

## **Saitama University (National) Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

### ◆ Program name

Japanese and Asian Economy and Management (MEcon Program)

### ◆ Degrees:

Master of Economics

### ◆ Credit and years needed for graduation:

30 credits, 2 years

### ◆ Address:

255 Shimo-Okubo, Sakura-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama338-8570 Japan



## **Features of University** <https://en.saitama-u.ac.jp/>

Saitama University is distinctive in that all the schools are located together on the lush green campus in the city of Saitama, just in the northern suburb of Tokyo, which takes about only one hour from JR Tokyo Station. This is advantageous in many respects, being conducive to research and learning in integrated fields of humanities and science, academic and student lives, and cultural activities. Over the past 65 years since it was established in 1949 as a small national university comprising only two schools, Saitama University has grown into a middle-sized university with five undergraduate schools and three graduate schools in the academic fields of liberal arts, economics, education, science and engineering.



As a comprehensive institution, Saitama University has set the following goals, in line with its key policies of developing human resources as the mainstay of a civil society and generating knowledge and technology in response to the demands of the day: 1) To fulfill universal role as a seat of knowledge; 2) To strive to solve the challenges facing contemporary society; and 3) To contribute to the global community

## **Features of Graduate School** <https://hss.saitama-u.ac.jp/english/index.html>

Mongolian economy is now transforming its economic structure to reduce its high dependence on natural resources and to diversify its industries. In this context, the focus of its economic reforms is to enhance governance in the field of public financial management, and JDS aims to develop human resources with high skills and knowledge for enhancing governance in this field.

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Saitama University (hereafter, the Graduate School in SU) offers an English-only program (MEcon Program) to provide English-speaking international students with education covering the theories and practices of economics and management at the Master's degree level. Under the framework of this MEcon Program and in light of the key issue of "public financial management" in the Mongolian JDS program, the Graduate School will provide a program based on the following key concepts for the JDS students.

The first concept is a "Triple-mix of Theories, Empirics and Practices". For policies for public financial management, a theoretical grounding is needed for accountability and transparency in policy formulation. At the same time, the policies should be based on empirical evidence, in the sense that their design and assessment require quantitative analyses. In addition, the policy-menu often includes practical details such as tax systems and financial schemes. The Graduate School has many professors with practical experience both in the public-sector as well as in academic research. In addition, the Special Program will provide opportunities for internships, trainings and seminars in Japanese public-sector and international organizations as well as for study tours to Japanese companies' production sites and JICA grassroots project sites. The Graduate School also provides JDS students with the opportunities to interact with Japanese business people and officials. The "Triple-mix" is, therefore, feasible in our

School.

The second concept is “All-in-one of Economy, Development, and Public sector governance”. The human resources responsible for public financial management need a broad and inter-disciplinary scope of knowledge and skills. In fact, expected research fields in this Mongolia JDS program contain a variety of issues such as “development economics”, “environmental economics”, “macroeconomics”, “economic and fiscal policies”, and “public policies”. The MEcon program can cover all these issues from the broad perspectives of Economy, Development and Public sector governance, as detailed below.

The third concept is the “Custom-made” program. The Graduate School will set up a supervisory team with relevant professors for each JDS student. The team first examines the needs and capacity level of the student, and then suggests a curriculum menu specific to the student. The team also conducts monitoring and follow-up on the study's progress. Regarding the qualifications of supervisory professors, the Graduate School has a lot of professors with overseas experiences, including the professors who worked for JICA, and also foreign professors from China, Korea, Thailand and the United Kingdom. These professors are supposed to fulfill a variety of the student's needs and enhance the capacities. As for the language program, the Graduate School will provide Japanese language courses customized for international students, and also can assign another foreign student as an English tutor for the JDS student who needs to improve the commands of English.

## **Features of the Program**

### **【Regular Program】**

The Graduate School has operated two tracks of English-taught programs since 2015: the “MEcon Program” for studying Japanese and Asian Economics and Management and the “MA Program” for studying Japanese and Asian Culture. The JDS students in this program will basically join the MEcon Program, but will also be able to take the courses of the MA Program to earn the credits necessary for their graduation.

The research fields covered in this JDS program contain a variety of issues such as “sustainable development policies”, “development economy”, “macroeconomic planning”, “public financial management”, “public investment policies”, and “audit and tax system”. The MEcon program, together with the MA program, can cover all these issues and the relationship between the research fields and the existing curriculum is described below.

