



Doshisha University

Graduate School of Global Studies

(Master's Program / Doctoral Program)

Kyoto, Japan

PROFILE

Purpose of the Graduate School of Global Studies

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

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.

Contemporary Asian Studies

Faculty expertise in 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. But 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.

Global Society Studies

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 and Europe), 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 resources development support project of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Graduate School of Global Studies	Master's Program	Doctoral Program
	- American Studies Cluster - Contemporary Asian Studies Cluster - Global Society Studies Cluster	- American Studies Cluster - Contemporary Asian Studies Cluster - Global Society Studies Cluster

Faculty Members as of AY2026

American Studies Cluster



AKIBAYASHI Kozue
[Professor]
Gender and Peace



Gavin J. CAMPBELL
[Professor]
American History,
American Religion,
Transnational
American Studies



KANNO Yuka
[Professor]
Queer Studies,
Film and Visual
Culture Studies



MIMAKI Seiko
[Professor]
American Politics
and Diplomacy,
International
Relations (IR)



MINAMIKAWA Fuminori
[Professor]
Sociology,
Race and Ethnicity
Migration Studies



OKANO Yayo
[Professor]
Western Political
Philosophy,
Feminist Theory



Themis CHRONOPOULOS
[Professor]
Urban Studies,
African American
Studies,
Global Cities

Contemporary Asian Studies Cluster



MURATA Yujiro
[Professor]
Intellectual History
of China, Modern
Chinese History,
Sino-Japan Relations in
the Modern Era



OTA Osamu
[Professor]
Korean Studies
Contemporary
Korean History,
History of
Japanese-Korean
Relations



OYAMADA Eiji
[Professor]
Governance and
Development in
Developing and
Emerging Countries



QIAN Ou
[Professor]
Outline of the Modern
Thought between
Japan and China



TOMIYAMA Ichiro
[Professor]
Japanese History,
Okinawan Studies,
Cultural Studies



YAN Shanping
[Professor]
Chinese Economy and
Society, Development
Economics



YOKOYAMA Yuta
[Assistant Professor]
International History of
Post-war East Asia, History
of the Cold War, History
of Sino-Japanese
Relations

Global Society Studies Cluster



KIKUCHI Keisuke
[Professor]
Globalization Theory,
Racism Studies,
French Studies



MATSUMURA Keiichiro
[Professor]
Cultural Anthropology
African Studies



NAITO Masanori
[Professor]
International Migration
Studies,
Middle Eastern Studies



NAKANISHI Hisae
[Professor]
Middle East Area Studies,
Islam and Gender,
Peacebuilding



NISHIKAWA Yukiko
[Professor]
International Relations,
Foreign Policy, Security
Studies, and Security in
East and Southeast Asia



KUDO Haruko
[Associate Professor]
Transnational Sociology,
Refugee and Forced
Migration Studies, Queer
Migration Studies



Laura-Anca PAREPA
[Associate Professor]
Defense and Security Studies,
International Relations, Conflict
Studies, International Public
Policy

● Assistant



**Maximilien
Xavier REHM**



ZHANG Jiajie

Areas of Study





Possible Research Topics:

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.

