

Yamaguchi University (National) Graduate School of Economics

◆ Program name

Public Administration Program

◆ Degrees:

Master of Economics
(With Certificate of Completion of Public Administration Program)

◆ Credits and years needed for graduation:

30 credits, 2 years

◆ Address:

1677-1 Yoshida, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi 753-8514 Japan



Features of University <https://www.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/english/>

A Brief History of Yamaguchi University

Third oldest national university in Japan

Yamaguchi University is the third oldest national university in Japan, tracing its roots back to Yamaguchi Kodo, a private school established in 1815. In 1949, the school was reorganized to become a national university consisting of five faculties. Over the years, the university has expanded into a university which boasts nine faculties and eight graduate schools.

Yamaguchi was one of the leading prefectures contributing to the state building during the Japan's modernization

The university has the strong locational advantages rooted in the history of Japanese modernization process since the late 19th centuries. More specifically, Yamaguchi produced a great number of the state leaders such as the many prime ministers and business leaders, and initiated the state building process and lead the formulation of the Japanese politics and public administration system from the Meiji era up to now. The university has the locational advantage in the current context, that is, a center of the various exchange of people, goods and services, and knowledge and innovation stimulated in the East Asian region, one of the most dynamic growth poles in the world.

Access to Yamaguchi University

Yamaguchi Prefecture can be accessed in 1.5 hours by air from Tokyo, 2 hours by bullet train from Osaka, or 35 minutes by bullet train from Fukuoka. The university has three campuses: Yoshida Campus in Yamaguchi City (the main campus), Kogushi Campus, and Tokiwa Campus in Ube City.

Faculties and Schools

Yamaguchi University has the faculties of Humanities, Education, Economics, Science, Agriculture, Global and Science Studies, and Veterinary Medicine at Yoshida Campus, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at Kogushi Campus and the Faculty of Engineering at Tokiwa Campus. It also has Graduate Schools of Humanities, Education, Economics, Medicine, Science and Technology for Innovation, Agriculture, East Asian Studies, Innovation and Technology Management, Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine and The United Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences.

International Students

Total of 428 international students from 38 countries currently studying at Yamaguchi University as of May 1, 2023. Most are from Asian countries, and there are also several students from Africa, Europe and Americas.

Tutor Systems

International students can use the personal tutor system for up to one year. Under this system, Japanese students help international students with their daily lives and studying Japanese language. Each international student will be matched with one supporting Japanese student. There is another tutor system for international students operated by the student volunteer group.

Strengthening International Student Support

In the university's medium-term objectives, the following goals related to the international students have been established:

- Enhancing guidance for international students
- Providing support systems involving the local community and municipality to secure provision of reasonably priced, good quality accommodation
- Appointing professors to guide international students
- Strengthening follow-up after providing academic and daily life support to ensure the main objective of supporting international students is achieved

International Student Center (ISC)

The university's International Student Center provides international students with systematic language instruction, and advice and information on daily life. Advisory services are available in Japanese and English. In the advisory room, the advisors help with problems which international students may have while living in Japan.

Features of Graduate School <https://www.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/econo/english/index.html>

History

The Faculty of Economics is the oldest Faculty of Economics in the Japanese universities. With this historical asset, the Graduate School of Economics was founded in 1975, and provides education in 2 majors: Economics, and Corporate Administration. The Graduate School of Economics has trained many economists and has made a significant contribution to the Japanese business community,

Philosophy and Goals

The missions and objectives of the school are:

1. to produce specialists who has the high ability to identify issues in our increasingly complex and fluid contemporary society, and to seek comprehensive solutions, equipped with competence in the social sciences and the ability to articulate their own views and opinions clearly,
2. to create a flexible educational system for all those who aspire to gain advanced intellectual abilities in social sciences, in which ANYONE can learn AT ANYTIME, and
3. to promote exchange and cooperation in the field of education and research, and strive to improve the quality of education by upgrading the level of research and by keeping up with the latest research developments.

Courses and Fields of Specialization

| Degree Program | Major | Program |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Master's Degree | Economics | Public Administration |
| | | Socio-Economic Policy |
| | Corporate Administration | Medical-Welfare Management |
| | | Mountain-Area Management |
| | | Tax Service |

Admissions Policy of Public Administration Program

The Public Administration Program, Graduate School of Economics is mainly looking for:

1. public officers or business persons who are directly involved in coordination between the public, non-profit, and private sectors, or in overall public management,
2. those who seek to fully understand the mechanism and significance of public policy and its frameworks, including programs, evaluation, and policy making, and
3. those who are aiming to enhancing their specific knowledge and skills in public management with the intention to suggest feasible solutions to the challenges they have identified through their own work experience.

