

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Private) Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies

◆ **Program name**
International Cooperation Policy

◆ **Degrees:**
Master of Science in International Cooperation Policy

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**
32 credits, 2 years

◆ **Address:**
1-1 Jumonjibaru, Beppu, Oita
874-8577 Japan



Features of University <http://en.apu.ac.jp/home/>

History

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) is an international higher education institution in Japan. APU was founded in April 2000 through the collaboration of three parties, namely Oita Prefecture, Beppu City, and the Ritsumeikan Trust, which is one of the oldest and most distinguished private non-profit educational institutions in Japan. APU's values are based on a vision of freedom, peace and humanity, as well as the enhancement of international mutual understanding in the Asia Pacific region. APU has gained recognition as the most international university in Japan with a strong international orientation in its aims and educational programs, along with its teaching faculty, administrative staff, and enrolled students who come from all over the world.

Location

APU is located on the outskirts of Beppu City (population of approximately 110,000) in Oita Prefecture in Kyushu, the southernmost island of the main Japanese archipelago. Beppu is one of Japan's most popular tourist destinations, being the home of the world's second largest outflow of hot spring water, and approximately 6 million tourists that visit Beppu every year. The large international student population and constant influx of visitors make Beppu one of the most lively and cosmopolitan cities in Japan.

APU as an International University

APU provides education to approximately **6,000** students, of which about **3,000** are international students from **110** different countries, thus creating a truly multi-cultural environment on its campus. Among these students, presently **179** are enrolled in the Master's Course and 26 in the Doctoral Course of our Graduate School. All APU undergraduate programs are taught on a bilingual English-Japanese basis, while graduate programs are conducted entirely in English.

APU students by country:

<https://en.apu.ac.jp/home/about/content250/>

Special Features

APU strives to play an important role in the academics of the Asia Pacific region. Despite its short history, APU has already welcomed some Nobel Laureates Professors for keynote lectures, and has hosted major academic events in collaboration with the United Nations, ASEAN, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Asia Pacific Water Forum. Also, Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS) host research meetings and international symposiums, conducts research projects and joint research, disseminates APU research results, and strengthens the network of researchers and research institutions around Japan and across the world. APU has invited many corporate executives of leading multinational companies to speak and interact with students on campus.

Our graduate schools have gained acclaim by being selected for prestigious scholarship programs offered by the Asian Development Bank, the Japanese Government and foreign governments. We are also welcoming students from the ABE Initiative master's degree and internship program and from a number of other JICA International

Student Programs. APU's innovative approach to education has also repeatedly been recognized under the Japanese Government's "Top Global University Project," and it was placed 1st among private universities in western Japan and 4th in nationwide for the 2025 Japan University Ranking by the Times Higher Education. Also APU has the 1st award on QS World University Rankings international student ratio and international faculty ratio in Japan.

As our profile grows both in Japan and around the world, APU graduate students will have more and more opportunities to come face-to-face with some of the top decision-makers in this region, while gaining broader exposure for their own research. We value diversity and warmly welcome all those who have a desire to play an active role in fostering international cooperation and sustainable development.

Over 350 JDS Fellows have studied at APU until now, along with many other dispatched government officials from around the world. Our graduates have gone on to work at embassies in Japan, various ministries and agencies, and the ASEAN Secretariat. APU takes pride in sending out graduates that can contribute to the development of their countries after studying here.

More Features about APU can be found at the following link:

<https://en.apu.ac.jp/home/experience/>

Features of Graduate School

<http://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/>

[Academic Information for Graduate Students | Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University \(apu.ac.jp\)](http://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/)

The APU graduate school focuses on fostering global leaders with a broad perspective based on the extensive knowledge and skills needed to face the challenges of our world's rapidly changing society. It aims to educate and equip students to contribute to the sustainable and harmonious development of the Asia Pacific region by acquiring the necessary advanced expertise on administration, the environment and development economics, as well as learning to solve issues practically. Students will thus actively contribute to sustainable development and cooperation in the Asia Pacific region and the world.

All programs in the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) are taught entirely in English, and the rich curriculum allows students to tailor their own study program based on their interests and requirements with their supervisors' consultation. Approximately 40% of our faculty members come from outside Japan and a significant number of our Japanese faculty hold postgraduate degrees from world-renowned universities. Introductory and beginner Japanese language classes, together with an academic writing course, are available to interested graduate students.

Most subjects are run on a two-month quarter basis, with two quarters per semester. Some courses are offered on an intensive basis during the vacation periods between semesters. In addition to regular coursework subjects, all students must complete seminar subjects and submit an extended piece of writing which presents the finding and conclusions of their individual research in the format of a Research Report or a Master's Thesis.

At APU's Graduate School, students can expect to develop practical policy-making skills through discussions with students dispatched from government agencies in developing countries, students from Japan, and other donor countries. By approaching issues from various perspectives, students will acquire a greater ability to solve problems effectively.

Besides regular classes, APU holds an average of 20 seminars on campus each year by invited speakers that include distinguished researchers, ambassadors, foreign diplomats, and officials from international organizations, NGOs, and corporations. Known on campus as RCAPS Seminars and Social Outreach Seminars, these offer students an opportunity to network with and gain the latest insight from leaders in various fields.

Features of the Programs

[Master's in International Cooperation Policy \(ICP\) | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University](#)

International Cooperation Policy (ICP)

Students from Maldives will be accepted in the International Cooperation Policy (ICP) Major. Upon completion of this Master's Course, students will have the knowledge and skills needed to immediately contribute to the development of Maldives. They will be the next generation of leaders that can propose and evaluate policies and work for solutions. The further improvement of Maldives's public administration and the management and organization of the public sector is important for its economic development, and at APU students will gain the knowledge needed for achieving this in a wide range of areas, including improvement of public sector organizations and systems, environmental problems, and disaster relief. Students will also study important areas such as the kind of policies and structures in place at aid institutions including the World Bank, ADB, JICA, and other NGOs. Regional integration and cooperation are important issues Maldives will face from now on, and students will acquire the advanced negotiation and communication skills needed for regional cooperation and working effectively with aid institutions.

Being able to negotiate well with donor countries and related institutions in one's own country, as well as create development policies, are highly sought-after skills. Regardless of the ministry or agency they belong to, human resources with these skills are critical for their country's development.

While students learn subjects such as "Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific", "International Public Administration", "Conflict Resolution" and "Project Management", they also take part in seminar subjects and fieldwork to further enhance their education and develop themselves into highly-specialized experts in their fields. Students from Maldives will be taught and supervised by faculty members who have worked for many years in international organizations such as JICA, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and others. There is great diversity among students of this program, with many administrative officials studying here on scholarships from JDS, ADB, and JICA. Through this program, JDS Fellows can build a global network and gain vital cross-cultural communication skills.

This program aims to educate and equip highly-skilled experts that are strong in both theory and practice. By connecting theory with practice, APU develops students into practical leaders that will be able to contribute to Maldives's development in many areas.

<Outline of the special program>

- (i) Provision of English writing support to JDS fellows throughout their studies at APU to help them develop and complete their master's research and final research output (master's thesis or research report).
- (ii) Organize field observations around Japan for JDS Fellows to see and experience actual public policy on site and learn about Japanese initiatives.
- (iii) Invite specialists in relevant fields or related parties in accordance with JDS fellows' research themes, providing opportunities to exchange opinions on the current state of issues related to research themes and countermeasures.
- (iv) Provide opportunities for JDS fellows to receive explanations and learn about case studies involving local initiatives.
- (v) Provide opportunities to create vertical and horizontal networks by organizing opinion exchange meetings not only with senior JDS fellows but also with JDS alumni and gain information on current conditions and problems in Maldives.
- (vi) Organize other programs closely related to the JDS fellows' needs may be organized on ad-hoc basis.

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/assets/file/AY2025_GraduateAcademicHandbook.pdf#page=20

A minimum of 32 credits is required for completion. As shown in the following table of credit requirements, JDS Fellows must take and pass a designated minimum number of credits from each Subject Category. Credits for a subject are obtained by earning a passing grade for that subject. All students must complete an extended piece of writing that presents the findings and conclusions of their individual research. Students may choose between a Master's Thesis or a Research Report.

<Credit Requirements for Completion>

Subject Category	Minimum Required Credits	Subject Type	Credit Rules
Analytical Foundation Subjects	4	Lecture	--
Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific region	4	Lecture	Any credits earned from Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific Region exceeding the minimum required credits of 4 will count towards the credits required for program completion
Major Subjects	Major Subjects 1	10	Lecture Students must complete at least 10 credits from Major Subjects from their affiliated Division
	Major Subjects 2	-	Lecture Any credits earned from APS/ICP Major Subjects outside the student's affiliated Division; these credits will count towards the credits required for program completion
Seminars	4	Seminar	The minimum required 4 credits include 2 credits from Final Research Project. Any credits earned from Seminars exceeding the minimum requirement of 4 credits will count towards the credits required for program completion
Core Related Subjects	-	Lecture	Credits earned from Core Related Subjects will count towards the credits required for program completion
	TOTAL 32		

<Subjects Offered in the International Cooperation Policy Major>

Analytical Foundation Courses	
Research Methods and Academic Writing	Information Resources and Data Analysis
Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific region	
Social and Cultural Processes in the Asia Pacific	Tourism in the Asia Pacific
Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific	Public Health in the Asia Pacific
Environment and Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific	Special Studies (Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific Region)
Seminars	
Research Project I	Research Project II
Research Project III	Final Research Project
ICP Major Subjects	
International Public Administration	
Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation	Project Management
Special Studies (International Public Administration)	Planning and Evaluation
International Public Administration	Community Development
International Organizations	
Sustainability Science	
Environment and Natural Resources Conservation	Urban Sustainability
Advanced Environmental Geosciences	Industrial Ecology
Environmental Policy, Law and Administration	Special Studies (Sustainability Science)
Environmental Economics	
Tourism and Hospitality	
Tourism Economics	Health and Wellness Tourism

Cultural and Heritage Tourism	Special Studies (Tourism and Hospitality)
Environmental Tourism	Tourism Policy and Planning
Community Based Tourism	
Development Economics	
Development Economics	Microeconomics
Macroeconomics	Community Development
Development Finance	Special Studies (Development Economics)
Comparative Economic Development	
APS Major Subjects	
International Relations	
Regionalism and Globalization	Special Studies (International Relations)
International Law	Conflict Resolution
International Political Economy	International Security
Comparative Politics and Government	
Society and Culture	
Changing Social Landscapes	Sociology of Everyday Life
Media and Communication	Special Studies(Society and Culture)
Migration and Trans-nationalism	Cultural Change
Social Organizations and Institutions	
Core Related Subjects	
Decision Making Under Uncertainty	Hospitality Management
Information Technology and Operations Management	Management Information Systems
Product Development Strategy	Database Management
Marketing Strategy	Advanced Data Analysis and Statistics
Marketing Research	
Optional Subjects	
Survival Japanese I	Survival Japanese II
Japanese for Communication I	Japanese for Communication II
Japanese for Communication III	Japanese for Communication IV

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

<https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/gsam/faculty/#sec01-2>

Below is a list of APU Faculty members who are qualified to supervise JDS Fellows. Fellows will be matched with faculty members in their division. Their supervisor will be confirmed within one month after classes begin.

Faculty Name	Position	Division	Research Area
KIM Sangho	Professor	DE	International trade, Economic Growth, Economic Development, Productivity Analysis
NATSUDA Kaoru	Professor	DE	International development, International political economy, Policy studies
OTSUKA KOZO	Professor	DE	Productivity, innovations, economic growth
SHIMOMURA Ken-Ichi	Professor	DE	Economic Theory, Industrial Organization
YAMAGATA Tatsufumi	Professor	DE	Development Economics, Development Studies
YAMAURA Koichi	Associate Professor	DE	Consumer preferences in food and environmental economics
GHOTBI Nader	Professor	SS	Cross-Cultural Bioethics, Ethics of Technology

