

Field of Study	Law
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1	University	Nagoya University (National)
	Graduate School	Graduate School of Law
	URL of University	http://www.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en/
	URL of Graduate School	http://gsl-nagoya-u.net
	Program name	L.L.M.(Comparative Law) Program in Law and Political Science /Department of the Combined Graduate Program in Law and Politics:“The Human Resources Development program to Contribute to the Asian Technical Legal Assistance Projects”
	Degrees	Degree of Master of Laws (Comparative Law)
	Credit and years needed for graduation	30 credits A half year of Japanese language study and two years for completion of the LL.M. (Comparative Law) Program in Law and Political Science
	Note	30 credits for graduation which includes 10 credits from the compulsory subjects of Special Research I, Special Research II, and Academic Writing I.

2. Features of University

History of Nagoya University: Nagoya University was founded in 1871, when the medical school with a hospital was established on the site of a local feudal council building in Nagoya. In April 1939, the university received its charter as Japan's seventh Imperial University. After the Second World War, in the general post-war reform of the nation's educational system, Nagoya University was given a leadership role in the Chubu region, and has grown into one of the foremost national universities in Japan. Currently, Nagoya University, in its totality, has nine faculties, thirteen graduate schools, three affiliated research institutes, and numerous research centers. There are 9,700 undergraduate students, 6,154 post-graduate students' enrolled and 1,501 overseas students in total from 73 countries in the entire university (as of May 2010). Approximately 3,200 teaching staffs work at the university.

Academic Charter of Nagoya University: Appreciating the intrinsic role and historical and social mission of universities, Nagoya University, as a seat of learning, hereby defines its fundamental principles of scholarly activity. Nagoya University maintains a free and vibrant academic culture with the mission of contributing to the well-being and happiness of humankind through research and education in all aspects of human beings, society, and nature. In particular, it aspires to foster the harmonious development of human nature and science, and to conduct highly advanced research and education that overlook the broad sweep of humanities, social and natural sciences. Towards this goal, Nagoya University endeavours to implement a variety of measures based on the fundamental objectives and policies outlined at the website of Nagoya University: <http://www.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en/about-nu/declaration/charter/>, and to unremittingly carry out its responsibilities as a pivotal university.

Introduction to Nagoya: Nagoya city, the prefectural capital of Aichi Prefecture, is located in the southwest of the central Japan. With a population of over 2 million, it is the forth-largest city in Japan. Being a core region for Japan's industrial technology, the city is prosperous with, for example, automobile industry represented by Toyota Motor Corporation. The city of Nagoya is also a cultural city with a long history.

3. Features of Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University

The Graduate School of Law (GSL) is unique from other law faculties in other universities in Japan in that it is engaged in international cooperation for the provision of legal systems in various

Asian countries undertaking the transition to a market economy and constitutional and democratic nation-states. In line with this, GSL has been committed to the “Human Resources Development Program to Contribute to the Asian Technical Legal Assistance Projects” for professional training. Under this program, an English-taught LL.M. (Comparative Law) Program in Law and Political Science has been offered since 1999 and taken in many JDS participants from the targeted countries of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Myanmar and China. Today, we are proud to count among our overseas graduates staff of core ministries, counsel in major corporations, active lawyers and progressive academics of the jurisdictions that have enriched our environment through participation in our programs.

4. Features of the Program

Objective of the Program:

The LL.M. (Comparative Law) Program in Law and Political Science aims at fostering human resources capable to contribute to the development of legal systems mainly in Asian countries which have been in the process of transition to a market-oriented model of economics, a democratic system of politics, and a civil society governed by the rule of law. The program provides professional and academic training to those personnel in the Asia-Pacific region who are expected to be engaged in the reform of their domestic legal and political systems or in educating and training future legal professionals. This has brought around twenty overseas students entering each year including 14 JDS fellows.

