

Kyushu University (National) Graduate School of Law

◆ **Program name**
LL.M. Program

◆ **Degrees:**
Master of Laws

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**
30 Credits (a 20 credits coursework component, plus
a 10 credits thesis component), 2 years

◆ **Address:**
744 Motooka, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka-shi,
Fukuoka, 819-0395, Japan



Features of the University <http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/>

■ **Overview**

Kyushu University is one of the oldest and most prestigious national universities in Japan. The history of the University dates back to 1903, when Fukuoka Medical College was founded. Kyushu Imperial University came into existence in 1911, after the Colleges of Medicine and Engineering were established.

The University offers undergraduate and graduate level education across a full range of academic disciplines. There are currently around 18,800 students enrolled and 2,171 faculty members.



Kyushu University is particularly well known for the large number of international education programs that are offered, and for the diverse student body. In 2021, the University was selected by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as a so-called “Designated University” to promote innovation and internationalization of higher education in Japan. At present, there are around 2500 international students enrolled at Kyushu University from around one hundred different countries.

Kyushu University is located in the city of Fukuoka. Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu, the most southern of Japan’s four main islands. Fukuoka is at the heart of East Asia, midway between Tokyo, Shanghai and Seoul. It is a thriving modern metropolis that has not sacrificed its unique local character and charm. Fukuoka is regularly featured in various international rankings as one of the “world’s most livable cities.”

Features of the Graduate School of Law <http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/>

The Faculty of Law was established in September 1924 as the Department of the Faculty of Law and Humanities and acquired independent status in 1949. Since that time, the Faculty of Law has established a reputation as a centre of progressive legal research and high-level legal education.



Annually, 200 students are admitted to the Faculty as undergraduates. As of April 2024, over 19,500 students have completed the undergraduate program. Occupational activities of these alumni are diverse, covering the legal profession, government service (both national and local), business, journalism, education, and academia. The graduate program of the Faculty, which was set up in 1949, has produced over 2,060 Master's and 290 Doctoral degrees.

In 1994, the Faculty of Law launched Japan's first master's program taught entirely in English; the LL.M. in International Economic and Business Law (*IEBL*). In 1999, a similar program was established focusing on comparative politics and political administration (*CSPA*). In 2001, the Faculty launched a special government funded program for young legal professionals of designated Asian countries (*YLP*). The *LL.M.* and *CSPA* programs have been accepting JDS Fellows since the inception of the programs.

Around 40% of students entering graduate programs at the Faculty are now coming from overseas. The Faculty has the experience of educating students from more than 74 different countries from all over the world including the regions of Africa, Asian Pacific, Europe, North America, Latin & Middle America and Middle East. Over eight hundred students have graduated from the various international programs offered by the Faculty. As a result, the university has accumulated a great deal of expertise in receiving foreign students and providing reliable support systems in education and research, as well as everyday life in Japan.

Features of the Program

<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/jds-ll-m/>

The **LL.M. program** at Kyushu University offers a wide-ranging curriculum with a particular emphasis on the following topics: international business and the law; innovation and law in a smart society; law and development, and cultural heritage and the law. The program is intended to provide JDS students with a variety of intellectual and practical skills required to confront the many challenges of international economic affairs and commercial transactions in a rapidly globalizing world. Students who successfully complete the program will be conferred a master's degree in law (*LL.M.*). Over the two years of study, JDS students are required to complete a coursework component of approximately 10 semester length courses and write a master's thesis on a topic of their choosing.

【Courses】

Please refer to the indicative list of course below.

【Thesis】

JDS students are required to write a master's thesis of a 50 pages minimum and a 70 pages maximum. The thesis may be on any topic in the fields of economic and business law.

Two professors will supervise the writing of the thesis. The supervisors will offer both specialized and practical help to ensure that the thesis meets the standards expected of master's level research.

Program Curriculum

All students in the JDS Program are expected to complete a 20-credit coursework curriculum and write a master's thesis of 50 to 70 pages (10 credits).

