

## **Master's Program in Economics for JDS Students 2008-2009**

### **Graduate School of Economics, Ritsumeikan University**

#### **Message from the Dean**

Thank you for your interest in the Graduate School of Economics, Ritsumeikan University. Since its establishment in 1950, the Graduate School of Economics of Ritsumeikan University has produced many outstanding graduates who entered the academia, the business world, central and local governments, and research organizations. The campus, located near Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, is surrounded by abundant nature, and provides the best level of facilities and equipment.

Beginning of the 2001 academic year, many courses have been offered in English. The Graduate School of Economics is home to many renowned international Economics and International students who have enjoyed taking such courses as well as writing and submitting their thesis in conjunction with their academic advisers. The program starting from September 2002 enables students to enroll in elective courses such as International Finance, Development Economics, Environment Economics, International Economics, and Financial Economics as well as a number of core courses. In 2004, we enlarged the program to non-JDS students from developing countries through alternative scholarships and other funding.

We are confident that as a leader they will have great contribution to social and economic development of their home country after finishing the Master's Program of our School. We also believe that they will form bridges among their home countries and Japan. We look forward to meeting you who will participate in the program in 2008-2009.

Katsuo Iwata, Dean  
Graduate School of Economics  
Ritsumeikan University

## **1. Overview**

The undergraduate school, the Faculty of Economics was established in 1903 and The Graduate School of Economics was originated in 1950. And its educational philosophy is peace and democracy. The faculty has nurtured as much as 50,000 students with independence and ability in business. We feel proud that we kept a prominent position among a lot of graduate schools and faculties of economics in Japan in terms of quality of education and research.

The Graduate School of Economics is at Biwako-Kusatsu Campus near Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan. At the campus, surrounded by abundant nature, we offer a cutting-edge environment in which to educate and train future business leaders and economists for the new century. At present, there are full faculty members in the master's and doctoral program. Students in the two-year master's degree program can choose from three research programs: Economic theory and Policy (in Japanese), Taxation and Public Finance (in Japanese) and Economic Development (in English). Economic theory and Policy involves broad ranging research in the field of social/economic system and history and microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, finance, international economics and public economics. The Master's Program in Economic Development (abbreviated in MPED) for International students is mainly based on Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, and offers many courses of other programs. They are from Bangladesh, the Philippines, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Indonesia, Cambodia, Ecuador, and Myanmar. In total 34 JDS students have studied in MPED. 18 more students including 9 JDS students will be enrolled in the 2007-2008 academic year.

## **2. Purpose of Program**

This program provides the curriculum mainly for those who wish to contribute to economic and social development of their home countries. Students are expected to acquire the following capability through their studies and research activities:

- (1) to become an expert in economic and social development policy, who can conduct policy and cooperate with international organizations and discuss with their staffs.

- (2) to understand the recent development of the Japanese society and economy and the problems it faces through the studies of the Post-war economic history.

### **3. Characteristics of Program**

#### **(1) The First Year's Study**

Students are required to take common courses such as Elementary Seminar, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Development Economics, and Japanese Economy. A course of Elementary Seminar enables students to prepare for master thesis with brushing up their original research proposals. They have opportunities to study development issues with the textbook, *Economic Development* written by Michael P. Todaro and Stephan C. Smith, and discuss their own research concern as well as participating in field trips for understanding some aspects of the Japanese economy and society. In the second semester, they are eligible to take Topics in Economics (Academic Writing) in order to learn how to organize their research topics in the thesis. As for Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Econometrics, students are to be divided into 2 classes with considering the academic background of each student. For general understanding of issues on economic development they can also enroll elective courses: International Finance, Development Economics, Environmental Economics, International Economics, Financial Economics and a course on current issues (Topics in Economics). Every year, our school invites distinguish overseas scholars who provide lectures on current topics.

#### **(2) The Second Year's Study**

Students enroll elective courses and special seminars according to their own research concern. Research areas are broadly categorized as follows:

- 1) issues on national economy such as fiscal & financial policy, and industrial policy.
- 2) issues on international economy such as trade policy and international finance.
- 3) business startup, accumulation of technology in small business, and its international transfer.
- 4) protecting natural environment for sustainable development.

Students can take such courses by using econometric methods, doing fieldwork

study, or participating in internship programs according to their own research themes. They will have opportunities to participate in internship programs during a long vacation. Their presentations at the two formal seminars and open research seminars make students to be convinced of their own researches with useful comments from the faculty staff as well as other students.

