2022-2023

YLP-MEXT Scholarship Program

Young Leaders Program

School of Government
School of Local Governance

GRIPS

政策研究大学院大学

National Graduate Institute For Policy Studies

A World of Opportunities for Young Leaders

Message from the Program Director

The Young Leaders Program (YLP) at GRIPS is a special master's degree program for promising young leaders in government. It is fully supported, including full scholarships for all students, by the Japanese government.

The YLP aims at nurturing future national leaders in Asia and other regions, forming international human networks of these leaders, establishing friendly relations among participating countries and improving the quality of public policy.

The specific content of the YLP is designed to provide young leaders with opportunities to enrich and enlarge their knowledge of global, regional and Japanese politics and economies, public administration and policies from comparative, historical and contemporary perspectives. The faculty is composed of eminent academics and former government officials with a wide range of experience in both national and local governments.

I hope you will join the YLP and realize your dream of contributing to your country and to the global community in your future career.

Prof. Kiyotaka Yokomichi
Director of Young Leaders Program
Director of Executive Development Center for Global Leadership
Senior Professor
Specialty: Public Administration and Local Public Administration

Prof. Mikitaka Masuyama
Director of Open Concentration, Public Policy Program (Domestic)
Deputy Director of Young Leaders Program (School of Government)
Professor
Specialty: Japanese Politics, Legislative Institutions, Political Methodology

Prof. Hirofumi Takada
Vice President
Director of Regional Policy Concentration, Public Policy Program (Domestic)
Deputy Director of Young Leaders Program (School of Local Governance)
Professor
Specialty: Local Public Administration and Finance, Local Revitalization

About GRIPS

The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) was founded in 1997 by the Japanese government as a stand-alone national graduate university focused on policy studies. Future policy leaders and researchers from all over the world gather here, forming an international research hub.

Photo : ※ Masao Nishikawa

1 About the Program

The YLP is a one-year program that culminates in a Master's Degree in Public Administration or Public Policy. The YLP is part of the Japanese government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarship program.
The YLP has two parallel and overlapping programs run through the School of Government and the School of Local Governance. The curriculum for both courses is taught entirely in English and covers a wide range of topics concerning public administration and policy formulation.
It also offers the opportunity for intensive discussion with politicians, high-level government officials, corporate directors, journalists and other leaders. The program includes a field trip and a workshop and requires a final paper based on independent study. There are opportunities to collaborate on policy research with other institutions, including Japan's central and local governments. The colloquium, which meets seven or eight times per semester, is an unrivalled opportunity to discuss fresh ideas with eminent speakers.

Goals and mission

The goal of the YLP is to cultivate national leaders of the future in Asia and around the world. Participants gain a deep understanding of Japan through their activities and work during the program and build the foundations for a network of friendly relationships and improved policy planning capacity among national leaders.

Graduates from the YLP are expected to return to their former governmental organizations and apply their knowledge and experience to become strong leaders.

Target group

The YLP is for exceptionally promising young government officials who have already shown their dedication through work experience in public administration. Students are admitted on the basis of an appraisal of their potential to become future leaders at home, to play important roles in their countries' development and to maintain strong, long-lasting working relationships with Japan and other countries around the world.

2 Curriculum

Course Offerings for 2022-2023

School of Government

Category	Course Name	Credit
I Required Courses	The World and the SDGs	1
	Introduction to Japan	2
	Colloquium	2
	Independent Study	4
	Tutorial	2
	Field Trip	2
II Recommended Courses	Microeconomics I	2
	Essential Microeconomics	4
	Contemporary Japanese Economy	2
	Japanese Economy	2
	Economic Development of Japan	2
	Government and Politics in Japan	2
	International Relations	2
	International Political Economy	2
	International Security Studies	2
	Comparative Politics	2
	Structure and Process of Government	2
	Leadership and Knowledge Creation	2
	Global Governance: Leadership and Negotiation	2
	GRIPS Forum I	1
	GRIPS Forum II	1
III Elective Courses	Macroeconomics I	2
	Government and Market	2
	International Trade	2
	Development Economics	2
	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	2
	Japanese Foreign Policy	2
	Human Resources Management	2
	Social Security System in Japan	2
	Introduction to Data Science	2
	Data Science in Practice	2
	Local Government System and Finance	2
	Local Governance in the Changing World	2
	Selected Topics in Policy Studies I -IV	
	Courses not listed in this table	
X Others	Courses offered by the Center for Professional Communication	

