

## ***Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Private) Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies***

◆ **Program name**  
**Asia Pacific Studies**

◆ **Degrees:**  
Master of Science in Asia Pacific Studies

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**  
32 credits, 2 years

◆ **Address:**  
1-1 Jumonjibaru, Beppu, Oita  
874-8577 Japan



### ***Features of University***

#### **History**

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) is an international higher education institution in Japan. APU was founded in April 2000 through the collaboration of three parties, namely Oita Prefecture, Beppu City, and the Ritsumeikan Trust, which is one of the oldest and most distinguished private non-profit educational institutions in Japan. APU's values are based on a vision of freedom, peace and humanity, as well as the enhancement of international mutual understanding in the Asia Pacific region. APU has gained recognition as the most international university in Japan with a strong international orientation in its aims and educational programs, along with its teaching faculty, administrative staff, and enrolled students who come from all over the world.

#### **Location**

APU is located on the outskirts of Beppu City (population of approximately 120,000) in Oita Prefecture in Kyushu, the southernmost island of the main Japanese archipelago. Beppu is one of Japan's most popular tourist destinations, being the home of the world's second largest outflow of hot spring water, and approximately 1.2 million tourists that visit Beppu every year. The large international student population and constant influx of visitors make Beppu one of the most lively and cosmopolitan cities in Japan.

#### **APU as an International University**

APU provides education to approximately **6,000** students, of which about **2,800** are international students from **106** different countries, thus creating a truly multi-cultural environment on its campus. Among these students, presently **215** are enrolled in the Master's Course and 25 in the Doctoral Course of our Graduate School. All APU undergraduate programs are taught on a bilingual English-Japanese basis, while graduate programs are conducted entirely in English.

#### **APU students by country:**

<https://en.apu.ac.jp/home/about/content250/>

#### **Special Features**

APU strives to play an important role in the academics of the Asia Pacific region. Despite its short history, APU has already welcomed Nobel Laureates Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Prof. Amartya Sen, and Prof. Lee Yuan Tseh for keynote lectures, and has hosted major academic events in collaboration with the United Nations, ASEAN, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Asia Pacific Water Forum. APU has also invited many corporate executives of leading multinational companies to speak and interact with students on campus.

Our graduate schools have gained acclaim by being selected for prestigious scholarship programs offered by the Asian Development Bank, the Japanese Government and foreign governments. We are also welcoming students from the ABE Initiative master's degree and internship program and from a number of other JICA New International Student Programs. APU's innovative approach to education has also repeatedly been recognized under the Japanese Government's "Top Global University Project," and it was placed 4th among private universities and among the Top 22 universities for the 2023 Japan University Ranking by the Times Higher Education.

As our profile grows both in Japan and around the world, APU graduate students will have more and more opportunities to come face-to-face with some of the top decision-makers in this region, while gaining broader exposure for their own research. We value diversity and warmly welcome all those who have a desire to play an active role in fostering international cooperation and sustainable development.

Over 300 JDS Fellows have studied at APU until now, along with many other dispatched government officials from around the world. Our graduates have gone on to work at embassies in Japan, various ministries and agencies, and the ASEAN Secretariat. APU takes pride in sending out graduates that can contribute to the development of their countries after studying here.

**More Features about APU can be found at the following link:**

<https://en.apu.ac.jp/home/experience/>

## ***Features of Graduate School***

<http://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/>

[Academic Information for Graduate Students | Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University \(apu.ac.jp\)](#)

The APU graduate school focuses on fostering global leaders with a broad perspective based on the extensive knowledge and skills needed to face the challenges of our world's rapidly changing society. It aims to educate and equip students to contribute to the sustainable and harmonious development of the Asia Pacific region by acquiring the necessary advanced expertise on international relations and conflict resolution, as well as learning to solve issues practically. Students will thus actively contribute to sustainable development and cooperation in the Asia Pacific region and the world.

All programs in the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) are taught entirely in English, and the rich curriculum allows students to tailor their own study program based on their interests and requirements with their supervisors' consultation. Approximately 50% of our faculty members come from outside Japan and a significant number of our Japanese faculty hold postgraduate degrees from world-renowned universities. Introductory and beginner Japanese language classes, together with an academic writing course, are available to interested graduate students.

Most subjects are run on a two-month quarter basis, with two quarters per semester. Some courses are offered on an intensive basis during the vacation periods between semesters. In addition to regular coursework subjects, all students must complete seminar subjects and submit an extended piece of writing which presents the finding and conclusions of their individual research in the format of a Research Report or a Master's Thesis.

