

GLOBAL STUDIES MAJOR





GLOBAL STUDIES

Since its establishment in 2011, the Global Studies program has provided students with an opportunity to learn about international relations in English. With 100 students per grade and a ratio of 50:50 Japanese to international students, students from approximately 30 different countries can learn together in a diverse, international environment while living in Kyoto.

Global Studies Major
 Department of International Relations
 College of International Relations | Ritsumeikan University



205:208+
 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BODY

Learn with students from all over the world

Our students come from approximately 30 different countries and regions around the globe, including Japan, South Korea, China, the United States, Indonesia, India, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Switzerland. In addition, a large number of short-term exchange students also come to Ritsumeikan University to learn in the Global Studies Program.



Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

*As of April 2024



KYOTO

LEARN IN A CITY OF JAPANESE CULTURE AND HISTORY

Discover a unique campus life experience

Being located in the city of Kyoto, we attract international students from various countries and regions. JDP/SKP program exchange students also come to study in the program, which makes for an international campus experience while studying in the traditional surroundings of the city.



100%

PROPORTION OF ENGLISH COURSES

Learn in an international environment while in Japan

In this major, all courses are conducted in English. Across the entire college of International Relations, approximately 35.5% of all courses are English-based. In addition to English-based courses, students may also take courses conducted in Japanese, depending on their goals and interests.



32

THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FACULTY MEMBERS

The many diverse backgrounds of our faculty are another one of our strengths

Global Studies instructors at Ritsumeikan hail from many countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Hungary, India, South Korea, and Taiwan. They also cover a wide range of disciplines, creating an atmosphere perfect for raising international professionals.



4:6

THE RATIO OF JAPANESE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Learn among a diverse student population

The GS program's ratio of Japanese to international alumni is 4:6. Many international students come from Asia, but there are also many others from virtually every continent on the globe.

International Relations Curriculum

In the first year, students take Introductory Seminar I and II, fundamental subjects, and core subjects to acquire the basic knowledge and skills needed to study International Relations. There are three main areas of specialization, as follows.

<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">GOVERNANCE and PEACE CLUSTER</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p>Peace and Conflict Studies, Security Studies, International Human Rights, International Law, Global Political Economy, International Organizations</p>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DEVELOPMENT and SUSTAINABILITY CLUSTER</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p>Global Environmental Issues, International Development Cooperation, International Finance, International Trade and Investment, North-South Relations, Social Development</p>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CULTURE and SOCIETY CLUSTER</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p>Global Sociology, Media and Society, Cultural Awareness and Communication, Topics in Identity, Race and Ethnicity in the Modern World, International Migration</p>
--	--	---

Courses (e.g.)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introductory Seminar ■ Theories of International Relations ■ Introduction to United Nations ■ Introduction to Peace Studies ■ Politics for Global Studies ■ Economics for Global Studies ■ Sociology for Global Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Academic Skills (AS) ■ Kyoto and the Japanese Arts ■ Macroeconomics ■ Global Simulation Gaming (GSG) ■ Global Studies Seminar ■ Introduction to Area Studies ■ Development Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Microeconomics ■ Advanced Seminar ■ Global Civil Society and Development ■ Advanced Topics in International Relations ■ Graduation Research ■ Introduction to Linguistics ■ Peace Studies Seminar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction to Gender Studies ■ Theories of International Relations ■ Macroeconomics ■ Comparative and Global Governance |
|---|--|---|--|

Curriculum Characteristics #01

Regional Studies

In addition to theory, the College of International Relations places great importance on studying world regions. Students take courses in regional studies to deepen their knowledge of the history and culture of areas of interest to them from their second year.

Courses (e.g.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Japanese Politics ■ Japanese Society ■ Japanese Culture ■ Japanese Economy ■ Japan-United States Relations ■ Modern Japanese History ■ Introduction to Area Studies ■ Advanced Topics in Area Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Special Lecture ■ United State Politics and Foreign Policy ■ Foreign Relations of Japan ■ Business Administration in Japan ■ Korean Studies ■ Contemporary China ■ Southeast Asian Studies |
|--|--|



Curriculum Characteristics #02

Group Studies

Students take small-group courses from their first year through to their fourth year. They acquire academic skills through discussing and presenting in small classes, gradually developing the ability to organize their graduation research.

At the end of the second year, students select a seminar (a class of specialized exercises) to which they will belong for two years. In the third and fourth years, students research a topic of their interest under the guidance of their seminar supervisor, culminating in a graduation research project in the final semester of the fourth year.

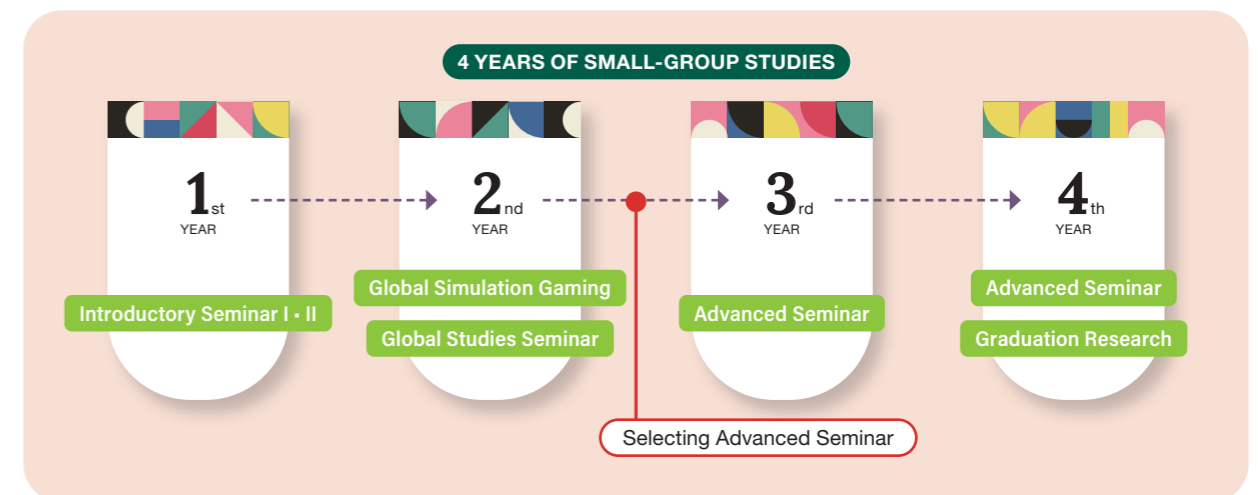


Advanced Seminar

In the 3rd and 4th years, students will select a seminar based on their aspirations. Here, along with other students who share a similar interest, they will learn for two years under the guidance of a supervisor and begin preparations for their graduation research. All students will be part of an Advanced Seminar, and in this atmosphere of friendly competition, they will compose a term paper that will serve as the basis for their graduation research.

Graduation Research

With the assistance of their supervisor and peers in the form of discussions and debates, students' studies will culminate in the completion of their graduation research project. What they learn over those four years will serve as the base from which they develop as members of society. The knowledge gained in the process of completing their graduation research in the College of International Relations will be vital when planning their future careers.



VOICE

BATKHUYAG Tamir
GS Major, 2nd-year



What drew me to study Global Studies is the systematic mandatory courses provided in each semester that are designed to guide the students from learning basic academic skills to completing their graduation thesis. The Introductory Seminar, for instance, groups students into small classes of around 20 students. In this setting, students not only enhance their foundational academic skills but also engage closely with both their peers and professors.

VOICE

NGUYEN Ba Hai
GS Major, 4th-year



The main attraction of Global Studies for me is its flexibility in exploring diverse and interconnected aspects of the world through an interdisciplinary approach of academic disciplines such as international relations, sociology, area studies, economics, etc. This flexibility would also translate into diverse career and opportunities since Global Studies equips me with critical and analytical thinking of the world processes and allows for an interest-based professional paths.

Distinctive learning

GSG Global Simulation Gaming

Simulation gaming to solve real international problems as an actor in the international community

Students act out the roles of federations (international organizations, NGOs, states, etc.) and engage in simulated international negotiations in order to solve real global issues. They take the initiative by developing a plan of action and carrying out negotiations in order to solve problems. In this way, they are able to utilize the knowledge they have acquired and apply it to the challenges facing modern society.



Zemi Research Convention

Annual convention to present research results in the College of IR

In the College of International Relations, students cultivate the ability to examine various issues faced by the international community from diverse political, economic, social, or cultural perspectives and then seek various ways to approach those issues. The Zemi Research Convention is a research convention that began in 2000, allowing students to give concrete shape to their learning and giving them a chance to make their studies known to people outside of the university. At the convention, students belonging to various seminars give presentations concerning their learning achievements to not only their peers and university faculty, but to a range of people from various walks of life. Since 2019, all teams have been required to make a poster for their presentations.



