



Asian Public Policy Program

**School of International and Public Policy
Hitotsubashi University (Japanese National)**



【Degree】 Master of Public Policy (Public Economics)

【Credit and years needed for graduation】

44 credits including 16 credits from four required courses

2 years for completion of the master's program



【Location】 2-1 Naka, Kunitachi, Tokyo 186-8601, Japan

【Website】 <https://www.ipp.hit-u.ac.jp/appp/index.html>

【E-mail】 appp.g@ad.hit-u.ac.jp

The University

Founded in 1875, Hitotsubashi University is a leading university in economics and business in Japan. In 2023, it established a faculty of Social Data Science, and now has five departments, seven graduate schools covering the fields of business, economics, law, and social sciences. It has an enrollment of approximately 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students, and a faculty and staff of over 550.

The Program



The Asian Public Policy Program (APPP) targets young professionals in Asian governments, central banks and other policy-related organizations. The APPP has been and continues to be an important stepping-stone for such individuals to become fully-edged fiscal or financial economists, economic planners, policy analysts, and policymakers in their governments as

well as in international organizations. The course distinguishes itself from other graduate programs offered in the public policy area by its strong focus on economic and data science policy, with almost all of the required and elective courses structured around economics and its applications to policy. The program aims to equip its graduates with the knowledge and skills to analyze and develop policies against a sound knowledge of economics and econometrics.

The class sizes are quite small – at most around 15, and each full-time faculty supervises around 4 students per annual intake, and is able to give close guidance to the student's academic undertakings. The small size of the Program also allows students to build strong ties with their fellow students, which can last a lifetime, and will be a valuable asset in their career.

The Faculty

The program's core faculty comprises full-time teaching staff who combine Ph.D. degrees from top US and UK universities with professional working experience at policy institutions including IMF, World Bank, AMRO, Bank of Japan, and Japan's Ministry of Finance. In addition to the core faculty, lectures are given by leading professionals with practical experience from public and private sector institutions. Current Visiting Professors include those from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Columbia University and Asia School of Business in Collaboration with MIT Sloan. Students may also take courses offered by other graduate schools such as Graduate School of Economics and Social Data Science.

The Curriculum: Strong Emphasis on Economics and Date Science

The curriculum focuses on economic policy design and analysis, and is conducted entirely in English.

A strong emphasis is placed on seminar work and the master's thesis. Seminar work is a long-standing tradition of Hitotsubashi University, where a small group of students work together under the guidance of the academic advisor to discuss economic and policy issues as well as develop and discuss their prospective thesis. The thesis is a required element of the course and provides an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and skills acquired from the APPP courses to analyze real-world policy issues. Most students utilized their econometric skills studied in the core curriculum.–

Course Descriptions

Core Courses taken in the first year provide basic theoretical and analytical skills. The Elective Courses and Intensive Courses are provided throughout the two years and focus on specific policy areas. Students are also required to take an English Thesis Writing course. The Master's thesis is the focus of student's study during much of the second year.

◆ Required Courses: Theoretical Foundations

Core theory courses provide a solid foundation in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and public sector economics as a framework for policy analysis. Courses on quantitative techniques of economic analysis and financial programming for macroeconomic policy formulation are also required, with the latter offered as a two-week intensive course.

◆ Elective Courses: Policy Areas

These courses cover major issues in specific policy areas, covering analytical and practical aspects of policies, with a special emphasis on experience in Japan and Asia. For students with a tax administration background, a special course is offered in association with the National Tax Agency of Japan, which provides practical knowledge and experience on taxation issues.

◆ Courses on Current Issues:

They are designed to provide students with a good understanding of the current situation, prospects, and research of the current topics, with lectures provided by external scholars, policymakers, staff of international organizations, and other practitioners in public policy, from both Japan and abroad.

Qualifications

A minimum of two years' full-time public sector working experience in economic policy areas and a BA or BS degree from an officially accredited university are required. A first degree in Economics would be an advantage, but the program welcomes those with other background with a strong desire and commitment to study economics. Candidates should have high English proficiency, i.e., TOEFL score of iBT 79-80 / IELTS 1 6.0 or higher.

Facilities: Main Campus and Downtown Campus

The Asian Public Policy Program is located in Tokyo. The educational activities are conducted at the Kunitachi campus which is located in an area specially designated as a "cultural and educational zone", and at the Chiyoda campus, in an area adjacent to the Imperial Palace Grounds.

Hitotsubashi University can offer single-occupancy rooms at the University dormitory for APPP students. Provision of family room is subject to availability.

Scholarship Opportunities

- ◆ The Asian Development Bank/Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP)**
- ◆ Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Asia (JISPA)**
- ◆ The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS)**
- ◆ SDGs Global Leadership Program by JICA**
- ◆ Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship**