## *Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Private)*
## *Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies*

◆ **Program name**
**International Cooperation Policy**

◆ **Degrees:**
Master of Science in International Cooperation Policy

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

◆ **Address:**
1-1 Jumonjibaru, Beppu, Oita
874-8577 Japan



## *Features of University* http://en.apu.ac.jp/home/

**History**

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) is an international higher education institution in Japan. APU was founded in April 2000 through the collaboration of three parties, namely Oita Prefecture, Beppu City, and the Ritsumeikan Trust, which is one of the oldest and most distinguished private non-profit educational institutions in Japan. APU's values are based on a vision of freedom, peace and humanity, as well as the enhancement of international mutual understanding in the Asia Pacific region. APU has gained recognition as the most international university in Japan with a strong international orientation in its aims and educational programs, along with its teaching faculty, administrative staff, and enrolled students who come from all over the world.

**Location**

APU is located on the outskirts of Beppu City (population of approximately 110,000) in Oita Prefecture in Kyushu, the southernmost island of the main Japanese archipelago. Beppu is one of Japan's most popular tourist destinations, being the home of the world's second largest outflow of hot spring water, and approximately 6 million tourists that visit Beppu every year. The large international student population and constant influx of visitors make Beppu one of the most lively and cosmopolitan cities in Japan.

**APU as an International University**

APU provides education to approximately **6,700** students, of which about **3,270** are international students from **122** different countries, thus creating a truly multi-cultural environment on its campus. Among these students, presently **136** are enrolled in the Master's Program and **28** in the Doctoral Program of Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies. All APU undergraduate programs are taught on a bilingual English-Japanese basis, while graduate programs are conducted entirely in English.

**APU students by country:**
https://en.apu.ac.jp/home/about/content250/

**Special Features**

APU strives to play an important role in the academics of the Asia Pacific region. Despite its short history, APU has already welcomed some Nobel Laureates Professors for keynote lectures, and has hosted major academic events in collaboration with the United Nations, ASEAN, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Asia Pacific Water Forum. Also, the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Integrated Research Organization（AIRO）hosts research meetings and international symposiums, conducts research projects and joint research, disseminates APU research results, and strengthens the network of researchers and research institutions around Japan and across the world. APU has invited many corporate executives of leading multinational companies to speak and interact with students on campus.

Our graduate schools have gained acclaim by being selected for prestigious scholarship programs offered by the Asian Development Bank, the Japanese Government and foreign governments. We are also welcoming students from the ABE Initiative master's degree and internship program and from a number of other JICA International

Student Programs. APU's innovative approach to education has also repeatedly been recognized under the Japanese Government's "Top Global University Project," and it was placed 1st among private universities in western Japan and 4th in nationwide for the 2025 Japan University Ranking by the Times Higher Education. Also APU has the 1st award on QS World University Rankings international student ratio and international faculty ratio in Japan.

As our profile grows both in Japan and around the world, APU graduate students will have more and more opportunities to come face-to-face with some of the top decision-makers in this region, while gaining broader exposure for their own research. We value diversity and warmly welcome all those who have a desire to play an active role in fostering international cooperation and sustainable development.

Over 350 JDS Fellows have studied at APU until now, along with many other dispatched government officials from around the world. Our graduates have gone on to work at embassies in Japan, various ministries and agencies, and the ASEAN Secretariat. APU takes pride in sending out graduates that can contribute to the development of their countries after studying here.

**More Features about APU can be found at the following link:**
https://en.apu.ac.jp/home/experience/
Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) - Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

## *Features of Graduate School*

http://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/
Academic Information for Graduate Students | Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (apu.ac.jp)

The APU graduate school focuses on fostering global leaders with a broad perspective based on the extensive knowledge and skills needed to face the challenges of our world's rapidly changing society. It aims to educate and equip students to contribute to the sustainable and harmonious development of the Asia Pacific region by acquiring the necessary advanced expertise on administration, the environment and development economics, as well as learning to solve issues practically. Students will thus actively contribute to sustainable development and cooperation in the Asia Pacific region and the world.

