



LL.M. & LL.D. PROGRAMS

Overview

LL.M. Program

In 1994, the Graduate School of Law at Kyushu University established Japan's first Master's level program taught entirely in English: the LL.M. program.

Drawing upon faculty members with particular strengths in these fields of law, the LL.M. program is designed to provide both Japanese and international students with the ability to confront the many challenges of contemporary international economic affairs and commercial transactions.

Taught in English from a Japanese perspective, the LL.M. program seeks to develop a critical understanding of legal principles within the framework of transnational & comparative law.



LL.D. Program

The LL.D. Program offers students the unique opportunity of preparing a doctoral thesis in English whilst studying at a Japanese university. Participants will pursue a closely supervised program of research for 6 consecutive semesters (3 years) prior to submitting a final dissertation.

The program is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to complete high-level research in law.

The Graduate School of Law encourages applications from suitably qualified applications of all nationalities.

Proposals for doctoral research on any legal topic will be considered.





LL.M. Program Key Points

DURATION OF PROGRAM

The program is taught on a full time basis and takes 12 months for completion, beginning in October every year and ending in September of the following year.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION & CURRICULUM

All program students are expected to complete a 20-credit (approx. five courses per semester) curriculum and write a Master's Thesis. Courses offered within the framework of the LL.M. program include:

Algorithms and the Law
Business Law in a Networked Age
Comparative Corporate Law
Contemporary Issues in Competition Law
Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity
Environmental and Energy Governance
Fundamental Issues in Intellectual Property Laws
Intellectual Property and Private International Law
Intellectual Property Dispute Resolutions in International Matters
International Financial Regulation
International Law in Today's World
International Relations & Global Governance
Japanese Intellectual Property Law Practice
Law and Development
Mediation and Conflict Management
Platforms and the Law
Roman Law
Transnational Commercial Law and Foreign Investment Law
White Collar and Corporate Crime



"Having completed my Master in Laws studies at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) in 1998, I felt that I was not ready yet to enter the world of work and wanted to continue another academic venture. In my search for an appropriate LLM course, Kyushu University came to my attention, and more particularly the course structure and module content which seemed to be wide enough in scope to gain a good understanding of the many challenges and opportunities in an ever changing international economic environment.

My decision to join the LLM in International and Economic Business Law at the Faculty of Law of the Kyushu University, is one I will never regret and which has opened many doors. Thanks to the combination of the internationality of the program and the high diversification of the colleague students in the class, the LLM in International and Economic Business Law gives you an excellent training in facing the difficulties that come with many international legal and other management positions one might pursue. Following my stay at Kyushu I started working as associate lawyer with Linklaters LLP in the mergers and acquisitions department. After six years with Linklaters, I joined Euronav NV, a world leader in the transportation of crude oil, as General Counsel of the group.

I wish all present and future participants all the best and hope they will enjoy the year at Kyudai!"

Egied Verbeeck
(LL.M. 1999, Kyushu University, Faculty of Law)



LL.D. Program Key Points

DURATION OF PROGRAM

Students are required to submit the final version of their dissertation three years after enrolling on the LL.D. program.

RESEARCH TOPIC

The doctoral thesis may be on any law-related subject agreed in consultation with the academic supervisors and approved by the LL.D. Faculty Committee. However, Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law would particularly welcome doctoral research proposals in these fields:

- Comparative Corporate Law
- Contemporary Issues in Competition Law
- Creative Economy, Innovation & the Law
- Information Law
- Intellectual Property and Private International Law
- Intellectual Property Law and Practice
- International Arbitration
- International Business Law
- International Civil Litigation
- International Maritime Law
- Mediation and Conflict Management
- Public International Law
- White Collar and Corporate Crime
- World Trade Law

A full list of professors and their current research interests can be found at:

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



“Before studying in Kyushu University, I was a law-school student at Peking University. I learned about the LLM program at Kyushu University by chance, but out of my deep curiosity about Japan, I applied for it and was luckily admitted to the program.