The JDS Program uses a Quarter System. Each Semester (Fall and Spring) is divided into two quarters. Students will normally have two classes of each subject per week over the course of the quarter for regular classes. In addition, intensive classes are organized during the Semesters. Classes award 1 or 2 credits.

The curriculum plan for the JDS Program is organized as follows. Students must gain a minimum of 20 credits from courses offered within the framework of the JDS Program. In addition, students are required to take the Legal Research Methodology & Writing class.

Semester I (Fall Year I): 4 credits in Fall Quarter & 3 credits in Winter Quarter.

Semester II (Spring Year I): 4 credits in Spring Quarter & 3 credits in Summer Quarter.

Semester III (Fall Year II): 2 credits in Fall Quarter & 2 credits in Winter Quarter.

Semester IV: (Spring Year II): 2 credits in Spring Quarter OR Summer Quarter.

A full list of the courses offered in the framework of the JDS Program can be found at:

<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/current-students/course-registration/>

The following is an indicative list of courses offered in the last few years (this list is just indicative and is subject to change on a yearly basis):

- A Legal Studies Primer
- Algorithms and the Law
- Bioethics and the Law
- Borders and Development in Asia
- Comparative Contract Law
- Comparative Corporate Law
- Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity
- Creative Thinking
- Criminal and Civil Procedure Law
- Cultural Heritage Law
- Effective Legal Writing
- Fintech and the Law
- Global Value Chains and Law
- Implementation and Operation of the Hague Conventions

International Commercial Arbitration
International Criminal Law
International Financial Law and Regulation
International Labor Law
International Law in Today's World
International Maritime Law
International Tax Law: Theory and Practice
Introduction to EU Law
Introduction to EU Technology Law
Introduction to Japanese Law
Introduction to Roman Law and the Civil Law Tradition
Japan's Development in Context
Japanese Business Law in Practice
Japanese Constitutional and Administrative Law
Japanese Intellectual Property Law in Practice
Japanese Law from the Perspective of Law and Economics
Law and Development: From the Perspective of Economic and Business History
Law and Finance
Legal Practice from Network Perspective
Legal Research Methodology and Writing
Mediation and Other Conflict Management Approaches
Platforms and the Law
Private International Law
Regulating Robotics: Legal and Ethical Perspective
Resolution of transnational Commercial Disputes
Risk Management and the Law
Cultural Conflict Camp
Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy
Secured Transaction Law: International Standards and Domestic Reforms
The Platform Economy and Competition Law
Transnational Commercial Law
Foreign Investment Law
White Collar & Corporate Crime

List of Faculty Members Responsible for Guiding JDS Students

- Fenwick, Mark
- Han, Sang Hee
- Hazucha, Branislav

- Igimi, Mariko
- Irie, Hideaki
- Kawasaki, Kunihiro
- Kojima, Ryu
- Lee Peter
- Li Xiaorong
- Narihara, Satoshi
- Nishimura, Tomoumi
- Teramoto, Shinto
- Tokumoto, Minoru
- Van Uytsel, Steven
- Yatsunami, Ren

A full list of the research interests of the faculty can be found at:

<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/faculty/faculty-members/>

Academic Schedule

<https://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/programs-admissions/courses/>

(NOTE: the schedule below serves as an example and will be subject to change)