Curriculum Characteristics #03

Cross-Enrollment System

Many courses are offered in both English and Japanese, and can be taken regardless of one's major. This system allows students with sufficient language ability to take courses in either language.

VOICE

Takuto Fujino
GS Major, 4th-year



I needed to learn deeply statistics for my internship at JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and for my graduation thesis, therefore I actively pursued IR major courses. Because the IR major offers some courses that the GS major does not, I believe this cross-enrollment system is a fantastic way to expand the scope of your knowledge by combining the two majors based on your interests.

Foreign Language Studies

Academic Skills is a compulsory course for all first and second-year students. This course is designed to improve students' reading, writing, presentation, and discussion skills in English. Students are placed in classes according to ability and set targets based on their level of proficiency. This is meant to help students improve their language skills in preparation for more advanced-level courses offered in English as well as for study abroad programs. Optional intensive courses are also offered (Intensive English I-VI) to help students improve their TOEFL® or IELTS scores.

Upon admission, all native and high-level (N1) Japanese-speaking first-year students will select a primary foreign language course from French, German, Spanish, Chinese, or Korean. All other overseas students will take a Japanese language course.

There are also intermediate and advanced-level language, communications and specialized courses, etc. for students wishing to continue their foreign language studies beyond their second year.

Studying Abroad

While studying abroad is optional, 30-40% of students from International Relations programs of six months to a year. Before or after studying abroad, students can maintain and improve their English by taking specialized courses offered in English. For more information, please visit the International Education Center's Study Abroad Program website.



[www.ritsumei.ac.jp/
studyabroad/eng/](http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/studyabroad/eng/)



Interviews with our faculty

Voices

So, what makes the GS program unique compared to other programs? Visit our website to see interviews with some of our instructors and find out.

RAJKAI, Zsombor Tibor



Globalization means viewing the world from the perspective of people from many different countries. For this, you first need to understand your own country. Identify its unique qualities, the differences and similarities compared to other countries, and learn and understand its distinctive traits. From there, the study of other countries begins. Being a global professional is not simply a matter of English language ability. It also means having a "globalized mind," a quality that we would like students to gain in our program.

Sayaka Fukumi



Upon joining GS, you will come to realize the diversity of the community. You will find that some things that you had thought of as "normal" may not be so normal at all. You will also discover that things about your way of thinking that you assumed to be strange are surprisingly common in other countries and regions. It is our hope that this will make for an enjoyable college experience in which you are able to gain inspiration from others while you learn.

Yuichiro Amekawa



My desire is to foster in students the ability to look at people as "individuals" and not be swayed by nationality. It is not uncommon for people in Japan to view people from other nations through a political or economic filter. In reality, even people from the same country or region may have markedly different characters and points of view. It goes without saying, but let us not forget that every person has their own individual idiosyncrasies.

SMITH, Nathaniel M.



There are many professors in the College of International Relations who, in their respective fields of expertise, possess a broad range of knowledge, an open mind, and the ability to approach concepts from various perspectives. Personally, I have a wide range of interests and have been doing research on the changes that Kabuki-Cho in Tokyo's Shinjuku ward is experiencing as a community. As an instructor, my desire is to help students harness their distinctive viewpoints and interests and guide them through their own unique, successful research experience.

Megumi Ochi



The environment of the GS program is one in which cliques are uncommon and groups of students from the same country are not usually seen, making for an atmosphere conducive to creating friendships regardless of country of origin. Some students come from binational families, and their identities are not defined by either country. Students from such families have the advantage of being able to view things from two different national perspectives.

KOGA BROWES, Scott



The Global Studies program has now been in existence for more than ten years. Over that time, I have explored ways of teaching within the program. Today, we have developed a support system for those students who choose to study in English and a program that focuses on the next five to ten years. I feel that a continued emphasis should be placed on the execution of a curriculum in which students are able to focus even more on fields that are of interest to them.

