

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

2025 Academic Year Report

(1) Admissions-Related Initiatives

– Implementation Status of Admissions System Reforms in Each Faculty and Graduate School –

•Review of the 2025 Academic Year Undergraduate General Selection Entrance Examinations
We reviewed the undergraduate general selection entrance examinations conducted between the 2021 and 2025 academic years following the admissions reform, with a focus on test design and grading. Based on this review, we further advanced operational improvements related to test creation and grading for the 2026 admissions examinations.

We consider the current enrollment balance—300 students in the Department of Political Science, 400 students in the Department of Economics, and 200 students in the Department of International Politics and Economics—to be appropriate. To maintain this balance, we continued examining countermeasures, including admissions methods other than the general selection entrance examination.

•Promoting High School–University Connectivity

To strengthen collaboration between the university and high schools, we maintained close communication with affiliated high schools. Students from these institutions account for more than 30% of total enrollment.

With the primary objective of further enhancing students' academic abilities, we continued holding regular discussions with the executive boards of affiliated high schools. Through these discussions, faculty members and representatives of the high schools shared and deepened their mutual understanding of educational systems and philosophies. This led to concrete exchanges of opinions and mutual proposals, including requests for mock lectures and discussions regarding subjects to be studied at the high school level.

These discussions proved more meaningful than initially anticipated and were evaluated as an important opportunity to promote high school–university connectivity. Affiliated high schools have agreed to continue holding these meetings on a biennial basis. Accordingly, we will maintain this practice as a general rule, with the next meeting scheduled for the 2027 academic year.

•Revision of the Designated School Recommendation System

Revisions were implemented for both the JDP and EDP designated school recommendation systems to ensure the stable recruitment of outstanding students from domestic and international institutions.

In addition, beginning in the 2023 academic year, pre-enrollment preparatory learning using Waseda Moodle was provided to students admitted to the Japanese-based Degree Program through admissions routes other than the general selection process, including designated school recommendations. We are currently evaluating the outcomes of this initiative to determine whether it should be continued.

•Recruitment for the English-based Degree Program (EDP)

For EDP admissions, we conducted proactive recruitment activities, including visits to local high schools. In collaboration with overseas offices and the International Admissions Office (IAO), we advanced efforts to recruit outstanding students from a wide range of countries and regions without bias toward specific nations.

We also ensured the stable operation of the online application system, The Admissions Office (TAO), which was introduced for the September 2022 intake.

•Proactive Outreach

To enhance understanding among exam advisors and prospective students of the objectives of the new admissions system and the new curriculum to be introduced in 2027, we actively

disseminated information through various media, including online platforms, videos, and brochures.

We continued initiatives to increase interest among prospective students by producing and releasing videos featuring current students, helping applicants visualize student life after enrollment. We also continued exploring measures to ensure a diverse student body.

(2) Education-Related Initiatives

– Progress of Initiatives in Each Academic Division/School/Institute for Cultivating Global Leaders –

• Further Streamlining and Systematization of Curricula

It was decided to introduce a new curriculum for both undergraduate and graduate programs beginning in the 2027 academic year, with the aim of further strengthening foreign language proficiency and data analysis skills through mathematics and statistics. Detailed curriculum design will proceed in subsequent stages.

• Strengthening Graduate School Functions for Cultivating Young Researchers

We examined and reviewed the appropriate number of graduate students in each program. Based on this review, we promoted stricter admissions standards to maintain high academic quality and provide more individualized educational guidance.

At the same time, we planned and introduced systems to support the development of capable researchers and their research activities. Since the 2023 academic year, the Graduate School of Political Science and the Graduate School of Economics, in collaboration with the Institute for Contemporary Political Studies, have held a Doctoral Program Lunchtime Workshop. This workshop will continue as a forum in which doctoral students present and discuss their research in front of faculty members and graduate students outside their own laboratories, thereby enhancing opportunities for successful conference presentations and journal submissions.

• Further Enhancement of the English-Language Degree Program

Efforts to develop English-language degree programs comparable in quality to those offered by leading universities worldwide continued throughout the academic year.

• Reducing Teaching Workloads

Following the 2019 curriculum reform, the standard teaching load for both undergraduate and graduate programs was set at 5.5 to 6.0 courses. During the 2025 academic year, we further reduced teaching burdens to enhance both education and research.

