



国立大学法人山口大学 Yamaguchi University

Public Administration Program of the Graduate School of Economics

1. Yamaguchi University Outline

A Brief History of Yamaguchi University

Yamaguchi University is the third oldest national university in Japan and traces its origins back to Yamaguchi Kodo, a private school, founded by Ueda Hoyo, a feudal clansman of Choshu Province in the late Edo Period (1815). In 1949 it was reorganized to become a national university consisting of five faculties. Throughout the years the university has expanded into a comprehensive university which boasts nine faculties and nine graduate schools. The year 2015 marked the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Yamaguchi Kodo.



Access to Yamaguchi University

Yamaguchi Prefecture can be accessed in 1.5 hours by air from Tokyo, 2 hours by bullet train from Osaka, or 35 minutes by bullet train from Fukuoka. The university has three campuses: Yoshida Campus in Yamaguchi City (the main campus), Kogushi Campus, and Tokiwa Campus in Ube City.

Good Environment for Studying and Living

Yamaguchi prefecture has quiet places, so student can concentrate on their research. In addition to that, a rough estimate of living expenses in the Yamaguchi area is shown below. It is relatively less expensive compared with living in a large urban area such as Tokyo.

Category	Approx. Amount per Month
Rent	24,000 yen
Food	28,000 yen
Utilities (Gas, Electricity, Water)	10,000 yen
Communications (Telephone, Internet)	8,000 yen
Learning materials	6,500 yen
Other (Entertainment, etc.)	6,000 yen
Total	82,500 yen

Faculties and Schools

Yamaguchi University has the faculties of Humanities, Education, Economics, Science, Agriculture, Global and Science Studies, and Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Yoshida Campus, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Kogushi Campus and the Faculty of Engineering at Tokiwa Campus. It also has the Graduate Schools of Humanities, Education, Economics, Medicine, Science and Technology for Innovation, East Asian Studies, Innovation and Technology Management, and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine.

International Students

367 international students from 28 countries are studying at Yamaguchi University as of May 1, 2022. Most are students from Asian countries, but they are joined by several students from Africa, Europe and Americas.

Strengthening International Student Support

In the university's medium-term objectives, the following goals surrounding the acceptance of international students have been established:

- To enhance guidance for international students
- To provide support systems involving the local community and municipality to secure provision of reasonably priced, good quality accommodation
- To appoint professors to guide international students
- To strengthen follow up after providing academic and daily life support to ensure the main objective of supporting international students is achieved

International Student Center (ISC)

The university's International Student Center provides international students with systematic language instruction, and advice and information on daily life. Advisory services are available in Japanese and English. In the advisory room, the advisors help with problems which international students may have while living in Japan.

Japanese Language Courses

Japanese language courses are offered to international students on an optional basis. There are courses for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. International students can take any of the courses free of charge according to their Japanese ability. All of the courses are accepted as credits for undergraduates. Moreover, students who do not need credits but are still interested in the classes can audit courses with permission from the lecturer.

Tutor Systems

International students can use the tutor system for up to one year. Under this system, Japanese students help international students with their daily lives and studying Japanese language. Each international student will be matched with one supporting Japanese student. There is another tutor system for international students operated by the student volunteer group.

2. About the Graduate School

History, Philosophy and Goals

The Faculty of Economics is the oldest Faculty of Economics in the Japanese universities. With this historical asset, the Graduate School of Economics was founded in 1975, and provides education in 2 majors: Economics, and Business Administration. It shares the ethos of Self-Restoration with its parent institution. With a view to meeting the needs of contemporary society, this ethos espouses a spirit that is not afraid of self-change, while maintaining the strength of purpose founded on a robust core. The Graduate School's own most recent Self-Restoration was manifested in the establishment of the Medical-Welfare Management Program. This program aims to train professionals in the administration of medical and welfare institutions, equipping them with the knowledge and skills required in the workplace, in economics, business administration, accountancy and law.

The foremost mission and objective of the School is to produce specialists to identify issues in our increasingly complex and fluid contemporary society, and to seek comprehensive solutions, equipped with competence in the social sciences and the ability to articulate their own views and opinions clearly.

Programs and Fields of Specialization

Degree Program	Major	Program
Master's Degree	Economics	Public Administration
		Socio-Economic Policy
	Corporate Administration	Medical-Welfare Management
		Mountain-Area Management
		Tax Service

Main Fields of Research

The ethos of Self-Restoration made its debut on the international stage in 2002 with the launch of the Public Administration (PA) Program, sponsored in part by JICA. The PA Program, with its classes conducted entirely in English, is pivotal to the cultivation of global human resources in the School. The PA Program was offered in principle for the benefit of JICA sponsored international students; however, the flexible curriculum allows students from other programs to take up to 14 credits in the PA Program. Moreover, from 2010, the program is open to all.