All programs in the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) are taught entirely in English, and the rich curriculum allows students to tailor their own study program based on their interests and requirements with their supervisors' consultation. Approximately 40% of our faculty members come from outside Japan and a significant number of our Japanese faculty hold postgraduate degrees from world-renowned universities. Introductory and beginner Japanese language classes, together with an academic writing course, are available to interested graduate students.

Most subjects are run on a two-month quarter basis, with two quarters per semester. Some courses are offered on an intensive basis during the vacation periods between semesters. In addition to regular coursework subjects, all students must complete seminar subjects and submit an extended piece of writing which presents the finding and conclusions of their individual research in the format of a Research Report or a Master's Thesis.

At APU's Graduate School, students can expect to develop practical policy-making skills through discussions with students dispatched from government agencies in developing countries, students from Japan, and other donor countries. By approaching issues from various perspectives, students will acquire a greater ability to solve problems effectively.

Besides regular classes, APU holds an average of 20 seminars on campus each year by invited speakers that include distinguished researchers, ambassadors, foreign diplomats, and officials from international organizations, NGOs, and corporations. Known on campus as Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacidic Studies (RCAPS) Seminars and Social Outreach Seminars, these offer students an opportunity to network with and gain the latest insight from leaders in various fields.

## *Features of the Programs*

Master's in International Cooperation Policy (ICP) | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

**International Cooperation Policy (ICP)**

Students from Maldives will be accepted in the International Cooperation Policy (ICP) Major. Upon completion of this Master's Program, students will have the knowledge and skills needed to immediately contribute to the development of Maldives. They will be the next generation of leaders that can propose and evaluate policies and work for solutions. The further improvement of Maldives's public administration and the management and organization of the public sector is important for its economic development, and at APU students will gain the knowledge needed for achieving this in a wide range of areas, including improvement of public sector organizations and systems, environmental problems, and disaster relief. Students will also study important areas such as the kind of policies and structures in place at aid institutions including the World Bank, ADB, JICA, and other NGOs. Regional integration and cooperation are important issues Maldives will face from now on, and students will acquire the advanced negotiation and communication skills needed for regional cooperation and working effectively with aid institutions.

Being able to negotiate well with donor countries and related institutions in one's own country, as well as create development policies, are highly sought-after skills. Regardless of the ministry or agency they belong to, human resources with these skills are critical for their country's development.

While students learn subjects such as "Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific", "International Public Administration", "Conflict Resolution" and "Project Management", they also take part in seminar subjects and fieldwork to further enhance their education and develop themselves into highly-specialized experts in their fields. Students from Maldives will be taught and supervised by faculty members who have worked for many years in international organizations such as JICA, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and others. There is great diversity among students of this program, with many administrative officials studying here on scholarships from JDS, ADB, and JICA. Through this program, JDS Fellows can build a global network and gain vital cross-cultural communication skills.

This program aims to educate and equip highly-skilled experts that are strong in both theory and practice. By connecting theory with practice, APU develops students into practical leaders that will be able to contribute to Maldives's development in many areas.

<Outline of the special program>
(i) Provision of English writing support to JDS fellows throughout their studies at APU to help them develop and complete their master's research and final research output (master's thesis or research report).
(ii) Organize field observations around Japan for JDS Fellows to see and experience actual public policy on site and learn about Japanese initiatives.
(iii) Invite specialists in relevant fields or related parties in accordance with JDS fellows' research themes, providing opportunities to exchange opinions on the current state of issues related to research themes and countermeasures.
(iv) Provide opportunities for JDS fellows to receive explanations and learn about case studies involving local initiatives.
(v) Provide opportunities to create vertical and horizontal networks by organizing opinion exchange meetings not only with senior JDS fellows but also with JDS alumni and gain information on current conditions and problems in Maldives.
(vi) Organize other programs closely related to the JDS fellows' needs may be organized on ad-hoc basis.