School of Local Governance

Category	Course Name	Credit
I Required Courses	The World and the SDGs	1
	Local Government System and Finance	2
	Local Governance in the Changing World	2
	Introduction to Japan	2
	Colloquium	2
	Independent Study	4
	Tutorial	2
	Workshop	2
II Recommended Courses	Microeconomics I	2
	Essential Microeconomics	4
	Economic Development of Japan	2
	Government and Politics in Japan	2
	International Relations	2
	Structure and Process of Government	2
	Leadership and Knowledge Creation	2
	Global Governance: Leadership and Negotiation	2
	GRIPS Forum I	1
	GRIPS Forum II	1
III Elective Courses	Macroeconomics I	2
	Government and Market	2
	International Trade	2
	Development Economics	2
	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	2
	Japanese Foreign Policy	2
	International Security Studies	2
	Human Resources Management	2
	Social Security System in Japan	2
	Small and Medium Enterprise and Technology	2
	Introduction to Data Science	2
	Data Science in Practice	2
	Selected Topics in Policy Studies I -IV	
	Courses not listed in this table	
X Others	Courses offered by the Center for Professional Communication	

Courses offered in the program are subject to change.
For the latest, please see
http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/bulletin/

Coursework

The YLP offers a wide range of courses concerning public administration, economics, political science and policy formulation. In addition to the required courses, students can select subjects in accordance with their interests and needs. All courses are taught in English.

Colloquium

One of the unique features of the YLP is the Colloquium, where YLP students are offered an exclusive and unrivalled opportunity to discuss and share ideas with a diverse range of eminent speakers, including many distinguished government leaders and business executives. The Colloquium meets fifteen or sixteen times a year, divided between the fall and spring terms.

Independent Study

During the independent study you work one-on-one with an instructor on your master's thesis (or "policy paper") on a particular topic related to public administration and policy formulation. Students are supported in their research by the Center for Professional Communication (CPC) that organizes Writing Workshops as well as individual consultation throughout the year. The CPC will also help students improve their presentation skills. All students will give a presentation on their research in July.

Field Trip (School of Government)

Educational field trip is organized and provide a great opportunity to learn about local governments and communities, and socioeconomic developments in Japan. The field trips complement what is being taught in the classrooms and take you to places that you may not be able to explore and learn about on your own. You will visit central and local government offices, cultural and historical heritage sites, and industrial facilities.

Workshop (School of Local Governance)

During the workshop, you will visit local governments to meet with officials who will share their first-hand experience and practice in policy planning and implementation. You will also have a chance to visit various facilities such as a day care center for elderly people and a local economic and tourism development facility. You may thus be able to catch a glimpse of how the Japanese local government system actually works in everyday life in Japan.

3 Student Support and Resources

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 20 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 interaction and understanding between Japanese and foreign nationals.

Faculty

GRIPS boasts a nearly 200-member faculty, which includes world-class academics and distinguished practitioners with many years of experience in public- or private-sector policy analysis and management. Our faculty's expertise spans a wide array of policy issues and areas of research, which allow us to offer a broad range of courses in policy-related fields.
For more on our faculty members, please see *http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/about/directory/*

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in the Tokyo International Exchange Center (TIEC), operated by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

Tokyo International Exchange Center Residence Halls
In the bayside area, built in 2001 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
Room Types: Single, Couple, Family

Resources

Center for Professional Communication

The mission of the Center for Professional Communication 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.

The center supports Japanese language learning of students who lack Japanese language proficiency for daily living and study. The purpose is to help students achieve greater competence in comprehension and speaking. The center also facilitates cultural and traditional experiences.

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

Facilities

Student Rooms and IT Support Center

- Each student is provided with a study space, accessible 24 hours a day
- 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 and other training equipment
- Showers
- Free use by students, faculty, and staff

4 Admissions

Eligibility

The YLP is open to young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders in their home countries. A minimum of three years of full-time work experience (five is preferable) in the field in the applicant's home country is a prerequisite for admission to the program.

