

Why/ GSAPs?

Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies



Your journey starts here

WASEDA University
Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies

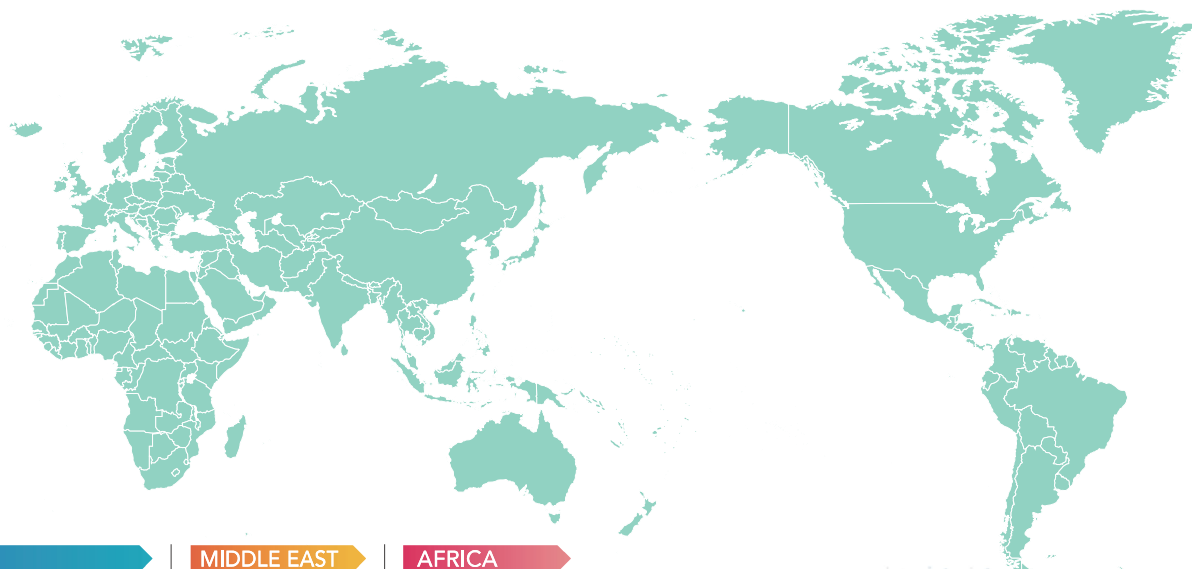
GSAPS

A graduate school open to the world



At any given time, students from over 50 countries and regions are enrolled, with international students accounting for approx. 80% of the total.

Where GSAPS Students Come From



EUROPE

- Albania
- Italy
- United Kingdom
- Denmark
- Germany
- France
- Belgium
- Lithuania
- Russia
- Ukraine and more

MIDDLE EAST

- United Arab Emirates
- Turkey
- Afghanistan
- Syria

AFRICA

- Morocco

ASIA

- India
- Indonesia
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Korea
- China
- Japan and more

OCEANIA

- Solomon Islands
- New Zealand
- Tonga

North America and Latin America

- United States
- Canada
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Panama and more



The Six Characteristics of GSAPS

Our basic philosophy is to conduct interdisciplinary research into historical, political, economic, industrial, management, social, cultural, and international issues in the Asia-Pacific region, primarily from a global and regional perspective, and to apply the results of this research to solving various social issues.



1 Japanese and English Bilingual Education

Education can be completed in either language.

2 An International Learning Environment with Students from over 50 Countries and Regions

Students from diverse backgrounds come together from around the world to learn in a dynamic, multicultural environment.

3 A Comprehensive Research Environment Specially Designed for Graduate Study

As an independent graduate research institution with no undergraduate program, faculty members are dedicated to mentoring GSAPS graduate students and conducting high-level research.

4 Faculty with Diverse, Real-World Experience

Learn from distinguished professors with experience at organizations such as UNICEF and the World Bank, as well as in diplomacy and global media.

5 Active Support for International Activities

Actively supporting study abroad, research, and internships worldwide.

6 A Global Network of Active Alumni

Graduates are active worldwide in fields such as international cooperation and development aid, international organizations and government agencies, global business, and academia.

Admissions-related Information

MA Admissions



Ph.D. Admissions



Project Research Seminar



Tuition and Fees



Why GSAPS?



