

Waseda Vision 150 Progress Report on the Future Vision of the Faculty of Political Science and Economics

Report for AY2024

(1) Admissions (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategy 1)

-Status of implementation of admissions reforms in each faculty and graduate school.

- Review of the general entrance examination for undergraduate students in 2024

We reviewed the 2021-2024 entrance examinations conducted after the entrance examination reform in terms of questions and scoring, etc., and further promoted operational improvements in the preparation and scoring of entrance examination questions for the 2025 academic year. The current balance of 300 students in the Department of Political Science, 400 students in the Department of Economics, and 200 students in the Department of International Political Science and Economics is considered appropriate, and in order to maintain this balance, we continued to consider measures including entrance examinations other than the general entrance examination.

- Promotion of high school-university Connections

In order to further strengthen the high school-university connection, we continued smooth communication with both high schools and affiliated schools. The department will continue the discussions with the executive committee members of both high schools conducted in AY2021 and AY2023, with the main aim of further improving the academic performance of students from both high schools, which account for more than 30% of the SPSE students. The meeting was more meaningful than expected, and was evaluated as an important opportunity for the promotion of high school-university connection. The two high schools and all affiliated schools have kindly agreed to hold the meeting regularly, and we will continue to hold the meeting every other year in principle.

- Review of the designated school recommendation system, etc.

We continued to review the publication of the recommendation criteria for domestic designated schools. We also reviewed the recommendation system for designated schools outside of Japan to ensure stable recruitment of excellent students for both JDP and EDP. In addition, we will continue to provide pre-entrance study using Waseda Moodle for students who enter Japanese degree programs through entrance examinations other than the general entrance examination, including those who plan to enter through the designated school recommendation system, which was started in AY2023.

- English degree program recruitment

We actively recruited students for the English Degree Program (EDP), including visits to local high schools, and worked with the overseas office and the International Admissions Office (IAO) to attract excellent students from various countries and regions without bias toward any particular country.

- Proactive public relations development

In order to promote understanding of the purpose of the new entrance examination system among prospective students and their advisors, we continued to actively promote the system through various PR media, such as the Internet, videos, and pamphlets. In addition to introducing our alumni who are active in society, we recorded and released videos featuring actual students to help prospective students visualize student life after admission, thereby increasing their interest.

(2) Education (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategies 2, 3, and 4)

-The status of efforts at each Faculty, institute, and school to nurture global leaders

- Further organization and systematization of the curriculum

Curricula were reviewed at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and the number of classes was reduced. In anticipation of the Corona Disaster, while continuing to conduct face-to-face classes in AY2024 as a general rule, we managed courses by striking an appropriate balance between the two, such as hybrid courses combining online and face-to-face classes, while taking into account the experience of online class delivery.

For required and elective courses, the syllabus was shared among multiple faculty members to further promote a system of updating lecture content as needed.

- Strengthening of the function for fostering young researchers in the Graduate School of Graduate Studies

The graduate school has provided opportunities where many graduate students are engaged in their research, but in some aspects this has led to an increased burden on the faculty. By scrutinizing and examining the appropriate number of graduate students and promoting stricter admission criteria accordingly, the quality of graduate students was maintained at a high level and detailed educational guidance was provided. At the same time, as a system to support the development of talented researchers and their research activities, the "Research Start Fund for Young Researchers" system was planned and introduced from AY2024.

In addition, the Graduate School of Political Science has informed enrolled students that in addition to the conventional Book Thesis type, the internationally recognized Three Essays type of doctoral thesis will be accepted from the 2023 academic year.

The Graduate Schools of Political Science and the Graduate School of Economics, in collaboration with the Waseda Institute of Political Economy, held a doctoral lunchtime workshop. The workshop was launched in AY2023 as a way for doctoral students to present and discuss their research results in front of graduate students and faculty members outside their own laboratories, thereby improving their chances of success in conference presentations and paper submissions.

- Further enhance English-language degree programs

Continued efforts were made to realize programs that are comparable to those of major universities around the world.

