Hiroshima University (National)
Graduate School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences

***The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University, will be renamed the Graduate School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences in April 2027.**
The International Economic Development Program will also be renamed the Policy Science Program in April 2027.
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/news/96495



◆ **Program name**
Division of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Policy Science Program

◆ **Degrees:**
a. Master of Philosophy
b. Master of Economics
c. Master of Business Administration
d. Master of International Cooperation Studies

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

◆ **Address:**
1-5-1 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima,
739-8529, Japan

Features of the University http://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en

Hiroshima University (HU) was established by combining eight existing institutions in May 1949 under the National School Establishment Law. Later in 1953, the Hiroshima Prefectural Medical College was also added to the new HU. Some of these higher educational institutions already had brilliant traditions and histories of their own. Although these educational institutions suffered a great deal of damage due to the atomic bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, they were reconstructed and combined to become the new HU. In addition, Graduate Schools were established in 1953. The new HU has risen from the ruins of war like a phoenix, which is in fact the University's symbol.
HU has a long history of accepting international students. This commenced before World War II. As of May 2025, HU has over 15,000 students including approximately 1,900 international students from about different 95 countries.

Features of the Graduate School https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs

In the education and research area of humanities and social sciences which is socially required to be re-considered, it is required not only to promote knowledge of exploration studies that have been traditionally conducted in various fields but also to create new social values and methods for solving problems in a rapidly-changing society. To address such a requirement, this graduate school integrates faculties who are engaged in education and research in various graduate schools into one graduate school to establish an education and research organization in which the wall between fields is eliminated. This organization aims to develop human resources who are capable of sharing values with specialists of other fields and being engaged in cooperation for realizing such values by cultivating interest for other fields than their specialties in addition to the existing academic field. To conduct the education and research to achieve the aim described above, this graduate school introduces the degree program system that specifically indicates the image of human resources to be developed, diploma policy, and curriculum policy for the students who want to earn a degree and clearly describes the purpose and method of cooperation with the education course within and outside of the major course. It is expected that students will be allowed to expand their vision and develop their will and capability for communicating with each other beyond the differences in their specialty fields and nationality while studying in the same place as students of various fields that are not limited within the framework of the existing graduate school, students of various degree programs with different characteristics, and foreign and Japanese students who are engaged different issues and have different cultural and religious backgrounds. In response to the introduction of the degree program system, the name of the degree program is indicated in the diploma certification in addition to the major course name and the name of the specialty

field to allow students to easily explain their specialties.

Features of the Program

https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/program/humanitiesandsocialsciences/InternationalEconomicDevelopmentP
https://econdev.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/wp/

The International Economic Development Program (to be renamed the Policy Science Program from April 2027) fosters advanced professionals and researchers who can contribute creatively and collaboratively to development policy planning, implementations, evaluations and improvements towards promotion of sustainable development goals, through acquisition of global perspectives, and knowledge and skills necessary in evidence-based interdisciplinary social science.

The art and science of policy making is entering into a new era. The paradigm shift is upgrading the process of policy making and its impact evaluation from a personal-experience-based subjective approach to a more objective, evidence-based one.

Evidence-based decision making does not merely mean the utilization of data; rather, it explicitly prohibits doing so, by acknowledging the wisdom that what our data shows in front of our eyes is just the correlation, and not the causation in which we need to base our decisions. The fact that “people with higher education enjoy higher income” does not imply “promoting higher education promotes income growth.” The fact that “countries with higher child birth rates face higher poverty” does not imply “suppressing child birth reduces poverty.” The fact that “cities with better sewage have better child health” does not imply “better sewage improves child health.”
If we want to know the impact of the policy to tackle these problems, we must find the truth hidden behind the observed data. The art of the science of finding the truth in this way is the evidence-based decision making that we offer.

In order to tackle various development issues such as economic development, environmental conservation, poverty alleviation, and urban/rural dynamics, the International Economic Development Program provides the systematic curriculum to cultivate abilities for identifying/targeting issues, applied analysis and policy proposals that can link advanced social science methods to practical problem solving. Additionally, this program offers learning and training opportunities to develop professional communication skills to work with diverse stakeholders and leadership in problem solving.

I. Key Features of Education

(1) Education Programs in English

We believe it is important to develop international professionals capable of writing academic articles and reports, communicating and conversing in English. Therefore, almost all lectures and seminars are provided in English.

(2) Systematic and Interdisciplinary Curriculum

We offer a systematic and interdisciplinary curriculum to produce specialists who can contribute to international development and cooperation in ways that cut across established academic disciplines. We offer integrated education and research programs in economic development, international affairs, cultural dynamics, engineering, biology, peace studies, educational development, regional studies, Asian cultures and interdisciplinary programs to develop global perspectives.

