

Kyushu University (National) Graduate School of Law

◆ **Program name**

LL.M. Program

◆ **Degrees:**

Master of Laws

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**

30 Credits (a 20 credits coursework component, plus a 10 credits thesis component), 2 years

◆ **Address:**

744 Motoooka, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka-shi,
Fukuoka, 819-0395, Japan



Features of the University

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

■ **Overview**

Kyushu University is one of the oldest and most prestigious national universities in Japan. The history of the University dates back to 1903, when Fukuoka Medical College was founded. Kyushu Imperial University came into existence in 1911, after the Colleges of Medicine and Engineering were established.

The University offers undergraduate and graduate level education across a full range of academic disciplines. There are currently around 19,000 students enrolled and 2,000 faculty members.



Kyushu University is particularly well known for the large number of international education programs that are offered, and for the diverse student body. In 2021, the University was selected by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as a so-called “Designated University” to promote innovation and internationalization of higher education in Japan. At present, there are around 2500 international students enrolled at Kyushu University from around one hundred different countries.

Kyushu University is located in the city of Fukuoka. Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu, the most southern of Japan’s four main islands. Fukuoka is at the heart of East Asia, midway between Tokyo, Shanghai and Seoul. It is a thriving modern metropolis that has not sacrificed its unique local character and charm. Fukuoka is regularly featured in various international rankings as one of the “world’s most livable cities.”

Features of the Graduate School of Law <http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/>

The Faculty of Law was established in September 1924 as the Department of the Faculty of Law and Humanities and acquired independent status in 1949. Since that time, the Faculty of Law has established a reputation as a centre of progressive legal research and high-level legal education.



Annually, 200 students are admitted to the Faculty as undergraduates. As of April 2023, over 19,000 students have completed the undergraduate program. Occupational activities of these alumni are diverse, covering the legal profession, government service (both national and local), business, journalism, education, and academia. The graduate program of the Faculty, which was set up in 1949, has produced over 1,900 Master's and 280 Doctoral degrees.

In 1994, the Faculty of Law launched Japan's first master's program taught entirely in English; the LL.M. in International Economic and Business Law (*IEBL*). In 1999, a similar program was established focusing on comparative politics and political administration (*CSPA*). In 2001, the Faculty launched a special government funded program for young legal professionals of designated Asian countries (*YLP*). The LL.M. and CSPA programs have been accepting JDS Fellows since the inception of the programs.

Around 40% of students entering graduate programs at the Faculty are now coming from overseas. The Faculty has the experience of educating students from more than fifty different countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, South Africa, and Vietnam. Over five hundred students have graduated from the various international programs offered by the Faculty. As a result, the university has accumulated a great deal of expertise in receiving foreign students and providing reliable support systems in education and research, as well as everyday life in Japan.

Features of the Program

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

The **LL.M. program** at Kyushu University offers a wide-ranging curriculum with a particular emphasis on the following topics: international business and the law; innovation and law in a smart society; law and development and cultural heritage and the law. The program is intended to provide JDS students with a variety of intellectual and practical skills required to confront the many challenges of international economic affairs and commercial transactions in a rapidly globalizing world. Students who successfully complete the program will be conferred a master's degree in law (*LL.M.*). Over the two years of study, JDS students are required to complete a coursework component of approximately 10 semester length courses and write a master's thesis on a topic of their choosing.

【Courses】

Please refer to the indicative list of course below.

【Thesis】

JDS students are required to write a master's thesis of over 70 pages. The thesis may be on any topic in the fields of economic and business law.

Two professors will supervise the writing of the thesis. The supervisors will offer both specialized and practical help to ensure that the thesis meets the standards expected of master's level research.

Program Curriculum

All students in the JDS Program are expected to complete a 20-credit coursework curriculum and write a master's thesis of 70 pages (10 credits).

The JDS Program uses a Quarter System. Each Semester (Fall and Spring) is divided into two quarters. Students will normally have two classes of each subject per week over the course of the quarter for regular classes. In addition, intensive classes are organized during the Semesters. Most classes award 2 credits.

The curriculum plan for the JDS Program is organized as follows. Students must gain a minimum of 20 credits from courses offered within the framework of the JDS Program. In addition, students are required to take the Legal Research Methodology & Writing class.