## *Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees*

Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (Master's) | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

A minimum of 30 credits is required for completion. As shown in the following table of credit requirements, JDS Fellows must take and pass a designated minimum number of credits from each Subject Category. Credits for a subject are obtained by earning a passing grade for that subject. All students must complete an extended piece of writing that presents the findings and conclusions of their individual research. Students may choose between a Master's Thesis or a Research Report.

**<Credit Requirements for Completion>**

| Subject Category | Minimum Required Credits | Subject Type | Credit Rules |
|---|---|---|---|
| Foundational Subjects | 6 | Lecture | -- |
| Major Subjects | 10 | Lecture | Students must complete at least 10 credits from Major Subjects from their affiliated Division. Any credits outside the Major or Division will count towards the credits required for program completion. |
| Seminars | 4 | Seminar | The minimum required 4 credits. Any credits earned from Seminars exceeding the minimum requirement of 4 credits will count towards the credits required for program completion |
| Elective Subjects | - | Lecture | Credits earned from Elective Subjects will count towards the credits required for program completion |
| | TOTAL 30 | *Credits earned from Optional Subjects will NOT count towards the credits required for program completion | |

**<Subjects Offered in the International Cooperation Policy Major>**

| **Foundational Subjects** | |
|---|---|
| Research Design and Methods | Quantitative Methods |
| Qualitative Methods | Public Administration and Policy |
| Social and Cultural Processes in the Asia Pacific | |
| **Seminars** | |
| Research Project I | Research Project II |
| Research Project III | Research Project IV |
| Directed Reading I | Directed Reading II |
| Directed Reading III | Directed Reading IV |
| **ICP Major Subjects** | |
| **International Relations (IR)** | |
| Regionalism and Globalization | International Conflict Resolution |
| International Law | International Organizations |
| International Political Economy | International Security |
| Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific | International Relations of the Asia Pacific |
| Policy Science and Transitioning Societies (PS) | |
| Environmental Policy, Law and Administration | Global Health |
| Development Finance | Disasters, Crises, and Public Policy |
| Comparative Politics and Government | Project Management, Planning, and Evaluation |
| Global Environment and Development Challenges in Transitioning Societies | |
| **Sustainable Development and Environment (SDE)** | |
| Environment and Natural Resources Conservation | Urban Sustainability: Planning and Development |
| Civil Society and Sustainable Development | Ecological Economics |
| Sustainable Community Development | Sustainable Energy Policy |
| Data Analysis for Sustainability Research | Sustainable Tourism |
| **Tourism and Hospitality (TH)** | |
| Sustainable Tourism | Health and Wellness Tourism |
| Tourism Impact Assessment | Hospitality and Service Design |

| | |
|---|---|
| Cultural and Heritage Tourism | Current Issues in Tourism and Hospitality |
| Community Based Tourism | Tourism Destination Development and Planning |
| **Development Economics（DE）** | |
| Development Economics | Comparative Economic Development |
| Macroeconomics | Microeconomics |
| Econometrics | International Economy |
| Sustainable Community Development | |

## *List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows*

Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (Master's) Faculty | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

## *Academic Schedule* https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/academic_info/calendar/

Reference: **2026-2027** Academic Calendar (Tentative)

| Date | Targeted students | Event & things to-do |
|---|---|---|
| Fall Semester | | |
| Mid-Late September | 1st Semester Students | New Students Orientation Period (including moving into AP House and Entrance Ceremony) |
| Beginning of October | Everyone | Registration for Fall Semester Classes |
| Beginning of October | Everyone | 1st Quarter Classes Start |
| End of October | 1st Semester Students | Supervisor is appointed |
| Mid-November | Everyone | 1st Quarter Joint Research Presentations |
| Late November | Everyone | 1st Quarter Final Examinations |
| End of November | Everyone | 2nd Quarter Classes Start |
| Late December | Everyone | Early January: Winter Holidays |
| Mid-January | Everyone | 2nd Quarter Joint Research Presentations |
| Beginning of February | Everyone | 2nd Quarter Final Examinations |
| Early-Mid February | Everyone | Winter Session |
| Late February | Everyone | Spring Holiday |
| | | |
| Spring Semester | | |
| Late March | Everyone | Registration for Spring Semester Classes |
| Early April | Everyone | 1st Quarter Classes Start |
| Mid-May | Everyone | 1st Quarter Joint Research Presentations |
| End of May | Everyone | 1st Quarter Final Examinations |
| Beginning of June | Everyone | 2nd Quarter Classes Start |
| June 5 | Final Semester Students | Master's Thesis/Research Report Submission Deadline |
| June 30 | 2nd Semester Students | Research Proposal Submission Deadline |
| Mid-July | Everyone | 2nd Quarter Joint Research Presentations |
| Late July | Everyone | 2nd Quarter Final Examinations |
| Beginning of August | Everyone | Summer Session |
| Mid-August | Everyone | Summer Holiday |
| Mid-September | Final Semester Students | Graduation Ceremony |