3. Features of the Program and Degree Curriculum

The Public Administration Program at the Graduate School of Economics employs experienced professors in the field of policy development projects in various Asian developing countries as well as experts in East Asian studies. Specialized professors who designated to work with students provide practical guidance and supervision to meet students' specific needs. The Program is specifically and carefully designed to be implemented systematically and consistently to develop the academic capabilities and experience of international students including them. If a research proposal requires interdisciplinary guidance, multiple professors can be available for joint instruction specific to the student's needs.

In developing countries, in the field of public administration, effective and practical implementation of policies is often hindered by ineffective administrative systems and other issues such as disorganization, corruption, defective law and order, or a failed judicial system. Efforts to deliver administrative services that meet community needs, and reforms in public servant systems and government organizations are conducted, however, due to lack of practical experience; countries face several difficulties. In addition, under conditions imposed by International Organizations, decentralization of the government is proceeding, requiring capacity building of local governments in the financial and administrative sections and social management at a local level including administration of ODA projects.

Our Graduate School has two professors in public administration related disciplines with experience providing their knowledge for several ODA projects for more than 20 years, including projects funded by JICA. Such experience is used to its full extent to guide international students to find solutions to their specific issues.

Our Graduate School understands that human resource development in 1) management of public policy, 2) decentralization of public administration and 3) improvement of governance and anticorruption is crucial to build a stable nation, and aims to train students to be talented professionals who will be able to lead in their fields, exhibiting expertise in solving various problems from a broad range of perspectives related to public administration.

Japan has already experienced or is now experiencing many development challenges that the developing countries would encounter near future such as environmental problems, energy efficiency, eco-economy and society, digital economy and the aging society. The program would offer learning opportunity of the frontrunning Japanese cases as well as historical legacies relating to the state building taken over since the Meiji modernization process. This thought is completely in line with the JICA's Development Study Program (JICA-DSP) of offering learning opportunities of the experiences of Japanese development and development cooperation. Thus, the international students of the university would be benefitted from the JICA program.

Research Guidance Policy

The research guidance policy of the Public Administration Program at the Graduate School of Economics is as follows:

- 1) A research supervisor for each student is appointed beforehand depending on the research proposal, so that students may start to work immediately after their arrival. Thesis instruction is conducted in a multidisciplinary manner by appointing one main supervisor and two sub-supervisors for each student. The main supervisor guides the students throughout the years, providing practical and face-to-face research advice. Two vice supervisors also provide comprehensive and careful guidance with a main supervisor in thesis planning and preparation.
- 2) In addition to conventional instruction by our faculty, we use wide variety of teaching methods in lectures and seminars such as: presentation by students using power point, question and answer session, and group discussion, using examples in Japan and developing countries. The variety of teaching methods facilitates a deeper understanding of the contents of our lectures, enhances the students' knowledge of issues related to their research theme and develops their presentation skills.
- 3) A study tour of about one week to central public administration offices is conducted yearly, based on the research needs of each student. This experience allows students to acquire a practical understanding of effective public administration and serves as a basis for comparative study of various aspects of public administration. Past years have included visits to Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan.
- 4) A short visit to a local city is conducted after submitting the master's thesis to investigate the industrial development of the local city. Students take a lecture on an industrial policy being implemented in the local government and visit several places related to agricultural industry, manufacturing industry, service industry and sixth sector industry.



Graduation Requirements

The Graduate School of Economics requires its students to graduate in two years, obtaining at least 30 credits. Students must also submit a thesis written under the required supervision and pass the thesis presentation and final examination.

Preparatory Courses	5 Credits
Core Courses	8-14 Credits
Elective Courses	3-9 Credits
Seminars	8 Credits
Total	30 Credits

Degree Curriculum

Preparatory Courses (Compulsory)

Objectives: To acquire the basic skills required in the study of public administration management such as thesis writing skills, economics and economic statistics.

No.	Course Title	Credit
1	Academic Writing	1
2	Economic Statistics	2
3	Economics	2

Core Courses (Compulsory elective)

Objectives: To acquire fundamental knowledge and skills required in the implementation of public administration such as public economics, public administration, program evaluation and others.

No.	Course Title	Credit
1	Development Economics	2
2	International Economics	2
3	Principles of Administrative Law	2
4	Program Evaluation	2
5	*Public Administration	2
6	Public Economics	2
7	Public Finance	2

Elective Courses

Objectives: To study advanced topics related to public administration and other subjects to allow the acquisition of the theories and specified knowledge required in the implementation of efficient public administration.