- Reduction of teaching load

In accordance with the AY2019 curriculum reform, we decided to set a standard of 5.5 to 6.0 classes per week for both undergraduate and graduate schools together, but we also aimed to further enhance education and research by further reducing the burden for executive committee members of the faculty and promoted the use of the buyout system as a measure to reduce the load of faculty members who have achieved outstanding research achievements and have received high evaluations.

- Faculty recruitment

Priority personnel appointments were discussed at faculty meetings in the areas of Political Science, Economics, and Liberal Arts and Foreign Languages, and a personnel plan looking ahead to the next three to five years was developed to guide the faculty recruitment plan, and the plan was discussed and shared among the members of the Faculty.

The tenure-track system was utilized as a default for general recruitment personnel, and young faculty members with high international competitiveness were hired. In addition, to ensure that the education and research of tenure-track faculty members during their tenure enhances the education and research standards of the entire Academia Sinica, we continued the steady implementation of the system of mentoring full-time faculty members in neighboring areas, and the flexible operation of the system, such as reducing the number of teaching hours and administrative workload of tenure-track faculty with an eye to securing research hours for them.

It was decided to introduce an "incentive allowance" system in AY2025 to reward faculty members who have made outstanding achievements in research, education, and other contribution and contributed to the Faculty, and to use the system as an incentive for hiring new faculty members.

- Promotion of faculty development (FD)

The FD Committee within the Faculty was positioned as a priority committee, and FD activities were conducted not only at the steering committee meetings of each school and graduate schools but also at the Faculty Meetings, while closely examining past efforts. The FD seminar was held after each Faculty Meeting.

(3) Research (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategies 7 and 9)

-Status of efforts to develop a strategy for the international expansion of research-

- Continuation of the TGU Center for Positive/Empirical Analysis of Political Economy

The projects developed by the TGU Center for Positive/Empirical Analysis of Political Economy were reorganized and incorporated into the existing projects of the Faculty. The Joint Appointment System and Visiting Professors System continued to be implemented as it is expected to be highly effective in inviting outstanding researchers, conducting joint research with faculty members, and providing guidance to graduate students and students.

- Securing research time for faculty members

We further secured research time by reducing the teaching loads, allocating various tasks appropriately, and improving the efficiency of meetings.

We decided to introduce "Incentive Allowance" in AY2025 as a reward system for faculty members who have made outstanding achievements in research, education, and social contribution to the Faculty, and promoted further utilization of the buyout system, which was introduced in AY2023.

- Dissemination of research results

Focus was placed on actively utilizing the web pages introducing faculty members. Many faculty members are already actively disseminating their research results in languages other than their native tongue (mainly English), and we further encouraged them to do so. We continued our efforts to publish pre-publication working papers prepared by faculty members and researchers affiliated with the Faculty on the website of the Institute for Research in Contemporary Political and Economic Affairs. At the same time, working papers written in English were posted on RePEC, a global archive of research papers. When the research results of faculty members and researchers affiliated with the Faculty received notable honors, they were introduced on the website of the Waseda Institute of Political Economy to widely disseminate their achievements.

- Creation of opportunities for researcher exchange: "Retreats"

The "Retreat" was held continuously at the International House of Literature "Murakami Haruki Library" as a place for exchange where researchers of the Faculty can freely exchange opinions. Not only faculty members of the Faculty, but also graduate students and foreign researchers accepted from overseas freely participate in the retreat, which is expected to provide opportunities for new research ideas and research exchanges through exchanges that transcend the boundaries of specialized fields.

- Initiatives at research institute

At the Waseda Institute of Political Economy, we continued to support the emergence and autonomy of researchers inside and outside the university by establishing a research group to promote innovative and highly original joint research with a view to obtaining external funding, and also provided young researchers with opportunities for growth by encouraging doctoral students to participate in research projects. In addition, efforts were made to

provide young researchers with opportunities for growth by encouraging doctoral students to participate in research projects.

(4) International (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategy 8)

The status of efforts to improve the environment for promoting study-abroad programs and study-abroad acceptance.

