced many changemakers in its history, including eight prime ministers and many leaders in business, science and technology, literature, sports, and film. Waseda has strong collaborations with overseas research institutions and is committed to advancing cutting-edge research and developing leaders who can contribute to the resolution of complex, global social issues. The University has set a target of achieving a zero-carbon campus by 2032, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

To learn more about Waseda University, visit <https://www.waseda.jp/top/en>

Features of the Graduate School

<https://www.waseda.jp/fire/qsaps/en/about/vision>

The Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS) at Waseda University, founded in 1998, offers a unique bilingual education in Japanese and English, allowing students to earn degrees in either language. With over 70% of its student body coming from more than 50 countries, GSAPS provides a diverse and multicultural learning environment. The school boasts a comprehensive research environment, with faculty dedicated to mentoring graduate students and conducting high-level research at the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (WIAPS). GSAPS faculty members have extensive real-world experience in international institutions, government agencies, business, and media. The school actively supports student research in a variety of ways, including student exchange programs, field research grants, and internships., and has established academic exchange agreements with top institutions across Asia. GSAPS also has a global network of alumni who have become leaders in various fields, with many graduates holding prestigious positions worldwide.

Features of the Program

<https://www.waseda.jp/fire/qsaps/en/about/field>

The MA Program has three specializations – “Area Studies”, “International Relations”, and “International Development/ Policy Studies”. Students focus on one area of specialization, but at the same time can take courses in all three areas. By using a broad-based, multi-perspective approach to understanding and analyzing the momentous changes taking place in the Asia-Pacific region, graduates of the Program will be well-prepared to take on the region’s challenges and opportunities in a wide range of professional capacities.

Students in the MA Program can focus on their core area of study according to their interests, experience, and areas of expertise. For example, students who already have sufficient knowledge of the language or situation of a particular region or country are encouraged not only to deepen their knowledge of that region or country, but also to acquire various advanced analytical tools in this program. On the other hand, students who are familiar with analytical tools can use them to learn about and conduct research on a specific region or country.

The aim of the MA Program of the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies is to develop professionals who will play

an active role in the international society, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. We are seeking new graduates who are conscious of issues affecting the future of the region, and we also welcome applications from experienced individuals who aim to play an active role at a higher level in the international community.

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

To fulfill the degree requirements, an MA student must complete a minimum of two years of study, earn 22 credits or more, submit a thesis after completing the prescribed course of study, and pass the thesis screening and final examinations. Exceptions will be made by the GSAPS regarding length of enrollment for students who have shown excellent results, allowing them to complete the course after having obtained the required 22 credits in the 1st year and having been enrolled in the program for at least one and a half years.

Required credits for MA program are listed as follows:

Program	Core Courses	Basic Courses	Advanced Courses	Courses offered by other institution	Project research/ Master's thesis	Total
MA Program	22				8	30

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

List of faculty members is available from the link below.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fire/gsaps/en/admissions/project>

*Due to sabbatical periods or other reasons, the list may change. Please check the application guide for the available faculty members at the time of your application.

Academic Schedule

Application Period: March 2026

Entrance as Master Students: Fall Semester: September 21, 2026

Spring Semester: April 1, 2027, Fall Semester: September 21, 2027, Spring Semester: April 1, 2028

Graduation: September 21, 2028

Facilities

University Facilities Information: https://wnpspt.waseda.jp/student_en/supportanywhere/2021/06/25/general-campus-information/

Sports Facilities:

https://wnpspt.waseda.jp/student_en/supportanywhere/2021/05/19/sports-facilities/

Health Support Center:

https://wnpspt.waseda.jp/student_en/supportanywhere/2021/05/18/hsc/

Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies Facilities Information:

<https://www.waseda.jp/fire/gsaps/en/academics/facilities>

Message for the Applicants

The international community, including the Asia-Pacific region, is facing increasing uncertainty and deepening conflicts. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to play an important role in the international community in the 21st century. We are seeking students who will become leaders in various fields in the Asia-Pacific region and who will play a leading role in promoting peace and prosperity in the international community. We hope that by studying together with students from all over the world at GSAPS, you will develop friendships and trust and contribute to creating a peaceful and sustainable society.