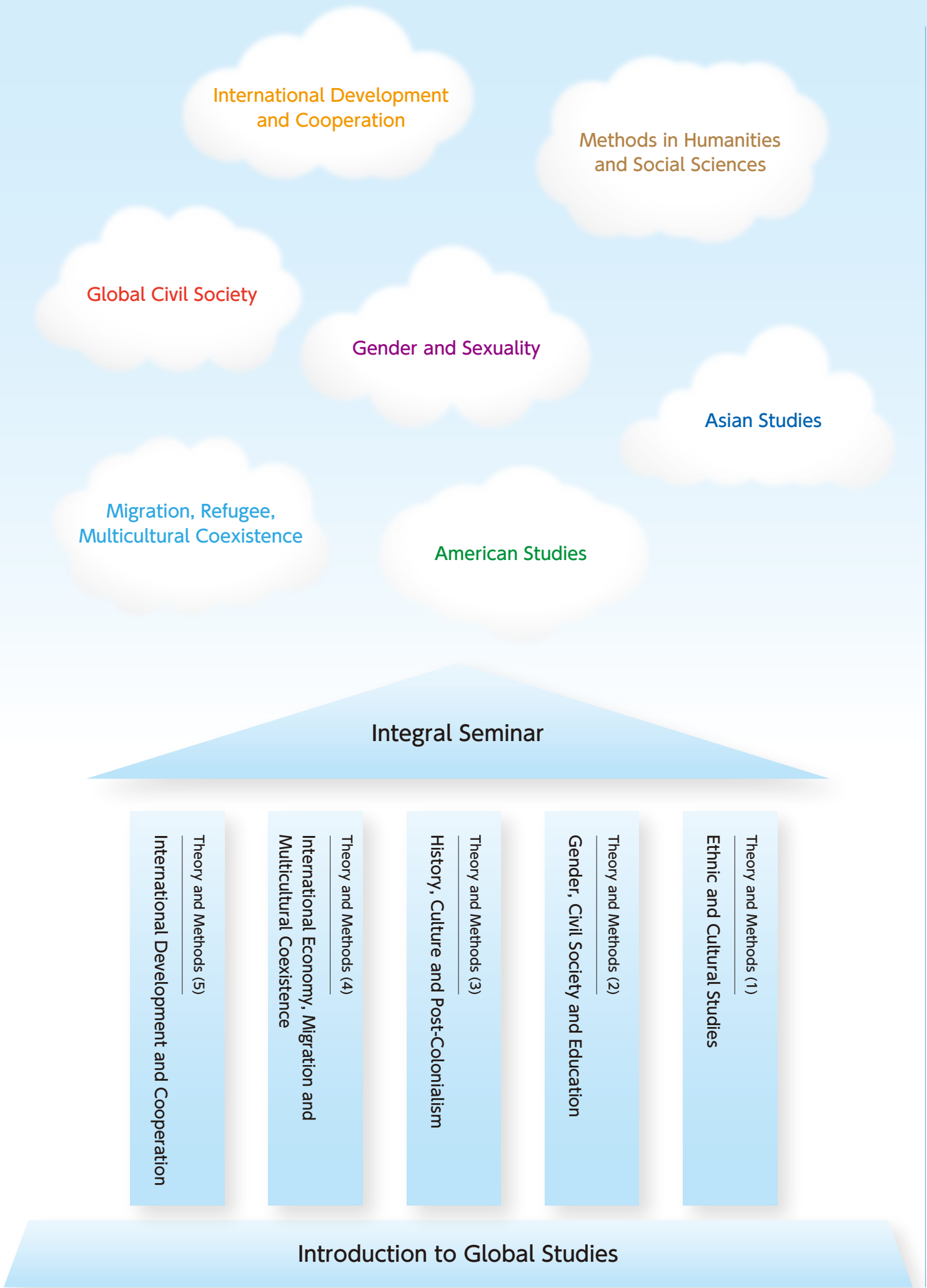
Examples of Recent Student Research Topics

- Elegy for the Lost Future—The Revival of Southern Gothic Aesthetics—
- Living Forward, Fighting Back: Radical Hope as Resistance in African American Thought, Culture, and Community
- Wang Yanan's Theory of the Chinese Economy: An Intellectual-Historical Study Centered on the 1940s
- The Formation of the Diplomatic Institutions of the People's Republic of China (1949-1966): Focusing on the Organization and Personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Institutionalized Sexual Exploitation: Foreign Women's Oppression under the Entertainer Visa in Japan
- ICT Industrial Development and Government Strategy in Kenya: The Tracks of "Proactive Industrialization"

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 (Integral Seminar) for students to present their thesis outlines to the faculty members.



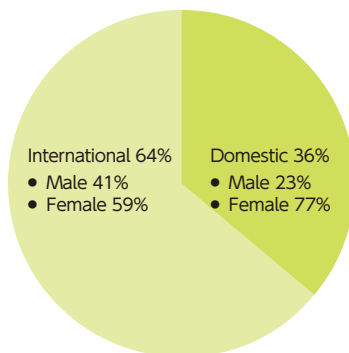


International Research Environment

Communication with International Students

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.

