

YU/JICA Master's Program in Public Administration

Yamaguchi University

Homepage:

http://www.econo.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/index_e.html

YU/JICA Master's Program in Public Administration

1. Purpose

Despite increased cooperation between the private, public and non-profit sectors, public administration still remains a separate profession that needs particular knowledge and skills. While managers and administrators in the public and non-profit sectors require analytical and managerial expertise equal to their private sector counterparts, they must also possess a full understanding of the public policy, program evaluation, and decision-making framework in which they operate as proponents of the public interest. Based on the economics and related disciplines, the YU/JICA Master's Program of Public Administration is designed to combine these two spheres of knowledge and skills in preparing men and women for challenging and rewarding careers in the changing public and non-profit arenas of transitional economies.

2. Main features of the Curriculum

The two-year course for Public Administration includes 30 required credits, which consists of two curricula: Core Curriculum and Area of Specialization. The Core curriculum required of all YU/JICA students consists of 18 credits. The curriculum provides the students with basic knowledge and skills on micro- and macroeconomics, statistics, program evaluation, and statistical decision-making. The students are required to get at least 2 credits of Area of Specialization course work. The areas of specialization includes Development Economics, International Political Economy, Trade and Development. In order to complete the course, the students must write the master thesis under the supervision of supervisors. Prior to the completion, they must also present main contents of their theses at various seminars.

3. Public Administration Core

First Year

1st Quarter

- Advanced Microeconomics (2 credits: Required)
- Mathematics for Economics (2 credits: Required)

2nd Quarter

- Advanced Macroeconomics (2 credits: Required)
- Public Economics (2 credits: Required)

3rd Quarter

- Cost-Benefit Analysis (2 credits: Required)
- Economic Statistics (2 credits: Required)
- Decision Making (2 credits: Required)

4th Quarter

- Program Evaluation (2 credits: Required)
- Statistical Decision Making (2 credits: Required)

4. Area of Specialization

First Year

- Seminar I A (2 credits: Required)
- Seminar I B (2 credits: Required)

Second Year

- Seminar II A(Thesis Instruction) (2 credits: Required)
- Seminar II B(Thesis Instruction) (2 credits: Required)
- Academic Writing (2 credits: Required)

1st Semester: Specialization (Elective Course: Provisional)

Students must take 2 credits at least.

- Postwar Japanese Economy: An Overview (2 credits: Elective)
- Japanese Corporate Governance: An Overview (2 credits: Elective)
- Postwar Japanese Economic Policies : An Overview (2 credits: Elective)
- Postwar Japanese International Policies : An Overview (2 credits: Elective)
- Public Administration and Management (2 credits: Elective)
- Regional Economics (2 credits: Elective)
- International Trade and Economic Policy (2 credits: Elective)
- Industrial Policy (and Labor Relations) (2 credits: Elective)
- Development Economics

5. Academic Credit Requirements

- Core course: 18 credits
- Academic Writing: 2 credits
- Seminar I A: 2 credits
- Seminar I B: 2 credits
- Seminar II A(Thesis Instruction): 2 credits
- Seminar II B(Thesis Instruction): 2 credits
- Thesis(Required): 0 credits
- Specialization: 2+credits
- Total Credits: 30+credits

6. Program Calendar

October/2008 YU/JICA Program begins.

June /2010 Submit the Thesis.

September /2010 YU/JICA Program ends.

7. Qualifications for Applicants* Please refer to the guideline of the JDS program as well

a. Applicants must meet one of the following basic requirements.

1) Have completed or are expected to complete 16 years education outside

Japan by the end of September 2008.

2) Have graduated or are expected to graduate from a university in Japan by the end of September 2008, after completing 12 years education outside of Japan.

3) Recognized by the Graduate School of Economics at Yamaguchi University as having academic abilities to those who have hold a bachelor's degree.

b. Requirements: knowledge about undergraduate-level Micro Economics and Macro Economics.

c. Applicants are recommended to have English skill at 550 TOEFL paper-based version score.

8. Degree

Master of Economics

9. Course Description

Advanced Microeconomics

(Associate Prof. Nguyen Phuc Huu)

The purpose of the class is to help the students to understand the connections between contemporary microeconomics and practical problems, and to show the students how economic models can yield answers to practical problems. Finally, they can apply what they learned to their own master theses.

Mathematics for Economics

(Prof. Yoshimi Kashiwagi)

This course is to introduce students mathematics used in microeconomics. By using mathematics, things in economics will become clear and we can handle them theoretically. Actually microeconomics has been developed by mathematics. The goal of this course is to understand the mathematics which is used in solving the constrained utility maximizing problem and the constrained expenditure minimizing problem. The starting point depends on your knowledge of mathematics. We will begin by checking it. Topics include: basic mathematics, differentiation of functions of one variable, differentiation of functions of several variables, determinant, quasiconcave functions, Lagrangian method.

Advanced Macroeconomics

(Associate Prof. Masao Yamada)

This course will introduce basic concepts and theories in macroeconomics. Students will develop an understanding of the determinants of the level of income, output and employment. The effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policies will also be discussed.

