Meiji University (Private)
Graduate School of Governance Studies

◆ **Program name**

Major in Governance Studies（International Public Policy Course）
(1) Public Policy
(2) International Development Policy
(3) Community Planning and Management



◆ **Degrees:**
Master of Public Policy

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**
40 Credits, 2 Years

◆ **Address:**
1-1 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8301, Japan

Features of the University https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english/

Meiji University was founded in January 1881 as the Meiji Law School by a group of young lawyers. Meiji University has evolved into one of Japan's most prominent privately-funded universities, celebrating its 140th anniversary in 2021. Our guiding principles are Rights, Liberty, Independence, and Self-government.

Meiji University currently consists of ten undergraduate schools, 12 graduate schools, and four professional schools, including the Graduate School of Governance Studies. The university has four campuses: Surugadai, Izumi, Ikuta, and Nakano Campuses.

The Surugadai Campus is at the heart of historic Meiji University. Regular classes for the graduate schools are held in Academy Common Building in Surugadai. The building opened in April 2004 primarily for continuing education open to the community; it has eleven floors above ground and two basement levels and is fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Access to the campus is excellent, with nearby stations of Japan Railways and five subway lines, making it an easy commute for busy professionals.

Meiji University was selected for the prestigious National Top Global University Project in 2014 as a leading-global university (type B) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT). The program aims to strengthen Japanese higher education's international competitiveness and develop world-class human resources. The project is instrumental for the Graduate School of Governance Studies in improving the educational experience of our international students in the English-track program.

Features of the Graduate School https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english/graduate/governance/

From Government to Governance:
Toward a New Ideal of Society Based on Collaboration among Diverse Individuals and Organizations

Training Professionals in Politics, Policy, and Public Administration



The three focus areas (Public Policy, International Development Policy, Community Planning, and Management) of the Graduate School of Governance Studies aim to support policy-making by government agencies and community residents through research and education in public policy studies. It produces professionals with specialized knowledge and global perspectives. The Programs are designed for those who have experience in the public sector at the local, national, and international levels. The English track program is primarily for international students, including those sponsored by their governments, granted the Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) or MEXT scholarships, and long-term trainees under Japan's official development assistance program.

Advanced Education and Research for Professional Practitioners

The term "Public Policy" refers to the creation of policies by gathering data and analyzing it to determine the status of policy issues domestically and internationally. In policy formulation and implementation stages, experts evaluate and improve the existing policies and decision-making processes by incorporating citizen's interests. Policy-makers conduct simulations to test the feasibility of policy goals, check adverse effects through experimental projects, identifying their causes, and make adjustments accordingly. Finally, whether at an endpoint or on an ongoing basis, they observe the outcomes and evaluate the policy.

At the Graduate School of Governance Studies, the curriculum is organized along the same line as policy-making and implementation processes. It provides a streamlined curriculum for the students to build the skills of creating, implementing, and assessing policy. Our courses are grouped into four core fields: Basic subjects - Policy, administration, management (Field A); Basic subjects - Economic, finance, development (Field B); Applied Policy Study (Field C), in which students conduct research through case studies, and Practical Seminars (Field D), including guidance on writing research papers and improving presentation skills.

The Graduate School of Governance Studies provides professional education with a focus on practical knowledge and technical expertise. It also strives to reshape the academic discipline of public policy studies into a holistic science that integrates the existing fields of political science, public administration, economics, public finance, and administrative law.

Qualities of Our Graduates

Our Professional Master's degree program aims to prepare professional practitioners and researchers with advanced knowledge of governance and public policy. In order to obtain the degree, students must possess (1) a high level of specialized knowledge of disciplines in various fields of governance and policy studies and (2) the ability to apply that knowledge to solving real problems.
Our ultimate goal is to produce graduates who have a good command of policy-making and implementation skills necessary for resolving complex problems in this diversified and borderless society.

Wide Range of Field Research Trips

The school organizes a variety of exciting field research trips. These trips provide opportunities for English-track students to observe the actual public policy in practice at both national and local government agencies. The field trips are also an occasion to interact directly with real Japanese practitioners who can share professional and hands-on experiences. Through the field research trips, students will enjoy the learning experience through Japanese cases. In addition, they will develop a better understanding of Japanese society and culture.