Hiroaki Ataka



It has been 11 years since the establishment of the Global Studies program. Word of mouth from alumni in their home countries and at their alma maters has resulted in more applications from new students, creating a positive cycle. Tuition in Japan is relatively low, and the country is considered extremely safe, making it an excellent place for students. And many of our alumni have moved on to graduate schools overseas after using the Global Studies program as a stepping stone. I feel that our program has gained a reputation for generating a broad range of opportunities for students' future studies.

GS Major

10th ANNIVERSARY Site



www.ritsumei.ac.jp/ir/gs-10th/eng/



Interviews with our alumni

Careers

Global and diverse career path of Alumni

Alumni have taken the expertise, communication skills and vitality that they gained over their four years in the program, and put those abilities to use in various fields around the globe. Many of them discovered career paths in international fields as government officials working for foreign ministries and embassies, multinational corporations, and domestic global companies. Also, some have gone on to further their studies and brush up skills in graduate programs both domestically and overseas.

Haruka Iwamoto

Assistant Director, Media Mettle, Inc.
Class of 2017



In order to learn more about the topic of refugees, I joined a student-initiated seminar. While I was studying abroad in Canada, I joined a local NGO supporting immigrants and refugees and was involved in providing livelihood support to Syrian refugee families. After returning to Japan, I used this experience to launch a student organization to provide livelihood and educational support to Syrian refugee children. At graduate school, I deepened my studies on this topic. Using the information organization skills I honed, I am currently studying to become a director at a video production company that specializes in documentaries.

Asuka Nomura

Works at Rakuten Mobile, Inc.
Class of 2018



There were so many situations where I had to express my opinion even if I did not fully understand a topic or did not have a particular opinion, so I struggled a lot right after enrollment. But the students in the Global Studies Major were people who accepted diversity and wanted to hear the different opinions of others. I was able to freely express my opinions without being rejected. This ability to express my opinions in any situation and not reject others' opinions outright is something I also utilize in my current job. The official language of the company is English, and company-wide meetings and meetings with engineers are held in English, so I feel that the business English I learned in the Global Studies Major has also been useful.

Anna Madli PILL

Working at the Estonian Embassy
Class of 2018



My current work involves a lot of communication with both Japanese governmental and local establishment as well with our HQ - Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Estonia. I have additionally assisted in organising numerous high-level state visits to Japan. I met amazing people from all over the world, some of whom I am glad to call my friends for life. The chance to meet people from all over the world gives you a first-hand opportunity to learn about and come to accept all these different perspectives on issues.

Gilang Al Ghifari Lukman

Working at a political and security risk consulting firm
Class of 2019



The most tangible impact on my path is when I played the role of Palestinian president in the GSG course. While researching Palestinian history, society, and politics in preparation, I met Prof. Avi Shlaim, a renowned historian from Oxford. My GSG experience has helped me nurture a strong interest in Israeli-Palestinian affairs, which later led me to eventually choose to focus my master's on Middle Eastern Studies and learn directly from Prof. Avi while studying at Oxford. I established Haifa Institute, an academic and media platform on Israeli-Palestinian affairs in Indonesia, my motherland. I currently lead the research department of the Institute and, in that capacity, have been invited to present my research findings on the topic in more than thirty seminars.

THE CAREER PATH OF ALUMNI OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

JAPANESE COMPANIES THAT HAVE HIRED GS GRADUATES

NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD, The Kansai Electric Power Company, LIXIL Corporation, ORIX Corporation, Rakuten Group, Inc., JCB Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, DESCENTE LTD., Nitto Denko Corporation, SoftBank Corp., CyberAgent, Inc., Nippon Telegraph and Telephone West Corporation, Faurecia Clarion Electronics Co., Ltd., Sharp Corporation, ROHM Co., Ltd., Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation, KDDI Corporation, Accenture Japan Ltd.

GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), The Japan Foundation, Cabinet Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Defense, Acquisition, Technology, & Logistics Agency, Japan Coast Guard, National Tax Agency (Senior Specialist), Ministry of Justice Hiroshima Immigration Bureau, International Economy & Work Research Institute

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Overseas: University of Oxford, Stanford University, London School of Economics and Political Science, George Washington University, University of Manchester, The University of Sydney, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of San Diego, Leiden University, The University of Sheffield, Seoul National University, University of Bristol, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Japan: Ritsumeikan University, Tokyo University, Kyoto University, Nagoya University, Osaka University, Kobe University, Tsukuba University, Keio University, Hitotsubashi University, Waseda University