Topics

GDP

Consumption
Investment
Determination of income
Money and interest rate
IS – LM model
Mundell – Fleming model

Public Economics

(Prof. Shinji Teraji)

This course will set out the basic framework for the analysis of policies, programs, projects, regulations, and other government interventions. One needs to know whether the benefits (revenues) of all policy consequences exceed the costs (expenditures). The analysis tries to consider all of the costs and benefits to society as a whole. The objective is to facilitate more efficient allocation of society's resources. Where markets work well, individual self-interest leads to an efficient allocation of resources. Consequently, programs of government intervention move the market away from a competitive equilibrium, creating distortions in the market as economic resources are reallocated. In perfectly competitive markets there are no externalities. Externalities are present in a market if the actions of either consumers or producers lead to costs or benefits that are not reflected in the price of the product in the market. Where markets fail, there is a rationale for government intervention. One must be able to demonstrate the superior efficiency of a particular intervention relative to the alternatives. For this purpose, we use public economic theory.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

(Associate Prof. Satoshi Yamashita)

This course is intended for a student with a basic understanding of elementary economics who wish to learn how to conduct a social cost-benefit analysis. The term social benefit-cost analysis refer to the appraisal of a private or public project from a public interest viewpoint. Our class concerns itself mainly with the economic benefits and costs of projects, although it touches on the question of economic impact. The questions addressed are fundamentally whether the benefits of the project exceed the costs or not. Therefore, we try to integrate spreadsheet analysis with analytical principles. We are going to study a template based on spreadsheet analysis in conducting a social cost-benefit analysis. Through the case study, I hope you should be capable of undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of an actual project.

Economic Statistics

(Associate Prof. Junichi Nomura)

Simulation models have been widely used in the design of public policy. This course focuses upon econometric simulation models. Therefore we explain how to estimate a single equation model at first. For most economic decision or choice problems, we want to know the relationships between economic variables, which are suggested by economic theory. It is called economic

models. The economic models involve questions concerning the signs and magnitudes of unknown and unobservable parameters, such as the price elasticities and multipliers. One of our goals is to give you some idea of how we introduce parameters into an economic model and how we estimate them. Then we discuss the construction, evaluation, and analysis of simultaneous equation models and their use in policy analysis and forecasting. At the end of this course we will construct our own simulation models and evaluate their dynamic behavior.

Decision Making

(Prof. Takashi Naritomi)

Decisions today are probably more complex and difficult than at any time in the past. To improve our decision making abilities, we should consider both how these decisions are made and how they should be made. In this course we will focus on;

1. Decision-making process
2. Decision models
3. Mathematical models
4. Solving models in a spreadsheet

Statistical Decision Making

(Prof. Hiroshi Hashimoto)

For decision making using stochastic models, statistical decision theory or Bayesian decision theory is treated. Problems of decision making under uncertainty are difficult to solve, but they are interesting and important in the real applications. First probability concepts such as objective probability, subjective probability, conditional probability, and Bayes' theorem are given shortly. Then some criteria for decision making, decision trees, how to evaluate decision trees, and so on are introduced and discussed by using proper examples.

Program Evaluation

(Prof. Tetsuji Umada)

This lecture applies the theory-driven evaluation approach. First we identify stakeholder's needs, and then select evaluation options best suited to particular needs. Finally we put the selected approach into action.

The goals of this lecture are;

1. To understand the basic concepts and conceptual framework of program evaluation.
2. To understand how program evaluation can be used to assist stakeholders as they plan programs.
3. To understand evaluation approach and methods.

Academic Writing

(Associate Prof. Timothy Takemoto)

This course focuses on the skills required for writing presentations, essays

and papers in an academic context. Wherever possible students will be given the opportunity to create, present and improve academic productions in their own academic field. Students shall be required to present academic writing, both in class and to a wider public on the World Wide Web.

1) Lexical and Grammatical Register

Students will be encouraged to become aware of the differences between formal (academic) and informal (conversational) vocabulary and grammar. Emphasis will be placed in raising students' awareness of the register of the lexicon and grammatical structures used in academic writing.

2) Academic Grammatical Constructions

Students will be introduced and trained in the use of typical academic grammatical forms, in particular: the passive voice, compound sentences, and structures for making hypotheses, asserting conclusions and refuting arguments.

3) Abstracts and Précis

The methods and rules for producing précis and abstracts of ones own and others work will be taught with emphasis placed on developing students' ability to condense, paraphrase and synopsisise work in their own research field.

4) Structure and Organization

The structure and organization of academic presentations, journal papers will be introduced with reference to cultural norms and international standards. Students will be required to present their own research in a format applicable for presentation and publication according to recognized academic structural norms.

5) Plagiarism, References and Citation

Students will be advised as to the rules concerning the use, and abuse, of references to other academic works, including standards for citation, references and bibliographies. Students will also be guided in the use of search techniques and databases for the retrieval of pertinent bibliographic material.

6) Correction and Amendment

Standards and techniques for the correction and amendment of academic texts will be introduced via reciprocal feedback and mock 'peer review'. Students will be required to present their own research and to provide constructive comment on the work of others.

7) Formal Presentation

Students will be required to give a formal presentation to their peers and to a wider public via the World Wide Web. The use of information processing technology, such as Microsoft PowerPoint will be discussed.