

Address and Contact Information

Getting to GRIPS

The GRIPS building is located in the center of Tokyo, conveniently accessible by public transport. Both Nogizaka Station on the Chiyoda Line and Roppongi Station on the Oedo and Hibiya Lines are within 10 minutes walking distance.



Roppongi Hills



National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8677 Japan
Tel: +81-(0)3-6439-6000
<http://www.grips.ac.jp>

Admissions Office

admissions@grips.ac.jp

2025.07



Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP)
Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship
Self-Financed Students

One-year Master's Program of Public Policy (MP1)

Two-year Master's Program of Public Policy (MP2)



政策研究大学院大学
NATIONAL GRADUATE INSTITUTE
FOR POLICY STUDIES

1 About GRIPS

Your Gateway to Global Leadership

GRIPS is a graduate school specializing in education and research for policy studies. The predecessor of GRIPS was the Graduate School of Policy Science (GSPS), which was established in 1977 at Saitama University as the first graduate school for policy studies in Japan. Established in 1997 by the Japanese government, GRIPS inherited the GSPS mantle and eventually moved to Roppongi, an international and cultural hub of Tokyo. GRIPS aims to produce first-class policy makers and conduct cutting-edge research in policy studies. Our slogan, “Gateway to Global Leadership,” summarizes the mission of GRIPS: We seek to identify and nurture leaders and managers involved in policy-making on a global scale.

GRIPS is one of the most internationalized graduate schools in the world, with international students comprising nearly 60% of the student body. The class of 2024-2025, for example, which consisted of 407 students, included 243 foreign students from 59 countries. Most GRIPS students are professionals from central and local governments.

GRIPS has been a partner of the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP) since 2000. In addition, GRIPS has been selected by the Japanese government and international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Customs Organization to train mid-career government officials from emerging and developing countries.



2 GRIPS' Flagship Program

The Public Policy Program

The Public Policy Program (PPP) is GRIPS' flagship program and it has roots going back to the GSPS. The mission of the PPP is to educate leaders, public managers, and public policy analysts, providing them with the policy tools and ethical principles needed for democratic and efficient governance in the public policy arena. The PPP has produced a steady stream of highly qualified managers and leaders for many important areas of public policy. Graduates of this program become part of an international network of policy professionals.

The Public Policy Program has two tracks—a one-year track (MP1) and a two-year track (MP2). The working and teaching language of the PPP is English and all courses are offered in English.

The one-year master's program (MP1) equips mid-career managers and leaders with the fundamental skills and knowledge needed to make them effective managers in the public sector. Students develop familiarity with all phases of the policy cycle. The program awards the degree of Master of Public Policy. Students are required to write a policy paper in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree.

The two-year master's program (MP2) provides early- and mid-career professionals and junior staff members with the technical skills needed to be professional policy analysts. The program builds a strong foundation for advanced research (including doctoral studies). The program awards the degree of Master of Arts in Public Policy. Students are required to write a master's thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree.



Director:
Hyoung Kyu Chey
(International Political Economy)



Associate Director:
Hozumi Morohosi
(Operations Research)



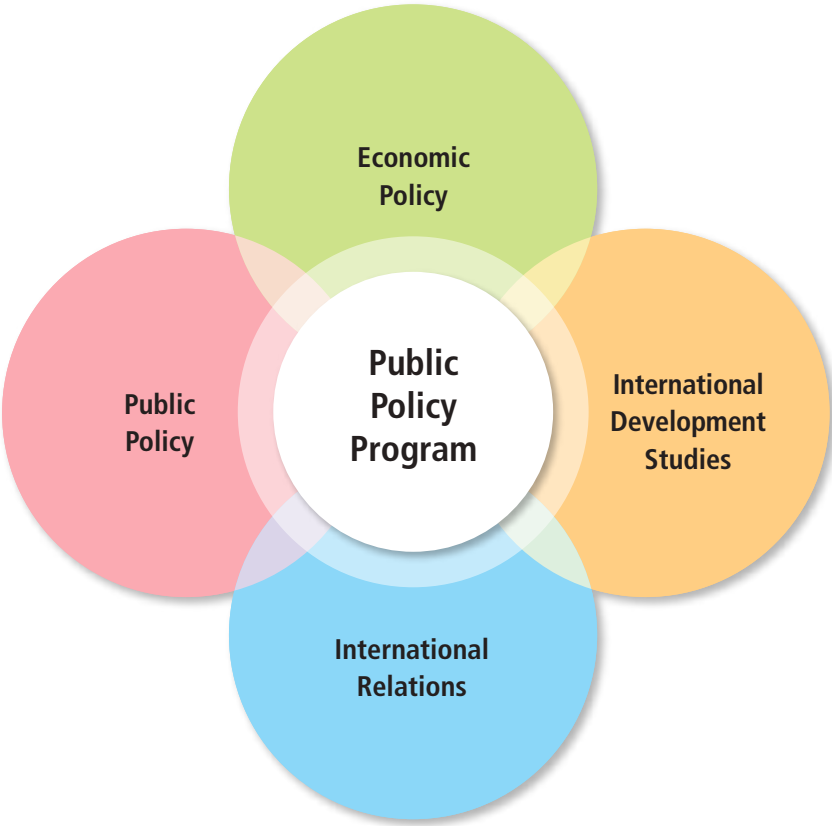
Associate Director:
Stephan Litschig
(Applied Economics)