Efforts continued to reduce teaching loads for academic division officers, and the use of buyout provisions was encouraged as a means of reducing the workload of faculty members with outstanding research achievements and high evaluations.

• Faculty Recruitment

Priority hiring in the fields of politics, economics, and liberal arts/foreign languages was discussed within the respective faculty committees. A personnel plan looking three to five years ahead was formulated to guide future faculty recruitment, and this plan was discussed and shared among Faculty Council members.

The tenure-track system continued to be used as the standard approach for general faculty recruitment, enabling the hiring of young faculty members with strong international competitiveness. To ensure that the teaching and research activities of tenure-track faculty enhance the overall academic standards of the Faculty, the system of assigning full-time faculty mentors from related fields was steadily implemented.

Flexible management practices, including reductions in teaching and administrative duties, were maintained in order to secure sufficient research time for tenure-track faculty.

An Incentive Allowance System was introduced in fiscal year 2025 to reward faculty members who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in research, education, and social contribution, and to serve as an incentive for future faculty recruitment.

•Promotion of Faculty Development (FD)

The Faculty Development Committee was designated as a priority committee within the Faculty. FD activities were expanded beyond the administrative committees of the undergraduate and graduate programs to include the Faculty Professorial Council. Following each Faculty Professorial Council meeting, FD seminars were held featuring full-time faculty members who demonstrated high educational effectiveness through advanced initiatives.

(3) Research-Related Initiatives

– Progress Toward Formulating Strategies for International Research Expansion –

•Continuation of the SGU Center for Empirical Political Economy

The initiatives of the SGU Center for Empirical Political Economy were organized and integrated into existing academic programs. The joint appointment and visiting faculty systems continued, as they have proven effective in attracting outstanding researchers for collaborative research and for mentoring graduate and undergraduate students.

•Ensuring Research Time for Faculty

Efforts were made to further secure research time by reducing teaching loads, appropriately allocating duties, and streamlining meetings.

The Incentive Allowance System introduced in fiscal year 2025 continued to be implemented, and further utilization of the buyout system introduced in fiscal year 2023 was promoted.

•Dissemination of Research Outcomes

We actively promoted the use of faculty profile web pages to disseminate research outcomes. While many faculty members already publish research results in languages other than their native language—primarily English—we continued to encourage this practice.

We also continued publishing pre-publication working papers by faculty and affiliated researchers on the Institute for Contemporary Political Economy website. English-language working papers were also posted on the global research archive RePEc. When faculty members and affiliated researchers received notable honors, these achievements were featured on the Institute’s website to widely disseminate the results.

•Creating Opportunities for Researcher Exchange: Retreats

We continued holding research “retreats” at the International Literary Museum (Haruki Murakami Library) as a forum for open exchange among researchers. These retreats were open to faculty members, graduate students, and visiting researchers from overseas, fostering cross-disciplinary interaction and new research collaborations.

•Initiatives at Affiliated Research Institutes

At the Institute for Contemporary Political and Economic Studies, research groups were established to promote innovative and original collaborative research with an emphasis on securing external funding. These initiatives continued to support the emergence and autonomy of researchers both within and outside the university. Opportunities for the development of young researchers were also expanded by encouraging participation in research projects led by doctoral students.

(4) International Initiatives

– Efforts to Improve the Environment for Promoting Study Abroad Dispatches and Hosting International Students –

•Leveraging Overseas Learning Experiences

To make effective use of overseas learning experiences, we encouraged students in the Japanese-based Degree Program (JDP) to enroll in courses offered by the English-based Degree Program (EDP).

The hybrid Japanese–English curriculum introduced in fiscal year 2019 created an environment in which JDP students can take EDP courses and vice versa. We promoted the

issuance of certificates under the course recognition system launched in fiscal year 2023, thereby encouraging cross-enrollment between programs.

- Initiatives to Motivate Study Abroad

To motivate students to pursue overseas study even prior to enrollment, we continued incorporating testimonials from students with international study experience into undergraduate information sessions, brochures, explanatory videos, and other communications.

The Kawagishi Norikazu Scholarship, established in 2023 to support motivated graduate students undertaking long-term overseas research, continued to be operated. In addition, to further stimulate demand for overseas study, the award amount of the Faculty of Political Science and Economics Global Leader Dispatch Scholarship was increased starting in the 2025 academic year.

- Joint Degree Programs with Overseas Universities

Discussions and negotiations regarding a graduate-level international joint degree program with the University of Essex (UK) continued during the academic year.