			(AI, EAI, etc.) Inclusive Education (Higher Education, HE)
KIMURA Rikio	Professor	IPA	NGO, social enterprise, community development, adult learning, pedagogy, organizational development and leadership
SUZUKI Yasushi	Professor	DE, IPA	Political Economy, Institutional Economics, Theories of Rents & Rent-seeking, Corruption, Public Finance, Financial Development, Comparative Economic Systems (Japan, US, China, Islamic Finance and Microcredit), Development Economics, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Economics (Social Justice), International Economic Law
KIKKAWA Takuro	Professor	IPA	Comparative Politics (inc. political system, policy analysis, comparative foreign policies), IR, history, and Area Studies (the Middle East)
GOMEZ Oscar A	Associate Professor	IPA	International cooperation, human security, global governance
MAHICHI Faezeh	Professor	SS	Inclusive Environmental Citizenship Education, Circular Bioeconomy, Ecosystem services, Sustainable Food Systems, Regenerative agriculture, Decrease of humanity's ecological footprint, Community-based environmental actions
MATSUO Yuji	Professor	SS	Energy system modeling, energy policy analysis, renewable energies, nuclear power
MEIRMANOV Serik	Professor	IPA, TH	General Life Science, Social Psychology, Human Genetics, Human Pathology, Public Hygiene Studies/Health Science, International Education
LI Yan	Professor	IPA, SS	Environmental Impact Assessment/Environment Policy, City Planning/Architectural Planning, Traffic Engineering, Land Planning, Social System Engineering/Safety System
YAMASHITA Hiromi	Professor	SS	Environmental sociology, environmental communication, risk study, public perceptions on nature restoration projects (green

			infrastructures, nature based solutions), coastal wetlands management and conservation (including tidal flats, mangroves, beaches), community participation in decision making, consensus building on infrastructure building in coastal communities
HAN Ji	Professor	SS	Urban Ecology, Material metabolism, Low-carbon city/transport, livable city, circular economy, ecosystem services, GIS and remote sensing
HASHIMOTO Shunsaku	Professor	TH	Qualitative Analysis, especially M-GTA
JONES Thomas E	Professor	SS, TH	Human geography, conservation, protected area management
KC Dipendra	Associate Professor	DE, IPA	NGOs, Social Enterprise (SE), Civil Society, State-Civil Society Relations, Political Economy of International Development, Aid Effectiveness, Digital Technologies & Social Change
OHASHI Hiroaki	Professor	SS, TH	Urban and regional planning, Spatial planning and policy, Urban (re)development and design, Sustainable and resilient development
BUI Thanh Huong	Professor	TH, SS	Tourism, Sustainability, and Resilience, Resource Management, Environmental Economics
TODOROKI Hiroshi	Professor	TH	Tourism Geography, Area Studies
USUI Rie	Associate Professor	SS, TH	Wildlife tourism, Nature-based tourism, Ecotourism, Human and non-human animal interactions
VAFADARI M. Kazem	Professor	SS, TH	Tourism policy and planning Food tourism Agritourism Rural tourism and development Heritage tourism Ecotourism
YOTSUMOTO Yukio	Professor	TH	Community based tourism, sociology of tourism
SUN YIYANG	Associate Professor	TH	Hospitality, Tourism, Information and communications technology, Mobile payment, Consumer behavior
YOUN Seung Ho	Associate	TH	Tourist behaviour, experience, Community-

	Professor		Based Tourism, hospitality management, local tourism content and identity construction
SATO Yoichiro	Professor	IPA	Research Area: Foreign policy analysis, Security, International political economy, Fishery policy, Comparative politics
KUBO Takayuki	Professor	SS, TH	Urban Development and Planning, Regional Development and Planning

Abbreviations:

DE: Development Economics Division

IPA: International Public Administration Division

SS: Sustainability Science Division

TH: Tourism and Hospitality Division

Academic Schedule https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/academic_info/calendar/