At APU's Graduate School, students can expect to develop practical policy-making skills through discussions with students dispatched from government agencies in developing countries, students from Japan, and other donor countries. By approaching issues from various perspectives, students will acquire a greater ability to solve problems effectively.

Besides regular classes, APU holds an average of 20 seminars on campus each year by invited speakers that include distinguished researchers, ambassadors, foreign diplomats, and officials from international organizations, NGOs, and corporations. Known on campus as RCAPS Seminars and Social Outreach Seminars, these offer students an opportunity to network with and gain the latest insight from leaders in various fields.

## ***Features of the Programs***

[https://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/academics/gsa\\_master/aps/](https://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/academics/gsa_master/aps/)

### **Asia Pacific Studies (APS)**

Students from Tajikistan will be accepted in the Asia Pacific Studies (APS) Major. Upon completion of this Master's Course, students will have the knowledge and skills needed to immediately contribute to the development of Tajikistan. This program is aimed at expanding students' empirical knowledge base and sharpening their analytical and theoretical thinking regarding social, political, economic and security phenomena in the globalizing world. The courses provide a useful knowledge base for students with careers in security, diplomacy and media. While taking subjects such as international security, international law and conflict resolution, students also focus on writing a thesis or research report.

While students learn subjects such as “Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific”, “Comparative Politics and Government”, “International Security” and “Project Management”, they also take part in seminar subjects and fieldwork to further enhance their education and develop themselves into highly-specialized experts in their fields. Students from Tajikistan will be taught and supervised by faculty members with research interests that include, but are not limited to, International Reconciliation and Peace Studies, Identity and Memory Politics, Global Conflict and Media, Foreign policy analysis, Political Economy, and Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific. There is great diversity among students of this program, with many administrative officials studying here on scholarships from JDS, ADB, and JICA. Through this program, JDS Fellows can build a global network and gain vital cross-cultural communication skills.

This program aims to educate and equip highly-skilled experts that are strong in both theory and practice. By connecting theory with practice, APU develops students into practical leaders that will be able to contribute to Tajikistan’s development in many areas.

<Outline of the special program>

- (i) Provision of English writing support to JDS fellows throughout their studies at APU to help them develop and complete their master’s research and final research output (master’s thesis or research report).
- (ii) Organize field observations around Japan for JDS Fellows to see and experience actual international public policy on site and learn about Japanese initiatives.
- (iii) Invite specialists in relevant fields or related parties in accordance with JDS fellows’ research themes, providing opportunities to exchange opinions on the current state of issues related to research themes and countermeasures.
- (iv) Provide opportunities for JDS fellows to receive explanations and learn about case studies involving local initiatives.
- (v) Provide opportunities to create vertical and horizontal networks by organizing opinion exchange meetings not only with senior JDS fellows but also with JDS alumni and gain information on current conditions and problems in Tajikistan.
- (vi) Other programs closely related to the JDS fellows’ needs may be organized on an ad-hoc basis.

***Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees***

[https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/assets/file/AY2024\\_GraduateAcademicHandbook.pdf#page=15](https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/assets/file/AY2024_GraduateAcademicHandbook.pdf#page=15)

A minimum of 32 credits is required for completion. As shown in the following table of credit requirements, JDS Fellows must take and pass a designated minimum number of credits from each Subject Category. Credits for a subject are obtained by earning a passing grade for that subject. All students must complete an extended piece of writing that presents the findings and conclusions of their individual research. Students may choose between a Master’s Thesis or a Research Report.

**<Credit Requirements for Completion>**

Subject Category		Minimum Required Credits	Subject Type	Credit Rules
Analytical Foundation Subjects		4	Lecture	--
Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific region		4	Lecture	Any credits earned from Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific Region exceeding the minimum required credits of 4 will count towards the credits required for program completion
Major Subjects	Major Subjects 1	10	Lecture	Students must complete at least 10 credits from Major Subjects from their affiliated Division
	Major Subjects 2	-	Lecture	Any credits earned from APS/ICP Major Subjects outside the student’s affiliated Division; these credits will count towards the credits required for program completion
Seminars		4	Seminar	The minimum required 4 credits include 2 credits from Final Research Project. Any credits

			earned from Seminars exceeding the minimum requirement of 4 credits will count towards the credits required for program completion
Core Related Subjects	-	Lecture	Credits earned from Core Related Subjects will count towards the credits required for program completion
	TOTAL		
	32		