Photo : ★ Masao Nishikawa

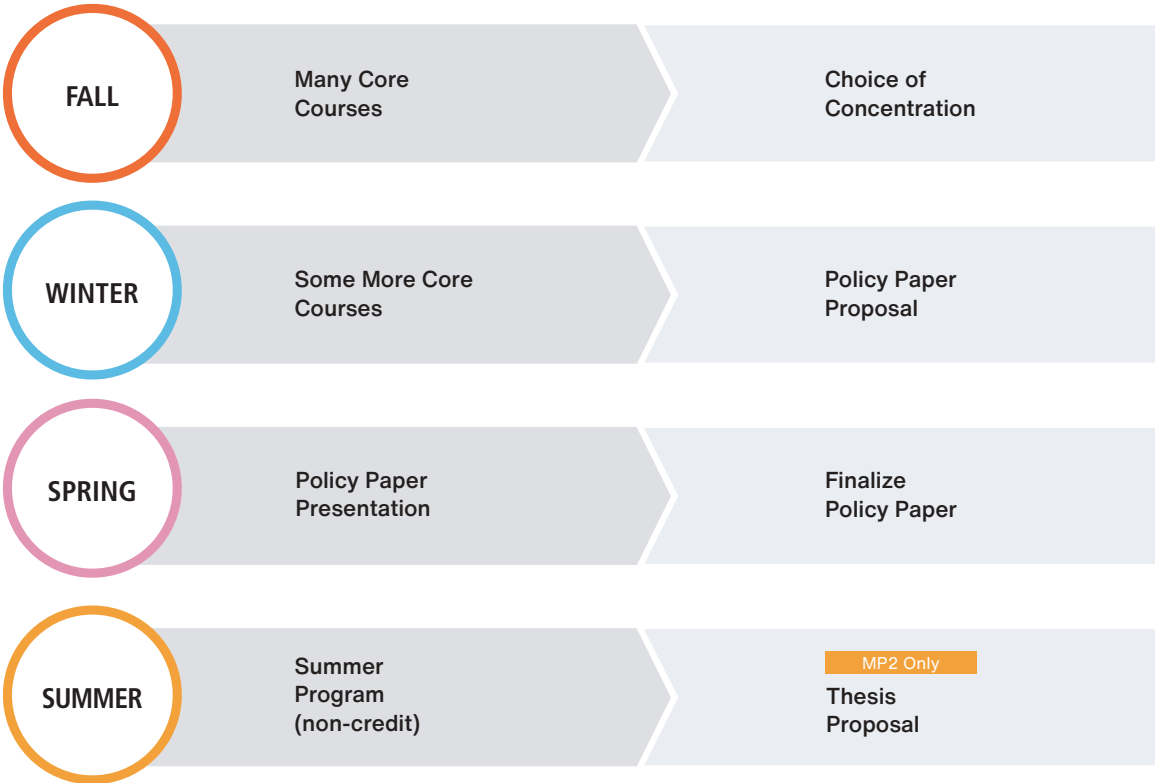
Program Design: Interdisciplinary Academic & Professional Education

The curriculum is composed of one required course and a wide variety of elective courses. Students acquire specialized knowledge, analytical skills, and interdisciplinary perspectives by taking required and recommended courses. A wide range of elective courses enables students to enhance their academic and pragmatic skills. Practical courses are taught by government officials who have extensive experience in policy formulation and implementation. This combination of academic and practical knowledge is the hallmark of a GRIPS education.