Main Fields of Research

In 2002 the Public Administration (PA) Program was launched, with partial sponsorship by JICA. The PA program is designed to provide courses in areas of economics, public finance, and public policy, which are necessary for developments of developing countries and governance for implementation. On the other hand, we believe that it is necessary to provide more attractive courses to prospective students or foreign country governments, and that continuous enhancement of our program is desirable.

The PA Program was initially offered in principle for the benefit of JICA sponsored international students only; however, the flexible curriculum allows students from other programs to take up to 14 credits in the PA Program. Moreover, since 2010, the PA Program has been open to candidates without JICA scholarship as well.

Features of the Program

Public Administration Program offers various courses that meet the challenges in each country.

Investing in human resource is crucial for the state building

Based upon the awareness that consideration of the planning and implementation of efficient and effective fiscal and monetary policy, sound public financial management, and strengthening of local government finance are the most important educational objectives for public administrators in Lao PDR, our graduate school aims to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to play an important role in enhancing policy management.

Advantages of studying at Yamaguchi University for the prospectus international students

To support those high potential future leaders, the university would arrange quality environments for learning and research as follows:

1) Quality curriculum and education contents in English to meet the practitioners' on-the-ground needs

The Public Administration Program is offered entirely in English, thus providing an environment in which to pursue academic research, supported by a strong, judicious supervisory program. In order to obtain the skills required for the creation of a master's thesis in the field of social science, an academic writing course is provided as a compulsory component of the program.

- Economics, Public Economics, Development Economics, International Economics are offered in order that students acquire the knowledge required for economic policy and development.
- Public Finance and Local Government Finance are offered in order that students acquire the knowledge of Finance for public administrators.
- Program Evaluation and Cost benefit Analysis are offered in order that students acquire the knowledge and ability for making and evaluating effective and efficient policy.
- Public Debt Management is offered in order that students acquire the knowledge and ability of public dept management for public administrators.
- Public Administration and Principle of Administrative Law are offered in order that students acquire the knowledge and ability for public administration for public administrators.
- In order to learn the way of writing master's thesis in the field of social science, Academic Writing course is offered as a compulsory course.

2) Teaching staff with sufficient understanding on the current situation of developing countries and development challenges in the field of policy making in various Asian developing countries as well as experts in East Asian studies.

Our Graduate School is equipped with many professors who have much experience of conducting researches and/or working in developing countries and have a good understanding on the development issues from various angles. Such experience is used to its full extent to guide JDS Fellows to find solutions to their specific issues.

3) Provision of the development experience of Japan which is a frontrunner country experiencing the "state-of-art" development challenges linked with JICA's Development Study Program (JICA-DSP)

Japan has already experienced or is now experiencing many development challenges that the developing countries would encounter near future such as environmental problems, energy efficiency, eco-economy and society, digital economy and the aging society. The university would offer learning opportunity of the frontrunning Japanese cases as well as historical legacies relating to the state building taken over since the Meiji modernization process. This thought is completely in line with the **JICA's Development Study Program (JICA-DSP)** of offering learning opportunities of the experiences of Japanese development and development cooperation. Thus, the international students of the university would be benefitted from the JICA program.

4) Provision of practical and hands-on guidance and supervision to meet JDS fellows' specific need

The course is specifically and carefully designed to be implemented systematically and consistently to develop the academic capabilities and experience of JDS Fellows. If a research proposal requires interdisciplinary guidance, multiple professors can be made available for joint instruction specific to the student's needs.

Students are encouraged to pursue a deeper understanding of their research theme through regular thesis instruction. An instruction course is offered before coming to Japan so that students can have a smooth start to their research. Special programs are offered to improve students' abilities in mathematics and English. Other ad hoc programs such as discussion with relevant government officials invited from various government sectors are conducted depending on the needs of individual research proposals.

For your information, the theme of the master thesis written by the students graduated from the university in the past are posted on the following website.

<https://www.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/econo/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/500499b72764234ecc6a02ff6aab058a.pdf>

5) Opportunities of exchange views with other countries' official studying at the university

Many international students with various nationality and academic and working backgrounds are staying in the university. Thus, those students would be able to exchange various experiences such as policy making and implementation applied to the respective countries among the students, and to expand a wide range of policy spaces to meet the political, economic and social context of its home countries. A good knowledge with wide policy spaces make policy making and implementation more effective in each country.