Reference: **2025-2026 Academic Calendar (Tentative)**

Date	Targeted students	Event & things to-do
Fall Semester		
<u>Mid-Late September</u>	1st Semester Students	New Students Orientation Period (including moving into AP House and Entrance Ceremony)
<u>Beginning of October</u>	Everyone	Registration for Fall Semester Classes
<u>Beginning of October</u>	Everyone	1 st Quarter Classes Start
<u>End of October</u>	1 st Semester Students	Supervisor is appointed
<u>Mid-November</u>	Everyone	1 st Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>Late November</u>	Everyone	1 st Quarter Final Examinations
<u>End of November</u>	Everyone	2 nd Quarter Classes Start
<u>Late December</u>	Everyone	Early January: Winter Holidays
<u>Mid-January</u>	Everyone	2 nd Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>Beginning of February</u>	Everyone	2 nd Quarter Final Examinations
<u>Early-Mid February</u>	Everyone	Winter Session
<u>Late February</u>	Everyone	Spring Holiday
Spring Semester		
<u>Late March</u>	Everyone	Registration for Spring Semester Classes
<u>Early April</u>	Everyone	1 st Quarter Classes Start
<u>Mid-May</u>	Everyone	1 st Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>End of May</u>	Everyone	1 st Quarter Final Examinations
<u>Beginning of June</u>	Everyone	2 nd Quarter Classes Start
<u>June 5</u>	Final Semester Students	Master's Thesis/Research Report Submission Deadline
<u>June 30</u>	2 nd Semester Students	Research Proposal Submission Deadline
<u>Mid-July</u>	Everyone	2 nd Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>Late July</u>	Everyone	2 nd Quarter Final Examinations
<u>Beginning of August</u>	Everyone	Summer Session
<u>Mid-August</u>	Everyone	Summer Holiday
<u>Mid-September</u>	Final Semester Students	Graduation Ceremony

Facilities <http://en.apu.ac.jp/home/contents/campusmap.html/>

Accommodation

All graduate students are entitled to a room in one of APU's student housing facilities, AP House 3 or AP House 4, which will help them adapt to their new life in Japan and to concentrate on their studies. All rooms are equipped with basic facilities, including internet access. Both housings are located off-campus in downtown Beppu. More information is available on the APU Admissions website: [Housing | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University](#) If students wish to live in different off-campus housing, it is possible to find other affordable options, as Beppu is considerably less expensive than other Japanese cities for private apartments and shared student housing. Students can also get assistance in locating and renting accommodations from Creotech, a university-affiliated company.

Campus Facilities

APU's classrooms are equipped with the latest audiovisual and computer technology, enabling our students to take part in conferences and seminars occurring in other parts of the world in real time. The library, part of the Ritsumeikan Network, allows students to utilize over 2.3 million books and provides access to a wide range of academic journals and other useful publications through online databases. Within the Faculty Office Building, graduate students have their own lounge, study spaces, lockers, and computer rooms. Furthermore, with access to the Faculty Office Building, students can easily consult with their supervisors during office hours.

Other on-campus facilities include a cafeteria and cafe catering to a wide range of dietary requirements, a general store and a bookshop. In terms of athletics, APU has a gym, a weight training room, tennis and basketball courts, a soccer field, track, and other facilities.

Support Services

At APU, students have access to a full range of support services on campus. These include a Health Clinic and counseling service for all students and staff without any charge, a Student Office that facilitates extra-curricular activities and offers advice on lifestyle issues such as accommodation, the Research Office that provides support for research activities, and the Academic Office which supports students in terms of their curriculum, course registration, master's thesis submission, and other academic needs.

Language Environment

Since APU is a bilingual campus, all administrative offices such as the Academic Office and Student Office operate in both English and Japanese.

Message for Applicants

We hope that students in the International Cooperation Policy (ICP) Major will acquire the knowledge needed for developing a long-term perspective on development issues, as well as the capacity to address real-life issues by connecting theory to practice. The ICP Master's program provides students with policy-oriented and practical advice, drawing on diverse fields to train creative professionals who can understand complex challenges from multiple perspectives and formulate feasible solutions with integrative approaches from global, regional and local perspectives. Such training will improve practical skills and knowledge to plan, implement and evaluate projects and thereby contribute to organizations that work closely with and in developing nations.

As the program attracts students of diverse backgrounds from all over the world, students easily develop extensive personal networks during their course of studies. Such networks serve as valuable assets even after graduation. Graduates of this program work in industries in or dealing with the Asia Pacific region, national and local governments in Japan and around the world, development agencies and other regional and international organizations.

Taught in English by faculty members who have ample experience guiding JDS Fellows, each class makes the most of APU's cultural diversity. In-class discussions are enriched by the variety of experiences our students have already gained in workplaces in their home countries. This is the ideal forum in which to prepare you for a career in international development on the world stage, and particularly here in the Asia Pacific region.

APU is proud that over 350 JDS fellows and our faculty members look forward to supporting the next group of students that enroll here who will be human resources can make use of the scenic beauty of the Maldives and contribute to a wide range of fields including sustainable tourism policy, economic development, and international relations.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member of our diverse and exciting campus.