- Support for overseas study experience

In order to make the most of their overseas study experience, Japanese degree program students were encouraged to take some English degree program courses.

The Japanese-English hybrid curriculum for the 2019 academic year has created an environment in which students in the Japanese degree program (JDP) can take courses in the English degree program (EDP), and vice versa. The same goes for the other way around: the course accreditation system, which began operating in AY2023 and issues certificates to students who have completed a certain number of credits, was publicized to promote Japanese degree program students to take courses in English and English degree program students to take courses in Japanese.

- Efforts to motivate students to study abroad

In order to motivate students to study abroad even before they enter the university, we continued our efforts to include stories from students who have studied abroad in faculty information sessions, pamphlets, explanatory videos, and other materials.

We have supported overseas research activities by continuing to operate the Kawagishi Norikazu Scholarship, a scholarship program established in AY2023 for ambitious graduate students who are willing to take on the challenge of long-term research activities overseas.

In addition, in order to stimulate the need for further study abroad, it was decided to increase the amount of the SPSE Global Leaders Scholarship for students dispatched from AY2025.

- Double degrees programs with overseas universities

Continued discussions with the University of Essex in the U.K. regarding the establishment of an international joint degree program at the graduate level.

(5) Others

-(2) Strategies, projects, etc. unique to each Faculty, institute, or school that do not fall under - (1) through (4).

- Improve diversity and ensure "reasonable accommodation".

In order to promote diversity in faculty recruitment, (1) one female applicant should be included in the short list as much as possible and invited to mock lectures, etc., and (2) members of the Faculty Council should provide information on suitable female candidates to the selection committee members for the relevant appointments, if any, and this has been applied from the appointments made in AY2021. Based on this agreement, consideration and care were taken in each hiring process to ensure the recruitment of excellent faculty members in AY2024.

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Plan for AY2025

(1) Admissions (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategy 1)

-Implementation plans for admissions reform in each faculty and graduate school.

- Review of general entrance examination for undergraduate students in 2025.

We will review the 2021-2025 entrance examinations conducted after the entrance examination reform in terms of questions and scoring, etc., and further promote operational improvements in the preparation and scoring of entrance examination questions for the 2026 academic year. The current balance of 300 students in the Department of Political Science, 400 students in the Department of Economics, and 200 students in the Department of International Political Science and Economics is considered appropriate, and we will continue to examine measures to maintain this balance, including entrance examinations other than the general entrance examination.

- Promotion of high school-university connection

We will continue smooth communication with both high schools and affiliated schools in order to make the high school-university connection even closer. Over 30% of our students are graduates from both high schools and affiliated schools, and we will continue the discussions with the executive committee members of both high schools and affiliated schools conducted in AY2021 and AY2023 with the main aim of further improving their academic abilities. The meeting was more meaningful than expected, as it enabled the faculty and the schools to share and understand each other's educational system and philosophy, and to exchange specific opinions and make mutual suggestions, such as requests for mock lectures and areas that should be studied in high school, and was evaluated as an important opportunity to promote the high school-university connection. The meeting was more meaningful than expected, and is regarded as an important opportunity for the promotion of high school-university connections. Since both high schools and all affiliated schools have readily agreed to hold this meeting regularly, we will continue to hold this meeting every other year in principle. The next meeting will be held in AY2025.

- Review of the designated school recommendation system, etc.

We will continue to review the disclosure of the recommendation criteria for the domestic designated school recommendation system and promote internal coordination. In addition, the recommendation system for designated schools outside of Japan will be reviewed to ensure the stable acquisition of excellent students for both JDP and EDP. In addition, the provision of pre-entry learning using Waseda Moodle for students admitted to Japanese degree program through entrance examinations other than the general entrance examination, including those who plan to enter through the designated school recommendation system, began in AY2023, and we will review the results in AY2023 and AY2024 and make necessary improvements.

