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Doshisha University’s Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS) is an independent graduate school launched in April 2010 in response to the pressing urgency of issues such as transnational migration, refugee flows, regional conflict and the environment. Solving such large-scale problems requires a combination of regional and global perspectives, and a willingness to use multiple perspectives from the humanities and social sciences. Consequently, the GSGS brings to bear both regional and global expertise ranging across an array of disciplines to address pressing issues in the world today.

Rather than pursuing vague generalizations, GSGS encourages students to pursue focused research projects that investigate how individual case studies help illuminate broader global trends. GSGS particularly promotes studies that cross disciplines and national boundaries and that search for larger connections. As a result, GSGS seeks students with a clear focus, research agenda, and willingness to challenge the limits of any one discipline or approach. Master’s and doctoral students belong to one of the following three clusters:

- **American Studies Cluster**: This cluster centers on China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan and Southeast Asia. At the same time, students are encouraged to see Asia from both regional and global perspectives to gain a more sophisticated understanding of the culture and life of people living in the area. Today’s Asia faces numerous political, economic, and social issues, many of which are difficult to solve. It is also a rewarding challenge to contemplate these issues and seek solutions. The cluster welcomes students eager to think and discuss about East Asian society and people.

- **Contemporary Asian Studies Cluster**: Faculty expertise in this cluster centers on the modern era, the end of the Cold War, the Cold War era, and the end of the Cold War. Students are encouraged to see Asia both from a regional and global perspective. This cluster addresses issues ranging from human security, conflict prevention, peace building, development and poverty to transnational migration, multicultural education, gender, citizenship, racism, class inequalities and environmental challenges. With diverse disciplinary backgrounds and areas of specialization (Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America), faculty members investigate various contemporary global issues, flexibly applying both disciplinary approach and area studies. Another feature of this international cluster is that it accepts many students from Central Asia and African countries as part of the human resource development support project of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

- **Global Society Studies Cluster**: For more than a century the United States has played an outsized role on the global stage. Japan has had a particularly complex relationship with American culture, society and politics. The American Studies Cluster therefore encourages students to examine the United States from a global perspective. Faculty expertise is wide-ranging, from political philosophy, peace studies, gender and sexuality studies, to anthropology, religious studies, history, African Diaspora studies, and film studies. Through classes and faculty direction, students develop a deep understanding of American history, society, culture and thought, as well as the multiple transnational intersections and encounters that have shaped the United States.
Diverse and Interdisciplinary Curriculum:
The Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS) consists of three clusters (American Studies, Contemporary Asian Studies, Global Society Studies), but aside from a few required elective courses, students can design their own curriculum in free and cross-disciplinary ways. Required elective courses such as "Introduction to Global Studies" and "Theories and Methods" familiarize students with a wide range of contemporary issues from global perspectives, while offering foundational knowledge and methodologies for research. GSGS also offers many elective courses that cover diverse areas, issues, and disciplines, encouraging students to design their course of study through the detailed guidance of the faculty. We conduct about half of the courses in English, which is another distinguished characteristic of our curriculum.

Dealing with contemporary global issues requires not only theoretical and specialized knowledge but also practical efforts to solve the world's problems. GSGS therefore appoints professional experts in journalism and international cooperation, and also incorporates fieldwork and internship experience into the curriculum so as to cultivate people who can assume a leading role in international institutions, think-tanks, NGOs and the media. Since the 2012 academic year, GSGS has been designated as one of the core graduate schools of the Advanced Doctoral Program in Global Resource Management.

Examples of Recent Student Research Topics
- The Film Music of Bernard Herrmann in Hollywood
- China's Investigative Reporting in the Era of Media Convergence: The Possibilities and Limitations of New Media
- A study on Korean Students at Doshisha Women's College during the Colonial period — as a case of Kim Mal-bong
- The Islamic State's Strategy and Representation: Thought Space of Savagery and Terrorism
- Racist or Pragmatist? Thomas Jefferson's Response to the Haitian Revolution, 1791-1809
- The Two Faces of Gender Equality in Taiwan: Women's Movement and Transformation of Family Gender Role in a Neoliberal Society
- The Syrian Refugees Crisis in Lebanon: Socioeconomic Impacts and the Lebanese Citizen's Responses
- Urban Waste Management in Nairobi

Small Group Instruction to Deepen Awareness
The goal of graduate school education is for students to complete a Master's thesis (or Seminar Paper) or a Ph.D. dissertation. The Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS) provides small group education that facilitates close communication between faculty and students and meticulous mentoring until the completion of the theses. In particular, seminars offer students detailed advice according to their individual awareness and needs, from technical aspects of how to write an academic paper to advice on thesis structure and fieldwork. In addition, each cluster regularly holds progress report sessions (Integration Seminar) for students to present their thesis outlines to the faculty.
Doshisha University provides an extensive range of scholarship programs to graduate students, including the "Scholarship for Young Doctoral Students/Researchers" (awarded up to a maximum 18 students in the Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS)) that provides an amount equivalent to full university fees for three years to doctoral students aged 33 or younger at the time of admission, virtually making doctoral programs free of charge, as well as the university’s own tuition reduction system. In addition, students are eligible to apply for scholarships offered by the Japan Student Services Organization and private and local public organizations through the university’s comprehensive financial support system. For more details, please see the GSGS website.