6) Opportunities of exchange views with the Japan's central government organizations

For the effective and practical learning of the public sector management, it is essential for the international students to obtain opportunities of visiting the Japanese central government organizations and exchanging views with the responsible official on the real issues they encounter daily.

From this viewpoint, visiting programs at central government bodies and other relevant Japanese public institutions are also conducted to learn from practical experience in the field. Students make interim thesis presentations in Lao P.D.R to improve the content of their Master's study by inviting questions and comments related to their thesis from fellow officials in their ministry or institution.



Special Lecture by Local Tax Agency

7) Opportunities to improve language and math skills in optional courses

Basic English and math courses are available for the students who would like to develop basic skills. These courses will help them in the regular classes such as 'Academic Writing' and 'Mathematics for Economics'. In the 2nd year, students can take the English course for thesis writing to enhance their master thesis. Japanese language course for beginner is also offered for those would like to learn basic Japanese which helps students in their lives in Japan and makes good relationships between students and people in Japan in their communication.

Research Guidance Policy of the Public Administration Program

The research guidance policy of the Public Administration Program at the Graduate School of Economics is as follows:

- 1) A research supervisor for each student will be appointed prior to their arrival in Yamaguchi based on the research proposal, so that students may start work immediately after their arrival. The main supervisor guides the students intensively throughout the research program, providing practical, and face-to-face research advice. Thesis instruction is conducted in a multidisciplinary manner by appointing one main supervisor and two sub-supervisors for each student.
- 2) In addition to conventional instruction by our faculty we use wide variety of teaching methods in lectures and seminars such as: presentation by students using power point, question and answer session, and group discussion, using examples in Japan and developing countries. The variety of teaching methods facilitates a deeper understanding of the contents of our lectures, enhances the students' knowledge of issues related to their research theme and develops their presentation skills.
- 3) A short visit of about one week to the central government organizations is conducted yearly, based on the research needs of each student. This experience allows students to acquire a practical understanding of effective public administration and serves as a basis for comparative study of various aspects of public administration. Past years have included visits to Bank of Japan, Tokyo Stock Exchange, National Tax College, Ministry of land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Local Tax Agency and Japan Tourism Agency.
- 4) A short visit to a local city will be arranged after submitting the master's thesis to investigate the industrial development of the local city. Students take a lecture on an industrial policy being implemented in the local government and visit several places related to agricultural industry, manufacturing industry, service industry and sixth sector industry.



Visiting the IDE Library

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

○1st Year

Basic Course (Compulsory)

Objectives: To learn academic and research integrity and use it in each research. Students learn and understand what kind of conducts and roles scientists should follow.

| Course Title | Credit |
|---|--------|
| Introduction to Academic and Research Integrity | 1 |

Preparatory Courses (Compulsory)

Objectives: To acquire the basic skills required in the study of public administration management such as thesis writing skills, economics and economic statistics.

| No. | Course Title | Credit |
|-----|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | Academic Writing | 1 |
| 2 | Economic Statistics | 2 |
| 3 | Economics | 2 |

Core Courses (Compulsory elective)

Objectives: To acquire fundamental knowledge and skills required in the implementation of public administration such as public economics, public administration, program evaluation and others.

| No. | Course Title | Credit |
|-----|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Administrative Law | 2 |
| 2 | Development Economics | 2 |
| 3 | International Economics | 2 |
| 4 | Program Evaluation | 2 |
| 5 | *Public Administration | 2 |
| 6 | Public Economics | 2 |
| 7 | Public Finance | 2 |

o1st and 2nd Year

Elective Courses

Objectives: To study advanced topics related to public administration and other subjects to allow the acquisition of the theories and specified knowledge required in the implementation of efficient public administration.

| No. | Course Title | Credit | No. | Course Title | Credit |
|-----|---|--------|-----|--|--------|
| 1 | Academic English | 1 | 14 | *International Cooperation Studies | 2 |
| 2 | Mathematics for Economics | 1 | 15 | International Framework for Environmental Protection | 2 |
| 3 | Research Methodology | 1 | 16 | Local Government Finance | 2 |
| 4 | Advanced Data Analysis | 2 | 17 | Media and Society | 2 |
| 5 | *Advanced Public Administration Studies IA | 2 | 18 | Monetary Economics | 2 |
| 6 | *Advanced Public Administration Studies IB | 2 | 19 | Public Debt Management | 2 |
| 7 | *Advanced Public Administration Studies IIA | 2 | 20 | *Public Policy | 2 |
| 8 | *Advanced Public Administration Studies IIB | 2 | 21 | Regional Economics | 2 |
| 9 | Cost Benefit Analysis | 2 | 22 | *Social Policy Studies | 2 |
| 10 | Cultural Psychology of Administration | 2 | 23 | Southeast Asian Economy | 2 |
| 11 | Economic Policy | 2 | 24 | Strategic Management | 2 |
| 12 | Environmental Policy | 2 | 25 | Tourism Policy | 2 |
| 13 | Industrial Policy | 2 | | | |

