



国立大学法人山口大学 Yamaguchi University

Public Administration Program of the Graduate School of Humanities
and Economic Sciences

1. Yamaguchi University Outline

A Brief History of Yamaguchi University

Yamaguchi University is the third oldest national university in Japan it can trace 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, the school was reorganized to become a national university consisting of five faculties. Over 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 offers a quiet and peaceful environment, where students 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 and Economic Sciences, Medicine, Science and Technology for Innovation, East Asian Studies, Innovation and Technology Management, and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine.

International Students

Total of 362 international students from 36 countries are currently studying at Yamaguchi University as of May 1, 2026. Most are students from other Asian countries, and 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:

1. To enhance guidance for international students
2. To provide support systems involving the local community and municipality to secure provision of reasonably priced, good quality accommodation
3. To appoint professors to guide international students
4. 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, advice and information on daily life. Advisory services are available in Japanese and English. In the advisory room, the advisors help solve the 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.

Events for International Students

A Japanese student volunteer group "Ryu-sapo" organizes some exciting events for international students and they help with their daily lives and studying Japanese language.

2. About the Graduate School

History

The Graduate School of Humanities and Economic Sciences was launched in April 2025. This graduate school focuses on “human beings” as its main subject of study, and integrates the humanities, which study the past human activities, and the social sciences (sociology, pedagogy, psychology, economics, business management, etc.), which study various issues in contemporary society. In addition, we aim to explore various aspects of human life and society through the mutual exchange of fields including design studies and data science. Graduate School of Humanities and Economic Science, Division of Economics and Management that inherited from Graduate School of Economics, provides education in 2 fields: Economics, and Management. It has trained many economists and has made a significant contribution to the Japanese business community.

Philosophy and Goals

The missions and objectives of the School is to train researchers and professionals who are able to recognize various problems arising from economic and social activities and come up with specific methods to solve them.

Programs and Fields of Specialization in Division of Economics and Management

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

Admissions Policy of Public Administration Program

The Public Administration Program, Graduate School of Humanities and Economic Sciences, Division of Economic and Management is mainly looking for:

1. public officers or business persons who are directly involved in coordination between the public, non-profit, and private sectors, or in overall public management,
2. those who seek to fully understand the mechanism and significance of public policy and its frameworks, including programs, evaluation, and policy making, and
3. those who are aiming to enhancing their specific knowledge and skills in public management with the intention to suggest feasible solutions to the challenges they have identified through their own work experience.

Main Fields of Research

In 2002 the Public Administration (PA) Program was launched with partial sponsorship by JICA. The PA program is designed to provide courses in areas of economics, public finance, and public policy, which are necessary for developments of developing countries and governance for implementation. On the other hand, we believe that it is necessary to provide more attractive courses to prospective students or foreign country governments, and that continuous enhancement of our program is desirable.

The PA Program was initially offered in principle for the benefit of JICA sponsored international students only; however, the flexible curriculum allows students from other programs to take up to 14 credits in the PA Program. Moreover, since 2010, the PA program has been open to candidates without JICA scholarship as well.

3. Features of the Program and Degree Curriculum

The Public Administration Program at the Graduate School of Humanities and Economic Sciences, Division of Economics and Management 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 are 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. If a research proposal requires interdisciplinary guidance, multiple professors can be available for joint instruction according 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 being conducted, however, due to lack of practical experience; those countries face several difficulties. In addition, under certain 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 more stable nation, and aims to train students to be highly skilled 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 tackled or is now experiencing many development challenges that the developing countries will most likely encounter in the 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 since the Meiji modernization process. This idea 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 Humanities and Economic Sciences, Division of Economics and Management 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 Public Administration Program 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.

Basic Course	3 Credit
Preparatory Courses	5 Credits
Core Courses	8-12 Credits
Elective Courses	2-6 Credits
Seminars	8 Credits
Total	30 Credits

Degree Curriculum

Basic Course (Compulsory)

Objectives: To learn academic and research integrity and use it in each research. Students learn and understand what kind of conducts and roles scientists should follow.