Academic Calendar 2024-2025

October	• 1	Entrance Ceremony and Guidance of the International Programs
	• 2	Classes Start / Fall Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	• 2-9	Application period for the Online Course Registration
	• 14	Sports Day (National Holiday)
	• 17-21	Modification Period of the Online Course Registration
	• 18	Submission for "Research Proposal"
November	• 1-4	Kyudai Festival
	• 3	National Culture Day (National Holiday)
	• 4	Holiday in lieu of 3rd
	• 6	Monday's Class will be held (No Wednesday's Class)
	• 14	IAD-FRIS Symposium on Social Robots and Ethical Design (No regular class)
	• 15	30th Anniversary of the International Programs in Law (No regular class)
	• 18	Deadline for "Research Plan & Research Guidance Plan"
	• 22	Fall Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	• 23	Labor Thanksgiving Day (National Holiday)
	• 25	Fall Quarter Exam Week Starts
	• 29	Fall Quarter Exam Week Ends
December	• 2	Winter Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	• 9	Deadline for Changing Winter Quarter Course Registration
	• 20	Deadline for LL.D. Application (including 10-15 pages Thesis Draft) *Applicable to student who wish to apply for the LL.D. program
	• 23	Winter Holidays Start
January	• 7	Classes Resume Monday's Class will be held (No Tuesday's Class)
	• 13	Coming of Age Day (National Holiday)
	• 15	Wednesday's Class will be held
	• 17	No regular class
February	• 7	Winter Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	• 10	Winter Quarter Exam Week Starts
	• 11	National Foundation Day (National Holiday)
	• 14	Winter Quarter Exam Week Ends
	• 17	Spring Holidays Start (through Mar. 31)
	• 17-28	YLP Internship (Provisional)
	• 23	The Emperor's Birthday (National Holiday)
	• 24	Holiday in lieu of 23rd
March	• 14	Symposium 'Control in a World of Algorithmic Management and the Future of Labour and Employment Law'
	• 25	Graduation Ceremony for March Graduation
	• 31	Submission of Thesis Draft, Abstract and Chapter Plan

April	● 1	Classes Start / Spring Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	● 3	Entrance ceremony for April entrance students
	● 9 - 16	Application period for the Online Course Registration
	● 23 - 25	Modification period for the Online Course Registration
	● 29	Showa Day (National Holiday) Regular Classes will be held
May	● 3	Constitution Day (National Holiday)
	● 4	Greenery Day (National Holiday)
	● 5	Children's Day (National Holiday)
	● 6	Holiday in lieu of 5 th
	● 8	Monday's class will be held (No Thursday's class)
	● 9	Tuesday's class will be held (No Friday's class)
	● 23	Spring Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	● 26	Spring Quarter Exam Week Starts
	● 30	Spring Quarter Exam Week Ends
June	● 2	Summer Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	● 6	Deadline for submitting Final Thesis Title
	● 9	Deadline for Changing Summer Quarter Course Registration
July	● 4	Submission of Complete Final Draft for iThenticate
	● 18	Classes End / Summer Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	● 21	Sea Day (National Holiday)
	● 22	Summer Quarter Exam Week Starts
	● 25	Summer Quarter Exam Week Ends
	● 28	Summer Holidays Start
August	● 5	Deadline for submitting Thesis
	● 11	Mountain Day (National Holiday)
	● 20, 21 & 22	Final Exam (Open Presentation)
September	● 3	Final approval at the Law Faculty Meeting
	● 5	Graduation Ceremony

Facilities

<https://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/education/life/institution/> **【University Library】**

Kyushu University Central Library offers a comprehensive collection of books, journals and online resources that facilitate research across all fields of law. For detailed information, please see the Library website:

<https://www.lib.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/research>

【Technology】

International students enrolled on a program at the Graduate School of Law are given access to the LL.M. Study Room, which contains several computers and network hubs for laptops. Students are also given access to an extensive selection of online databases containing both English and Japanese materials, including LEXIS/NEXIS & WESTLAW.

【Student Supporter】

All international students enrolled on a course at the Graduate School of Law will be provided with a Student Supporter to assist with various practical matters upon arriving in Japan. This includes helping in opening a bank account & registering at the Ward Office and other practical assistance. The support service ensures that adjusting to life in Japan goes smoothly for all incoming international students.

【International Students Center】

With over 2,500 international students from about one hundred different countries, Kyushu University has a diverse and international student body. The International Students Center serves as a resource providing a range of services from Japanese language classes, immigration advice to counseling. For more information, please see:

<https://isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/center/>

【Housing】

Information on university accommodation can be found on the Kyushu University web page:

<https://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/intlweb/en/student/housing>

Prospective students will be notified by email on how to apply for university dormitories.

The cost of university accommodation is significantly cheaper than the private sector.