## *Facilities* http://en.apu.ac.jp/home/contents/campusmap.html/

**Accommodation**

All graduate students are entitled to a room in one of APU's student housing facilities, AP House 3 or AP House 4, which will help them adapt to their new life in Japan and to concentrate on their studies. All rooms are equipped with basic facilities, including internet access. Both housings are located off-campus in downtown Beppu. More information is available on the APU Admissions website: Housing | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

If students wish to live in different off-campus housing, it is possible to find other affordable options, as Beppu is considerably less expensive than other Japanese cities for private apartments and shared student housing. Students can also get assistance in locating and renting accommodation from Creotech, a university-affiliated

company.

**Campus Facilities**

APU's classrooms are equipped with the latest audiovisual and computer technology, enabling our students to take part in conferences and seminars occurring in other parts of the world in real time. The library, part of the Ritsumeikan Network, allows students to utilize over 2.3 million books and provides access to a wide range of academic journals and other useful publications through online databases. Within the Faculty Office Building, graduate students have their own lounge, study spaces, lockers, and computer rooms. Furthermore, with access to the Faculty Office Building, students can easily consult with their supervisors during office hours.

Other on-campus facilities include a cafeteria and cafe catering to a wide range of dietary requirements, a general store and a bookshop. In terms of athletics, APU has a gym, a weight training room, tennis and basketball courts, a soccer field, track, and other facilities.

**Support Services**

At APU, students have access to a full range of support services on campus. These include a Health Clinic and counseling service for all students and staff without any charge, a Student Office that facilitates extra-curricular activities and offers advice on lifestyle issues such as accommodation, the Research Office that provides support for research activities, and the Academic Office which supports students in terms of their curriculum, course registration, master's thesis submission, and other academic needs.

**Language Environment**

Since APU is a bilingual campus, all administrative offices such as the Academic Office and Student Office operate in both English and Japanese.

## *Message for Applicants*

We hope that students in the International Cooperation Policy (ICP) Major will acquire the knowledge needed for developing a long-term perspective on development issues, as well as the capacity to address real-life issues by connecting theory to practice. The ICP Master's program provides students with policy-oriented and practical advice, drawing on diverse fields to train creative professionals who can understand complex challenges from multiple perspectives and formulate feasible solutions with integrative approaches from global, regional and local perspectives. Such training will improve practical skills and knowledge to plan, implement and evaluate projects and thereby contribute to organizations that work closely with and in developing nations.

As the program attracts students of diverse backgrounds from all over the world, students easily develop extensive personal networks during their course of studies. Such networks serve as valuable assets even after graduation. Graduates of this program work in industries in or dealing with the Asia Pacific region, national and local governments in Japan and around the world, development agencies and other regional and international organizations.

Taught in English by faculty members who have ample experience guiding JDS Fellows, each class makes the most of APU's cultural diversity. In-class discussions are enriched by the variety of experiences our students have already gained in workplaces in their home countries. This is the ideal forum in which to prepare you for a career in international development on the world stage, and particularly here in the Asia Pacific region.

APU is proud that over 350 JDS fellows and our faculty members look forward to supporting the next group of students that enroll here who will be human resources can make use of the scenic beauty of the Maldives and contribute to a wide range of fields including sustainable tourism policy, economic development, and international relations.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member of our diverse and exciting campus.