No.	Course Title	Credit	No.	Course Title	Credit
1	Academic English	1	15	International Framework for Environmental Protection	2
2	Mathematics for Economics	1	16	Local Government Finance	2
3	Research Methodology	1	17	Media and Society	2
4	Advanced Data Analysis	2	18	Monetary Economics	2
5	*Advanced Public Administration Studies IA	2	19	Public Debt Management	2
6	*Advanced Public Administration Studies IB	2	20	*Public Policy	2
7	*Advanced Public Administration Studies IIA	2	21	Quantitative Development Data Analysis	2
8	*Advanced Public Administration Studies IIB	2	22	Regional Economics	2
9	Cost Benefit Analysis	2	23	*Social Policy Studiesy	2
10	Cultural Psychology of Administration	2	24	Southeast Asian Economy	2
11	Economic Policy	2	25	Strategic Management	2
12	Environmental Policy	2	26	Tourism Policy	2
13	Industrial Policy	2	27	Yardstick Competition Among Government	2
14	*International Cooperation Studies	2			

[*]-marked courses are provided as JICA Development Studies Program.

Seminars

No.	Course Title	Credit
1	Seminar IA	2
2	Seminar IB	2
3	Seminar IIA (Thesis Instruction)	2
4	Seminar IIB (Thesis Instruction)	2

4. Academic Schedule

For those who enroll in April

Beginning of April	Enrollment Ceremony M1 Orientation M1
Early April	Start of Spring Semester
July	Study Tour M2
Beginning of August	End of Spring Semester
Beginning of October	Start of Autumn Semester
Mid-November	International Student Gathering
End of December - Beginning of January	Term Break
Early January	Master's Thesis Submission M2
End of January	Study Tour
Beginning of February	End of Autumn Semester
End of march	End of Graduate Program M2 Commencement Ceremony M2

For those who enroll in October

End of September	Enrollment Ceremony M1 Orientation M1
Beginning of October	Start of Autumn Semester
Mid-November	International Student Gathering
End of December - Beginning of January	Term Break
End of January	Study Tour
Beginning of February	End of Autumn Semester
Early April	Start of Spring Semester
End of June	Master's Thesis Submission M2
July	Study Tour M2
Beginning of August	End of Spring Semester
End of September	End of Graduate Program M2 Commencement Ceremony M2

M1: Event only for 1st year students / **M2**: Event only for 2nd year students

5. Facilities

Dormitories

Yamaguchi University has 2 International Houses as dormitories for international students, the one in Yoshida Campus, the other in Tokiwa Campus. The maximum length to be an occupant of an International House is basically 6 months, but if the ISC allows the extension of the stay, students can stay longer. When students start to live there, a deposit fee is required. The room is classified into single, couple and family type equipped with a refrigerator, washing machine, air-conditioning, bed and study desk.

The ISC selects the residents of the International Houses in January for the residents supposed to move in between April and September; in July for the residents supposed to move in between October and May next year. Every year, the number of the students who want to live in the International Houses exceeds that of the rooms we can supply. So ISC casts lots for the residents considering the students' length of stay in Japan, their status of international students, etc.

Research Room

Four-storied research building was inaugurated in April 2010 for graduate students. Research rooms are allocated, each room with up to eight students. The study desks and room numbers at Graduate School of Economics are designated at the time of registration so as to be able to start immediately after the enrollment ceremony. Each room is equipped with an air conditioning, washing stand, printer, etc.



Research Building

Libraries

Students can browse and borrow 341,456 foreign books at the General Library. Students also can browse 4,301 electronic journals. Additionally, the library of East Asian Study Institute is available at the Faculty of Economics where students can find more than 1,000 series of specialized journals and periodicals. Special collection for JDS students is also available. Professional librarians are on standby to give advice and support to students looking for specific data or academic information needed for research works.

Copy Facility

Students are allowed to take up to 1,200 sheets of copy per year free of copy machines charge by purchasing copy paper by themselves.

Other Facilities

Yoshida Campus has cafeterias, shops, post office, ATMs, etc. There is also a welfare facility called "FAVO" with a cafeteria, tuck-shop, bookshop, travel agency, etc. so that the students have a comfortable life here. At the Health Administration Center, doctors, nurses and counselors provide medical examinations, emergency medical care and regular health check-ups. They are also available for advice on matters regarding your physical and/or mental health.



Special Lecture by Local Tax Agency



Visiting the IDE Library, Institute of Developing Economies Japan External Trade Organization



Special Lecture at Onna Village Office, Okinawa



Regular Lecture at the Research Building



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