The School of Government focuses on national policy-making and accepts students from 29 countries: P. R. China, Rep. of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey.

The School of Local Governance focuses on enhancement of local governance and government to respond to various regional issues in such areas as education, health, social welfare, and local development. It accepts students from 19 countries:
P. R. China, Rep. of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania.

Admission to the YLP requires a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a recognized, accredited university of the highest standard as well as certifiable health. The applicant should be under 40 years of age as of 1 October, 2022; should be proficient in English with a TOEFL iBT score of 79, IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or equivalent and must be able to obtain a Student visa prior to arrival in Japan.

Applicants are not eligible if they are unable to travel to Japan by the last date of the period specified by GRIPS. People who are active members of military forces or civilians employed by the military during any part of the scholarship period or who are enrolled in a Japanese university under Student status or plan to enroll at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student between the time of application for the YLP scholarship and the time the scholarship period is due to commence are also ineligible. Loss of status as public administrator or government official before completion of the program will also render participants ineligible.

Scholarships

An allowance of 242,000 yen per month (in FY 2021; amount is subject to change) will be provided to grantees during the term of the scholarship. Grantees who are absent from the university for long periods will no longer be provided with the scholarship. Application fee, admission fee and tuition will be paid by the Japanese government. 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 will be provided.

Application procedures

Applicants should obtain an application form from the Japanese embassies or recommending authorities in the eligible countries (please check the GRIPS website for details about the recommending authorities in your country). Applicants must submit the following documentation in hard copy: application, recommendation letter from the recommending authority, 2 letters of recommendation by your immediate superior at work or supervising professor of the university you attended, official transcripts of academic record and graduation/ degree certificates, official evidence of English ability, passport copy, essays and certificate of health.

For details, please see
http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/inter_programs/leader/

5 Alumni

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

As a GRIPS graduate, you join an impressive network of over 5,000 alumni, including 469 graduates from YLP, who are actively shaping future policies in more than 100 countries around the world. Connectivity and communication sit at the heart of the alumni community. 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.

Number of YLP Alumni

Australia	Bangladesh	Brunei	Bulgaria	Cambodia	China	Czech Republic
19	15	3	7	27	37	10
Hungary	India	Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyz Republic	Laos
12	14	27	2	14	9	24
Malaysia	Mongolia	Myanmar	Pakistan	Philippines	Poland	Republic of Korea
25	7	23	21	31	24	11
Romania	Singapore	Slovakia	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Turkey	Turkmenistan
10	4	6	10	34	2	2
Uzbekistan	Viet Nam					
30	9					
						Total 469

as of April 2021

Alumni Voices

Djalilov Muzaffar (Uzbekistan, 2014)
First Secretary, Head Department of Analysis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"GRIPS is more than just a year of study. It does offer an excellent education: the brilliant teaching staff gives in-depth knowledge on various subjects. Moreover, you'll have a chance to know Japan from within. GRIPS itself embodies Japan – high quality, world recognition, hospitality, comfort, etc. At the same time GRIPS gives you something more – an opportunity to meet wonderful people from all over the world. The memories you will share with them at GRIPS and in Japan will become the high points in your life."

Dameria F. Panjaitan (Indonesia, 2014)
Head, Sub-division for Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Home Affairs

"YLP is definitely one of the most prominent programs in GRIPS. It gave me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge as well as to expand my international networking among fellow students from around the world. The unique structure of the program, combined with the cultural diversity of the people and the beautiful landscape of Japan were truly fascinating. For me, the experience was worthwhile, and as an alumna I felt genuinely delighted and privileged to be a part of this program."

Nang Monin (Cambodia, 2015)
Deputy Director, International Relation Department, General Secretariat, Ministry of Interior

"During my one-year study as a YLP student at GRIPS, I got to enrich my knowledge and had the opportunity to experience Japanese society and culture. There were many wonderful professors who provided engaging lectures and highly supportive staffs who kept my daily life problem-free and enjoyable. Moreover, I got to know many fellow students from around the world and participated in various fun social activities and field trips. In short, YLP is the most privileged and memorable experience for me."

