International Christian University (Private)
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

◆ **Program name**
Public Policy and Social Research Program

◆ **Degrees:**
a. Master of Arts in Public Administration
b. Master of Arts in International Relations

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

◆ **Address:**
10-2, Osawa 3-chome, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo, 181-8585 Japan



Features of University http://www.icu.ac.jp/en/

(1) History

International Christian University (ICU) was founded in 1949 with the cooperation of both Japanese and North American educators. The first students entered in 1953 when the College of Liberal Arts was opened. The Graduate School opened in 1957 with a program in education and has since added three more divisions: Public Administration (1963), Comparative Culture (1976), and Natural Sciences (1987). Finally, in April 2010, four graduate divisions aiming at interdisciplinary education were united and regenerated as the "Graduate School of Arts and Sciences". The master's level programs introduced a more liberal approach to graduate education and support studies in innovative fields spanning multiple disciplines.

(2) Location

ICU is set in a picturesque, serene, wooded campus in suburban Tokyo. Our campus provides a perfect setting for those pursuing graduate studies in the social sciences as one can focus on research in a quiet environment but also readily access downtown Tokyo – Japan's business center and government seat. It offers easy access to many of the government offices, world leading research institutions, UN agencies, and NGO/NPOs, as well as opportunities to develop a network among leading scholars and people working in the same field.

(3) University Data

Please refer to the following website for the details from the link below.
https://www.icu.ac.jp/en/about/info/index.html

(4) Basic Policy

Founded on the principles of Christianity and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ICU aims to cultivate 'responsible global citizens' who contribute to world peace. Explicit in its name, ICU has been a pioneer in liberal arts education in Japan since its founding in 1953, pursuing international, Christian and academic ideals. The Graduate School, in accordance with the ideals and purposes of ICU, aims to enable students to master advanced levels of learning in specific fields. The Graduate School's programs continue to attract the brightest students from around the world. This may be due to various reasons, including the relatively **small size of our graduate programs,** where every student has the advantage of enjoying the full attention of many faculty members and not just one academic advisor. Additionally, bilingual **liberal arts instruction** in English and Japanese enables ICU students from all over the world to think about and discuss ideas using a common language. Furthermore, graduate students can select from a wide range of research areas, from major classical disciplines in social sciences, arts and humanities, and natural sciences to interdisciplinary studies and new emerging fields.

Features of Graduate School https://www.icu.ac.jp/en/academics/gs/about/index.html

(1) Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

ICU's reformed Graduate School of Arts and Sciences started offering its programs from April 2010. The master's

level programs, enriched with new courses, 1) introduce a more liberal approach to graduate education by promoting transferable skills, 2) offer school-wide interdisciplinary courses, and 3) support studies in innovative fields spanning multiple disciplines.
ICU's graduate school and faculty are devoted to cultivating professionals: superlative minds in their fields with deep insight into real policy issues. The graduate program provides a highly competitive, theoretical, empirical, policy-oriented international education, which contributes to solving real policy issues in developing countries and the world at large.

(2) Basic Policy for Accepting JDS Fellows

All faculty and staff are happy to provide learning opportunities for JDS Fellows who work to acquire specialized knowledge in solving social and economic development issues, which their own countries might confront. We expect very high quality and promising students who are strongly motivated to achieve academically and return to their home country with the skills necessary to contribute. Furthermore, to effectively manage admission of JDS Fellows to the program, ICU has organized a 'JDS Program Committee,' which has discussed how to meet JDS Fellows' academic needs in the admissions process. To accomplish this goal, the JDS Program committee is devoted to developing and initiating new designs of courses and special seminars and inviting renowned guest professors and speakers for JDS Fellows.

< Faculty Expertise >

To contribute to the international environment at ICU, the faculty comes from diverse countries and has global work experience, including in developing countries. Many faculty members have work experience in international organizations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, JICA and various United Nations (UN) programs and agencies and can supplement their teaching with practical experiences. They have a deep understanding of the social and economic development issues of ASEAN and can offer individual guidance based on students' interests and needs.

< Guiding Principles >

School-wide interdisciplinary courses, such as 'Writing for Researchers', and 'Data Analysis for Researchers' provide all graduate school students necessary skills for research at the graduate school level. Students are also able to take courses of ICU's undergraduate program to deepen and expand their understanding and basic knowledge of their field if necessary.