Faculty Spotlights



GSAPS Instagram



GSAPS Official YouTube Channel



MA Program

Three Perspectives to Shape the World's Future

Our program is structured around three core fields—Area Studies, International Relations, and International Development/Policy Studies—enabling students to specialize in one while engaging with the others to develop a comprehensive, multidimensional understanding of the Asia-Pacific region.



Expand your world by focusing on areas that interest you

Academic Degree

Master of Arts in International Relations

Area
Studies

International
Relations

International
Development
Policy Studies

Enrollment Capacity

120 students / year

Degree Requirements

Project Research/
Master's Thesis

8 credits

+

Core
Courses

Basic
Courses

Advanced
Courses

22 credits



Total : 30 credits

The standard curriculum period : 2 years

What is Project Research (Zemi)?

It is designed to support the preparation and writing of a thesis under the close supervision of a faculty advisor in a small-group setting. All MA students are required to join a seminar (zemi). A key feature is the opportunity to advance one's research while engaging in friendly competition and collaboration with fellow students.

PROJECT RESEARCH



General schedule until completion



Student Voices
Interview

MASUDA Yuzuka

1st Semester

In consultation with your supervisor, you will take about **4 to 5 courses**.



2nd Semester

If you participate in an exchange program, it is usually during the **2nd or 3rd semester**.



3rd Semester

While preparing your MA thesis, you will take necessary courses.



4th Semester

Graduation is granted upon meeting all requirements, including the completion of MA thesis.



PhD Program

Knowing the region, changing the world. Pioneering the future through interdisciplinary research

This program explores diverse issues in the Asia-Pacific region and conducts research and education from an international perspective. Most students focus on research, but it is also possible to take master's level courses.



Academic Degree

Doctor of Philosophy
in International Studies

Enrollment Capacity

30 students / year



Student Voices
Interview

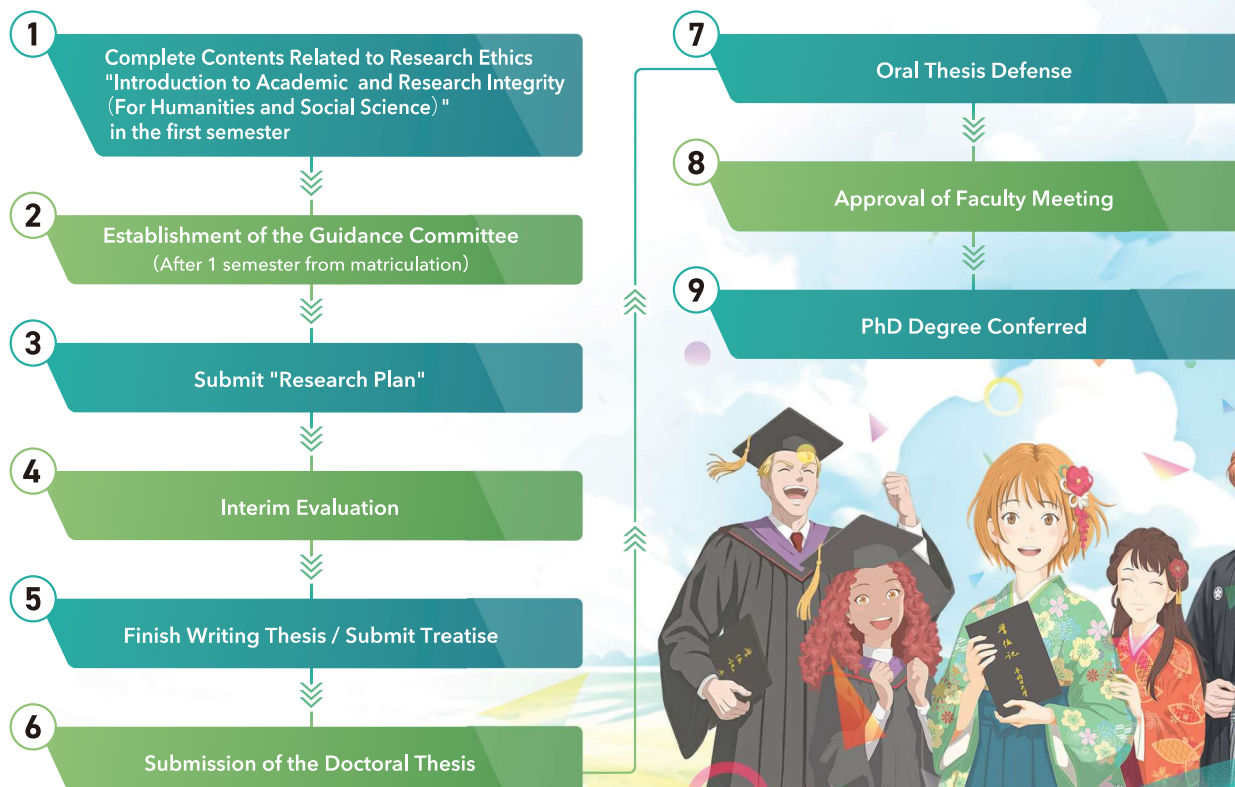
TEH Huijia

The Number of PhD Degree Recipients in the Past 3 Years

AY2024 : 20 students AY2023 : 15 students AY2022 : 16 students

PhD Program Flowchart (The Standard Curriculum Period : 3 Years)

There is no specific credit requirement to obtain a doctoral degree; however, students must take a course on research ethics. While participating in research guidance provided by their supervisor, students will proceed with their research and the writing of their doctoral dissertation according to the following process.



Your research will take you globally. Your exploration will create new academic fields.



Graduates in Action



Introduction of graduates

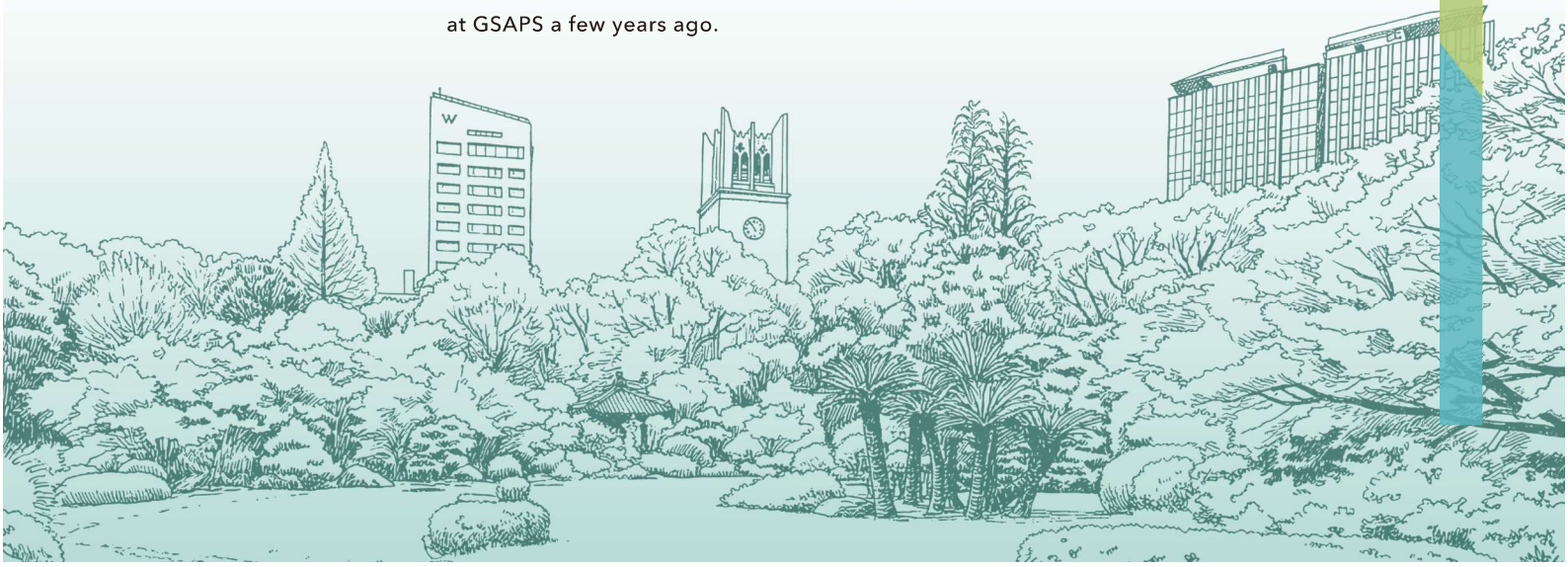
Lukas Zicha

2017 Master's degree completed



There are two main aspects of studying at GSAPS that were particularly helpful during my job search. First, the in-depth knowledge of Japanese (and East Asian) politics, society, and culture that I gained at GSAPS proved invaluable. In every interview, I was asked about my experience in Japan, and it was clear that this background was viewed as a strong asset.