Overview of the program:

Students enter Nagoya University in October of each year, after being matched with a faculty supervisor, spend the first six months in the program studying Japanese language intensively at the Nagoya University Education Center for International Students (ECIS), along with tutorial from each supervisor and a non-credit introductory course to academic writing in English, which aims at improving skills in writing academic papers in English.

From April of the following year, students formally enroll in the Master’s Program and begin their legal studies to deepen comparative understandings of laws and political system in Japan and that of students’ home countries. Students are also provided Academic writing Course series along with specialized tutorials of the academic advisors for thesis-writing. A seminar on the “Japanese Judiciary Institutions” with onsite visits to judiciary institutions in Japan is also offered. This helps develop students’ insights and understandings of legal system in Japan. Apart from regular courses, the legal practitioners and scholars from home and abroad will be invited to give JDS fellows special lectures. One study-away trip to various regions of Japan is offered, aiming at having overseas students understand the actual conditions of Japanese society and culture which has supported the legal and political system of Japan.

Features of the Master’s Program:

The features of this program are; 1) provision of a variety of degree course options from which students may choose; 2) focused instruction in research methods and academic writing, through a suite of Academic Writing Course Series that run the length of the program in support of the thesis writing process, and 3) individual and specialized tutorials with supervisory professor in the subject area of each candidate, in close coordination with the academic writing courses referred to above.

The distinctiveness of the program is that it is complemented by social activities, student mentorship arrangements, private sector internships, language instruction through the Education Center for International Students, annual participation in the Japan Inter-Collegiate Negotiation Competition, and a set of student-driven cross-national seminars (the Peer Support Initiative). These features of our environment reinforce and supplement the opportunities of the traditional academic curriculum in law and politics. Classroom instruction is enriched through course offerings taught by legal staff of major local corporations, by practicing Japanese lawyers, and by reporter with front-line experience in covering both domestic and foreign news for Japanese media organizations. Optional intensive courses offered between terms further supplement the core curriculum.

5. Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

Requirements of obtaining the Degree of Master of Laws (Comparative Law)

To obtain a master degree, students are required both to attend courses including ten credits from the compulsory subjects; Special Research I, Special Research II, and Academic Writing I. Completion of 30 credits of study and writing a Master's thesis in English under the supervision of a member of academic staff are requisites to obtain a master's degree.

Regular courses are conducted in lecture, seminar and practice formats. In seminars, students are expected to prepare a research topic and present their findings to colleagues and faculty. Grades are assessed mainly from presentations and in class discussions. Students in the Masters program may also include credits taught at the neighboring Graduate School of International Development toward the 30 credits required for obtaining the degree. Courses outside the program but within the scope of the candidate's research interests may also be approved, depending on educational and research requirements.

Courses taught through English language for the 2011 academic year (Reference)

Subject	Course title	Credit	Instructor (professors)	Lecture/Seminar	Targeted students/Term offered
Academic Writing I [Compulsory]	Legal research and writing I	2	Matsuura Yoshiharu	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term
Academic Writing II	Legal research and writing II	2	Frank Bennett	Lecture	M1/ 2nd term
Academic Writing III	Legal research and writing III	2	Ranson Paul Lege	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term
Professional Studies in Contemporary Legal disciplines	Comparative Property Law	2	Frank Bennett	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term
Comparative Studies in Jurisprudence I	The Law and its Personnel	2	Morigiwa Yasutomo	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term
Comparative Studies in Jurisprudence II	Uses of the Public Sphere: good practice vs. corruption	2	Morigiwa Yasutomo	Lecture	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Comparative Studies in Constitutional Law	Outline of Modern Constitution	2	Ohkohchi Minoru	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term
Comparative Studies in Administrative Law	Introduction to Administrative Law	2	Ichihashi Katsuya	Lecture	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Professional Studies in International Law	Introduction to International Law	2	Yamagata Hideo (*GSID)	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term
Professional Studies in International Human rights Law I	Development and Issues on Law on International Human Rights - the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	2	Maeda Naoko (Lecturer of Kobe University)	Lecture	M1&M2 / intensive course
Professional Studies in	Seminar on Human	2	Obata Kaoru	Seminar	M1&M2 / 2nd term