We also have the teaching assistant (TA) and research assistant (RA) system which enables graduate students to engage in paid assistant work in education and research. Working as a TA or an RA gives graduate students opportunities to gain teaching and research experience as well as financial resources to support their research activities.

GSGS encourages students to conduct actual on-site survey and research in the area of their interest, and offers travel support for students who conduct off-campus research up to 100,000 yen. The subsidies help facilitate their research activities.

GSGS offers a wide range of internship opportunities both within Japan and overseas. Students may either participate in domestic internship programs offered mainly in collaboration with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc., or in overseas internship programs at government bodies (provincial government, JICA etc.), NGOs (environment, education, health, child support and other fields), research institutes or corporations through our academic partner institutions or other routes.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS) is that international students comprise approximately half of its student body. In addition to students from China, GSGS accepts many students from Afghanistan and African countries as part of the Japanese government’s human resources development support project managed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The mix of students from different historical, cultural and religious backgrounds provides stimulating and invaluable opportunities to engage in multicultural communication.

Internship Programs

The Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS) aims to cultivate human resources that contribute to the promotion of international exchange and understanding between multicultural societies. Our graduates work actively in a variety of fields including international organizations, public institutions, international business and journalism. There are also many students who go on to the Doctrinal program or overseas graduate school.

The most important thing that I learned in the Graduate School of Global Studies is to value and respect diversity. Especially the small group class environment encouraged me to actively express my opinions as well as made me aware of different values through hearing others’ views. Such active commitment and tolerance is something that will surely help you when you get out into the world.

When I was about to seek employment I pondered whether to do what I like for a living or not, but after reflecting on what my ideal life plan is, I came to the conclusion that what I do for fun and what I do as a job do not necessarily need to be the same thing. In fact, I am quite satisfied with my current well-balanced lifestyle where I devote myself to my present job do not necessarily need to be the same thing.

The most important thing that I learned in the Graduate School of Global Studies is that research should be intertwined across borders and involve multiple layers of contexts, which inspired me very much. Indeed, we have to think both broadly and deeply.

Note that I have become a faculty member of the School of Global Studies, I wish I could have the chance to share the experience with you. There should be a lot of chance in life. But for me, the Global Studies is my best choice.

I have been interested in African American culture and discrimination issues since my undergraduate years. I have taken a wide range of courses in the graduate program that have expanded my interest to other issues and fields. It was particularly impressed by the methodology of representation that was introduced in my courses of Gender and Japanese cinema. For the theme of my Master’s thesis, I chose to examine the representations of African Americans in interpersonal buddy films particularly revolving around race, gender and sexuality.

A different view

Assistant, Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University

LI KAIRANG

(Graduated Ph.D. program in 2018)

About ten years ago, like everybody else, I had to choose a major as part of a university application. Although I was interested in lots of things, I chose a Japanese Major as my course of study. Back then, China and Japan experienced a period that was known as a cold time, politically speaking, and a warm time, economically speaking. However, the cultural communication between the two countries prospered throughout the period. The reason for this prospering of cultural relations is simple. For a Chinese, whether its language or its culture is much like China. It seems easy to understand. However, when I started to learn Japanese and Japan’s culture, I was quite confused. On the assumption that being an academic involves a process of exploration, I became a Japanese Major.

Subsequently, I entered the Graduate School of Global Studies at Doshisha University. As an international student, I had a great time both in my personal life and in my academic career. I finished my doctoral dissertation with the help of advisor. My research was about the Yellow Peril discourse and other forms of racism throughout the West and how the East has responded to it. The objective of the Graduate School of Global Studies is that research studies should be intertwined across borders and involve multiple layers of contexts, which inspired me very much. Indeed, we have to think both broadly and deeply.

When I was about to seek employment I pondered whether to do what I like for a living or not, but after reflecting on what my ideal life plan is, I came to the conclusion that what I do for fun and what I do as a job do not necessarily need to be the same thing. In fact, I am quite satisfied with my current well-balanced lifestyle where I devote myself to my present job. I am currently working in the recruiting team of the labor department of my company’s headquarters, “I am hoping to contribute to the company’s further advancement by making use of what I learned in the Graduate School of Global Studies in recruiting human resources with diverse talents.”

Expanding my horizons through diverse encounters
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### ACCESS

[Doshisha University Graduate School of Global Studies](http://global-studies.doshisha.ac.jp/)

Karasuma-dori, Kamidachiuri-agaru, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto 602-0898 JAPAN
TEL. +81-75-251-3930 / FAX. +81-75-251-3091 E-mail : ji-gs@mail.doshisha.ac.jp

[http://global-studies.doshisha.ac.jp/](http://global-studies.doshisha.ac.jp/)