Since then, my wonderful journey in Japan began. The diverse & interesting courses taught by knowledgeable and insightful professors; the special lectures of distinguished scholars or governmental officials from the US, EU, or other Asian countries; the opportunities to organize and participate in global conferences; the chances to discuss, share different views, and make friends with classmates from all of the world; the occasions to learn the beautiful language & experience Japanese culture through interesting study trips; etc., all appealed to me a lot and made a difference in my life. All these made me decide to go beyond the one-year study in Kyushu University and pursue my LL.D. there. My four-year study in Kyushu University is the biggest treasure in my life. It has not only enriched my knowledge in law, but also broadened my view of the world. Diversity was the biggest lesson for me!

I am currently working at Mori Hamada & Matsumoto law firm, which is one of the biggest law firms in Japan, and my work mainly focuses on foreign investments in China, M&A and other international matters. Interestingly, in a big M&A transaction, I happily worked with one of my Singaporean classmates, who also graduated from Kyushu University. The world may be big, but it also seemed so small!! I miss and will always remember my professors, classmates and happy study times in Kyushu University!”

Jie Yuan
(LL.D. 2007, Kyushu University, Faculty of Law)



Why Fukuoka? Why Kyushu University?

Located in the heart of East Asia, midway between Tokyo, Shanghai and Seoul, Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands. It is a thriving modern metropolis that has not sacrificed its unique local character and charm. Historically known as Hakata, it has long been one of Japan's key ports for commerce with the rest of Asia, and today the spirit of Hakata lives on, for the growing continental ties of recent years have enabled the city to establish itself as a major regional center.

In 2006, Newsweek named Fukuoka as one of the "Ten Most Dynamic Cities" in the world, identifying an energetic regional economy, excellent infrastructure, and the proximity and openness to Asia as key features behind its continued growth. In 2017, Monocle magazine reported a survey of world cities that ranked Fukuoka as the 14th most livable city in the world. Finally, Nomura Research Institute ranked Fukuoka second amongst 100 Japanese cities in 2017.

Kyushu University is the largest university in Kyushu and one of the most prestigious national universities in Japan. Founded in 1911 as one of seven original Imperial Universities, it continues to be a focal point for academic and educational excellence.

Graduate study in Kyushu University provides well-motivated students with the opportunity to study in a dynamic academic atmosphere and to enjoy life in one of Japan's fastest growing cities.

And yet, perhaps the most important feature of Fukuoka for the foreign resident is its people. Known throughout Japan for their friendliness, the people of Fukuoka have long enjoyed good relationships with visitors from abroad. For the foreigners living among Fukuoka's 1.6 million residents, life is both comfortable and stimulating.

Tuition and Financial Aid

TUITION FEES

For the academic year 2025-2026, tuition fees total around ¥900,000. The final amount for 2025-2026 is available upon request after it is confirmed in January 2025.

LL.M. & LL.D. Financial Aid

Information is available at:

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

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

Faculty

The Graduate School of Law has a large and diverse faculty, with wide ranging research interests in all major fields of law and political science. Moreover, faculty members have a wide range of experience in business, the legal profession, government service, international organizations, as well as academia. The following is an indicative list of faculty currently involved in the LL.M. program.

Professor VAN UYTSEL Steven (Director of International Programs)

LL.B. (Antwerp University), LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Competition Law, Product Liability & Natural Resources Law.

Professor FENWICK Mark

LL.B. (University of London), M.Phil. & Ph.D. (University of Cambridge), specializing in Corporate Crime and Transnational Business Law.

Professor HAN Sang Hee

B.A. & LL.M. (Korea University), LL.D. (Keio University), Ph.D. (Beijing University), specializing in International Law and Politics.

Professor IGIMI Mariko

LL.B., LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Roman Law.

Professor IRIE Hideaki

BA (University of Tokyo), MS (University of Tokyo), MA (Hosei University), Ph.D. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Conflict Management.

Professor KOJIMA Ryu (Director of International Programs)

LL.B. (University of Tokyo), LL.M. (Harvard University), specializing in Intellectual Property Law, and Law & Culture

Professor TERAMOTO Shinto

LL.B. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Intellectual Property Law.

Professor TOKUMOTO Minoru

LL.B., LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), LL.M. (Yale Law School), specializing in Commercial Law, Corporate Law & Business Law.