Number of Students Enrolled
[GSGS Master's / Doctoral Program, 158 Students in total]

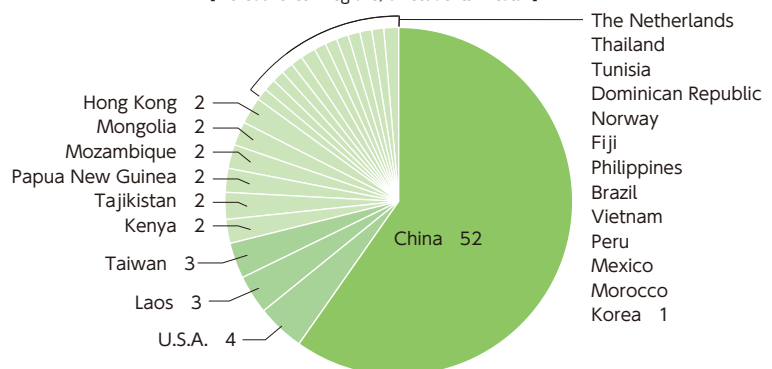


(as of April 1, 2026)

Wide Range of International Partnerships

Upholding "Internationalism" as one of its founding principles, Doshisha University currently has academic partnership agreements with more than 200 institutions in about 45 countries. Graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of this extensive international network in studying abroad and research activities. In addition, GSGS actively pursues student exchanges and joint research activities through its own individual partnerships with domestic and overseas universities and research institutions.

Number of International Students Enrolled
[23 countries / regions, 87 students in total]



Wealth of Support Services

Financial Support

Doshisha University provides an extensive range of scholarship programs to graduate students, including the "Scholarship for Young Doctoral Students/Researchers" (awarded to 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.

Fieldwork

GSGS encourages students to conduct actual on-site survey and research in the area of their interest, and offers travel subsidies for fieldwork and other off-campus activities up to 150,000 yen. The subsidies help facilitate their research activities.

Message from Graduates

A Comprehensive Experience Of Learning With and From Each Other

YOW Hiu Tung

(Graduated MA program in 2021)



With a background in sociology, I came to Japan with an interest in studying gender and employment. The Graduate School of Global Studies (GS) provides an invaluable platform for international students to study Japan in the context of globalisation in a supportive and vibrant educational environment, through its bilingual learning mediums, multicultural and interdisciplinary graduate programmes.

My Master's study at GS had been greatly rewarding. I was fortunate to be able to conduct my research under the guidance of experienced scholars across different fields of expertise, and the companionship of fellow students of diverse backgrounds. The intellectual and cultural exchanges had boarded my horizon and deepened my understanding of a wider range of issues. Together, we ventured beyond our research and methodologies, and were inspired by new perspectives and ideas that often benefited each other's studies in unexpected ways.

I had written my Master's thesis on Japanese women working in non-regular employment by looking at the prevalence of women in the non-regular sector from the perspective of women themselves. Exploring beyond unsatisfying working conditions, the incredible sense of agency and resilience these women demonstrated through their actions and decisions to navigate their lives, in the context of neoliberalism, persistent patriarchal norms, and various structural and institutional forces, had inspired much reflection on ourselves, the societies we live in, and social sufferings and struggles.

After completing my Master's studies, I am continuing my academic pursuit as a doctoral student at GS. Here, I wish to play a part in creating a global and academically stimulating environment for us learn and grow together, as academics and to be better persons.

Debut into a graduate school after working as a member of society

TSUJI Naomi

(Graduated MA program in 2021)



At the end of September three years ago, the company where I worked suddenly told me that I would be transferred from Tokyo to the Kansai region. I decided that this was my opportunity to enroll in a graduate school, and the following spring I became a working graduate student. As the old expression says, "at fifty I set my heart on learning." Ever since, I have been captivated by the joy of learning, and, after earning a master's degree, I enrolled in the doctoral program where I am continuing my studies.