Please note, however, that university accommodation is limited, and we cannot guarantee that it will be provided. Moreover, the system for allocating university housing for international students has changed recently, and – in consequence – there is less housing available than before. Any information that you may have received from former students may be out of date. In the event that you are not allocated university accommodation, KUSC will provide information about other appropriate dormitories.

Message for Applicants

The support systems that Kyushu University has established for international students ensure that settling in Japan will be a smooth and comfortable experience. Moreover, the city of Fukuoka enjoys a reputation for comfortable living conditions and openness to foreign residents.

A motivated and committed faculty will strive to ensure that all JDS Fellows have a rewarding educational experience. The Faculty of Law has been conducting courses in English for 30 years. The “know-how” gained from

this experience means that JDS Fellows are offered an international standard educational experience that is sensitive to the differing needs of a diverse student body.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the Faculty of Law offers the following:

- (a) **Intensive Courses:** A series of intensive courses (up to two weeks) by distinguished scholars or practitioners in the fields of the research topics of JDS students.
- (b) **Special Lectures:** Special lectures by practitioners in (non-intensive) interactive style.
- (c) **Excursions:** Excursions on the island of Kyushu to learn about the history and culture of Japan and excursions to other universities, law firms, judicial institutions, or international organizations to learn about the legal system of Japan.
- (d) **Online Lectures:** On a regular basis, alumni will be invited to provide online lectures enabling outreach to JDS alumni.
- (e) **English Language Check of Thesis Draft:** Based upon the supervisor's judgement, students will be provided with an English language check of their whole thesis by native English speakers.

Message for Students in Kenya

Dear Prospective Students,

As Kenya advances with Vision 2030 and the Big Four agenda, the need for legal expertise in various sectors is growing. By studying administrative, international, and business-related legal affairs, you can help shape the laws driving our nation's progress. Join the LL.M. program at Kyushu University to strengthen Kenya's legal framework and contribute to country's exciting future.

The LL.M. program at Kyushu University is a unique opportunity for those looking to enhance their skills in legal study and research. We have particular strengths in the fields of international business and the law, innovation in a "digital society," law and development, or cultural heritage law, but applications in any field of law are welcome. Our program is designed to equip JDS students with the necessary intellectual and practical skills to tackle the challenges of law in a rapidly globalizing world.

No matter what your background, this experience will enhance your skills and prepare you for the professional challenges of today's world. As the oldest graduate law program taught in English in Japan with over 30 years experience, we can provide an ideal study environment for students from Kenya to have a meaningful and fulfilling experience.

For more information, please visit the JDS Kenya page: [JDS Kenya](#).

Warm regards,
Kyushu University JDS Program

Message for Students in Bangladesh

Dear Prospective Students,

As Bangladesh continues its progress toward a prosperous and inclusive future, the demand for legal professionals equipped with advanced, internationally grounded expertise is growing across all sectors of governance and development. Whether in international business law, law and innovation, development policy, or cultural heritage protection, there is an urgent need for legal thinkers and problem-solvers who can help shape the legal and policy foundations of our future.

The LL.M. program at Kyushu University offers a unique opportunity for Bangladeshi professionals seeking to strengthen their legal knowledge and research skills in a world-class academic environment. With over 30 years of experience as Japan's oldest English-language graduate law program, we provide a rich platform for legal study, grounded in both theory and practice.

Our program emphasizes a problem-solving approach, drawing on the legal and institutional experiences of Japan and other advanced jurisdictions while also aligning with international standards. JDS Fellows will benefit from our particular strengths in international economic law, innovation in a digital society, development and the law, and governance reform—all essential to Bangladesh's evolving legal and policy landscape.

The LL.M. program also contributes to the long-term goals of the JDS Program, including building capacity in public governance, promoting sustainable development, and cultivating a vibrant JDS alumni network that supports cooperation and mutual growth among emerging leaders in the region.

No matter your specific background, this program will help you develop the legal, intellectual, and practical tools to meet today's professional challenges and become a meaningful contributor to Bangladesh's development.

For more information, please visit the JDS Bangladesh page: [JDS Bangladesh](#)

Warm regards,
Kyushu University JDS Program