Second, I drew great inspiration from my fellow GSAPS students. They were not only highly motivated and driven but also friendly, supportive, and open-minded. The discussions we shared helped me broaden my perspective and further strengthened my motivation to pursue an international career. I am now about to complete my more than four-year posting in Tokyo – another remarkable adventure that has allowed me to visit wonderful places and meet many inspiring people. I am certain that I would never have had this opportunity without my studies at GSAPS a few years ago.



The Faculty

Regional Studies / International Relations / International Cooperation and Policy Studies

AKIBA Takeshi / Professor

Major Constitutional Law, Judicial Politics, Minority Rights and Society

Project Research Seminar

M A Law and Society in the Asia-Pacific



GAGNE Nana Okura / Associate Professor

Major Cultural Anthropology (Work, Leisure & Well-being, Gender, Sexuality & Family)

Project Research Seminar

M A Society & Culture in the Asia-Pacific
Ph.D. Contemporary Japanese Society



AOYAMA Rumi / Professor

Major International Relations, Political Science, Contemporary China's Foreign Policy, Politics in Contemporary China

Project Research Seminar

M A Politics and International Relations of China
Ph.D. Politics and International Relations of Contemporary China



HOFMANN Reto Thomas / Professor

Major History of Japan, Global History, History of Authoritarianism and Fascism

Project Research Seminar

M A Japan and Asia in Global History
Ph.D. Asia-Japan Relations in Modern History



BACON Paul M. / Professor

Major Inter-regionalism (Europe and Asia), Comparative Regionalism (Europe and Asia), Human Rights Promotion and Protection

Project Research Seminar

M A Europe and Asia: Inter-regional Relations
Ph.D. Comparative Regionalism (Europe and Asia)



KATO Atsushi / Professor

Major Economic Development, Political Economy, Indian Economy

Project Research Seminar

M A Economic Development and Policy in Asia
Ph.D. Economic Development and Governance



BUKH Alexander / Professor

Major International Relations, International Relations of Northeast Asia, Japan-Korea and Japan-Russia Relations

Project Research Seminar

M A Politics and International Relations in Northeast Asia
Ph.D. Politics and International Relations in Northeast Asia



KATSUMA Yasushi / Professor

Major Development Studies (Human Development), International Human Rights (Child Rights), Human Security, Global Governance

Project Research Seminar

M A Peace, Human Rights and Social Development in Less Developed Countries
Ph.D. Social Development and International Human Rights



ENDO Tamaki / Professor

Major Urban Studies (mainly Southeast and East Asia), Socioeconomics, Development Studies, Regional Development Economics

Project Research Seminar

M A Economy, Culture and Society of Asian Cities
Ph.D. Economy and Society in Asian Cities



KAWANO Mariko / Professor

Major International Law, International Law of the Sea, International Investment Law

Project Research Seminar

M A Pacific Settlement of International Disputes



KIKUCHI Tomoo / Professor

Major International Macroeconomics,
Economic Growth and Development

Project Research Seminar

M A International Economics

Ph.D. International Macroeconomics



NABESHIMA Kaoru / Professor

Major International Trade, Development
Economics, Technological Innovation

Project Research Seminar

M A East Asian Economies and Industries

Ph.D. Industrial Upgrading in East Asia



KURODA Kazuo / Professor

Major Comparative and International Education,
Educational Policy, Education and
International Development, International
Higher Education

Project Research Seminar

M A International Education Policy in the Globalizing World

Ph.D. Policy Analysis of Comparative and
International Education



NAKAJIMA Seio / Professor

Major Economic Sociology, Organizational
Sociology, Cultural Sociology, China,
East Asia, Creative Industries in Asia

Project Research Seminar

M A Popular Culture in Asia

Ph.D. Development and Prospects of Creative
Industries in Contemporary Asia



LEHENY David / Professor

Major Japanese Politics, East Asian Security,
Culture and International Relations