Associate Professor KAWASAKI Kunihiro

LL.B.(Keio University), LL.M. (University of Chicago), J.D. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Corporate Law, Commercial Law and Securities Regulation.

Associate Professor NARIHARA Satoshi

B.A. (Waseda University), M.S.I. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Information Law.

Associate Professor NISHIMURA Tomoumi

LL.B. & LL.M. (Chuo University), specializing in Philosophy of Law and Legal Informatics.

Associate Professor YATSUNAMI Ren

LL.B., LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Private International Law and International Business Law.

Assistant Professor LEE Peter

LL.B. (Pusan University), LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Transport Law, Maritime Law and E-Commerce Law.

Assistant Professor LI Xiaorong

LL.M. & LL.D. (Peking University), specializing in basic theories of international tax law and international tax dispute resolution mechanisms.

Emeritus Faculty

Emeritus Professor AKASHI Kinji

LL.B. & LL.M. (Keio University), Ph.D. (Utrecht University), specializing in Basic Theories of International Law and History of International Law.

Emeritus Professor KONO Toshiyuki (Former Executive Vice President of Kyushu University)

LL.B. & LL.M. (Kyoto University), specializing in Private International Law and Civil Litigation, and Law & Culture.

Emeritus Professor PEJOVIC Caslav

LL.B. (University of Montenegro), LL.M. (Belgrade University), LL.M. (Kyoto University), Ph.D. (Zagreb University), specializing in Maritime Law, International Business Law & E-Commerce.



Campus, Facilities and Services

Campus

The Graduate School of Law moved from its traditional location in Hakozaki to the campus of Kyushu University in Ito in the summer of 2018. Further details on the new campus are available here:

<http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/campus/ito>

Library

The Law Library of Kyushu University houses one of the largest collections in Japan with over 310,000 volumes. It is particularly well known for its collection of international and foreign-language materials, and provides an excellent research resource for all graduate students.

Technology

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

Health Care

All international students are obliged to join a national health insurance scheme. For a nominal monthly charge, 70% of health costs are covered by insurance. Students are free to choose their health care provider.

Student Supporters

All international students enrolled on a course in the Graduate School of Law will be provided with a Supporter to assist with various practical matters upon arriving in Japan.

Kyushu University International Affairs Department

International Affairs Department, Kyushu University is responsible for providing a range of services for supporting incoming students and researchers from overseas.

The International Affairs Department web page can be found at:

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

Housing

Kyushu University offers a number of housing options.

Further information is available at: <https://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/intlweb/en/student/housing>

APPLICATION INFORMATION: LL.M. PROGRAM

Application Procedure

The application procedure for October 2025 entry is available on the international programs website. <http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/>

Requirements for Admission

For admission to the LL.M. program, students must have or expect to have by the time of enrolment:

- An undergraduate law degree from an accredited university.
- A thorough knowledge of the English language. Please note: if English is not your native language you must take the TOEFL test or equivalent. A TOEFL score of 92+ (Internet-based) is required for admission.
- Sufficient financial support for the program of study.

Application Forms

Application forms for the program are available from the Admissions Office of the LL.M. Program or may be downloaded from <http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ll-m/>

Please write to the following address to request hard copies of the necessary application materials:

Admission Office of the LL.M. Program
Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, East Zone 2,
744 Motoooka, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka, 819-0395, Japan.
Fax: 81 (Japan)-92-802-5407

Further information on the LL.M. program is available upon request from:
admission@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp

APPLICATION INFORMATION: LL.D. PROGRAM

Application Procedure

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Requirements for Admission

The LL.D. program is open to applicants with:

- A Master's degree (in law or a related discipline) from an accredited university. All applicants will be expected to have completed some form of legal study at a graduate level.
- Competence in the English language is a prerequisite of the program and proof of English ability will be required of non-native speakers. In principle, a TOEFL score of 100+ (Internet-based) is required.
- Sufficient financial support for the program of study.

Application Forms

Application forms for the program are available from the Admissions Office of the LL.D. Program or may be downloaded from <http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ll-d/>

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