Places visited in the recent field trips:

National Personnel Authority
Fire and Disaster Management Agency
Local Autonomy College of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
National Museum of Japanese History
Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures (recovering from the 2011 earthquake)
Nagano Prefecture
Fukui Prefecture

Features of the Program https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english/graduate/governance/programs.html

Courses and Three Areas

The Graduate School of Public Policy offers courses in three concentration areas: Public Policy, International Development Policy, and Community Planning and Management. In each of these areas, major topics of contemporary world issues - including decentralization, "good enough governance," citizen participation, sustainable development, economic development cooperation, regional development, and poverty reduction are discussed in a wide range of courses offered by our faculty members.

(1) Public Policy

This area is about public policy processes, from identifying issues to formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy options. The knowledge and expertise in policy processes, including theories in political science, public administration, and organizational management fields, are growing their importance in the field of public policy.

(2) International Development Policy

With a focus on the theory of international economics and environment, this area encourages students to analyze global issues of sustainable development and poverty reduction from different perspectives on social systems. While market-driven development policies have achieved economic prosperity in many societies, they have also exacerbated global problems such as environmental degradation and income disparity.

(3) Community Planning and Management

Community is the field of practice where governance comes most closely in contact with people's lives. Community Planning and Management area is organized around the process of making, implementing, and evaluating policies for resolving global issues from local perspectives. It also focuses on crisis management and the role of the community in responding to natural disasters and terrorism, which have been increasing in recent years.

Research Paper

In order to obtain a Master's degree from Meiji's Graduate School of Governance Studies, students are required to submit a "research paper." Each international student is assigned to a "zemi" group supervised by one of the faculty members and receives hands-on guidance for conducting research and writing the paper.

Research Method

In these seminar courses, first-year students choose a governance public administration-related topic and conduct their own research. Students will acquire skills for theoretical studies and policy analysis by reviewing the relevant literature. This process will guide the student toward the appropriateness of their definition of the topic.

Research Paper

These seminar courses focus on writing academic papers. Each of the second-year students learns to construct a theoretical framework and employ research methods, data analysis techniques, and related skills for writing a research paper on his or her own research topics.

Thesis Workshop

Thesis workshops are organized for all Graduate School of Governance Studies international students. This workshop provides students with an opportunity to critique one another's work and engage in an intellectual exchange on their approach to governance studies and their theoretical and research procedures.

English Language Academic Writing

We offer a range of English academic communication and writing support courses, workshops, and tutoring for international students whose first language is not English. These are taught by native-speaking instructors experienced in English academic support course development.

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english/graduate/governance/curriculum.html

Subjects offered in English are listed below.

Public Policy	Governance Studies Intergovernmental Relations Urban Planning and Design Policies Introduction to Policy-making Processes Comparative Local Government E-Government Evaluation Theory and Practice TQM in Public Sector Public Governance and Management Public Finance and Social Welfare Economics A/B Econometrics A/B Current Development in Public Policy and Management

	Public Policy Policy Evaluation Cutting-edge Local Government Policies Citizen's Participation and Local Governance Japanese Economic Policy Japanese Foreign and Development Policy
International Development Policy	Global Topics and Issues Global Governance Political Economy of Development Theories and Experience of the Developmental State SDGs and International Peace Studies Private Sector Development Business, Policy, and Environment Environmental Governance Environmental Management Environmental Assessment Global Cyber Governance
Community Planning and Management	NGO/NPO Policy NGO/NPO Management Public Employment and Personnel Management QM in Japanese Public Sector Negotiation in the Public Sector Social Development Consensus building and sustainability transition Human Resource Management Terrorism and Political Violence Crisis Management and International Politics National Security and Intelligence Community Engagement and Facilitation Community Welfare Service E-Participation Multicultural Society The Political Economy of Food and Agriculture Local Development in Japan Local Responses to Agricultural Issues in Japan

Note: The school has the following “Practical Seminars.”
Social Research Method, Qualitative Research Methods, Master’s Thesis Development, Analyzing and Writing in Qualitative Research, Critical Reading and Writing, Research Method 1 & 2, Research Paper 1 & 2

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

We have 15 professors who are able to supervise international students in English. Advisers are assigned at the faculty meeting before the arrival of JDS Fellows, considering their proposed research plan and the expertise of advisers.