The Graduate School of Global Studies offers a wide variety of courses following the latest research trends, and I am always enlightened by the comments and advice from the faculty. Most of my classmates are young international students, but there are also others. One senior earned a doctorate after retirement, which makes me feel I still have so much to learn. As students can also choose courses offered by other graduate schools in the university, I have also taken some courses at other schools that interest me, such as courses on cultural policies and aesthetics. Moreover, the program also offers many courses taught by researchers from other universities and institutions, which broadens not only my learning but also my network.

My own interest is in historical studies focused on cultural assets. Every day I read books and articles, examine historical documents one by one, and write. By continuing this work I have broadened my intellectual horizons, and I have also used my work experiences as a businessperson in new ways. It's up to me whether, or how much, I work, so I don't feel too strained (although my professor may be angry to hear this and tell me to take my studies more seriously).

Enrolling in the graduate school has transformed my life. Now, I am at an age when I should know a lot about life, but every day I still enjoy having so much more I still can learn.

Career Path

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 Doctoral program or overseas graduate schools.

List of Major Employers (partial)

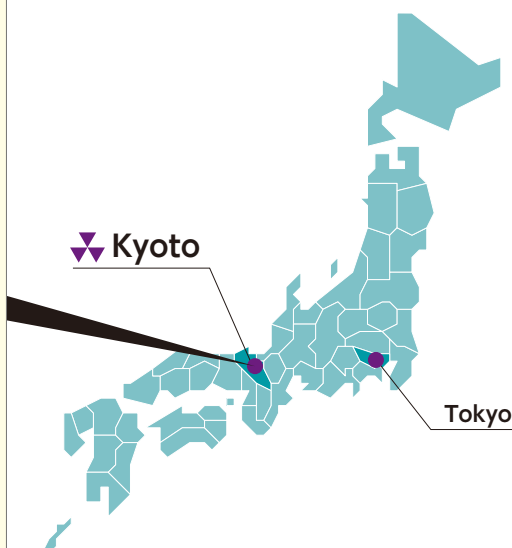
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japan Broadcasting Corporation
- Jiji Press, Ltd.
- West Japan Railway Company
- Nippon Express Co., Ltd.
- Panasonic Corporation
- Mitsubishi Electric Corporation
- Hitachi, Ltd.
- Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
- Mazda Motor Corporation
- Mitsubishi Motors Corporation
- Kirin Beverage Co., Ltd.
- Soft Bank Group
- Rakuten, Inc.
- Itochu Aviation Co., Ltd.
- Philip Morris Japan
- Robert Walters Japan
- National Museum of Ethnology
- Government Services
- etc.

Admission Schedule

Program	Cluster	Number of Students Admitted	Types of Examination	Spring Entry		Fall Entry	
				Application	Examination	Application	Examination
Master's Program	American Studies Cluster Contemporary Asian Studies Cluster Global Society Studies Cluster	45	Graduate School entrance examination	July	September	—	—
			Mature students entrance examination				
			International students entrance examination (Japan residents)	December - January	February		
			International students entrance examination (Overseas residents)	July	Documentary Screening	—	—
Doctoral Program	American Studies Cluster Contemporary Asian Studies Cluster Global Society Studies Cluster	18	Graduate School entrance examination	July	September	December - January	February
			International students entrance examination (Japan residents)	December - January	February		
			International students entrance examination (Overseas residents)	July	Documentary Screening	December - January	Documentary Screening

- Admission for the Master's Program is at the beginning of the semester in April, and for the Doctoral program either in Spring (April) or Fall (September).
- Admissions for special students (Japan residents) will be decided solely on application documents.
- Entrance examination guidelines are distributed in early June, and international student entrance examination guidelines are distributed in mid-June. To receive guidelines, contact the office of the Graduate School of Global Studies.
- For more information about entrance examinations, see the Entrance examination guidelines or access the following URLs:
 - Graduate school entrance examination: https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/admissions_graduate/ (For Japanese Students)
 - Entrance examination for international students: <https://intad.doshisha.ac.jp/>

ACCESS



▼ Doshisha University

Graduate School of Global Studies

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