International Human rights Law II	Rights and Refugee Law				
Professional Studies in International Economic Law I	Studies in Law on WTO	2	Kawashima Fujio (GSID)	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term
Professional Studies in International Economic Law II	Problems of International Economic Law	2	Mizushima Tomonori	Seminar	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Comparative Studies in Civil Law I	Contract Law	2	Kagayama Shigeru (Professor of Meiji-gakuin University)	Lecture	M1&M2 / intensive course
Comparative Studies in Civil Law II	Comparative Considerations of Tort Law	2	Kagayama Shigeru (Professor of Meiji-gakuin University)	Lecture	M1&M2 / intensive course
Comparative Studies in Criminal Law	Development of national criminal law under the influence of foreign and international law	2	Takayama Kanako (Professor of Kyoto University)	Lecture	M1 / intensive course
Comparative Studies in Judicial System	Introduction to the Civil Justice System	2	Nakamura Yoshitaka (Lecturer of Meiji-gakuin University)	Lecture	M1&M2 / intensive course
Comparative Studies in Business Law I	Corporate Law I	2		Lecture	M1&M2 / intensive course/ Biennial opening of a course/ Not open for 2010
Comparative Studies in Business Law II	Corporate Law II	2	Ueda Junko (Professor of Kyusyu University)	Lecture	M1&M2 /intensive course/ /Biennial opening of a course/ Open for 2010
Comparative Studies in Politics I	Comparative European Politics	2	Nakada Mizuho	Lecture	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Comparative Studies in Politics II	Japanese Diplomacy and International Politics	2	Sadakata Mamoru	Lecture	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Comparative Studies in Public Administration		2		Lecture	M1&M2 /1st term/ Not Open for 2011
Comparative Studies in Political Thought	Political Theory of Modern Europe	2	Isobe Takashi	Lecture	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Special Research I [Compulsory]	Tutorials	4	Each supervisor (main advisor)	Lecture	M1/ One-year
Special Research II	Tutorials	4	Each supervisor (main advisor)	Lecture	M2/ One-year
Special Lecture and seminar III (Business Law and Practices)	Corporate Legal Practices	1	Nakahigashi Masafumi	Lecture/Seminar/Practice	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Special Lecture and Seminar	Workshop on International Negotiation	2	Frank Bennett	Lecture/Seminar /Practice	M1&M2 / 2nd term

Special Lecture and Seminar	YOMIURI SHIMBUN Special Lecture - Comparative Asian Corporate theory-	2	Reporters for Yomiuri Shimbun Tokyo main office	Lecture	M1&M2 / 2nd term
Special Lecture and Seminar	Japanese Judicial Institutions	2	Ogawa Akitsuyu , Tanabe Masanori & Hirano Tamotsu , Attorneys from Aichi Bar Association	Lecture/Seminar/Study trip	M1/ 2nd term
Special Lecture and Seminar	Structure of Japanese Law	2	Ohya Takehiro	Lecture	M1/M2/ 1st term
Special Lecture and Seminar	Peer Support Initiative (Comparative Law and Politics Seminars I)	2	Matsuura Yoshiharu	Seminar	M1/ 2nd term
Special Lecture and Seminar	Peer Support Initiative (Comparative Law and Politics Seminars II)	2	Matsuura Yoshiharu	Seminar	M1&M2 / 1st term
Special Lecture and Seminar	Peer Support Initiative (Comparative Law and Politics Seminars III)	1	Matsuura Yoshiharu	Seminar	The schedule of the above intensive courses will be notified later on the bulletin board.