Faculty Members As of July 10, 2026

Course Instructor	Subjects
YUASA Harumichi (Dean/Professor)	E-Government E-Participation Global Cyber Governance Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
MATSUURA Masahiro, Ph.D. (Associate Dean/Professor)	Urban Planning and Design Policies Introduction to Policy-making Processes Negotiation in the Public Sector Consensus Building and Sustainability Transition Research Method 1,2

	Research Paper 1,2
OYAMA Norihiro (Professor)	Community Welfare Service
IZUMO Akiko, Ph.D. (Professor)	Governance Studies Public Employment and Personnel Management Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
KATO Ray Ryuta, Ph.D. (Professor)	Economics A / B Econometrics A / B Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
KIMURA Shunsuke, Ph.D. (Professor)	Intergovernmental Relations Cutting-edge Local Government Policies Citizen's Participation and Local Governance Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
MATSUMOTO Naka, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor)	Multicultural Society Qualitative Research Methods Master's Thesis Development Analyzing and Writing in Qualitative Research Research Method 1,2 Research Paper 1,2
NAGAHATA Makoto, Ph.D. (Professor)	NGO/NPO Policy NGO/NPO Management Human Resource Management Community Engagement and Facilitation Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
NISHIDE Junro, Ph.D. (Professor)	TQM in Public Sector QM in Japanese Public Sector Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
SASAOKA Yuichi, Ph.D. (Professor)	Government and Politics in Developing Countries Global Topics and Issues Global Governance (Theory) Global Governance (Institutions) Japanese Foreign and Development Policy Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
TANAKA Hideaki, Ph.D. (Professor)	 Public Finance and Social Welfare Public Governance and Management Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2
YONEHARA Aki, Ph.D. (Professor)	Introductory Statistics for Social Research Social Development Research Methos 1,2 Research Paper 1,2
LOLLINI Niccolo, Ph.D. (Senior Assistant Professor)	Contemporary Japanese Society The Political Economy of Food and Agriculture Local Development in Japan Local Responses to Agricultural Issues in Japan Research Method 2 Research Paper 1, 2
ANNA Maki, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor)	Introduction to Political Science Theories of Democracy Current Development in Public Policy and Management Critical Reading and Writing
TSUJI Masami, Ph.D. (Professor)	Environmental Governance Environmental Management Environmental Assessment Research Method 2 Research Paper 1,2

Academic Schedule

	Semester	Class duration
1st Semester	Fall 2027	From September 2027 to February 2028
2nd Semester	Spring 2028	From April 2028 to July 2028
3rd Semester	Fall 2028	From September 2028 to February 2029
The last semester	Spring 2029	From April 20289to July 2029 *Graduation Ceremony (September 19th, 2029)

* Dates are subject to change.

Facilities

The Campus

- **Easily Accessible Surugadai Campus**

The Graduate School of Governance Studies is located on Meiji University's Surugadai Campus, which is right in the heart of metropolitan Tokyo, a hub city alive with contemporary and traditional culture. Graduate School classes are held in the Academy Common building, consisting of eleven floors above ground and two basement levels with fully equipped classrooms and conference rooms. Access to the campus is excellent, with a nearby JR rail service and five subway lines.

- **Study Area in Building 14 with Full Internet Access**

Private study space is provided for students of the Graduate School of Governance Studies. Each carrel has a power outlet and LAN connection for laptop computers. Full Internet access allows students to consult online journals, external databases, and library catalogs. There are also lockers, copying machines, and open printer service. (Hours: 7:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.)