(5) Other Initiatives

- Enhancing Diversity and Ensuring Reasonable Accommodation

To promote diversity in faculty recruitment, the following measures, introduced in the 2021 academic year, continued to be implemented:

(1) Ensuring that at least one female applicant is included on shortlists and invited to mock lectures and related evaluations.

(2) Faculty Council members providing relevant information to selection committees when suitable female candidates are identified.

Based on these measures, efforts to recruit outstanding faculty members continued throughout the 2025 academic year.

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2026 Academic Year Plan

(1) Admissions-Related Initiatives

– Implementation Plans for Admissions System Reforms in Each Faculty and Graduate School

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•Review of the 2026 Academic Year Undergraduate General Selection Entrance Examinations
We will review the undergraduate general selection entrance examinations conducted between the 2021 and 2026 academic years following the admissions reform, with a particular focus on test design and grading. Based on this review, we will further improve operations in preparation for the creation and grading of the 2027 academic year examinations.

We consider the current enrollment balance—300 students in the Department of Political Science, 400 students in the Department of Economics, and 200 students in the Department of International Politics and Economics—to be appropriate. In order to maintain this balance, we will continue to examine countermeasures, including admissions methods other than the general selection entrance examination.

•Promoting High School–University Connectivity

To strengthen collaboration between the university and affiliated high schools, we will continue to maintain close communication with affiliated high schools. Students from these institutions account for more than 30% of our total enrollment.

With the primary aim of further improving students' academic abilities, we have held regular meetings with the executive boards of affiliated high schools. These meetings have proven to be more meaningful than initially anticipated and have served as an important forum for sharing and deepening mutual understanding of educational systems and philosophies. They have also facilitated concrete exchanges of opinions and mutual proposals, including requests for mock lectures and discussions on subjects that should be studied at the high school level. As affiliated high schools have agreed to continue holding these meetings on a biennial basis, we will maintain this practice as a general rule. The next meeting is scheduled for the 2027 academic year.

•Review of the Designated School Recommendation System

We will review the domestic and overseas designated school recommendation system for both the Japanese-based Degree Program (JDP) and the English-based Degree Program (EDP) to ensure the stable recruitment of outstanding students.

Furthermore, beginning in the 2023 academic year, we introduced pre-enrollment preparatory learning through Waseda Moodle for students admitted to the JDP via admissions routes other than the general selection process, including designated school recommendations. We will continue this initiative, assess its outcomes, and implement improvements as necessary.

•Recruitment for the English-based Degree Program (EDP)

For EDP admissions, we will conduct proactive recruitment activities, including visits to local high schools. In cooperation with overseas offices and the International Admissions Office (IAO), we will strive to attract outstanding students from a wide range of countries and regions, without bias toward specific nations.

We will also ensure the stable operation of the online application system, The Admissions Office (TAO), which was introduced for the September 2022 intake.

•Expanding Proactive Outreach

To enhance understanding of the new admissions system and the new curriculum to be introduced in 2027, we will actively disseminate information through various media, including online platforms, videos, and brochures. These efforts will target exam advisors and prospective students.

We will also continue initiatives that help prospective students envision campus life after enrollment, such as producing and releasing videos featuring current students. In addition, we will continue exploring measures to ensure a diverse student body.

(2) Education-Related Initiatives

– Plans for Initiatives in Each Academic Division/School/Institute Aimed at Cultivating Global Leaders –

•Further Streamlining and Systematization of the Curriculum

We will advance the detailed design of the new curriculum to be introduced in the 2027 academic year, with the aim of further strengthening foreign language proficiency and data analysis skills through mathematics and statistics.

The new curriculum will include required courses in which students from both the JDP and the EDP study together and engage in discussions and presentations in English. While recognizing the different admissions systems for the two programs, the curriculum emphasizes that students from both programs will learn together on a shared academic foundation after enrollment.

In addition, a new educational program will be introduced to teach advanced data analysis techniques based on foundational instruction in mathematics and statistics.

•Strengthening the Graduate School's Function for Cultivating Young Researchers

We will carefully examine and determine the appropriate number of graduate students in each program. Based on this assessment, we will rigorously enforce admission standards to maintain high academic quality and provide detailed educational guidance.

At the same time, we will promote systems that support the development of capable researchers and their research activities.

•Further Enhancement of English-Language Degree Programs

We will continue efforts to develop English-language degree programs that are comparable in quality to those offered by leading universities worldwide.