2 credits are received from taking a special course for JDS students - the *JDS Forum* – taught over two years.

The 18 remaining credits from courses must be distributed as follows over the four semesters of study:

Semester I (Fall Year I): 2 credits in Fall Quarter & 2 credits in Winter Quarter.

Semester II (Spring Year I): 4 credits in Spring Quarter & 2 credits in Summer Quarter.

Semester III (Fall Year II): 4 credits in Fall Quarter & 2 credits in Winter Quarter.

Semester IV: (Spring Year II): 2 credits in Spring Quarter OR Summer Quarter.

A full list of the courses offered in the framework of the JDS Program can be found at:

<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/current-students/course-registration/>

The following is an indicative list of courses offered in the last few years (this list is just indicative and is subject to change on a yearly basis):

Legal Research Methodology and Writing

JDS Forum

Transnational Commercial and Investment Law

International Law in Today's World

Comparative Corporate Law Big Tech and Competition Law

Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy

Introduction to Japanese Law

Mediation and Conflict Management Approaches

Japanese Intellectual Property Law Practice

Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity

Introduction to EU Law

A Legal Theory Primer

White Collar & Corporate Crime
International Commercial Arbitration
Algorithms and the Law
Introduction to Roman Law and the Civil Law Tradition
Private International Law
Fintech and the Law
Platforms and the Law
Borders and Development in Asia
Japan's Development in Context
Japanese Constitutional and Administrative Law
International Financial Law and Regulation
Law and Development: A Japanese Perspective
World Trade Law
Introduction to EU Technology Law
Bioethics and the Law
International Criminal Law
Implementation and Operation of the Hague Conventions
Legal Practice from Network Perspective
Japanese Business Law in Practice
Risk Society Camp
Risk Management and the Law
Resolution of transnational Commercial Disputes
International Criminal Law

List of Faculty Members Responsible for Guiding JDS Students

- Akashi, Kinji
- Fenwick, Mark
- Han, Sang Hee
- Igimi, Mariko
- Irie, Hideaki
- Kawasaki, Kunihiro
- Kojima, Ryu
- Lee Peter
- Narihara, Satoshi
- Nishimura, Tomoumi
- Teramoto, Shinto
- Tokumoto, Minoru
- Van Uytsel, Steven
- Yatsunami, Ren

A full list of the research interests of the faculty can be found at:
<http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programs/english/html/faculty/faculty-members/>

Academic Schedule

(NOTE: the schedule below serves as an example and will be subject to change)

Academic Calendar 2022-2023

October	3	Entrance Ceremony & Guidance
	4	Classes Start / Fall Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	11	Deadline for the Online Course Registration
	17-19	Modification Period of the Online Course Registration
	21	Submission for "Components of an Academic Thesis"
	26	Final confirmation and modification Period of the Online Course Registration
November	3	National Culture Day (National Holiday)
	23	Labor Thanksgiving Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class
	25	Fall Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	28	Fall Quarter Exam Week Starts
December	2	Fall Quarter Exam Week Ends
	3	Winter Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	13	Deadline for Changing Quarter 2 Course Registration
	24	Winter Holidays Start (through Jan.5)
January	6	Classes Resume
	9	Coming of Age Day (National Holiday)
February	3	Winter Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	6	Winter Quarter Exam Week Starts
	11	National Foundation Day (National Holiday) Winter Quarter Exam Week Ends
	11	Spring Holiday Start (through Mar. 31)
	23	The Emperor's Birthday (National Holiday)
March	31	Submission of Thesis Draft, Abstract and Chapter Plan
April	3	Classes Start / Spring Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	11-18	Application period for Online Course Registration
	25-27	Confirmation and a Modification Period of the Online Course Registration
	29	Showa Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class
May	3	National Foundation Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class