Students are provided considerable guidance in the preparation of their policy papers. Students cultivate research skills, select a research topic, and develop their policy papers through a range of courses and seminars. The Center for Professional Communication (CPC) offers guidance and support at every stage of the writing process, from selecting a topic to writing the final draft.

In addition to the knowledge and skills acquired in the first year, MP2 second-year students receive advanced training and guidance in the technical and practical skills needed for public policy analysis. Students develop and apply their research skills to writing and defending compulsory master’s theses. Thus, MP2 provides a strong platform for advanced policy research (including doctoral studies).



Faculty: Cutting-Edge Academic Research for Practical Policy Solutions

GRIPS has approximately 80 full-time faculty members from a variety of backgrounds. Many of them have served as central and local government officials, diplomats, bankers or business executives. This enables an effective combination of rigorous academic courses complemented by professional expertise and experience. For more on our faculty members, please see <http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/about/directory/>

Concentrations: Your Field of Study

Students can enroll in a wide variety of courses covering the social sciences, including economics, international relations, development policies, operations research, as well as their chosen fields for in-depth policy study. The PPP provides students with a choice of four concentrations (specialties): Economic Policy (EP), International Development Studies (IDS), International Relations (IR), and Public Policy (PP).

Economic Policy (EP) Concentration

The objective of the Economic Policy (EP) Concentration is to provide policy professionals with the skills needed to design and evaluate policy alternatives while emphasizing the application of economic tools to realworld policy problems. Students are strongly recommended to take core and applied courses in economics. Each student is required to produce a policy paper/thesis, for which GRIPS faculty members will provide guidance and advice.



Concentration Leader:
Stephan Litschig
(Applied Economics)

Titles of Past Policy Reports and Theses

- Impact of Education on Married Women Labor Force Participation in Bangladesh: An Empirical Analysis
- Impact of Public Debt on Economic Growth of Sub-Saharan African Countries
- The Impact of Monetary Policy on Income and Wealth inequality: Evidence from Thailand
- Study on The Elderly Cash Transfer Program in Indonesia: External Validity Evidence with Different Threshold using The Regression Discontinuity Design

International Development Studies (IDS) Concentration

The International Development Studies (IDS) Concentration aims to foster technical skills for solving development problems using economics as the basic tool. Specially designed for researchers and policy makers interested in development issues, the curriculum of this concentration covers a wide range of topics in development including gender, poverty, agricultural development, trade and industry, environment, and government and market.



Concentration Leader:
Yutaro Izumi
(Applied Microeconomics)

Titles of Past Policy Reports and Theses

- Assessing the Relationship Between Foreign Aid and Poverty in Asia
- Understanding How Much Firm-Level Characteristics Impact Entrepreneur Gender-Firm Performance in Six Developing Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa
- Household Resilience as a Pathway to Food Security: Evidence from the Philippines
- Out-of-Pocket Expenditure on Health Care with Special Reference to Poorest Income Quintile Households in Sri Lanka: an Analysis Using Household Survey Data

International Relations (IR) Concentration

The International Relations (IR) Concentration aims to foster the development of future policy leaders through intensive training in the methods and approaches necessary for understanding and solving major contemporary challenges in the world. We welcome students with interests in international affairs, variety of issues from security to political economy, as well as those who wish to analyze domestic politics or political economy within the context of an individual country or from a comparative perspective. Both qualitative and quantitative methods can be adopted for analyses.



Concentration Leader:
Guanle Lim
(Economic Geography)

Titles of Past Policy Reports and Theses

- The Relationship Between New Media and Health Policy: A Case Study on Government's Media Response to Covid-19 Vaccine Misconceptions in Ghana
- Chinese Investment and Trade in Bangladesh: Something to Fear?
- Changing Dynamics in the Aid Industry – A Case Study for Self-Reliance of Uganda
- Alliance Politics and US-Philippine Security Relations Under the Duterte Administration
- The Political Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Lao PDR

Public Policy (PP) Concentration

The objective of the Public Policy (PP) Concentration is to provide students with knowledge of various policy issues from many different disciplinary viewpoints to support their understanding and investigation of policy-related problems. Students are required to write a policy proposal based on the application of either quantitative or qualitative analytical tools to a policy issue. In preparing policy papers, students should (a) collect quantitative and/or qualitative data, (b) analyze the data, and (c) write a policy proposal based on their investigation.