Note:

- Academic year of 2011 begins on April 1, 2011 and ends on March 31, 2012.
- Spring term (1st term) commences in April 1 and ends up in September 30, 2011. Autumn term (2nd term) commences in October 1, 2011 and ends up in March 31, 2012.
- One course for two credits holds 15 classes (90 minutes each).
- One intensive course holds 15 classes (90 minutes per class) during 3 or 4 days. The schedule of the intensive courses will be notified later on the bulletin board.
- One-year course holds one class per week and will be completed in two terms. In this case, successful participation in it will be awarded with four credits.
- Abbreviation: GSID: the Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University
- The syllabus of each course is uploaded on the GSL website:
<http://gsi-nagoya-u.net/programs/academic/english.html>

6. Academic Schedule (Reference)

Date	Targeted students	Event & things to-do
From 2010 Oct to Mar 2011	Research student	Japanese language study at the Education Center for International Students (ECIS)/Taking introductory courses/ Tutorial by academic advisors Welcome party for new international students Meeting with supervisor Taking introductory academic writing course (JDS special program) Taking intensive course on Japanese society and law (JDS special program)
April, 2011	1 M1	Enrolled in LL.M. (Comparative Law) Program in Law and Political Science

	5	M1	Entrance ceremony
	6	M1	Officially main supervisor decided/
	8	M1 &M2	Academic affairs guidance
	8	M1 &M2	Course registration (to April 20)
	10	M1 &M2	ID student card issued
	10	M1 &M2	Course registration (April 10 to 20)
	13	M1 &M2	Classes start.
		M1 &M2	Medical check-up
May	1		University anniversary
	31	M1	Submission of study plan and Registration form
August	1		Summer holidays begins., (until September 30)
October	1		Autumn semester starts
	3	M1 &M2	Course registration (to October 7)
	12	M1	One-two sub supervisors chosen/
November	25	M2	Submission of master's thesis title (an application for submission of a master thesis)
	30	M1	Submission of Master's thesis writing plan
December	26	M2	Submission of Master's thesis
	28		Winter holidays start. (until January 7, 2012)
January 2012			Onsite trip to Tokyo Judiciary Institution as a special program
	11		Classes restart. (until January 27)
	25	M2	Oral examination, defending their master's theses
February	2	M2	Submission of manuscripts for inclusion in the Annual of the Master's Program for Modern Law & Comparative Law (collection of research papers)
	29	M1	Submission of mid-term thesis progress report
March			Study away trip as a special program
	25	M2	Course completion, master's degree awarded /Commencement /Farewell party
During February: Exchange ski training program for international students (expected)			

7. Facilities

Accommodation: Nagoya University Dormitories for International Students

Newly enrolled students from abroad are generally accommodated in one of the four university international residences: Foreign Students House (Ryugakusei Kaikan), International Residence Higashiyama, International Residence Yamate, and International Ohmeikan House mainly used by exchange students. The period of residency in each residence is basically limited to six months, for the number of international students greatly exceeds the capacity available.

For further information of housings for international students at Nagoya University, visit the following of webpage: <http://www.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en/academics/daily-life/housing/>

Law Library:

The Law Library placed in our School contains approximately 225,000 volumes of books in the field of law and political science, including approximately 93,000 volumes in foreign languages. An additional 550 Japanese issued periodicals and 60 foreign periodicals of our school are available in the University Central Library. The Law School Library, along with other satellite collections within the University, is covered by OPAC system and, for older books, the comprehensive card catalog housed in the Central Library.

Computerized Service:

Wireless Internet access is available for all students on campus. In our school, all graduate students get free unlimited use of LEXIS-NEXIS, a cutting edge Legal Research database.

The Central Library of Nagoya University:

The Central Library, which processes all library materials and maintains the union catalog of all books in the university, offers circulation and reference services, including inter-library loan, photocopying, and computer-based information retrieval. In the Central Library building there are 1,160,562 volumes, 3,140 periodicals and 25,084 Electronic Journal (as of May 2010). Circulation is managed by an ID card system and book detection system. For language education and other educational and research purposes, the Central Library has access to satellite TV channels, including CNN news, CCTVa, and KBSa. The Central Library contains 1,000 reading desks in the open-stack area. Group study rooms, a seminar room, an information corner, and an audio-visual room are also available.

