

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, and celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2015. 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 Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Yoshida Campus, the Faculty 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, 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 other 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

Development of human resource to be able to lead in their fields, exhibiting expertise in solving various problems from a broad range of perspectives related to public administration is the key for the success, in particular in the areas of 1) management of public policy, 2) decentralization of public administration and 3) improvement of governance and anticorruption.

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.

- Public Administration and Administrative Law are offered in order that students acquire the knowledge and ability for public administrators.
- Public Policy, 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.
- Economics, Public Economics, Development Economics, and 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 knowledge of Finance for public administrators.
- Students can learn Japanese development experience through JICA Development Studies Program such as Public Administration, International Cooperation Studies, Social Policy Studies, Industrial Policy, Advanced Public Administration IA, IB, IIA and IIB.
- Academic Writing is offered as a compulsory course in order that students learn the appropriate style and methodology for writing master's thesis in the field of social science.

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 opportunism 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 to central government bodies and other relevant Japanese public institutions will be arranged. Students make interim thesis presentations in Bangladesh to improve the content of their Master's study by inviting questions and comments related to their thesis from professors and students in Dhaka University. The program would be conducive for the government official to building a network with the Japanese counterpart official.



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, mathematics for 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

○1st 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)

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 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 which serve halal food, 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 Bangladeshi students. We look forward to offering 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 Fellow:

ISLAM MOHAMMAD SAIDUL

Yamaguchi City—a Prefectural Capital of the Yamaguchi Prefecture—is located in the westernmost part of mainland Japan, and surrounded on three sides by the sea.

Normally, Japanese people are very kind, generous, helpful, and friendly with foreigners, and the people of Yamaguchi City is no exception. They are very kind, polite, helpful, and warm-hearted that impressed me so much. Moreover, the calm and quite environment in Yamaguchi City is very congenial for living in here.

Along with the natural beauty, there are also plenty to see in Yamaguchi City such as Ruriko-ji Temple and Pagoda, the modern St. Francis Xavier Memorial Church, Onsen and so on.

In Yamaguchi City, some local volunteer organization and community involved in arranging of local festival and other activities that make the foreign students' opportunity to interact with local people and their traditions.

In Yamaguchi University, the international students are provided with a lot of supports and facilities during their studying period. The most key ones are as follows:

Dormitory: for international students, the university has two International House as dormitory classifying the room into single, couple and family type.

Library: besides the central library, there is also a library of East Asian Study Institute at the Faculty of Economics that helps a lot getting materials for research works.

Tutor: Japanese senior students are assigned for one year to help foreign students studying and living in here.

Public Administration (PA) Course under Graduate School of Economics is specially designed with specialized and experienced professors in order to develop both academic and empirical capacity of JDS students in the field of PA. At the very beginning of the course, one main supervisor and two sub-supervisor professors are appointed for each student based on the research proposal.

The Course is conducted with excellent evaluation system like presentation, assignment, and written examination. Yearly basis short visit to local and central administration offices for getting practical understanding of effective public administration required for JDS students.

In every semester, some incentive courses are offered conducted by foreign resource person specialized and experienced in the field of public administration.

Each JDS student is allocated with research room equipped with air conditioning, printer, desk etc.

Holding a seminar with the government officials of JDS student's own country to share the research work and to have valuable suggestion from them.

RAZIB HOSAIN

I obtained Master of Economics degree under Public Administration Program from Graduate School of Economics, Yamaguchi University in 2021. Currently, I am working as a Director in Bangladesh Ansar & VDP under Ministry of Home Affairs.

Environment

I still can recollect the vivid memory of Yamaguchi clearly after being back home for almost two years. Nature has bestowed its blessings on Yamaguchi. Being a nature lover, the serene beauty of Yamaguchi attracted me most. Orange colored maple leaves in Autumn, snowfall in Winter and cherry blossom (Sakura) in Spring were my most favourite natural events in Yamaguchi, not to mention hot spring (Onsen).

Study

The calm and quiet environment of Yamaguchi University creates a congenial atmosphere for study. A peaceful mind helps to concentrate in studies. The Professors and the staffs of the economics faculty are competent and cordial. The seminars with my supervisor truly paved the path of my research. The facilities of the university are well maintained, especially the library.

Daily Life

I and my family members were so lucky that we could make some extraordinary Japanese friends who were highly kind and generous, for whom our two years life in Yamaguchi turned into a lifetime memory. We still reminisce the sweet memories of Yamaguchi. Nonetheless a countryside, Yamaguchi City offered all kind of amenities we needed. Though language barrier was the greatest hurdle in my daily life, I did not feel that it was an obstacle because of helping mindset of the local people.

Contribution to Current Work

My learnings, both in classroom and outside the classroom, contributed a lot in shaping my viewpoint. Upon return, I was working in the training directorate which is responsible for designing training programs, formulating the module of the training programs, and organizing training programs in some cases. Serving as Director (Training), I could incorporate some concepts I learned in Japan in the training programs and often I deliver lectures on different topics in our training institutions.