### (3) Degree

The School confers the Master's Degree in Economics on graduate students who successfully earn required credits. Students are supposed to accumulate a total of 32 credits to come from course work, seminars with their academic advisors, and their final thesis. The Masters Degree is also conferred to anyone who finishes a research paper instead of final thesis.<sup>1</sup> During the first year's study, students can choose a master thesis or a research paper.

Each course is worth 2 credits per semester. Full year courses and seminars are worth 4 credits. The final thesis is worth 6 credits and research paper is worth 2 credits.

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<sup>1</sup> Students write their thesis about wide range of topics that include economic theory, issues on the Japanese economy, the economy of developing countries, environment economics, public finance, social welfare and so on. The following are the topics of Master's thesis by JDS students.

- Growth and Poverty: The Role of Agriculture in Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh
- Analysis on Privatization in ASEAN Countries
- Governance and Industrialization in Bangladesh -Lessons from Japan and Korea-
- Economic Assessment of Grid-Connected Photovoltaic Systems in Bangladesh: Creation of Vision Up To 2020
- Corruption and Economic Growth : An Emphasis of Philippines
- Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth-The Case of Vietnam-
- Past and Current Monetary Policies in Myanmar with Special Reference to Supply Side Economic Theory
- Financial Arrangements in East Asia

## 4. Curriculum

### Curriculum at a Glance

	Common Courses	Elective Courses
<b>First Semester (First Year, Fall Semester)</b>	Elementary Seminar I Microeconomics I Macroeconomics I Econometrics I Japanese Economy I Development Economics	Managerial Economics International Finance I
<b>Second Semester (First Year, Spring and Summer Semesters)</b>	Elementary Seminar II Microeconomics II Macroeconomics II Econometrics II	International Finance II Public Policy I Development Policy Environmental Economics Japanese Economy II International Economics Topics in Economics I
<b>Third Semester (Second Year, Fall Semester)</b>	Special Seminar Special Study (Thesis) Special Study ( Research Paper )	Environmental Policy Asian Economy Financial Economics Public Policy II Internship Program Topics in Economics
<b>Fourth Semester (Second Year, Spring and Summer Semesters)</b>	Special Seminar Special Study (Thesis) Special Study ( Research Paper )	Topics in Economics I Internship Program

## 5. Teaching Staff at the Graduate School of Economics and Research Topic

AGATSUMA, Nobuhiko *Professor*

Environmental economics; economic policy

FURUKAWA, Akira *Professor*

Research on contemporary Japanese economy

HATA Katsu *Associate Professor*

Financial Economics

HIRATA, Junichi *Professor*

Empirical and theoretical analysis of Japanese and U.S. financial markets and the macro economy

INABA, Kazuo *Professor*

Empirical studies of Japanese corporate overseas activities

IZAWA, Hiroshi *Professor*

Theoretical and empirical analysis of Japanese financial system

LEE, Kangkook *Associate Professor*

Macroeconomics and International finance

KAJIYAMA, Naoki *Professor*

International Finance

KASAI Toshiyuki *Professor*

Official development assistance and development issues

MATSUBARA, Toyohiko *Professor*

Agriculture and agribusiness in Canada and Japan

NISHIGUCHI, Kiyokatsu *Professor*

Development issues; economic development in East Asia

OKAWA, Masayuki *Professor*

International Economics; theory of international trade and trade policy

SAKATA, Kei *Associate Professor*

Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics

SHIMADA, Kohji *Professor*

Environmental Policy

TAKEOKA Norio *Associate Professor*

Microeconomic Theory, Decision Theory

TANIGAKI Kazuori *Professor*

Economic Theory

TERAWAKI Taku *Associate Professor*

Applied Statistics

YOSHIDA, Chisato *Professor*

International Economics, Microeconomics

ZHENG, Xiao-Ping *Professor*

Urban and Regional Economics, Regional Science

## 6. Provisional Academic Calendar (REFERENCE)

<b>First Year 2008-2009</b>		
2008	<b>September</b>	Entrance Ceremony, Fall Semester begins
2009	<b>February-March</b>	Spring Break Spring session
2009	<b>March</b>	Submission of Research Plan (for thesis)
2009	<b>April</b>	Spring Semester begins
2009	<b>August-September</b>	Summer break Summer session/Internship
<b>Second Year</b>		
2009	<b>September</b>	Fall Semester begins Submission of Progress Report ( for thesis )
2009	<b>October</b>	Interim Oral Research Presentation
2010	<b>February-March</b>	Spring Break Internship
2010	<b>April</b>	Spring Semester begins
2010	<b>May</b>	Oral Research Presentation
2010	<b>July</b>	Submission of thesis Oral defense of thesis
2010	<b>August-September</b>	Summer break
2010	<b>September</b>	Graduation Ceremony