[*]-marked courses are provided as JICA Development Studies Program.

Seminars (Required)

(Semester: 2 credits per course, a total of 8 credits required)

| No. | Course Title | Credit |
|-----|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Seminar IA | 2 |
| 2 | Seminar IB | 2 |
| 3 | Seminar IIA (Thesis Instruction) | 2 |
| 4 | Seminar IIB (Thesis Instruction) | 2 |

○Graduation Requirements

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Basic Course | 1 Credit |
| Preparatory Courses | 5 Credits |
| Core Courses | 8-14 Credits |
| Elective Courses | 2-8 Credits |
| Seminars | 8 Credits |
| Total | 30 Credits |

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

| Name | Area of Research |
|--------------|---|
| H. Kojima | Applied Microeconomics Public Finance |
| H. Saito | Regional Economy Regional Policy |
| J. Nomura | Econometric Analysis Empirical Analysis |
| K. Hamashima | East Asian Social Policy Theory East Asian Political-Labor-Management Relations Theory |
| K. Nishiyama | Public Administration Public Management |
| K. Yamamoto | International Development Policy Policy Development Philosophy |
| L. Chen | Environmental Economic Theory Theories of Economic Policy |
| M. Asamizu | Geography International Relations Theory |
| M. Hattori | French Administrative Law Administrative Discretion |
| M. Yamada | Economic Growth Theory Business Cycle Theory |
| S. Nabeyama | Community Welfare Theory Gender Theory |
| S. Teraji | Microeconomics Incomplete Information |
| L. Yuan | Health Economics Health Policies |
| T. Hirano | Strategic Management SMEs and Entrepreneurship |
| T. Hyodo | Monetary Economics Monetary Theory |
| T. Nishio | Sports Tourism Hospitality Management |
| T. Oiwa | International Cooperation, Political Economy of Southeast Asia |
| T. Takemoto | Cultural Psychology Japanese Culture |
| T. Umada | Economic Theory Development Economics Program Evaluation |
| Y. Uchida | Strategic Human Resource Management |

Academic Schedule

| | |
|---|--|
| End of September | Enrollment Ceremony M1 Orientation M1 |
| Beginning of October | Start of Autumn Semester |
| Mid-November | International Student Gathering |
| End of December - Beginning of January | Term Break |
| End of January | Study Tour |
| Beginning of February | End of Autumn Semester |
| Early April | Start of Spring Semester |
| End of June | Master's Thesis Submission M2 |
| July | Study Tour M2 |
| Beginning of August | End of Spring Semester |
| End of September | End of Graduate Program M2 Commencement Ceremony M2 |

M1: Event only for 1st year students / **M2**: Event only for 2nd year students

Facilities

Dormitories

Yamaguchi University has two International Houses as dormitories for international students, the one in Yoshida Campus, the other in Tokiwa Campus. The maximum length to be an occupant of an International House is basically 6 months, but if the International Student Center (ISC) allows the extension of the stay, students can stay longer. When students start to live there, a deposit fee is required. The room is classified into single, couple and family type equipped with refrigerator, washing machine, air-conditioning, bed and study desk. The ISC selects the residents of the International Houses in January for the residents supposed to move in between April and September; in July for the residents supposed to move in between October and May next year. Every year, the number of the students who want to live in the International Houses exceeds that of the rooms we can supply. So ISC casts lots for the residents considering the students' length of stay in Japan, their status of international students, etc.

Research Room

Four-storied research building was inaugurated in April 2010 for graduate students. Research rooms are allocated, each room with up to eight students. The study desks and room numbers at Graduate School of Economics are designated at the time of registration so as to be able to start immediately after the enrollment ceremony. Each room is equipped with air conditioning, washing stand, printer, etc.

