

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
10 credits earned
by writing a master's thesis), 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 2009, the University was selected by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to participate in the Global 30 project to further promote internationalization of higher education in Japan. At present, there are around 2300 international students enrolled at Kyushu University from around one hundred different countries.

Kyushu University is located in 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/programsinenglish/>

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 2017, over 17,000 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 1,500 Master's and 110 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.*, *YLP* and *CSPA* programs have been accepting JDS Fellows since the inception of the program.

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 50 different countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, South Africa, and Vietnam. Over 500 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/ll-m/>

The **LL.M. program** at Kyushu University offers a wide-ranging curriculum with a particular emphasis on the following topics: (i) Business and the law; (ii) Innovation and the Smart Society; (iii) Law and Development, and (iv) 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 70+ pages 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 curriculum and write a 70 pages master's thesis (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 Semester. 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.

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

The 16 remaining credits from courses must be distributed as follows over the four semesters of study:

Semester I (Fall Year I): 2 credits in Quarter 1 & 2 credits in Quarter 2.

Semester II (Spring Year I): 4 credits in Quarter 3 & 2 credits in Quarter 4.

Semester III (Fall Year II): 2 credits in Quarter 1 & 2 credits in Quarter 2.

Semester IV: (Spring Year II): 2 credits in Quarter 3 OR Quarter 4.

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/iebl/>

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
Fundamental Issues in IP Laws
Transnational Commercial Law and Foreign Investment Law
White Collar and Corporate Crime
International Law in Today's World
International Legal Framework on Policy to protect Cultural Heritage
IP and Private International Law
International Maritime Law
Contemporary Issues in Competition Law
Introduction to Japanese Law, Historical Perspective
Mediation and Other Conflict Management Approaches
Japanese Intellectual Property Law Practice
Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity
Introduction to EU Law
Social Science Research Methods
A Legal Studies Primer
International Commercial Arbitration
International Relations & Global Governance
Algorithms and the Law
Environmental & Energy Governance
Introduction to Roma Law and Civil Law Tradition
Comparative Corporate Law
Private International Law – Comparative Perspective
Science, Technology and Innovation Policy
Statistics – Data analysis and a Soft Introduction to Blockchain
Fintech and the Law
Platforms and the Law

IP/IT Dispute Resolutions in International Matters
Borders and Development in Asia
Political System in Asia
Japan's Development Context
Japanese Constitutional & Administrative Law
Law and Development: From the Perspective of Economic and Business History
AI & Robot Law
International Financial Law and Regulation
Foreign Investment Business Law in China
Law and Development: A Japanese Perspective and Experience
International Law of Foreign Investment
Corporate Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A): Deals and Transactions
World Trade Law
International Economic Law and Practice
Business Law in a Networked Age
Legal Negotiation
Introduction to European Information Technology Law
Resolution of Transnational Commercial Disputes

List of Faculty Members Responsible for Guiding JDS Students

- Akashi, Kinji
- Fenwick, Mark
- Han, Sang Hee
- Hirayama, Kentaro
- Igimi, Mariko
- Irie, Hideaki
- Kojima, Ryu
- Kono, Toshiyuki
- Narihara, Satoshi
- Pejovic, Caslav
- Teramoto, Shinto
- Tokumoto, Minoru
- Van Uytsel, Steven
- Yatsunami, Ren
- Yu, Jiyeon
- Lindner, Robert

- Boyle, Edward
- Peter Lee

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 2020-2021

October	1	Entrance Ceremony & Guidance
	5	Classes Start / Quarter 1 Teaching Weeks Start
	9	Deadline for the Online Course Registration
	16-20	Modification Period of the Online Course Registration
	23	Submission for "Components of an Academic Thesis"
	27-29	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
	27	Quarter 1 Teaching Weeks End
	30	Quarter 1 Exam Week Starts
December	4	Quarter 1 Exam Week Ends
	7	Quarter 2 Teaching Weeks Start
	14	Deadline for Changing Quarter 2 Course Registration
	24	Winter Holidays Start (through Jan.5)
January	6	Classes Resume
	11	Coming of Age Day (National Holiday)
February	5	Quarter 2 Teaching Weeks End
	8	Quarter 2 Exam Week Starts
	11	National Foundation Day (National Holiday)
	12	Quarter 2 Exam Week Ends
	13	Deadline for LL.D. Applications (including 20 pages Thesis Draft)
	to be announced	*Applicable to student, who wish to apply for the LL.D. program
	23	Spring Holidays Start (through Mar. 31)
		Clinical Study (Compulsory for YLP) The Emperor's Birthday (National Holiday)

March	31	Spring Holiday Submission of Thesis Draft, Abstract and Chapter Plan
April	1 to be announced 29	Classes Start / Quarter 3 Teaching Weeks Start Deadline for Online Course Registration Showa Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class
May	3 4 5 28 31	National Foundation Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class Greenery Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class Children's Day (National Holiday) No Regular Class Quarter 3 Teaching Weeks End Quarter 3 Exam Week Starts
June	4 7 11	Quarter 3 Exam Week Ends Quarter 4 Teaching Weeks Start Deadline for submitting Final Thesis Title
July	9 19 23 26 30	Submission of Complete Final Draft for iThenticate Sea Day (National Holiday) Regular Class will be held Classes End / Quarter 4 Teaching Weeks End Quarter 4 Exam Week Starts Quarter 4 Exam Week Ends
August	1 5 11 26 27&30	Summer Holidays Start Deadline for submitting Thesis (Noon) Mountain Day (National Holiday) Summer Holidays Ends Final Exam (Open Presentation)
September	beg.-mid beg.-mid	Final approval at the Law Faculty Meeting Graduation Ceremony

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

【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 meeting newly arrived students at Fukuoka Airport, accompanying the student to their accommodation, 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 2,000 international students from one hundred 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 Support Center (KUSC) web page:

<https://isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en/housing-2>

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

The “Housing Application Form” for university accommodation can be completed via the KUSC on-line system. 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 its 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 (every week), 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) ad hoc 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.