Concentration Leaders:
Hozumi Morohosi
(Operations Research)

Titles of Past Policy Reports and Theses

- Introducing Universal Pension System in Bangladesh: possible scheme and potential administrative challenges
- An Analysis of Carbon Emissions in the Philippines: The Implications of Economic Policy Uncertainty on Renewable Energy Transition
- Risk Management Policies against Sediment Disasters intensified by Climate Change
- Exploring Punctuated Equilibrium Theory: An Alternative Explanation of Determinant Factors for Policy Punctuations in The Welfare State Policy

Curriculum

Required Course			
The World and the SDGs			
Required or Recommended Courses by Concentration			
Economic Policy	International Development Studies	International Relations	Public Policy
Microeconomics I	Microeconomics I	International Relations	Government and Market
Microeconomics II	Microeconomics II	International Political Economy	Introduction to Applied Econometrics
Macroeconomics I	Essential Microeconomics	International Security Studies	Trade and Industrial Development
Macroeconomics II	Macroeconomics I	International Relations in East Asia	Resource and Energy Economics
Introduction to Applied Econometrics	Macroeconomics II	Comparative Development Studies of Asia	Development Economics
	Essential Macroeconomics	Government and Politics in Japan	International Security Studies
	Introduction to Applied EconometricsI	Japanese Foreign Policy	Structure and Process of Government
	Applied Econometrics	Comparative Politics	Politics of Global Money and Finance
	Applied Econometrics Practice	Comparative State Formation	Introduction to Quantitative Methods
	Development Economics	State and Politics in Southeast Asia	Quantitative Social Systems Analysis
	Agricultural Development	Politics of Global Money and Finance	Introduction to Data Science
	Development Econometrics	Non-Traditional Security	Data Science in Practice
	Trade and Industrial Development	Analysis of Great Power Politics	Outline of Energy Policy
	Government and Market	Comparative Political Economy	Energy Data Analysis
	Political Economy	International Relations in Europe	
	Competition and Regulatory Economics	Political Economy of Trade and Investment	
	Environmental Economics		
	Resource and Energy Economics		
	Transportation Economics		
	Theoretical Foundation of Economic Policy		
	Economics of Health and Education		
	Structure and Process of Government		
	Comparative Political Economy		
	Comparative Development Studies of Asia		
	Comparative Analysis of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy		

Note : The above table lists some of the required and recommended courses by concentration.



3 Resources

Center for Data Science

GRIPS established the Center for Data Science in April 2022, with the aim of promoting both education and research of data science, directed at the development of policy science. For that purpose, GRIPS will conduct necessary projects concerning data science education and research, centered on the following:

(1) Follow up data science-related classes; (2) Provide consultations to students and researchers concerning data analysis and modeling as a whole; (3) Provide training on how to use software, such as the R language and Stata, and on the mathematical theory for data science; (4) Promote joint research relating to data science inside and outside GRIPS and hold related symposiums; and (5) Develop GRIPS's data archives. GRIPS has academic policy science researchers in broad areas, covering from arts to sciences, and policymakers well-versed in planning and implementation of policies as its faculty, and offers an ideal environment for data science education and research in the field of policy science, also in terms of its easily accessible location.



Director:
Takashi Tsuchiya
(Professor)

Center for Professional Communication

The mission of the Center for Professional Communication (CPC) is to support GRIPS students, faculty, and staff in developing effective professional communication skills and competencies needed to communicate productively in an environment of multiple stakeholders. To this end, we offer a range of instruction and support in fundamental areas of professional communication in English and Japanese, including policy paper writing, professional speaking, grant proposal writing, and digital communications. We also provide opportunities for cultural and academic exchanges through a self-access learning center, organize seminars and special events related to all aspects of professional communication, and prepare customized materials for students and staff on academic and professional writing and language learning.





Among the greatest benefits and joys of studying at GRIPS are the quality and diversity of the student community. The connections you make at GRIPS are a valuable part of your degree. The GRIPS Alumni Network will ensure lifetime bonds by keeping you in touch with fellow alumni and the school.