Libraries

Students can browse and borrow 341,718 foreign books at the General Library. Students can also browse 2,924 international electronic journals. Additionally, the library of East Asian Study Institute is available at the Faculty of Economics where students can find more than 1,000 series of specialized journals and periodicals. Special collection for JDS students is also available. Professional librarians are on standby to give advice and support to students looking for specific data or academic information needed for research works.

Copy Facility

Students are allowed to take up to 1,200 sheets of copy per year free of copy machines charge by purchasing copy paper by themselves.

Other Facilities

Yoshida Campus has cafeterias, shops, post office, ATMs, etc. There is also a welfare facility called "FAVO" which has a cafeteria, tuck shop, bookshop, travel agency, etc. so that students spend comfortable lives here. At the Health Administration Center, doctors, nurses and counselors provide medical examinations, emergency medical care and routine medical check-ups. They are also available for advice on matters regarding your physical and/or mental health.

Message for Applicants

From University:

The Public Administration Program at the Graduate School of Economics is awaiting Laotian students. We look forward to using our deep knowledge about Asian developing countries, their historical evolution, and their governing structures.

Students have opportunities to experience Japanese culture and traditional events through interaction with a welcoming volunteer group for the support of international students, such as forming an international student team to participate in the local sports festival.

Yamaguchi is a region richly endowed with nature. A rough estimate of living expenses in the Yamaguchi area is shown below. It is relatively less expensive compared with living in a large urban area such as Tokyo.

| Category | Approx. Amount per Month |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rent | 24,000yen |
| Food | 28,000yen |
| Utilities (Gas, Electricity, Water) | 10,000yen |
| Communications (Telephone, Internet) | 8,000yen |
| Learning materials | 6,500yen |
| Other (Entertainment, etc.) | 6,000yen |
| Total | 82,500yen |

Yamaguchi University is recommended to those students who want to engage in research and enjoy Japanese culture and daily life.

From JDS Fellows:

Phongsounthone Somesnook

My name is Phongsounthone Somesnook; I am the student who came from Laos. Before I came here, I was working for the Central Bank of Laos. I have been researching in the Yamaguchi University since I first came here in 2015s till now. My major is Economics, and it belongs to the Graduate School of Economics, Yamaguchi University (YU).

***Environment**

The atmosphere around the Yoshida Campus is safe. Indeed, it around by many different kinds of tree, especially the Cherry Blossoms (Sakura). Frankly, it was stunning when I first saw Sakura in my first spring. It also has fresh air, breathtaking river, and very enjoyable hot spring (Onsen).

***Study**

-Typical Lecture

The Graduate School of Economics, YU has a high quality of education. A professor of each subject provides the knowledge to a student effectively.

-Seminar with Professor

I have to say that I have been gotten a helpful and useful recommendation from my academic advisor (Prof. Dr. Takashi Hyodo).

-Study Tour

The Graduate School of Economics, YU has an excellent study tour namely: Tokyo Study Tour, and Okinawa Study Tour.

***Daily Life**

-Standard of Living

In the Yoshida Campus, it is convenient to access to the supermarkets, grocery stores, and other facilities.

-Transportation

It has no subway in Yamaguchi City, though, it still has a local train to serve the passengers.

Namphoxay Nilongkone

I am a student from Laos who was supported by the JDS program under the JICA. I have been working at the Development Research Institute (DRI) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) since 2016.

Yamaguchi City seems quite similar to my country, as it is surrounded by nature, and cultural diversity, and not too crowded, which makes people feel comfortable to stay. Due to COVID-19, I attended face-to-face lessons at Yamaguchi University (YU) only for 15 months after I participated in online lessons for 9 months. However, I was able to gain new experiences in Yamaguchi City.

***Environment**

Yamaguchi City is very safe and spacious, therefore suitable for study in relaxing environment. Yoshida Campus is safe and good for outdoor exercises, especially running and cycling. Indeed, it is surrounded by various kinds of trees, such as cherry blossoms (Sakura).

***Study**

The Graduate School of Economics, YU has a high quality of education. Main courses aim at the economic development policy. Professors provide the knowledge to a student effectively. Significantly, I always received a helpful and useful recommendation from my academic supervisor who sincerely supported me until graduation. In addition, the administrative staffs are very kind to support and help with any requirement during my study. Remarkably, the PA program also provides excellent study tours to Osaka, Tokyo and Okinawa.

***Daily Life**

The distance between the living place and YU was not too far, and it was convenient to access the supermarkets, grocery stores, and other facilities. In terms of transportation, there is no subway in the city, however, I could use local trains and buses. A bicycle is the best choice for students in Yamaguchi City.