	4	Greenery Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class
	5	Children's Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class
	26	Spring Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	29	Spring Quarter Exam Week Starts
June	2	Spring Quarter Exam Week Ends
	5	Summer Quarter Teaching Weeks Start
	9	Deadline for submitting Final Thesis Title
	12	Deadline for Changing Summer Quarter Course Registration
July	7	Submission of Complete Final Draft for iThenticate
	17	Sea Day (National Holiday) Regular Class will be held
	21	Classes End / Summer Quarter Teaching Weeks End
	24	Summer Quarter Exam Week Starts
	28	Summer Quarter Exam Week Ends
	31	Summer Holidays Start
August		Deadline for submitting Thesis (Noon)
	4	Mountain Day (National Holiday)
	11	Summer Holidays Ends
	22	Final Exam (Open Presentation)
	23, 24&25	
September	beg.-mid.	Final approval at the Law Faculty Meeting
	beg.-mid	Graduation Ceremony

Facilities

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

【University Library】

Kyushu University Central Library offers a comprehensive collection of books, journals and on-line resources that facilitate research across all fields of law. For detailed information, please see the Library website:

<https://www.lib.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/research>

【Technology】

International students enrolled on a program at the Graduate School of Law are given access to the LL.M. Study Room, which contains a several 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.

【Student Supporter】

All international students enrolled on a course at the Graduate School of Law will be provided with a Student Supporter to assist with various practical matters upon arriving in Japan. This includes helping in opening a bank account & registering at the Ward Office and other practical assistance. The support service ensures that adjusting to life in Japan goes smoothly for all incoming international students.

【International Students Center】

With over 2,500 international students from about one hundred different countries, Kyushu University has a diverse and international student body. The International Students Center serves as a resource providing a range of services from Japanese language classes, immigration advice to counseling. For more information, please see:

<https://isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/center/>

【Housing】

Information on university accommodation can be found on the Kyushu University web page:

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

Prospective students will be notified by email on how to apply for university dormitories.

The cost of university accommodation is significantly cheaper than the private sector.

Please note, however, that university accommodation is limited, and we cannot guarantee that it will be provided. Moreover, the system for allocating university housing for international students has changed recently, and – in consequence – there is less housing available than before. Any information that you may have received from former students may be out of date. In the event that you are not allocated university accommodation, KUSC will provide information about other appropriate dormitories.

Message for Applicants

The support systems that Kyushu University has established for international students ensure that settling in Japan will be a smooth and comfortable experience. Moreover, the city of Fukuoka enjoys a reputation for comfortable living conditions and openness to foreign residents.

A motivated and committed faculty will strive to ensure that all JDS Fellows have a rewarding educational experience. The Faculty of Law has been conducting courses in English for almost 20 years. The “know-how” gained from this experience means that JDS Fellows are offered an international standard educational experience that is sensitive to the differing needs of a diverse student body.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the JDS Program in Kyushu University has been developing the following activities under a “Special Program” for more than 10 years. Almost all of these activities are jointly designed and implemented by JDS students and the JDS Director, to fully achieve the objectives of the JDS Program:

(a) Pre-Arrival Training: Preparatory “distance education” by email & Skype or supervision in each country, from May to August prior to arrival, to clarify the research proposals of incoming students.

(b) Post-Arrival Training: A workshop organized right after arrival. Based on pre-arrival training, newcomers are required to make presentations and have debates with professors and 2nd-year students, to help students to complete their theses in time.

(c) JDS Intensive Courses: A series of intensive courses (3~4 days – 1 week) by distinguished scholars or practitioners in the fields of the research topics of JDS students.

(d) JDS Forum: Class organized for JDS students only, which is an intensive training to practice the skills of making a presentation & debate in English (typically 20 min. presentation and 70 min. of Q&A for each student).

(e) JDS Special Lecture: Special lectures by practitioners in (non-intensive) interactive style.

(f) JDS Front: *Practical* education by actively attending international & domestic conferences, moot competitions, *gashuku* (field trips), internship etc., such as participating in ASLI (Asia Law Institute) International Conference held abroad (every year), Joint Workshops with JDS Alumni in JDS countries (every year), JDS *Gashuku* (field trips in Japan to improve understandings of Japanese society and culture, and to promote exchanges between JDS students and local practitioners (twice per year), participation in a moot competition (every year), and exchange programs and internships, etc. Under JDS Front, all JDS students will be required to visit at least 4 foreign countries and 4 major cities in Japan during the 2-year study in the JDS Program.

(g) English Language Check of Thesis Draft: Before submitting the thesis, students will be provided with an English language check of their whole thesis by native English speakers.