**<Subjects Offered in the Asia Pacific Studies Major>**

<b>Analytical Foundation Courses</b>	
Research Methods and Academic Writing	Information Resources and Data Analysis
<b>Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific region</b>	
Social and Cultural Processes in the Asia Pacific	Tourism in the Asia Pacific
Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific	Public Health in the Asia Pacific
Environment and Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific	Special Studies (Core Subjects on the Asia Pacific Region)
<b>Seminars</b>	
Research Project I	Research Project II
Research Project III	Final Research Project
<b>ICP Major Subjects</b>	
<b>International Public Administration</b>	
Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation	Project Management
Special Studies (International Public Administration)	Planning and Evaluation
International Public Administration	Community Development
International Organizations	
<b>Sustainability Science</b>	
Environment and Natural Resources Conservation	Urban Sustainability
Advanced Environmental Geosciences	Industrial Ecology
Environmental Policy, Law and Administration	Special Studies (Sustainability Science)
Environmental Economics	
<b>Tourism and Hospitality</b>	
Tourism Economics	Health and Wellness Tourism
Cultural and Heritage Tourism	Special Studies (Tourism and Hospitality)
Environmental Tourism	Tourism Policy and Planning
Community Based Tourism	
<b>Development Economics</b>	
Development Economics	Microeconomics
Macroeconomics	Community Development
Development Finance	Special Studies (Development Economics)
Comparative Economic Development	
<b>APS Major Subjects</b>	
<b>International Relations</b>	
Regionalism and Globalization	Special Studies (International Relations)
International Law	Conflict Resolution
International Political Economy	International Security
Comparative Politics and Government	
<b>Society and Culture</b>	
Changing Social Landscapes	Sociology of Everyday Life
Media and Communication	Special Studies (Society and Culture)
Migration and Trans-nationalism	Cultural Change
Social Organizations and Institutions	

Core Related Subjects	
Decision Making Under Uncertainty	Hospitality Management
Information Technology and Operations Management	Management Information Systems
Product Development Strategy	Database Management
Marketing Strategy	Advanced Data Analysis and Statistics
Marketing Research	
Optional Subjects	
Survival Japanese I	Survival Japanese II
Japanese for Communication I	Japanese for Communication II
Japanese for Communication III	Japanese for Communication IV

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

[https://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/academics/gsa\\_master/faculty/?c=IR](https://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/academics/gsa_master/faculty/?c=IR)

[https://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/academics/gsa\\_master/faculty/?c=SC](https://admissions.apu.ac.jp/graduate/academics/gsa_master/faculty/?c=SC)

Below is a list of APU Faculty members who are qualified to supervise JDS Fellows. Fellows will be matched with faculty members in their division. Their supervisor will be confirmed within one month after classes begin.

Faculty Name	Position	Division	Research Area
HASUDA Takashi	Associate Professor	SC	History of Pre-modern Southeast Asia
HEO Seunghoon Emilia	Associate Professor	IR	International Reconciliation, Conflict Resolution, Peace Studies (Education)
IGUCHI Yufu	Professor	SC	Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, Malaysian Studies
KASEDA Yoshinori	Professor	IR	Japanese Foreign Policy, International Politics with a regional focus on East Asia
KIM Chan Hoe	Professor	SC	Folklore Studies
KOJIMA Shinji	Associate Professor	SC	Inequality, Work and Employment, Globalization, Migration, Multiculturalism, Japanese Society
LE Hoang Anh Thu	Associate Professor	SC	Social and Cultural Anthropology, Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnamese Studies, ageing and life course, Buddhism and society, civil society, faith-based philanthropy, food system, foodbanks
MANTELLO Peter A.	Professor	IR, SC	Science and Technology Studies (STS), Artificial Intelligence (AI), AI and Security, Malicious Use of AI, Social Media, Surveillance Studies, Political Communication/Conflict Media, Film TV and Videogame Studies
ROTHMAN Steven B.	Associate	IR	International Relations Theory, Soft Power,

	Professor		Pedagogy
SEIKE Kumi	Professor	SC	Sociology in general, Sociological theory, Anthropological theory, Philosophy: Kant, New realism
VYAS Utpal	Associate Professor	IR	International Relations, International political economy, Comparative politics, Area studies and Regionalism (Asia and Europe)
YOSHIDA Kaori	Professor	SC	Media studies, Cultural studies (gender, ethnicity, nation), Popular culture, Dark tourism, Memory studies, Identity politics and media
YOSHIMATSU Hidetaka	Professor	IR	International relations, International political economy, regionalism and regional politics in the Asia-Pacific, great power politics in the Indo-Pacific

Abbreviations:

IR: International Relations

SC: Society and Culture

## **Academic Schedule** [https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/academic\\_info/calendar/](https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/academic_info/calendar/)

Reference: **2024-2025** Academic Calendar (Tentative)