Project Research Seminar

M A Culture and Politics in the Asia-Pacific

Ph.D. Culture, Identity, and Politics in the
Asia-Pacific



SETA Makoto / Professor

Major International Law, Law of the Sea

Project Research Seminar

M A Law & Organizations in International
Relations

Ph.D. Law & Organizations in International
Relations



LIU-FARRER Gracia / Professor

Major International Migration, Social
Stratification and Inequality,
Globalization, International Education

Project Research Seminar

M A Globalization and Socio-Cultural Change

Ph.D. Self, Culture, Society under Globalization



SHINOHARA Hatsue / Professor

Major International Relations, International
History, US-Japan Relations, Foreign
Policy (Japan, East Asia, the US)

Project Research Seminar

M A East Asia and America, Foreign Policy

Ph.D. History of US-Japanese Relations,
International History [Not available
from 2026 September admission]



MIICHI Ken / Professor

Major Comparative Politics, Southeast
Asian Studies

Project Research Seminar

M A Society and Politics in Asia

Ph.D. Contemporary Politics in Southeast Asia



UEKI (Kawakatsu) Chikako / Professor

Major Political Science, International
Relations, Security Studies,
International Relations and Security of
East Asia, US-Japan-China Relations

Project Research Seminar

M A International Relations and Security in East Asia

Ph.D. International Relations and Security in Asia-Pacific
[Not available from 2026 September admission]



Study Abroad Program

Our unique exchange program gives you access to around 20 partner schools, with flexible options such as a six-month study abroad to fit your academic plans.

GSAPS Departmental Partnerships

- The George Washington University
- Nanyang Technological University
- Seoul National University
- Thammasat University
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and more...

EAUI Summer School

We offer Summer School which is a joint program between Korea University, Nanyang Technological University, Peking University, Thammasat University, and Waseda University. Every year, leading scholars from those universities hold lectures. Student group presentations as well as field trip and international symposium will be also scheduled as a part of the program. 3 credits will be given to those who completed the course requirements.

MORI Shuhe



Good things about participating

This experience gave me valuable insights into how students from across Asia approach shared challenges. It also highlighted the importance of discussing common themes from diverse cultural and academic perspectives. I was inspired by the high level of language skills and knowledge among the participants.

KIET Internship

Students can participate in an internship at KIET(Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade) for 1~2 months. In the 2025 academic year, two students took part in this program.

CHOI Wonjun



Participant comments

Through the KIET internship, I was able to deepen my understanding of development economics by conducting case studies and data analysis. I also had the opportunity to build strong relationships with researchers in the field.

Double Degree Program

At the master's level, GSAPS offers a double degree program with the Université libre de Bruxelles, and at the doctoral level, with Peking University. In the master's double degree program, students who meet the graduation requirements can earn two degrees in as little as two years.

Are you ready to push your limits and embrace a journey far greater than you imagined?

Participant comments

The Double Degree Program with ULB challenges you to live, study, and grow across two distinct global cities of Tokyo and Brussels within just two years. Beyond academic rigor, it is an immersive experience of learning, unlearning, and relearning across disciplines, languages, and cultures. This transformative path not only builds a strong multilingual and multicultural academic identity, but also nurtures curiosity, global citizenship, and the competence needed to navigate our complex, interconnected world shaped by both conflict and development.

DING Long Yat



Special Program

Academic Exchange Program with the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Under an inter-institutional agreement between GSAPS and UNU-IAS, master's and doctoral students enrolled at GSAPS are eligible to take courses offered by UNU-IAS.

Through academic engagement in collaboration with an international organization, students can gain a deeper and more practical understanding of global issues.



Scholarship and Financial Aid

Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies offers its own scholarship program and research support.

The Scholarship and Research Fund at GSAPS

Haraguchi Memorial Asia Research Fund Research Field Trip Grant

Eligibility

Any regular graduate school students at Waseda University whose research theme is related to Southeast Asian Studies or Asian Studies.

Grant Amount

Up to ¥250,000 annually for field research expenses

Number of Recipients

Approximately 20 students per year

For information on the Japanese Government Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Scholarship, including the "MEXT Scholarship Program (University Recommendation /Embassy Recommendation)," please refer to our website.



Additionally, Waseda University offers various scholarship programs, including Waseda University internal scholarships, external scholarships requiring internal selection and open external scholarships. Please note that not all scholarships are open for applications every year.





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