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.**
https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/news/96495



◆ **Program name**
Division of Humanities and Social Sciences,
International Peace and Co-existence Program

◆ **Degrees:**
a. Master of Philosophy
b. 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 is located in the southwest part of Honshu, the largest island of Japan. Approximately 900 kilometers away from Tokyo, it takes 70 minutes by airplane, or 4 hours by *Shinkansen* (bullet train) to Hiroshima. HU has three campuses and the main campus, covering 252 hectares, is located in Higashi-Hiroshima, in a verdant area which is famous for sake brewing. Including campuses in Hiroshima, known as the International City of Peace and Culture, the University includes 12 schools, 5 graduate schools, a research institute, a university hospital, and 11 affiliated schools.
HU aims to be a world-class hub of education and research, to foster excellent human resources to contribute to the community, and developmentally expand science.

HU's mission of ongoing growth is based on the following five guiding principles:

1. **The Pursuit of Peace**
   To develop intellectual attitudes which always seek peaceful solutions to the problems affecting society and the world at large.
2. **The Creation of New Forms of Knowledge**
   To evolve new systems of study which surpass existing frontiers of knowledge and encourage intellectual innovation.
3. **The Nurturing of Well-Rounded Human Beings**
   To train graduates with well-developed and multifaceted personalities by means of an education which has breadth as well as depth.
4. **Collaboration with the Local, Regional, and International Community**
   To create a university with a strong international awareness which can efficiently disseminate knowledge on a worldwide scale, in collaboration with local and regional communities.
5. **Continuous Self-Development**
   To maintain a constant readiness to re-examine established ways of acting, and a constant openness to improvement and innovation.

HU has a long history of accepting international students from Southeast Asia. This commenced before World War

II with students employed as high government officials devoted to the development of their home countries. As of May 2025, HU has over 15,000 students including approximately 1,900 international students from about 95 different 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 indifferent 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/InternationalPeaceandCo-existenceP

This cross-disciplinary program aims to consolidate students' basic knowledge and to enhance their critical thinking skills in the academic disciplines of Peace Studies, Cultural Anthropology, International Relations, International Politics, Law, Area Studies, and Memory Studies under the common key concept of "Peace and Co-existence." Students can choose a subject area and a specific topic to conduct independent research, with guidance from the academic staff who specialize in a variety of research fields, including nuclear damage, armed conflict, and the interrelations between development and culture. Other research interests include social inequalities stemming from issues of poverty, gender, ethnicity and religion as well as war and ethics, and security and nuclear weapons.
Inspired by Hiroshima, the city that has turned the devastation by an atomic bomb into aspirations for universal peace, this program welcomes students from a variety of backgrounds to maximize their potential and provides a unique opportunity to study complex social issues in a domestic and international sphere.
All lectures are conducted in English.

I. Key Features of Education

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, most lectures and seminars are provided in English, and our well-organized curricula enable students to receive degrees in English.

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, 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, refer 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. This 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 requirements: (1) minimum of 30 credits through course work, and (2) submission of a master's thesis.
All students need to decide 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.
Students will choose subjects mainly from the "International Peace and Co-existence Program".

List of subjects offered in 2026 academic year is attached. Students will choose subjects mainly from the "International Peace and Co-existence Program."

(URL: https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/285755/ENG_2026_国際平和共生_P_M_履修基準表.pdf)

List of Faculty Members Capable of Guiding JDS Fellows

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

【International Peace and Co-existence Program】

Position	Name	Research Theme
Professor	KATAYANAGI, Mari	Conflict resolution, Peacebuilding, Peacekeeping, Conflict prevention, and International human rights law
Professor	KAWANO, Noriyuki	Peace Studies, Studies on A-Bomb and Global Nuclear Disasters

Professor	SEKI, Koki	Cultural Anthropology of Development, Social Policy, and Peace, Area Studies of the Philippines and Southeast Asia
Professor	NAGASAKA, Itaru	Social and cultural anthropology, Migration studies, Southeast Asian Studies
Associate Professor	KAKEE, Tomoko	Studies on Conflict Resolution and International Law
Associate Professor	SIMANGAN Dahlia Collado	International Relations Theory, Peacebuilding Theory, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Peace-Sustainability Nexus, Anthropocene
Associate Professor	VAN DER DOES, Luli	Interdisciplinary Empirical Study of Discourse and Representations, Memory Studies (Conflict and Peace), Heritage of the Atomic-Bomb Experiences, Applied Risk Theory
Associate Professor	TOSAKI, Hirofumi	Arms control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation, Nuclear strategy and deterrence, Peace and security
Associate Professor	TAGUCHI, Yoko	Cultural anthropology, Care and relations, Personhood and morality, South Asian studies
Assistant Professor	YOSHIDA, Mariko	Environmental anthropology, Science and Technology Studies, Multispecies Ethnography, Political Ecology of Water
Assistant Professor	CANDELARIA, John Lee Pamplona	Social sciences; Politics; International relations; Humanities; History; History of Asia and Africa

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, education development, international relations, and Asia regional culture development. The "World Bank Information Kiosk" is placed for the purpose of introducing active discussions in academic area about the policy and actions of the World Bank. Students can access to "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 cafeterias, a travel agency office, stores, book shops and a barber shop. Hiroshima University also has a post office and a university health service center on the campus. The International Center provides mental counseling services to international students in English.

Message for Applicants

The International Peace and Co-existence Program is particularly rich in peace and conflict studies including international security, peacebuilding, and international relations. Since we allow students to enroll in classes both inside and outside their own program, the students are able to design their course work not only to strengthen their existing expertise but also to expand their perspectives in international development and cooperation. The nexus between peace and development is embodied here. The knowledge and research skills that students gain in the program will enrich their academic and practical knowledge, once they successfully complete their course work and master’s thesis. The program also provides an opportunity to establish a global network that will be beneficial for their future work as well as the organizations which they will serve for.