< Guidance and Advisors >

Upon enrollment each student is assigned to an academic advisor who is a full-time professor. The advisor works closely with the student as a mentor to develop an effective research plan. In the first year, students take school-wide interdisciplinary courses, foundation courses and specialization courses in their area of concentration and receive guidance in their research by their academic advisor. Through this guidance students can acquire basic knowledge and skills for the master's course.
During the second year, students concentrate more on thesis research. Academic advisors give students precise and proper guidance in order to successfully complete their master's thesis. During the writing of the master's thesis, second and third advisors are assigned to provide more academic guidance to students from different perspectives.
To promote hands-on mentoring, ICU faculty have a policy of setting aside at least two hours each week as designated office hours, when students can visit faculty for any reason without requiring an appointment. Moreover, each student meets individually with his or her advisor for registration each term. These college-wide policies are in addition to the regular mentoring and academic advising that graduate students receive related to their courses and thesis progress.

< Classmates >

At ICU Graduate School, students from many countries study together. Japanese and non-Japanese peers appreciate this diversity and learn from each other's differences. A tradition of open-mindedness continues to be a salient feature of campus life at ICU. ICU Graduate School has accepted about 10 students as 'Rotary Peace Fellows' every year, who come from countries all around the world, and, just as JDS Fellows do, they possess working experience and through their graduate studies aim to prepare themselves for future contributions to peace building, conflict resolution and development. Bringing together students with such diverse backgrounds and experiences provides even more opportunities for students to learn from each other.

< Japanese Language Program >

ICU offers a Japanese Language Program (JLP) in which students can take courses depending on each student's level of Japanese ability. JLP has been recognized for its excellence and prepares students to use Japanese for academic purposes. Also, there are further opportunities to learn Japanese language outside of classes.

Features of the Program https://www.icu.ac.jp/en/academics/gs/ma/

ICU Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is well known for its interdisciplinary program. The Public Policy & Social Research Program enables students to learn not only from one area of Public Policy and Public Administration, but also from development studies, international relations, public economics, sociology and anthropology, media and communication studies, and peace studies. This aims to develop a broad view and wide knowledge of students, and it leads to cultivating experts with capacity of problem-solving and plenty of knowledge which are essential to the professional officers in developing countries. The Program offers theoretical as well as methodological courses on qualitative and quantitative analysis, and field research methods, which are necessary for students' research. The faculty is highly experienced in various international organizations and serves as a body of skilled educators. Primary advisors and other faculty members eagerly share the common agenda of JDS Fellows and support and guide JDS Fellows in order to aid in their education.

＜Other Opportunities＞

In addition to coursework and research, there are various enrichment activities and opportunities at ICU for JDS Fellows.

(1) The JDS forum and Workshop for Development Studies

ICU organizes several JDS forums during the year. These forums invite professionals from international organizations, governments, NGOs and others, to discuss diverse issues of developing countries.

(2) Domestic and international academic conference(s)

Students are encouraged to present their research findings at domestic and/or international conferences. While the availability of conferences may change year by year, JDS Fellows in the past presented their research findings to their peers and/or senior scholars at various conferences so that they can receive invaluable feedback. These conferences also give students an opportunity to listen to research presentations from other scholars and to develop domestic and/or international networks.

(3) Seminars jointly hosted with other universities / organizations

ICU has conducted Joint Seminars with other universities, which offered an opportunity for JDS Fellows to gain experience presenting their research and to receive feedback from faculty on how to develop their ideas. This seminar improves JDS Fellows' research and presentation skills and enhances the network between both faculty and JDS fellows at the co-sponsored universities.

(4) Educational exchange with local universities

ICU has agreements for educational exchange and credit transfer with the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. JDS Fellows can take courses offered at these universities and have units of credit (up to 15 units) transferred to their transcript at ICU.

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

Each student needs to obtain at least 30 units of credit in order to graduate with a master's degree. Specifically, each student is required to obtain the following credit units (Each type of course is described below the table):

Required units	Course Types
2 units of credit (1 course)	Graduate School-Wide Courses
4 units of credit (2 courses)	Program Foundation Courses
8 units credit (4 courses)	Specialization Courses from each concentration area
6 units of credit	Research Guidance

6 units of credit (3 courses)	Foundation Courses, Specialization Courses in a related field(s), or Research Guidance
4 credits (2 courses)	Graduate School courses of any type

(1) Graduate School-Wide Courses
Through these courses students can acquire the basic knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in the master's program. For example, the course entitled "Writing for Researchers (English)" helps graduate students to learn about important aspects of professional writing that are common to most academic fields. We also offer "Academic English" (for the first year) and "Academic English for Research" (for the second year) that are designed specifically for JDS Fellows. Through these courses, students can develop not only their writing skills but also the skills necessary for reading, discussion and presentations. In a course entitled "Field Research and Professional Learning," students pursue practical engagement with society through participation in development projects, internships with government service and NGOs/NPOs, visits to companies and schools, and conducting fieldwork.