No.	Course Title	Credit
1	Advanced Intellectual Property	1
2	Code of Conduct Principles for Researchers	1
3	Advanced Presentation Skills	1

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	Administrative Law	2
2	Development Economics	2
3	International Economics	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	12	*International Cooperation Studies	2
2	Mathematics for Economics	1	13	Local Government Finance	2
3	Research Methodology	1	14	Media and Society	2
4	Advanced Data Analysis	2	15	Monetary Economics	2
5	*Advanced Public Administration Studies I	2	16	Public Debt Management	2
6	*Advanced Public Administration Studies II	2	17	*Public Policy	2
7	Cost Benefit Analysis	2	18	Regional Economics	2
8	Cultural Psychology of Administration	2	19	*Social Policy Studies	2
9	Economic Policy	2	20	Latin American Studies (Political Economy and Development)	2
10	Environmental Policy	2	21	Strategic Management	2
11	Industrial Policy	2	22	Tourism Policy	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 Humanities and Economic Sciences 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 343,253 foreign books at the General Library. Students also can browse 9,359 international 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.

6. Voices from Alumni



MS. KENTHON DALAPHONE (*JDS Lao student graduated in 2025*)

Studying in the Public Administration (PA) Program at Yamaguchi University (YU) has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. The program provided not only valuable academic knowledge but also a truly international learning environment where I had the opportunity to exchange ideas with classmates from diverse countries and professional backgrounds. Through lectures, discussions with experts, and visits to Japanese public institutions, I gained a deeper understanding of how public administration works in practice and developed a broader perspective as a public servant. I was also deeply impressed by the kindness and support of the professors and university staff, who created a welcoming environment for students to grow both academically and personally. Beyond the classroom, Yamaguchi offered me an unforgettable life experience with its peaceful atmosphere, beautiful nature, and rich culture. Simple moments such as walking or cycling to campus, enjoying the scenery, and connecting with nature taught me to slow down and appreciate life. Exploring local attractions, tasting traditional cuisine, and experiencing the unique charm of Yamaguchi made my student journey truly special and memorable. I sincerely recommend the PA Program to those seeking academic growth, international friendships, and valuable life experiences. I am truly grateful to YU & Japan for this invaluable opportunity, which I will always cherish.



MS. NAZMUN NAHAR (*JDS Bangladeshi student graduated in 2023*)

Yamaguchi University creates a congenial atmosphere for study due to its calm environment which helps to concentrate on studies and reflects in its motto-- "Discover it. Nourish it. Realize it- A place of wisdom". The Professors and the staff are competent and cordial. My supervisor truly paved the path of my research. The Japanese Language program helped me a lot to cope with the daily life of Japan. Yamaguchi city offered all modern amenities including complete harmony among history, modernity, and nature. I acknowledge my gratitude to all my neighbors, friends, and especially to a local organization that supports foreigners a lot. Though language is a barrier, Japanese people helped us to overcome it with their helping attitude. Japanese culture, manners, and loving attitude towards nature contributed a lot in reshaping my viewpoint. Currently, I am working as Deputy Commissioner of Taxes with many responsibilities including direct correspondence with the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh. So, my goal would be to leverage my expertise in economics to contribute to the economic development and well-being of my country, whether through direct policy involvement, research and analysis, capacity building, entrepreneurship support, international collaboration, or advocacy efforts.



MR. KATTEL DIPESH (*JDS Nepalese student graduated in 2023*)

Yamaguchi University (YU) is located in the heart of Yoshida city, where fresh oxygen blows in from the surrounding mountains, which creates a peaceful and inspiring learning environment. It's one of a century-old public university which offers a unique interdisciplinary Public Administration (PA) program in the Graduate School of Economics, integrating the fields of Public Administration and Economics. This program supports students in gaining the knowledge and skills required for human capital development, and enabling them to address socio-economic problems and contribute to the rich structure of society. Its curriculum encompasses through socio-economic policies, public services and governance democratization, government management and its performance metrics, program evaluation, institutional competence and outcome quantification, public finance management, economic theories and policies, monetary

economics, regional and international economics etc. Together, these components make the PA program comprehensive and academically strong. Furthermore, cutting-edge research opportunities, highly supportive professors and university staff, and extensive library resources are other catalysts for continuing higher studies through the PA program at YU. I had the privilege of spending the most beautiful days of my academic journey studying under the PA program in the Graduate School of Economics at YU and graduated in 2023. I will always be grateful for the unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement; also acknowledge the whole university family and the positive arrows of time forever.



Visiting Bank of Japan



Special Lecture by Digital Agency



**Special Lecture at Onna Village
Office, Okinawa**



**Regular Lecture at the
Research Building**