- English degree program recruitment

We will actively recruit students for the English Degree Program (EDP), including visits to local high schools, and work with the overseas office and International Admissions Office (IAO) to attract excellent students from various countries and regions without bias toward any particular country. In addition, steadily operate the online application system: The Admissions Office (TAO), which was introduced from September 2022 admission.

- Proactive public relations development

We will continue to actively promote the new entrance examination system through various PR media such as the Internet, videos, pamphlets, etc., in order to promote understanding

of the purpose of the new entrance examination system among prospective students and their advisors. Continue to record and release videos featuring actual students to help prospective students visualize student life and increase their interest in the school. Also, we will continue to consider measures to secure a diverse student body.

(2) Education (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategies 2, 3, and 4)

-Planning of initiatives at each Faculty, institute, and school to nurture global leaders.

- Further organization and systematization the curriculum

We will review the curriculum at both undergraduate and graduate levels to further reduce the number of classes. With an eye on the Corona Disaster, while continuing to conduct face-to-face classes in AY2025 as a general rule, the management of courses will be conducted by striking an appropriate balance between the two, such as hybrid courses combining online and face-to-face classes, while taking into account the experience of online class delivery.

For required courses and elective courses, a system to share syllabi among multiple faculty members and update course content as needed will be further promoted.

- Strengthening of the function for fostering young researchers in the Graduate School

The graduate school has provided opportunities where many graduate students are engaged in their research, but this has in some respects led to an increased burden on the faculty. By scrutinizing and examining the appropriate number of graduate students and promoting stricter admission standards accordingly, the quality of graduate students will be maintained at a high level and detailed educational guidance will be provided. At the same time, we will plan and introduce a system to support the development of talented researchers and their research activities.

In addition, the Graduate School of Political Science will inform enrolled students that in addition to the conventional Book Thesis type, the internationally recognized Three Essays type of doctoral thesis will be accepted from the 2023 academic year.

The Graduate School of Political Science and the Graduate School of Economics, in collaboration with the Waseda Institute of Political Economy, have been hosting the Doctoral Lunchtime Workshop since AY2023. The workshop will continue to be held as an opportunity for doctoral students to present and discuss their research results in front of graduate students and faculty members outside their original research group, with the aim of improving their chances of success in conference presentations and paper submissions.

- Further English-language degree programs

We will continue efforts to realize programs that are comparable to those of major universities around the world.

- Reduction of teaching load

In accordance with the AY2019 curriculum reform, we have decided to set a standard of 5.5 to 6.0 classes per week for both undergraduate and graduate schools together, but we will aim to further enhance education and research by further reducing the burden on faculty members. We will continue to reduce the teaching load for executive committee members of the faculty and encourage the use of the buyout system as a measure to reduce the load of faculty members who have achieved outstanding research results and have received high evaluations.

- Faculty recruitment

Priority personnel appointments will be discussed at faculty meetings in the areas of Political Science, Economics, and Liberal Arts and Foreign Languages, etc. A personnel plan looking ahead to the next 3~ 5 years will be developed to guide the faculty recruitment plan, and the plan will be discussed and shared among the members of the Faculty.

We will utilize the tenure-track system as a default for general recruitment, and strive to recruit young faculty members with high international competitiveness. In addition, to ensure

that the education and research of tenure-track faculty members during their tenure enhances the education and research standards of the entire institute, we will steadily implement the system of mentoring full-time faculty members in neighboring areas, and continue to flexibly operate the system by reducing the number of class hours and administrative workload of tenure-track faculty with an eye to securing research time for them.

An "incentive allowance" system will be introduced in AY2025 to reward faculty members who have made outstanding achievements in research, education, and other contribution and contributed to the Faculty, as well as to provide incentives for new faculty members to be hired.

- Promotion of faculty development (FD)

The FD Committee within the Faculty will be positioned as a priority committee, and FD activities will be conducted not only at steering committee meetings of each school and graduate schools but also at Faculty Meetings, while closely examining past efforts. FD seminars will be held after each faculty meeting of the Faculty of Academic Sciences.

