

<b>Sub-Program/ Component</b>	<b>Strengthening of governance/ Development of Legal Framework</b>
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<b>1</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Nagoya University</b> (National)
	<b>Graduate School</b>	Graduate School of Law
	<b>URL of University</b>	<a href="http://www.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en">http://www.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en</a>
	<b>URL of Graduate School</b>	<a href="http://gsl-nagoya-u.net">http://gsl-nagoya-u.net</a>
	<b>Program name</b>	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”
	<b>Degrees</b>	Master of Laws (Comparative Law)
	<b>Credit and years needed for graduation</b>	30 credits Non-credit Program for six months and two years
<b>Note</b>	30 credits for graduation 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 fourth-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 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. The program is directed towards persons who will return to their own country after completing the program to be engaged in the reform of their domestic legal and political systems or in the education of the students and civil service staff in the field of law and political science. 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 work for reforming their domestic legal and political systems or to be engaged 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. A seminar on the "Japanese Society and Law" with onsite visits to Japanese judiciary institutions in Japan is also offered. This helps develop students' insights and understandings of legal system in Japan. 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.

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 Society and Law" with onsite visits to Japanese 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 toward 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.

**Reference: Courses taught through English language for the 2011 academic year**

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 Minori	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	Introduction to International Law	2	Yamagata Hideo (*GSID)	Lecture	M1&M2 / 1st term

INTERNATIONAL LAW					
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 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW II	Seminar on Human Rights and Refugee Law	2	Obata Kaoru	Seminar	M1&M2 / 2nd term
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 [Compulsory]	Tutorials	4	Each supervisor (main advisor)	Lecture	M2/ One-year
SPECIAL LECTURE AND	Corporate Legal	1	Nakahigashi	Lecture/Se	M1&M2 / 2nd

SEMINAR III (BUSINESS LAW AND PRACTICES)	Practices		Masafumi	minar/Practice	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 (1<sup>st</sup> term) commences in April 1 and ends up in September 30, 2011. Autumn term (2<sup>nd</sup> 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://gsl-nagoya-u.net/programs/academic/english.html>

**Reference:** Optional courses of "Economics and Development" offered by the Graduate School of Economics 2011, open to GSL students

Course No	Course subject	Credit	Instructor (professors)	Lecture/Seminar	Targeted students/Term offered	Class room
	Introduction to Financial Reporting	2	Mr. NOGUCHI Akihiro et al.	Seminar	M1&M2 1st term/	Seminar room No.7
	Price Theory and Applications	2	Professor ARAYAMA Yuko (Economics Faculty)	Seminar	M1&M2 2nd term/	Seminar room No.5 (4 <sup>th</sup> floor of the School of Economics)
	Income Theory and Applications	2	Professor ARAYAMA Yuko (Economics Faculty)	Seminar	M1&M2 2nd term/	Seminar room No.5 (4 <sup>th</sup> floor of School of Economics)
	Law and Economics Workshop	2	Professor ARAYAMA Yuko (Economics Faculty) / Prof. MATSUURA Yoshiharu (guest, Law Faculty)	Workshop	M1&M2 one year course	(Announced later )

	Introduction to Global Management	2	Professor NISHIMURA Makoto and Professor SATO Michimasa	Seminar	M1&M2 intensive course offered	(Announced later)
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**Note:** The syllabus of the above courses are also uploaded on the GSL website:  
<http://gsl-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.
May		Medical check-up
	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.

#### 1. Foreign Students House (20 minutes by bus.)

Address: 2-23, Tosei-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya



Facilities	49 rooms for single persons (12.5 m <sup>2</sup> )/ 5 rooms for couples (35 m <sup>2</sup> )/ 2 rooms for families (50 m <sup>2</sup> )
Each room is equipped with	Kitchenette, bath, toilet, bed, dresser, storage, desk, chair, and air-conditioner (The kitchens, baths, and toilets for single persons are shared).
Room rent	5,900 yen per month (plus a monthly service fee (6,000 yen) and utility charges) for a single room. 11,900 yen per month (plus a monthly service fee (4,500 yen) and utility charges) for a couple room. 14,200 yen per month (plus a monthly service fee (4,500 yen) and utility charges).for a family room.

#### 2. International Residence Higashiyama (on Higashiyama campus)

Address: 1 Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya



Facilities	25 rooms for couples (34 m <sup>2</sup> )
Each room is equipped with	Kitchenette, bath, toilet, bed, dresser, storage, desk, chair, air-conditioner, refrigerator and washer
Room rent	11,900 yen per month (plus a monthly service fee (4,700 yen) and utility charges)
Facilities	95 rooms for single persons (16 m <sup>2</sup> )
Each room is equipped with	Kitchenette, bath, toilet, bed, dresser, storage, desk, chair and refrigerator
Room rent	5,900 yen per month (plus a monthly service fee (3,580 yen) and utility charges)

#### 3. International Ohmeikan House (10 minutes on foot. Japanese students are also housed in this dormitory. ) Address: 165-1, Takamine-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya



Facilities	60 Rooms for single persons (13 m <sup>2</sup> ) for international students and 232 rooms for Japanese students.
Each room is equipped with	Desk, chair, bed, dresser, shoe storage, cabinet, bath, toilet, multi-purpose table, and air-conditioner
Room rent	4,700 yen per month (plus a monthly service fee (4,000 yen), electricity charge (4,300 yen) and utility charges ).