As a GRIPS graduate, you will join an impressive network of around more than 6,000 alumni who are actively shaping and administering public policies in more than 120 countries around the world. We offer a variety of ways to remain engaged with GRIPS and strengthen your ties with fellow alumni around the globe. These include alumni reunions, seminars, a searchable alumni directory and online networking opportunities utilizing social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Alumni Voices



Sharleen Kristine K. Te (Philippines, 2018) One-year Master's Program of Public Policy
Bank Officer, Financial Supervision Sector, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Studying in GRIPS gave me the opportunity to gain in-depth technical knowledge and broaden my perspective on non-academic aspects. It opened my eyes to the real-life issues and situations we currently face, such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, that made me realize the importance of strong and inclusive governance. It provided me with a holistic understanding on the usage of economic models to craft and implement appropriate policies that properly address the real problems, and to monitor and evaluate the degree to which they create a positive impact to the society. Surrounded by professors and students across countries with varied cultural backgrounds, diverse and meaningful sharing of experiences, discussions, and best practices were almost always present during class sessions. Nonetheless, it made me understand that there is no one best policy to fit all cases and the effectiveness of policies will always be on a case-to-case basis. Lastly, I enjoyed knowing the people and experiencing their culture – to see and enjoy the similarities and at the same time, understand and respect the differences. Truly a lifelong treasured experience and great blessing!



Jarud Romadan bin Khalidi (Malaysia, 2017) Two-year Master's Program of Public Policy
Research Associate, Khazanah Research Institute

Studying at GRIPS was a period of growth and development, both professionally and personally. The teaching faculty at GRIPS are experts in their respective fields, allowing me to focus on my subject matter and deviate to other interests from time to time. Specifically, I appreciate the strong emphasis on policy impact evaluations which adds clarity to policy debates. Moving to Japan and barely speaking any Japanese, the staff at GRIPS were extremely helpful, making the transition to live in Japan much smoother. The international student body exposed me to different cultures and perspectives. Furthermore, the mix of civil servants, private sector professionals and academicians makes classroom discussions diverse and interesting. Without GRIPS, I doubt I would be seconded to Malaysia's Prime Minister's Office and working in the country's established research institute.



Tomohiro Kawase (Japan, 2019) One-year Master's Program of Public Policy
Partnership Specialist, Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, United Nations Development Programme (seconded from Japan International Cooperation Agency)

GRIPS MP1 program allowed me to obtain an academic perspective of public policy in a unique environment. First, GRIPS offers students a side-by-side support by faculty and administrative staff to fit into an academic life. For example, though I was not so familiar with the principles or methodologies for research and academic writing, some basic and preparatory courses enabled me to get ready for working on class assignments and the policy paper/thesis. This opportunity should be good for other mid-career students to acquire such a literacy and get connected with an academic world in the rest of professional life after graduation. Another advantage of this program is that we can learn together with wonderful students with various backgrounds from all over the world. The experience and network with the classmates are my great asset and achievement in GRIPS.



Asirike Joel (Uganda, 2020) One-year Master's Program of Public Policy
Bank Examiner, Bank of Uganda

Greetings from Uganda, the Pearl of Africa. Japan's huge economic success story in the aftermath of the second world war made me want to pursue my studies there. Luckily enough, GRIPS was one of the most preferred schools at my workplace for policy studies and I was honored to get an offer there! My enrollment came during the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore most of my classes were online! However, the immense support from the Students' office and the lecturers helped me to settle in. Not only did GRIPS give me an opportunity to learn more skills and knowledge, but it also offered me an opportunity to serve on the International Students Council as an auditor, make friends with other international students, and attend various online public policy debates, among others. I would warmly recommend this great institution to anyone (most especially policymakers) who intends to pursue further studies.



Aishath Rayahyn (Maldives, 2022) One-year Master's Program of Public Policy
Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives

If I had to recall the defining moments of my life, being a student at GRIPS would probably top the list. Not only is the Institute located amidst Tokyo's biggest contemporary art hub, but it is also home to a diverse array of academics and distinguished practitioners. This makes GRIPS an ideal space to nurture one's ideas and to give birth to new ones; to evolve and to reinvent yourself and to view the world through an otherwise overlooked lens. I am immensely grateful for having found clarity and answers at the convergence point of the courses I studied, ranging from Comparative Political Economy and International Relations to Applied Econometrics. Today, the knowledge and insight I garnered over time has allowed me to find my true calling and inspired me to pursue the unthinkable. It is your turn now.

5 Admissions



Application details can be found at the GRIPS Admissions website:
<https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/admissions/index/>
 Before completing your application, please check the website for the latest information.

Qualifications

Applicants must hold a Bachelor’s degree from a recognized/accredited university. Admission priority will be given to applicants who have a TOEFL iBT score of 79 or higher, or an IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or higher. A record of solid academic performance at the undergraduate level is expected. Work experience in government or other policy-oriented institutions is highly desirable. Evidence of managerial experience and leadership potential are looked on very favorably, especially for MP1. Although there is no formal entrance exam, the Public Policy Program may administer special exams in such areas as English writing and mathematics proficiency. Video interviews may also be conducted.