8. List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS fellows

The main responsibility for the supervision of graduates lies with the supervisor appointed by the Department Faculty Committee. The Department Faculty Committee officially decides supervisors for JDS fellows at the outset of the master's program.

Faculty Members 2011 (Reference)

(Graduated schools and awarded degrees, field of specialty and research interest)

Visit the website of GSL "FACULTY" for details:

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| Prof. AIKYO Masanori
LL.D. from Nagoya University
* Vietnamese Law, Constitutional Law
1. History of Vietnamese constitutional law
2. Legal assistance (law and development) | LL.M. from Kyoto University
*International public Law, International Law of Human Rights
1. Diplomatic protection, state responsibility, status of foreigners
2. European convention of human rights
3. United Nations and human rights | *Intellectual Property Law
1. Law and policy concerning intellectual property
2. International intellectual property system |
| Prof. ISHII Mitsuki
LL.M. from Kyoto University
*Legal History (France)
1. History of penal reform in eighteenth-century France
2. Law and society in the time of the French revolution
3. Institutions and royal ritual of the Old Regime | * Prof. SAKAI Hajime
*Civil Procedure
LL.M. from Osaka University
1. International litis abili
2. Provisional Measures
3. Cause of action | * Prof. TAKAHASHI Yusuke
LL.M. from Kyoto University, LL.B. from Kyoto University
*Tax Law
1. Taxation on business organizations
2. Partnership taxation in Japan and U.S. |
| Prof. ISOBE Takashi
LL.M from Nagoya University
*History of political thought (Europe)
1. History of western political thought
2. History of eastern political thought | Prof. SADAKATA Mamoru
Ph.D. Candidate at Kobe University, LL.M. from Kanazawa University
*International Politics
1. Contemporary Balkan History | * Prof. TADAKA Hirotaka
LL.D. from Nagoya University
*Civil Law
1. Mortgage Foreclosure
2. Security Interests
3. Guaranty |
| Prof. ICHIHASHI Katsuya
LL.M. from Nagoya University
*Administrative Law
1. Administrative remedy
2. Law on self-administration of local governments | Prof. SABURI Haruo
LL.M. from Nagoya University
*International economic Law
1. World trade organization
2. International trade and the environment | Prof. TAMURA Tetsuki
LL.D. from Nagoya University
*Political Science
1. Contemporary democratic theory
2. Welfare regime and basic income
3. Gender in policies and political science |
| Prof. USHIRO Fusao
LL.M. from Nagoya University
*Political Science, Public Administration
1. Nonprofit sector and reorganization of the welfare system
2. New pulic management
3. Institutional reforms and political realignment in Japan and Italy | # Prof. SHIMOYAMA Kenji
LL.M. from Waseda University
*Environmental Law, Administrative Law
1. Environmental Risk Management in Legal System
2. Precautionary Principle in Environmental Law
3. State Redress Law | Prof. NAKADA Mizuho
Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo
*European Political History
1. Political history of Czechoslovakia
2. Comparative European politics |
| Prof. UDAGAWA Yukinori
LL.M. from Hokkaido University
*Comparative law (China)
1. Private law in China
2. Judicial reform in China | Prof. JIMBO Fumio
LL.M. from Nagoya University
*Legal History (Japan)
1. Tokugawa Law | * Prof. NAKAHIGASHI Masafumi
LL.D. from Nagoya University
*Corporate Law
1. Mergers and Acquisitions
2. History of Corporate Law
3. Corporate Law and Securities Regulation in Canada |
| Prof. ONO Koji
LL.D from Kyoto University
*Political Science
1. Contemporary German politics
2. Comparative politics
3. Political policy | Prof. SUGAWARA Ikuo
LL.D. from Tohoku University
*Legal sociology
1. Law and psychology | # Prof. HONMA Yasunori
LL.D. from Hokkaido University
*Civil procedure
1. Third party involvement and procedural safeguards
2. 'Standing' in litigation and procedural theory
3. Procedures in the resolution of family cases |
| * Prof. OBATA Kaoru | Prof. SUGIURA Kazutaka
LL.M. from Nagoya University
* Russian Law
1. Judicial reform in Russia
2. Human rights in Russia
3. Russian constitutional court | Prof. MASUDA Tomoko
LL.D from Nagoya University, M.A. from Aoyama Gakuin |
| | # Prof. SUZUKI Masabumi
LL.M from Harvard Law School | |