4. International Residence Yamate which has just opened in April 2010 (10 minutes on foot)  
Address: 165-1, Takamine-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya



Facilities	106 rooms for single persons (15 m <sup>2</sup> )
Each room is equipped with	Kitchenette, bath, toilet, bed, dresser, storage, desk, desk lighting, chair, air-conditioner, refrigerator and washer, microwave, launderette
Room rent	25,000 yen per month (plus a monthly service fee (4,000 yen) and utility charges)

#### **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, also 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 at the outset of the master's program.

(Faculty Members are listed in the accompanying table.)

## **9. Message for Applicants**

Advice for Graduate School Applicants

Within your application, the Field of Study and Research Plan essays are 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. Because distinctiveness and the spark of originality is an essential feature of any research project, we do not and cannot provide a “model proposal” for guidance. It is, however, important to consider the target audience. In this case, that target audience would be the reviewers: members of our faculty who serve on the Admissions Committee, and on the interview panel. We therefore offer some guidance here on the Japanese higher education system (which, inevitably, shapes our own attitudes and expectations) and on the content of our academic programs (which determines what we consider to be a strong application).

## **1. Japanese undergraduate education**

The competitive nature of Japanese primary and secondary education is well known. While there is some room for pursuit of special interests and talents among students, there is a relatively high degree of uniformity in the national curriculum, and the pathway leading to University entrance is exam-driven, rigorously meritocratic, and requires students to achieve a well-defined level of competence across a range of basic subjects.

For students who gain admission to a given University, the environment of higher education stands in sharp contrast to that of high school and junior high school. Students who have cleared the entrance hurdle of the examination system are assumed to have a firm foundation of factual knowledge about Japan and the world, and a certain level of skill in fields such as mathematics and science. The role of University life is to provide an environment within which students may extend their knowledge, acquire organizational and other skills needed in life after graduation, and explore areas of particular interest in a goal-directed way.

Within these broad objectives, the curricula of individual Universities in Japan vary significantly. While some programs set an array of mandatory courses in their lower division (first and second year) and upper division (third and fourth year) curricula, others permit more latitude to students to select and shape the content of their course of undergraduate study. The tradition of undergraduate education at Nagoya University is of the latter type.

Despite such local variations, the Seminar system is common to all Japanese University education. In the latter years of undergraduate study, students typically join a Seminar among those offered by each member of staff. In Seminar, students pursue readings in a specialized subject, beyond the boundaries of the lecture-taught subjects in the balance of the curriculum. It is in Seminar, particularly, that undergraduate students intending to pursue postgraduate study develop a close working relationship with the convening professor, identify their particular strengths and areas of interest, and begin developing the skills necessary to pursue self-guided research.

## **2. Japanese graduate school education**

In graduate school, the center of activity for faculty and their supervisees shifts entirely to research, rather than the conveyance of basic knowledge or a fixed set of skills. Participation is voluntary, tends to be seminar-oriented, and is driven as much by the research interests of students as by those of faculty. Everyone has a specific research agenda of their own, which they pursue while learning from, and being challenged – sometimes confronted – by their peers. This is the environment and the set of expectations into which successful applicants will be thrust. In this research culture, the supervising professor may give advice on topic and direction, but never a command; a student's work stands or falls according to the strength of its concept, and the soundness of the underlying research work.

While the overseas-admission programs in the Nagoya University Faculty of Law are a separate curriculum, the pattern of instruction is the same. The thesis is the single most important focus of evaluation at the end of the degree.

### 3. Entrance Examinations to Graduate Schools

We encourage you to bear the background outlined above in mind, as you prepare your application. This is the environment that the interview panel has in mind at interview, for candidates that proceed to that stage. Whatever the result, we would ask that you treat the application process itself as a learning experience and an opportunity to grow and acquire new skills.

So ... what are we looking for? Generally speaking, when reviewing applications or conducting interviews, the following factors will be at the forefront of our thinking:

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?

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.

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.

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.

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.

Applications from Vietnam are in the area of "Strengthening of Governance/ Development of Legal Framework". Broadly speaking, we understand this to be connected to the themes of "rule of law" and "institution building" – promoting the role of government in coordinating activity and resolving disputes in a consistent, transparent way to the benefit of society. Every legal system faces challenges on these points, and neither Vietnam *nor* Japan is exceptions in this regard. The legal systems and related practices of the two countries differ significantly, but the problem of controlling maladministration and adverse incentives exist everywhere. Just as these themes are not tied to a particular country, they are not tied to a particular field. We therefore welcome applications under this heading in all fields of legal study.

You may assume that the reviewers are familiar with the broad outlines of the Vietnamese experience and legal situation. It is a given that useful lessons can be derived from study of other jurisdictions, particularly Japan. Your aim should be to set forth in specific terms what you understand those lessons to be. The reviewers will also be aware (through our local research and supervision, and

through applications received from Vietnam in this and other programs) of prominent reform efforts in Vietnam itself. The application process is competitive, and the reviewers will be looking for the distinctive features of your application. Applications which uncritically recite the reform agenda of a particular institution, or which propose to acquire unspecified lessons from Japan will not be favored. A proposal to reform Vietnamese laws or practices should show detailed knowledge of those laws and practices, and take a dispassionate view of the areas of difficulty. A proposal to derive lessons from Japanese experience in a particular area of law should exhibit knowledge of the relevant Japanese law and institutions, and sensitivity to how these may or may not be compatible with the existing Vietnamese situation.

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.