Date	Targeted students	Event & things to-do
Fall Semester		
<u>Mid-Late September</u>	1st Semester Students	New Students Orientation Period (including moving into AP House and Entrance Ceremony)
<u>Beginning of October</u>	Everyone	Registration for Fall Semester Classes
<u>Beginning of October</u>	Everyone	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Classes Start
<u>End of October</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Students	Supervisor is appointed
<u>Mid-November</u>	Everyone	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>Late November</u>	Everyone	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Final Examinations
<u>End of November</u>	Everyone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Classes Start
<u>Late December</u>	Everyone	Early January: Winter Holidays
<u>Mid-January</u>	Everyone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>Beginning of February</u>	Everyone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Final Examinations
<u>Early-Mid February</u>	Everyone	Winter Session
<u>Late February</u>	Everyone	Spring Holiday
Spring Semester		
<u>Late March</u>	Everyone	Registration for Spring Semester Classes
<u>Early April</u>	Everyone	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Classes Start
<u>Mid-May</u>	Everyone	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>End of May</u>	Everyone	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Final Examinations
<u>Beginning of June</u>	Final Semester Students	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Classes Start
<u>June 5</u>	Final Semester Students	Master's Thesis/Research Report Submission Deadline

<u>June 30</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Students	Research Proposal Submission Deadline
<u>Mid-July</u>	Everyone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Joint Research Presentations
<u>Late July</u>	Everyone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Final Examinations
<u>Beginning of August</u>	Everyone	Summer Session
<u>Mid-August</u>	Everyone	Summer Holiday
<u>Mid-September</u>	Final Semester Students	Graduation Ceremony

**Facilities** <http://en.apu.ac.jp/home/contents/campusmap.html/>

### **Accommodation**

All graduate students are entitled to a room in one of APU's student housing facilities, AP House 3 or AP House 4, which will help them adapt to their new life in Japan and to concentrate on their studies. All rooms are equipped with basic facilities, including internet access. Both housings are located off-campus in downtown Beppu. More information is available on the APU Admissions website: [Housing | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University](#) . If students wish to live in different off-campus housing, it is possible to find other affordable options, as Beppu is considerably less expensive than other Japanese cities for private apartments and shared student housing. Students can also get assistance in locating and renting accommodations from Creotech, a university-affiliated company.

### **Campus Facilities**

APU's classrooms are equipped with the latest audiovisual and computer technology, enabling our students to take part in conferences and seminars occurring in other parts of the world in real time. The library, part of the Ritsumeikan Network, allows students to utilize over 2.3 million books and provides access to a wide range of academic journals and other useful publications through online databases. Within the Faculty Office Building, graduate students have their own lounge, study spaces, lockers, and computer rooms. Furthermore, with access to the Faculty Office Building, students can easily consult with their supervisors during office hours.

Other on-campus facilities include a cafeteria and cafe catering to a wide range of dietary requirements, a general store and a bookshop. In terms of athletics, APU has a gym, a weight training room, tennis and basketball courts, a soccer field, track, and other facilities.

### **Support Services**

At APU, students have access to a full range of support services on campus. These include a Health Clinic and counseling service for all students and staff without any charge, a Student Office that facilitates extra-curricular activities and offers advice on lifestyle issues such as accommodation, a Research Office that provides support for research activities, and an Academic Office which supports students in terms of their curriculum, course registration, master's thesis submission, and other academic needs.

### **Language Environment**

Since APU is a bilingual campus, all administrative offices such as the Academic Office and Student Office operate in both English and Japanese.

## ***Message for Applicants***

We hope that students in the International Cooperation Policy (ICP) Major will acquire the knowledge needed for developing a long-term perspective on development issues, as well as the capacity to address real-life issues by connecting theory to practice. In particular, ICP aims to produce individuals capable of engaging the actual practice of formulating and implementing development and aid initiatives. Within each specialization, we aim to integrate seminar-based research supervision on specific topics with coursework that imparts important knowledge and theoretical perspectives into a curriculum that is highly effective in equipping students with the skills they will need in their future careers.

Taught in English by faculty members who have ample experience guiding JDS Fellows, each class makes the most of APU's cultural diversity. In-class discussions are enriched by the variety of experiences our students have already gained in workplaces in their home countries. This is the ideal forum in which to prepare you for a career in international development on the world stage, and particularly here in the Asia Pacific region.

APU is proud that over 300 JDS Fellows, including 50 Tajikistan students among whom is the first female minister



of Tajikistan, have studied here until now and went on to be active at various government agencies or to teach at university. Our faculty members look forward to supporting the next group of students that enroll here, who will become future integral policymakers that advance economic reform in Tajikistan and contribute to the country's continued development.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member of our diverse and exciting campus.