(2) Foundation Courses
These courses provide the fundamental knowledge and methodology for research needed for taking part in the empowerment and improvement of public policy. The course entitled "Public Policy" teaches various theoretical approaches in studying public policy. Students are also encouraged to take the course entitled "Research Design and Methodology," which teaches how to design and conduct an academic research project. There are many other foundation courses.

(3) Specialization Courses
Those courses enable students to understand in depth the issues about policy making and empowerment needed for accomplishment of development plan. Students are also guided to analyze and comprehend it from a multilateral viewpoint such as international perspective and comparison with other countries and Japan.

(4) Research Guidance
Each graduate student is assigned to a faculty advisor. The advisor advises students regarding their research necessary for their master's thesis. Although the advice depends on the professor and on the stage of the student's research, the advisor typically helps students to choose an appropriate research topic, conduct a literature review, select an appropriate research method(s), analyze data, and write the thesis.

Note:

・For specific information regarding ICU's courses and their syllabi, check the following link:
https://campus.icu.ac.jp/public/ehandbook/SearchCourseAndSyllabus.aspx?lang=e
Select "MASTER" and "2026." And then, choose all terms and click "SEARCH." Finaly, select "Public Policy and Social Research Program" for GS program. Then, you should be able to see the list of all courses which are offered within the Public Policy and Social Research program in AY2026.

・Submission of Master's thesis is one of the graduation requirements.

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

For the list of faculty members who may become academic advisors for JDS Fellows, take a look at the following site:
https://www.icu.ac.jp/en/academics/gs/faculty/index.html

Based on their research proposal, each student is assigned to an academic advisor who will help guide the student's study and research. In the third term of the first year, each student must submit to the Graduate School Dean a tentative title of the thesis approved by the student's advisor.

Academic Schedule

2026-2027 Academic Schedules

URL: https://www.icu.ac.jp/en/about/calendar/index.html

Facilities

(1) Dormitories

ICU has a dormitory for graduate students on campus. Some single rooms are available for graduate students. For more details, see: https://www.icu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/dormitories/

(2) Library

The ICU library, located at the center of the campus, currently maintains a collection of 449,174 books in Japanese, 338,698 foreign books, and 6,063 journal subscriptions (including e-journals). Our library is renowned as one of top-ranked libraries in Japan for the high number of items checked out per student.

(3) Sports Facilities

There are two gymnasiums on campus. Physical Education Center A, houses the main court, a studio, and seminar rooms. Physical Education Center B, houses rooms for ball games, martial arts, and weight training. Other physical education facilities include a swimming pool and the Central Locker Building, which houses locker rooms and shower rooms. In addition, there are also roofed tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer/rugby field, and an archery range.

(4) Club Activities

ICU has many club activities (extracurricular activities), which are open to all students. They include sport-related activities as well as cultural activities. Example of clubs aremodern jazz, classical music, Japanese tea ceremony, Japanese traditional dance, English debate, and others.

(5) Counselling

ICU has a Counseling Center. Counselors are available to discuss psychological issues with students and help them deal with personal concerns. Some counselors speak English.

(6) Health Services

Consisting of the university physician and nurses who can speak English, the Health Care Office (HCO) provides some basic medical services for students, faculty and staff.

Message for Applicants



After two years of study at ICU, JDS Uzbekistan Fellows would be able to obtain the degree of Master of Arts in Public Administration or International Relations according to each student's research. ICU is consistently ranked one of the best liberal arts universities in Japan. We can offer the best curriculum for the learning of development studies, and we take great pride in consistently sending out excellent researchers and professionals to academic institutions, government organizations, and international organizations such as UN, UNESCO, etc. Both our curriculum and faculties' teaching and advising prepare JDS Fellows for the challenges they will face as future world leaders and policy makers. ICU's diverse yet close-knit community of students, staff, and faculties and our tradition of small classes that actively promote open discussion and debate challenge our JDS Fellows while helping them to feel comfortable so they can learn effectively. We are here to facilitate our JDS Fellows in fulfilling their academic, profession and personal goals so they can return to their home countries prepared to fully contribute to the development of the region. In order to maximize the achievement from this program, we would like to advise the students who are applying to our program to choose a topic of research that is close to the specialization – or especially the current research interest - of one of our faculty.

In preparing your application, be sure to clearly state how your research interest is related to your proposed project. Provide details as to how the findings are related to your current responsibilities and what you expect your experience at ICU as a graduate student can do for your career and national development.

We encourage applicants to link their career responsibilities and experiences to their research proposal. At the

same time, applicants should understand that an MA is a research project that uses social science tools to investigate a public policy or developmental studies issue which lays the theoretical framework for good policy development.