Funding Options

There are several ways to finance your education in the PPP. The traditional way is to obtain one of several scholarships allocated to GRIPS by various sponsoring organizations. The two primary sources of funds are the **Japanese Government (MEXT)** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. MEXT and ADB provide a fixed number of scholarships both for MP1 and MP2. Candidates who apply by the early application deadline (November) will be considered for one of these scholarships.

The choice of scholarship will be determined by GRIPS based on constraints imposed by the scholarship providers (see the GRIPS website for details).

Scholarships are allocated on a competitive basis from the pool of early applicants.

Self-financing, including all externally acquired funds, is another option. Since GRIPS is a Japanese national university, our tuition and fees are very low and quite competitive on an international basis. This is particularly true given the high quality of our education and other services.

As a consequence, an increasing number of candidates apply to GRIPS with their personal funds or with scholarships obtained from external sources such as their home governments or non-governmental organizations.

Scholarship Eligibility and details for MP1&2 Program Provided by GRIPS

Eligibility Criteria	Scholarship Coverage
Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Under 35 years of age (as of April 1 of the year of enrollment) ● Nationals of countries with which Japan has diplomatic relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monthly stipend ● Application fee, admission fee, and tuition ● An economy-class air ticket from your home country to Japan upon enrollment at GRIPS and an economy-class air ticket from Japan to your home country upon completion of your studies at GRIPS.
Asian Development Bank – Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Under 36 years of age (as of April 1 of the year of enrollment) ● Nationals of ADB’s developing member countries ● At least 2 years of full-time professional work experience after obtaining a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent (at the time of the application deadline) ● Must not have received a master’s degree or have been enrolled in a graduate degree program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monthly stipend ● Application fee, admission fee, and tuition ● An economy-class air ticket from your home country to Japan upon enrollment at GRIPS and an economy-class air ticket from Japan to your home country upon completion of your studies at GRIPS. ● Research allowance, Book allowance, Arrival allowance, and Miscellaneous expenses

Please refer <https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/admissions/index/> for details.

Important Dates

	Applicants seeking MEXT/ADB Scholarships	Externally funded and self-financed applicants
Previous Year	Aug Application Open	Application Open
	Nov Deadline mid Nov.	Deadline mid Nov.
Year of Enrollment	Dec	
	Feb	Result Notification
	Mar	
	Apr Result Notification	
	May	
	Jun	
	Jul	
	Aug Visa, etc.	
	Oct Program Starts	

An orientation program is provided for students in early October. The academic year runs from October through the following September.

6 Student Support

One unique aspect of GRIPS is our extensive support system for assisting students in their daily living. We consider this aspect of your lives to be every bit as important as your academic life, especially for foreign scholars unfamiliar with Japan. As international students have comprised, on average, about 60% of the GRIPS student body over the last 10 years, we have developed comprehensive services to assist students in their day-to-day living.

The Student Office organizes orientation programs for incoming students and assists arriving international students in getting organized and settled in Japan. It also organizes a number of social events and activities, including field trips and Japanese cultural experiences. The Student Office also functions as a hub to promote meaningful interaction and understanding between Japanese and foreign nationals.

| Accommodation |

Accommodation is provided in the Tokyo International Exchange Center (TIEC), operated by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), in GRIPS International House, or in Misato Housing Complex recommended by the GRIPS Student Office.

Misato Housing Complex

In Saitama prefecture, nearby Lalaport shopping mall that boasts around 200 shops and restaurants flanked by enormous IKEA and Costco stores.
Room Types : 2Rooms w/kitchen



GRIPS International House I

In Nakano, built in 2009
Room Types : Single, Couple



GRIPS International House II

In Nakano, built in 2010
Room Types : Single, Couple



| Facilities |

Library

- Extensive collection of publications in the field of policy studies, collected from around the world
- Collection contains over 190,000 volumes, including reference books, statistical collections, working papers, and government documents
- Large collections of periodicals that include more than 12,000 journals, many of which are available online
- Well-trained staff are equipped to respond to research-related requests



Student Rooms and IT Support Center

- Each student is provided with a study space accessible 24 hours a day
- IT Support Center (a computer help desk) is open to all students during regular working hours



Health Services Center

- In-house health clinic
- Nurse on duty daily, doctor available several days a week
- Provides medical advice, basic medical examinations
- Will refer to an appropriate hospital or specialist when necessary



Fitness Center

- Running machines
- Training equipment
- Showers
- Free use by students, faculty, and staff

