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

◆ **Program name**
International Cooperation Policy

◆ **Degrees:**
Master of Science in International Cooperation Policy

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**
30 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 110,000) 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 6 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 **6,700** students, of which about **3,270** are international students from **122** different countries, thus creating a truly multi-cultural environment on its campus. Among these students, presently **136** are enrolled in the Master's Program and **28** in the Doctoral Program of 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 some Nobel Laureates Professors 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. Also, the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Integrated Research Organization（AIRO）host research meetings and international symposiums, conducts research projects and joint research, disseminates APU research results, and strengthens the network of researchers and research institutions around Japan and across the world. APU has 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 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 1st among private universities in western Japan and 4th in nationwide for the 2025 Japan University Ranking by the Times Higher Education. Also APU has the 1st award on QS World University Rankings international student ratio and international faculty ratio in Japan.

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 350 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/
Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) - Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

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 40% 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

Master's in International Cooperation Policy (ICP) | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

International Cooperation Policy (ICP)

Students from Tajikistan will be accepted in the International Cooperation Policy (ICP) Major. Upon completion of this Master's Course, students will have the knowledge and skills needed to immediately contribute to the development of Tajikistan. They will be the next generation of leaders that can propose and evaluate policies and work for solutions. The further improvement of Tajikistan's public administration and the management and organization of the public sector is important for its economic development, and at APU students will gain the knowledge needed for achieving this in a wide range of areas, including improvement of public sector organizations and systems, environmental problems, and disaster relief. Students will also study important areas such as the kind of policies and structures in place at aid institutions including the World Bank, ADB, JICA, and other NGOs. Regional integration and cooperation are important issues Tajikistan will face from now on, and students will acquire the advanced negotiation and communication skills needed for regional cooperation and working effectively with aid institutions.

Being able to negotiate well with donor countries and related institutions in one's own country, as well as create development policies, are highly sought-after skills. Regardless of the ministry or agency they belong to, human resources with these skills are critical for their country's development.

While students learn subjects such as "Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific", "International Public Administration", "Conflict Resolution" 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 who have worked for many years in international organizations such as JICA, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and others. 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

Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (Master's) Curriculum | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

A minimum of 30 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
Foundational Subjects	6	Lecture	--
Major Subjects	10	Lecture	Students must complete at least 10 credits from Major Subjects from their affiliated Division. Any credits outside the Major or Division will count towards the credits required for program completion.
Seminars	4	Seminar	The minimum required 4 credits. Any credits earned from Seminars exceeding the minimum requirement of 4 credits will count towards the credits required for program completion
Elective Subjects	-	Lecture	Credits earned from Elective Subjects will count towards the credits required for program completion
	TOTAL 30	*Credits earned from Optional Subjects will NOT count towards the credits required for program completion	

<Subjects Offered in the International Cooperation Policy Major>

Foundational Subjects	
Research Design and Methods	Quantitative Methods
Qualitative Methods	Public Administration and Policy
Social and Cultural Processes in the Asia Pacific	
Seminars	
Research Project I	Research Project II
Research Project III	Research Project IV
Directed Reading I	Directed Reading II
Directed Reading III	Directed Reading IV
ICP Major Subjects	
International Relations (IR)	
Regionalism and Globalization	International Conflict Resolution
International Law	International Organizations
International Political Economy	International Security
Politics and Economics in the Asia Pacific	International Relations of the Asia Pacific
Policy Science and Transitioning Societies (PS)	
Environmental Policy, Law and Administration	Global Health
Development Finance	Disasters, Crises, and Public Policy
Comparative Politics and Government	Project Management, Planning, and Evaluation
Global Environment and Development Challenges in Transitioning Societies	
Sustainable Development and Environment (SDE)	
Environment and Natural Resources Conservation	Urban Sustainability: Planning and Development
Civil Society and Sustainable Development	Ecological Economics
Sustainable Community Development	Sustainable Energy Policy
Data Analysis for Sustainability Research	Sustainable Tourism
Tourism and Hospitality (TH)	
Sustainable Tourism	Health and Wellness Tourism
Tourism Impact Assessment	Hospitality and Service Design
Cultural and Heritage Tourism	Current Issues in Tourism and Hospitality

Community Based Tourism	Tourism Destination Development and Planning
Development Economics（DE）	
Development Economics	Comparative Economic Development
Macroeconomics	Microeconomics
Econometrics	International Economy
Sustainable Community Development	

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (Master's) Faculty | APU Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Academic Schedule https://en.apu.ac.jp/gradinfo/academic_info/calendar/

Reference: **2026-2027** Academic Calendar (Tentative)

Date	Targeted students	Event & things to-do
Fall Semester		
Mid-Late September	1st Semester Students	New Students Orientation Period (including moving into AP House and Entrance Ceremony)
Beginning of October	Everyone	Registration for Fall Semester Classes
Beginning of October	Everyone	1st Quarter Classes Start
End of October	1st Semester Students	Supervisor is appointed
Mid-November	Everyone	1st Quarter Joint Research Presentations
Late November	Everyone	1st Quarter Final Examinations
End of November	Everyone	2nd Quarter Classes Start
Late December	Everyone	Early January: Winter Holidays
Mid-January	Everyone	2nd Quarter Joint Research Presentations
Beginning of February	Everyone	2nd Quarter Final Examinations
Early-Mid February	Everyone	Winter Session
Late February	Everyone	Spring Holiday
Spring Semester		
Late March	Everyone	Registration for Spring Semester Classes
Early April	Everyone	1st Quarter Classes Start
Mid-May	Everyone	1st Quarter Joint Research Presentations
End of May	Everyone	1st Quarter Final Examinations
Beginning of June	Everyone	2nd Quarter Classes Start
June 5	Final Semester Students	Master's Thesis/Research Report Submission Deadline
June 30	2nd Semester Students	Research Proposal Submission Deadline
Mid-July	Everyone	2nd Quarter Joint Research Presentations
Late July	Everyone	2nd Quarter Final Examinations
Beginning of August	Everyone	Summer Session
Mid-August	Everyone	Summer Holiday
Mid-September	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 accommodation 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, the Research Office that provides support for research activities, and the 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. The ICP Master's program provides students with policy-oriented and practical advice, drawing on diverse fields to train creative professionals who can understand complex challenges from multiple perspectives and formulate feasible solutions with integrative approaches from global, regional and local perspectives. Such training will improve practical skills and knowledge to plan, implement and evaluate projects and thereby contribute to organizations that work closely with and in developing nations.

As the program attracts students of diverse backgrounds from all over the world, students easily develop extensive personal networks during their course of studies. Such networks serve as valuable assets even after graduation. Graduates of this program work in industries in or dealing with the Asia Pacific region, national and local governments in Japan and around the world, development agencies and other regional and international organizations.

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 350 JDS Fellows, including over 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.