University

*Political History (Japan)

1. Constitutional Emperor system
2. Ultra nationalism in modern Japan

Prof. MATSUURA Yoshiharu

- LL.M. from Osaka University,
LL.M. from Yale Law School
*Legal Informatics, History of
Legal Thoughts, Jurisprudence
1. Application of information technology to legal analysis
 2. Development of "Science of Law" in 19th century America
 3. Invention of legal skills for social change

Prof. MARUYAMA Emiko

- LL.B. from Tohoku University
*Civil law, Law on Consumer
1. Contract law
 2. Consumer protection

Prof. MIURA Satoshi

- M.A. from the University of Tokyo
*International Relations
1. Global governance
 2. International political economy

Prof. MIZUSHIMA Tomonori

- LL.D. from Kyoto University
*International public law
1. Jurisdictional Immunity of Foreign States
 2. WTO law
 2. International investment law

Prof. MOTO Hidenori

- LL.D. from Nagoya University
*Constitutional Law
1. Constitutional law in Japan and Germany
 2. Law on political parties and constitution
 3. Constitutional theory about democracy
 4. Constitutional analysis of 'public sphere'

Prof. YOKOMIZO Dai

- LL.M. from the University of Tokyo
*Conflict of Laws
1. Structure of conflict of laws
 2. International aspects of intellectual property
 3. International judicial jurisdiction

Prof. WADA Hajime

- LL.M. from the University of Tokyo
*Labor Law
1. Labor law and civil rights
 2. Employment contract theory
 3. German labor law

Prof. WATANABE Miyuki

- LL.B from Tohoku University
*Civil Procedure law
1. Effects of judgment
 2. Arbitration
 3. Fundamental theory of civil procedure

Assoc. Prof. INABA Kazumasa

- LL.D. from Nagoya University
*Administrative Law
1. Reformation of administrative law in the age of Deregulation
 2. Legal limitation on privatization
 3. Broadcast law in the US and Japan

Assoc. Prof. OHKOHCHI Minori

- LL.M. from Nagoya University
*Constitutional Law
1. Constitutional interpretive methodology
 2. Constitutional theory in U.S.
 3. Judicial review system

Assoc. Prof. OHYA Takehiro

- LL.B. from the University of Tokyo
*Jurisprudence
1. Philosophical basis of legal interpretation
 2. Effects of information technology on legal values

Assoc. Prof. OKAMOTO Hiroki

- LL.D. from Hitotsubashi University
*Civil law
1. Contract and the third party
 2. Structural analysis of contractual obligation
- Assoc. Prof. KAKUTA Tokuyasu
Ph.D. from Tokyo Institute of Technology
*Legal informatics
1. Legal reasoning by teleological analogy
 2. Computational argumentation systems
 3. Knowledge representation

- Assoc. Prof. KANG Dongkook,
Doctor of Laws with the Honor of Highest from the University of Tokyo (Dr.), Graduate School of Seoul National University (M.A.), Seoul National University (B.A.)
*History of East Asian Political Thought
1. Nationalism and Colonialism in East Asia
 2. Conceptual History in East Asia

Assoc. Prof. KOJIMA Jyun

LL.M. from Waseda University,

- *Criminal procedure
1. Double jeopardy

Assoc. Prof. SAITO Akiko

- LL.M. from Kyoto University
*Criminal law
1. Criminal Law
 2. Omission
 3. Complicity

Assoc. Prof. NAKANO Taeko

- LL.B. from the University of Tokyo
*Social Services Law
1. Sick insurance
 2. Social welfare
 3. Social Security in Sweden