II. Special Education Programs

We offer special education programs designed to improve the qualifications and skills of students who plan to work in the field of international cooperation. The main features of these programs are as follows.

(1) Global Environmental Leaders Special Education Program

One of our aims is to establish a center for training environmental leaders capable of identifying problems and formulating strategic solutions at national or local levels through interdisciplinary and international perspectives. The global issue of reducing carbon emissions is an example of such a problem and the need for solutions. Another aim is to provide a platform for collaboration between industry, government and academia to promote cutting-edge environmental research and create coherent practical solutions for environmental issues on a global scale that is not limited to developing countries. We seek to provide value-added knowledge to those engaged in international cooperation. Achieving these aims requires addressing five areas: urban system design to prevent global warming, wise use of biomass resources, environmental impact assessment, policy and institutional design and

environmental education. Our intention is for developing countries to work hand in hand with Japan to develop international environmental leaders, a task that we will undertake in an effective and practical manner.
For more details, go to
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/smart_society/gels

(2) Formation of a Strategic Center for Global Internship program

HU is currently promoting the "Formation of a Strategic Center for Global Internship" following the 2007 adoption of the Support Program for Improvement of Graduate School Education. The program is a practical education program that includes pre- and post-internship training designed to achieve viable outcomes from student internships. The following types of internships are available:
(1) Overseas internships, in which students go to a university or organization outside Japan;
(2) Domestic internships, in which foreign students go to a Japanese company or organization;
(3) Third-country internships, in which students from developing countries go to institutions in other developing countries.
(4) Follow-up research internships, in which students in doctoral programs go back to countries where they have previously worked.

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

To obtain a Master's degree, JDS Fellows need to satisfy the following two requirements:
(1) Minimum of 30 credits through program work;
(2) Submission of a master's thesis.

All students need to choose their own research topic and supervisors (one head-supervisor and two sub-supervisors) at the beginning of the first semester. Under the head-supervisor's advice, students will choose subjects to enroll and start preparations for a master's thesis.

List of subjects offered in the 2026 academic year by the program is available in the URL https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/285781/ENG_2026_国際経済開発PM履修基準表.pdf). Please refer to https://econdev.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/wp/?page_id=177 to explore more about the courses and degrees offered.

List of Faculty Members Capable of Guiding JDS Fellows

https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/staff/InternationalEconomicDevelopmentP

【Policy Science Program】

Position	Name	Research Theme
Professor	KANEKO, Shinji	Study on Sustainable Development for Developing Countries Environmental Policy Studies in Asia
Professor	SHARIFI Ayyoob	Urban Planning and Policy Development, Environmental Planning and Management, Climate Policy, Sustainable Cities
Professor	TAKAHASHI, Yoshi	Human Resource Development / Management, Management of Technology, Management of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
Associate Professor	JOSHI, Niraj Prakash	Climate change, agricultural technology adoption, agriculture production economics, poverty and rural development in developing country
Associate Professor	KONDO, Masayuki	Evaluation of climate change countermeasures, analysis of greenhouse gas dynamics, land use change research in tropical regions, and theoretical research on Earth's climate regulation.

Associate Professor	CARO-BURNETT Johann	Political economy, voting behavior, international agreements, peace and conflict Behavioral economics, experimental economics, development economics
Associate Professor	CHEN Shuning	Assessment of sustainable growth and welfare (with Inclusive Wealth accounting), Development economics: integrating resource use and environmental policy, Environmental and resource economics: sustainability and policy evaluation
Associate Professor	KHAN Ghulam Dastgir	Social and Economic Impact Assessment of Development Policies
Assistant Professor	SAIJO, Harunobu	Comparative Politics, Historical Political Economy, Authoritarian Politics
Assistant Professor	MITCHELL Austin Michael	Democracy and dictatorship, government budgets and finance, political economy of development, peace and conflict

Note that “List of Members” is subject to change due to personnel changes. In this case, you will be informed via the HP of Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Academic Schedule

（Reference）

Fall Semester (October 1 - March 31)　<In case of the schedule in AY2026>

October 1	Entrance Ceremony, Orientation
October 2 - February 8	Classes
Early October	International Student Orientation (University-wide)
Mid-October	Deadline of Class Registration
November 5	University Anniversary Day
December 28 - January 5	Winter Vacation
February 9 - March 31	End-of- Academic-Year Holidays

Spring Semester (April 1 - September 30)　<In case of the schedule in AY2026>

April 1 - April 7	Spring Vacation
April 8 - August 4	Classes
Mid-April	Deadline of Class Registration
End of July	Thesis Submission
Early August	Thesis Defense
August 5 - September 30	Summer Vacation
September 18	Graduation Ceremony

Facilities https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/centers

Residence

We provide apartments for international students at a reasonable rent. Students can get support in English from Hiroshima University Co-op when they apply for the apartments, have troubles and so on.