Vincze Zsuzsa Nora (Hungary, 2016)
Deputy Head, Embassy of Hungary in Oslo, Norway

"Going back to student life after ten years of professional work was indeed a true privilege. Due to excellent professors, fantastic fellow students and the welcoming atmosphere, my year at GRIPS was both intellectually inspiring and personally enriching. My GRIPS experience has broadened my world view and enhanced my knowledge of Japan, Asia and the world. The year spent in Tokyo will undoubtedly lead to further positive experiences in my professional and personal life."

Jessica Montgomery (Australia, 2017)
Analyst, Commonwealth Treasury

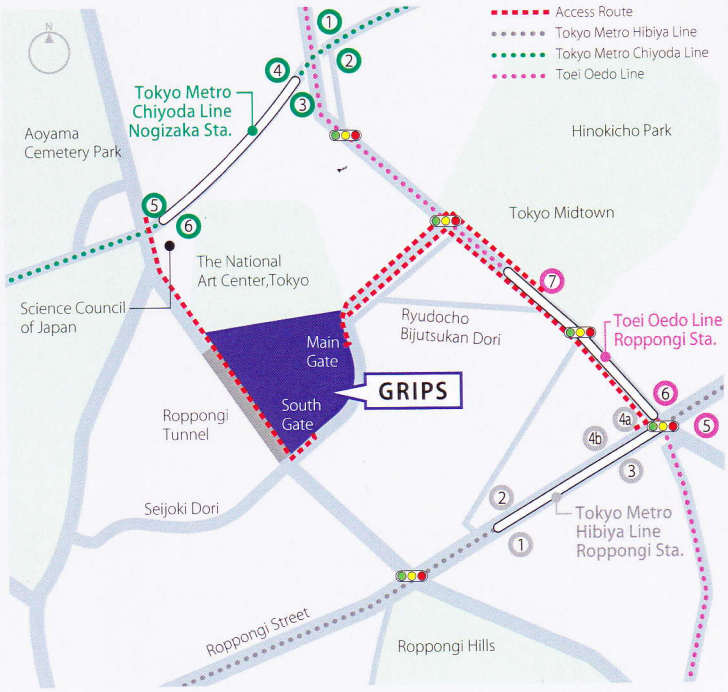
"The Young Leaders Program is a wonderful and unique opportunity to experience life in Japan and learn more about public policy, as well as Japanese society and culture. Academic studies at GRIPS are enriched by the exchange of experiences and perspectives between young government officials from across the world, and the field trips and seminars with Japanese government officials provide a novel addition to the learning experience. My year in Japan was highly memorable, particularly as a result of the enduring friendships developed throughout the year."

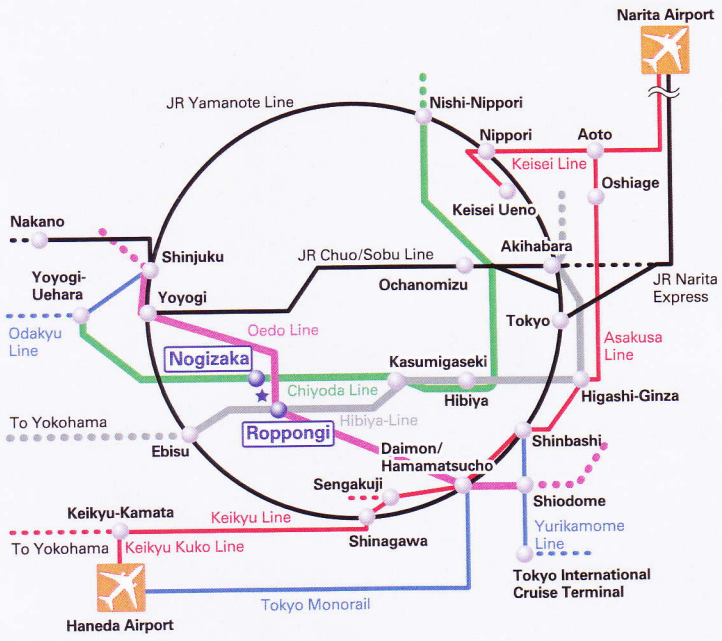
Address and Contact Information

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





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