Assoc. Prof. HAYASHI Shuya

- Completed Dr. course work in Kyoto University Graduated School of Law, LL.M. from Kyoto University
*Competition Law
1. Competition law and policy
 2. Trade regulation law (electricity and telecommunication)

Assoc. Prof. Frank BENNETT
JD from UCLA School of Law,
B.A. from University of California (Berkeley)

- *Comparative Law (Japan)
Comparative Law (property, secured claims and related aspects of civil procedure)

Assoc. Prof. MATSUNAKA

- Manabu
LL.M. from Osaka University
*Corporate Law, Economic Analysis of Law
1. Rule making of takeover regulation
 2. Law on equity finance
 3. Regulation of control shareholders private benefit

Assoc. Prof. MIYAKI Yasuhiro

- LL.M. from Doshisya University
*Criminal Procedure
1. Undercover operations

Assoc. Prof. FURUKAWA

- Nobuhiko
LL.B. from the University of Tokyo
*Criminal Law
1. The Theory of Criminal Negligence

Assoc. Prof. YOSHIMASA

- Tomohiro
LL.M. from Kyoto University
*Civil Law
1. Contract Law

Note: Professors indicated with * belong to both departments of Combined Graduate Program and Program for Legal Practice (NULS). Professors indicated with # belong to departments Program for Legal Practice (NULS).

9. Advice for Graduate School Applicants

Within your application, the Research Proposal is of critical importance to the admission decision. The application is of course the basis of the initial document screening; but beyond that, it plays an important role in shaping the interview for applicants who reach the final stage which, although brief, can have a determinative effect both on the selection. The initial proposal is also the starting point for supervision for successful applicants; a proposal that is clear, concise, well supported and well reasoned provides a better basis for advice and support, particularly in the first months of study.

Accordingly, you are well advised to take particular care in the drafting of these portions of your application. These should describe your interests and research objectives distinctively and originality within the framework of the Common Agenda which reflects the development issues in the targeted country.

Generally speaking, when reviewing applications or conducting interviews, the following factors will be at the forefront of our thinking:

- 1) Is there evidence of sufficient foundation knowledge and research skill to begin work on substantive research immediately upon entering into study in the Graduate School? The reviewers will be concerned with both general knowledge in the field of law and specialized skills and knowledge necessary to the proposed topic. Are you familiar with the major scholars in the area? Are you aware of recent trends? Do you have a sense of the key issues in the area, and are you able to relate them to a larger context?
- 2) Is there a clear, concise, and meaningful research topic? Setting the purpose and objective of a project is one of the most difficult tasks in research. Researchers invariably struggle to identify a topic and direction that is workable, novel, and sufficiently challenging to be attractive to an audience. With classes to attend and seminars to prepare for, two years passes quickly; it is therefore extremely important that you show sufficient knowledge, sense of direction, and receptiveness to good advice to convince the reviewer that you know your way around the subject, where you want to go with it, and how to get there.
- 3) Is the topic a good fit for research in Japan? While your proposed topic may concern international matters, or the laws of third countries, the reviewers will be looking for connections with Japan, and specific ways in which the topic you have chosen is a good fit for this research environment.
- 4) Is there knowledge of the Japanese situation? Do you know the basic outlines of Japanese law, politics and administration? What is Japan's position or experience within your topic area? It is important that you show this knowledge, obviously; the reviewers will be looking for it in your application. At interview, they are likely to pose questions in more detail than what you have written in your application.
- 5) Have you investigated us? Information on our programs and our staff are available on the World Wide Web. Members of our faculty publish in English, Japanese and other languages. Projects, research seminars, conferences and symposia take place in our faculty. You should be aware of our work. You should also familiarize yourself with the work of members of our faculty who specialize in your chosen area.

In closing, we would stress that, whatever the result; your choice to apply to our programs presents an opportunity for learning and personal growth. We encourage you to do your best in preparation, and challenge the application process with skill and effort.