Also, a public apartment called “Sun Square Higashi-Hiroshima” is available to international students.

Library

Our library has nearly a collection of 30,000 titles of books and journals. Our collection is mainly focused on the economics of development, educational development, international relations and Asian regional culture development.

The "World Bank Information Kiosk" is placed for the purpose of introducing active discussions in academic areas about the policy and actions of the World Bank. Students can access the "World Development Indicators Online" in our library. Flag ship publications, project reports, brochures and publications from the World Bank Tokyo Office are also available.

JDS fellows have full access to 5 other libraries on campus which has approximately 3,300,000 materials in its collection. Holding a huge collection of books and electronic journals, with a total combined area of 26,000 square meters, Hiroshima University Library System, comprised of 5 libraries, is one of the largest in the country.

Other facilities

Within the campus, we have welfare facilities such as various cafeteria, a travel agency office, stores, book shops and a barber shop. Hiroshima University also has a post office, a university health service center, and a dental clinic in the campus. The International Center provides mental counseling services to international students in English.

Message for Applicants

The International Economic Development Program (to be renamed the Policy Science Program from April 2027) started accepting JDS Fellows in 2002 and currently we have JDS Fellows from 13 countries. If you are planning to apply under a component relevant to your country, we highly recommend you gather adequate information about our program by visiting our homepage (https://econdev.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/wp/?page_id=8).

*Please refer to Table 1 for the list of countries and the related components under our program.

We also have students dispatched from governments mainly in Asian countries, under MEXT, the Japanese government, the World Bank, and other scholarships. During lectures, seminars, or in student research rooms, students are actively participating in discussions, exchanging their views and stimulating one another.

HU is a research-based university. In line with this policy, we require a thesis for the fulfillment of the master’s degree, which is different from the coursework-based curriculum typically found in professional schools. It is not a very easy task to compile a master’s thesis based on independent research. In fact, students need to spend significant time and resources. However, it is expected that this experience will enable you to acquire specialized academic and practical knowledge in your area of specialization. To ensure that you can pursue research of a high standard that achieves a good result, at the time of joining our program, we require applicants to have a good command of English. Some knowledge of economics is also highly desirable.

In the campus surrounded by abundant nature in the suburbs of Hiroshima city, you can give your full attention to your studies. Your each and every experience here will serve as an excellent base for your subsequent steps as a professional government official. We welcome you to Hiroshima University.

Table 1. Countries and components under International Economic Development Program (applicable in 2026)

S. No.	Country	Component(s)
1	El Salvador	1-1. Transportation and Coastal Development* 1-2. Industrial Promotion for Economic Revitalization
2	Cambodia	1-1. Strengthening Connectivity*
3	Kyrgyzstan	2-2-3. Infrastructure policy (Incl. Transportation/Logistics/ Disaster Prevention and Mitigation/Energy/IT and Communication) *
4	Kenya	1-1. Improvement of Administrative Capacity of Central and Local Governments
5	Sri Lanka	1-2-1. Economics /Macroeconomics Studies
6	Senegal	1-2. Capacity Building for Economic Planning / Policy, Public Finance Management and Improvement of the Business Environment and Competitiveness
7	Nepal	1-1. Financial Policy, Economic Policy
8	Pakistan	1-1-3. Response to Climate Change and Enhacement of Energy Policy
9	Bangladesh	1-3. Capacity Development of Urban and Regional Development Planning and Policy* 1-4. Capacity Development of Economic Planning & Policy, and Public Finance & Investment Management
10	Vietnam	1-1. Strengthening of the Market Economy System/the Economic Infrastructure* 1-2. Human Resource Development for Industrial Development/Agriculture and Rural Development
11	Mozambique	2-1. Economy and finance policy, industry policy, investment promotion policy
12	Mongolia	2-1. Strengthening domestic industry and diversifying export products
13	Laos	1-1. Enhancement of Public Administration

Note: *Jointly with Transdisciplinary Science and Engineering Program, Graduate School of Advance Science and Engineering

Prospective JDS applicants are highly encouraged to go through the designated webpage for prospective JDS applicants (https://econdev.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/wp/?page_id=441) carefully while preparing the application documents.