(3) Research (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategies 7 and 9)

-A plan of action to develop a strategy for the international expansion of research-

- Continuation of the TGU Center for Positive/Empirical Analysis of Political Economy

We will organize the projects developed by the TGU Center for Positive/Empirical Analysis of Political Economy and promote their incorporation into the existing projects of the Faculty. The Joint Appointment system and the Visiting Faculty system will be continued as they are expected to be highly effective in inviting outstanding researchers, conducting joint research with faculty members, and providing guidance to graduate students and students.

- Securing research time for faculty members

We will further secure research time by reducing the teaching loads, allocating various tasks appropriately, and improving the efficiency of meetings, etc.

Introduce "Incentive Allowance" in AY2025 to reward faculty members who have made outstanding achievements in research, education, and social contribution to the Faculty, and promote further utilization of the buyout system that was introduced in AY2023.

- Dissemination of research results

We will focus on actively utilizing the web pages introducing faculty members. Many faculty members are already actively disseminating their research results in languages other than their native language (mainly English), and this will be further promoted. We will continue our efforts to publish pre-publication working papers prepared by faculty members and researchers affiliated with the Waseda Institute of Political Economy on its website. At the same time, working papers written in English will be posted on RePEC, a global archive of research papers. When research results of faculty members and researchers affiliated with the Faculty receive notable honors, we will widely disseminate the results by introducing them on the website of the Waseda Institute of Political Economy.

- Creation of opportunities for researcher exchange: "Retreats"

The "Retreat" will be held continuously at the International House of Literature "Haruki Murakami Library" as a place for exchange where researchers of the Faculty can freely exchange opinions. Not only faculty members of the Faculty, but also graduate students and foreign researchers from abroad are welcome to participate freely, and it is hoped that the exchange of ideas beyond their fields of specialization will lead to new research ideas and research exchanges.

- Initiatives at research institute

At Waseda Institute of Political Economy, we will continue to support the emergence and autonomy of researchers inside and outside the university by establishing a research subcommittee to promote innovative and highly original joint research with a view to obtaining external funding, and provide opportunities for young researchers to grow by encouraging doctoral students to participate in research projects. At the same time, efforts will be made to provide young researchers with opportunities for growth by encouraging doctoral students to participate in research projects.

(4) International (related to Waseda Vision 150 Core Strategy 8)

-Plan for the development of an environment that promotes study abroad and study in Japan.

- Support for overseas study experience

We will promote Japanese degree program students to take some English degree program courses in order to make the most of their overseas study experience.

The Japanese-English hybrid curriculum for the 2019 academic year has created an environment in which students in the Japanese degree program (JDP) can take courses in the English degree program (EDP), and vice versa. The same goes for the other way around: promote the course accreditation system, which began operating in AY2023 and issues certificates to students who have completed a certain number of credits, to encourage Japanese degree program students to take courses in English and English degree program students to take courses in Japanese.

- Efforts to motivate students to study abroad

To motivate students to study abroad even before entering the university, we will continue our efforts to include stories from students who have studied abroad in faculty information sessions, pamphlets, explanatory videos, etc.

We will support overseas research activities by continuing to operate the Kawagishi Norikazu Scholarship, a scholarship program established in AY2023 for ambitious graduate students who wish to take on the challenge of long-term research activities overseas.

In addition, in order to stimulate the need for further study abroad, the amount of the SPSE Global Leaders scholarship will be increased from AY2025.

- Double degrees programs with overseas universities

Continue to study and discuss the establishment of an international joint degree program at the graduate level with the University of Essex in the U.K.

(5) Others

-(2) Strategies, projects, etc. unique to each Faculty, institute, or school that do not fall under - (1) through (4).

- Improve diversity and ensure "reasonable accommodation".

In order to promote diversity in faculty recruitment, (1) one female applicant should be included in the short list as much as possible and invited to mock lectures, etc., and (2) members of the Faculty Council should provide information on suitable female candidates to the selection committee members for the relevant appointments, if any. Based on this agreement, consideration and care will be taken in each hiring process to secure excellent faculty members in AY2025.