- Sustainable development policies: “Global Environment and Asia”, “Human Resource Management in Japan and Asia”, “Governance and Development in Asia and Africa”, “Urban Planning in Japan and Asia”
- Development economy: “Global Environment and Asia”, “Human Resource Management in Japan and Asia”, “International Trade in Japan and Asia”, “Asian Economy”
- Macroeconomic planning: “Economic Policies in Japan and Asia”, “Japanese Economy”, “International Economic Theory”, “Money, Banking, and Financial Markets”
- Public financial management: “Public Policies in Japan and Asia”, “Advanced Theory of Public Policies”, “Public Finance and Socioeconomic Development in Japan”
- Public investment policies: “Public Policies in Japan and Asia”, “Advanced Theory of Public Policies”
- Audit and tax system: “Public Finance and Socioeconomic Development in Japan”, “Governance and Development in Asia and Africa”

In addition to the curriculum above, the Graduate School has the course of “Advanced Econometrics” for training the methodological skills, and “English Presentation and Negotiation” for improving the capacity for English communication.

Each JDS student will also join a Seminar for two years, in which the main supervisor will tutor thesis writing for the Master's degree, focusing on a specific theme that each JDS student chooses in agreement with their supervisor. The student will also have a secondary supervisor for enriching supervisory system.

### **【Special Program】**

- The “Special Program” would have the following content:
  - Internships, trainings and seminar in Japan's public sector and international organizations
  - Study tours to Japanese companies' production sites
  - Follow-up seminar for JDS graduates in Mongolia and promotion of joint research (see the next item in more

details)

- The language program contains Japanese language courses customized for international students, and the assignment of an English tutor for the JDS student to improve the command of English.

## ***Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degree***

<https://www.eco.saitama-u.ac.jp/grad/en/curriculum>

### **The List of Curriculum for JDS Fellows**

The credits and years needed for graduation are 30 credits for 2 years.

- English Courses: Students should choose 9 Courses (18 Credits) or more from the following courses (one course awards two credits)

Course
<b>【Classes on Japanese and Asian Economy and Society】</b>
Money, Banking and Financial Market
Japanese Economy
Public Finance and Socioeconomic Development in Japan
Asian Economy
International Trade in Japan and Asia
International Economic Theory
Economic Development in Asia
Economic Policies in Japan and Asia
Economic Strategies in Japan and Asia
Public Policies in Japan and Asia
Advanced Econometrics
Advanced Theory of Public Policies
<b>【Classes on Japanese and Asian Management】</b>
Global Business Strategy
Global Business in Japan and Asia
Comparative Studies of Management
Japanese Enterprises in Japan
Human Resource Management in Japan and Asia
Japanese-style Management
Marketing in Japan and Asia
Supply Chain Management
Global Environment and Asia
Urban Planning in Japan and Asia
International Marketing
Advanced Research in Japanese Society
Current Issues in ASEAN

- Seminars and Supervised Thesis Writing: Students will obtain six credits in each year (awarded 12 credits in total for the two years: one seminar class awards two credits)

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

- The main and secondary supervisors will be determined by curriculum

committee, reflecting the student's choice to the maximum extent, right after the admission in October. The following is the tentative list of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows.

Teaching Staff	Subjects
Takeshi Osada	Money, Banking and Financial Markets
Masayuki Takahashi	Public Finance and Socioeconomic Development in Japan
Hidekatsu Asada	Economic Policies in Japan and Asia
Shinobu Nakagawa	Japanese Economy

## ***Academic Schedule***

Reference: The case of the students for admission in 2022

Admission: October, 2022

Research Proposal: June, 2024

Thesis-submission: July, 2024

Final Examination: July – August, 2024

Graduation: September, 2024

**Facilities** <https://en.saitama-u.ac.jp/studentlife/facilities/>

Saitama University has the “International House,” a residential facility for international students. The applications for the International House are accepted in July (moving in October). For those wishing to move in International House, please forward application to the Office of Faculty which you belong to. Since the number of rooms is limited, you may not be able to move in, even though you submit the application. Allowed residence period is maximum one year.

**Message for Applicants**

Recognizing that the focus of the economic reforms in Mongolia is to enhance governance in the fields of fiscal control and monetary policies for attaining self-sustained growth, the MEcon Program of our Graduate School in Saitama University offers an appropriate program for the JDS development issue related to public finance management. It includes the curriculum covering such essential issues as “Fiscal management and tax system”, “Public management” and Promotion of sound financial system”. The expected outcomes of the MEcon Program are: 1) to obtain balanced knowledge and skills based on theories, empirics and practices in economic policies under the “Triple-mix” program; 2) to obtain overall knowledge of Economics, Management, Law, and Public Policies under the “All-in-one” program; and 3) to develop abilities following the students’ capacity under “Custom-made” program.



Our emphasis is that our Graduate School has accepted Japanese business persons from first-class Japanese companies and government offices to study at the Masters and Doctorate levels. Based on our experience, we have recognized that the actual interactions between these Japanese working students and international students can provide valuable opportunities for international students to understand and learn about the actual conditions in Japanese companies and central government offices. In addition, Saitama University has had intimate relationship with Saitama Employers Association, Saitama Association of Corporate Executives, and Saitama Prefectural Government. Based on these relationships, we can arrange observation tours of Japanese companies/governmental offices.