- **Discussion Rooms and Graduate Schools Lounge**

Discussion rooms on the fourth floor of Building 14 can be used for group study and other purposes. There is also a lounge shared by the four professional graduate schools. One of the best privileges of using the lounge is that they can broaden their view of things through communication with other students from various countries across the world, which is essential to become outstanding leaders in this global society after graduation.

- **Library (Surugadai Campus)**

Comprehensive Central Library with over 1.4 Million Volumes

The 12,485 m^2 Central Library provides seating for 1,299 readers. Its extensive collection includes 2.57million books, 34,000 newspaper and journal titles, and a comprehensive range of electronic materials on microfiche, CD-ROM, and other digital media. The catalog database can be searched using the OPAC system, and the library provides free access to the essential database LexisNexis and many other academic databases.



- **Bookstore**

Sanseido Bookstore Meiji University Surugadai Campus Branch

The Sanseido Bookstore operates a branch in Basement Level 2 of Building 12 on the Surugadai Campus. Here students can buy course texts and all the books and journals needed to support their studies. Meiji University students receive a 10 percent discount on all book purchases on presenting their Student ID.

Store hours: 10:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. (weekdays), 10:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. (Saturdays)
(Hours vary according to the academic calendar.)

- **Student Dining Facilities**

A Cafeteria-style Dining Hall with a Superb View over the City

The student dining hall, Sky Lounge Akatsuki, is located on the 17th floor of Liberty Tower. The 365-seat cafeteria-style facility features a superb view over the city. Drinks and light meals are also available in the Café Pensée coffee shop on the first floor of the Academy Common.

•Sky Lounge Akatsuki

Hours: 10:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. (weekdays), 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (Saturdays)

•Café Pensée

Hours: 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. (weekdays), 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. (Saturdays)

Meiji University may not be able to provide a dormitory for international students of the Graduate School of Governance Studies.

Message for the Applicants



The Graduate School of Governance Studies) was established in April 2004 and transformed to the professional degree program (professional graduate school) starting in the 2007 academic year.

Looking back at the social environment at that time, it is evident that the period surrounding the establishment of the Graduate School of Governance Studies coincided with a time of significant upheaval in Japan's administration, politics, and economy.

In 2001, a reorganization of central government ministries and agencies was implemented to eliminate the drawbacks of vertical administrative divisions, strengthen cabinet functions, and improve the efficiency of administrative affairs and operations. Furthermore, in 2000, the Comprehensive Decentralization Act was enacted, transferring administrative responsibilities and authority from the national government to local public entities, and from prefectures to municipalities. Meanwhile, in the economic sphere, a financial crisis emerged after 1997, leading to a series of failures among major financial institutions. In the United States, surprising and serious accounting fraud scandals occurred: the Enron scandal in 2001 and the WorldCom scandal in 2002, leading to a global call for strengthened corporate governance.

Against this backdrop, the Graduate School of Governance Studies was established. It serves as a forum to explore mechanisms for achieving objectives and sustaining long-term social development through collaboration among diverse stakeholders and parties, rather than placing the responsibility for solving various challenges solely on “government (national and local authorities).”

Over 20 years have passed since then, and the concept of governance itself has diversified. Yet, the need to establish and strengthen governance persists across all domains. It is no exaggeration to say that hardly a day goes by without news featuring the keyword “governance.” This underscores the necessity of exploring governance as a mechanism for the long-term maintenance and development of society.

Today, our graduate school has produced over 1,000 graduates. Many are involved in the “governance” of communities and economies—serving as local government officials or mayors, as members of local or national assemblies, as employees of private companies, or as members of NPOs and local communities.

Furthermore, our graduate school established the International Public Policy Course (English Track), welcoming civil servants and staff from related organizations, primarily from Asian countries. Graduates are now active as senior civil servants in their nations. The Graduate School of Governance Studies is a place where diverse individuals responsible for governance come together to learn and research, creating new frameworks for solving contemporary societal challenges and managing society. We hope to welcome you to this unique “place for exploring governance.” We wish for you to become a member of the “Governance Family,” tackling the complex

challenges facing modern society as a professional and contributing to building a better future.

YUASA Harumichi
Dean, Graduate School of Governance Studies