•Reducing Teaching Workloads

Following the 2019 curriculum reform, the standard teaching load for both undergraduate and graduate programs was set at 5.5 to 6.0 courses. We will further reduce faculty workloads to enhance both teaching and research quality.

Specifically, we will continue reducing the teaching burden for academic division officers and promote the use of buyout systems to reduce workloads for faculty members with outstanding research achievements and high evaluations.

•Faculty Recruitment

Priority hiring will be considered in the fields of politics, economics, and liberal arts/foreign languages through the respective faculty committees. A personnel plan looking three to five years ahead will be formulated to guide future faculty recruitment, with discussions and information sharing conducted among Faculty Meeting members.

The tenure-track system will be utilized as the standard approach for general faculty recruitment, with the aim of hiring young faculty members with high international competitiveness. To ensure that the teaching and research activities of tenure-track faculty contribute to raising the overall academic standards of the Faculty, we will steadily implement a system in which full-time faculty mentors from related fields are assigned.

Flexible management practices will continue, including reductions in teaching and administrative duties, in order to secure sufficient research time for tenure-track faculty.

To recognize faculty members who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in research, education, and social contribution and who have contributed significantly to the Faculty, the Incentive Allowance system introduced in fiscal year 2025 will continue to be implemented as both a reward mechanism and an incentive for new faculty recruitment.

(3) Research-Related Initiatives

– Plan for Initiatives Toward Formulating Strategies for International Research Expansion –

- Formation of a Global Hub of Excellence based on PPE: Enhancement of research from "Positive/Empirical Analysis" to "Application"

In conjunction with the curriculum restructuring to be implemented in AY2027 based on the philosophy of PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics), and by leveraging the support measures for the future plan of the faculty with the increase of faculty members to realize Waseda Vision 150 (Phase 2), we will establish a global center of excellence in empirical political economy, building on the achievements accumulated to date. This center will be developed upon the foundations of the former Center for Empirical Political Economy and will aim to establish a globally recognized hub for empirical research in political science and economics. Through this initiative, we will maintain and further expand cross-disciplinary collaboration, with a particular focus on the social implementation of research outcomes.

To this end, we will launch the Social Application Project of Empirical Studies (SAPES), which will promote empirically grounded research driven by the initiatives of individual faculty members and facilitate the translation of research outcomes into practical societal applications.

- Continuation of the SGU Center for Empirical Political Economy

We will organize projects developed by the SGU Center for Empirical Political Economy and promote their integration into existing Faculty projects. The joint appointment system and visiting faculty system will continue, as they are highly effective in inviting outstanding researchers for collaborative research and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students.

- Ensuring Research Time for Faculty

We will further increase research time by reducing teaching loads, appropriately allocating duties, and streamlining meetings.

The Incentive Allowance system introduced in FY2025 will continue, and further utilization of the buyout system introduced in FY2023 will be promoted.

- Dissemination of Research Outcomes

We will actively utilize faculty profile web pages to disseminate research achievements. While many faculty members already publish research outputs in languages other than their native language (primarily English), we will further encourage this practice.

We will also continue publishing pre-publication working papers by faculty and affiliated researchers on the Institute for Contemporary Political Economy website, and English-language working papers will be posted on the global archive RePEc. Notable research achievements will be highlighted on the Institute's website.

- Creating Opportunities for Researcher Exchange: Retreats

We will continue holding research "retreats" at the International Literary Museum (Haruki Murakami Library) as a venue for free and open exchange among researchers. Participation by faculty members, graduate students, and visiting researchers from overseas is encouraged, fostering cross-disciplinary interaction and new research collaborations.

- Initiatives at Affiliated Research Institutes

The Institute for Contemporary Political and Economic Studies will continue supporting the autonomy and development of researchers both within and outside the university by establishing research groups as subcommittees. These groups will promote innovative and

original collaborative research with an emphasis on securing external funding. The Institute will also support the development of young researchers by encouraging participation in research projects led by postdoctoral fellows and doctoral students.

(4) International Initiatives

– Plans for initiatives to improve the environment for promoting study abroad dispatch and student reception –

•Promoting Integration of JDP and EDP

The hybrid Japanese-English curriculum introduced in 2019 created an environment in which JDP students can take EDP courses and vice versa. Beginning in the 2023 academic year, a credit recognition system will be introduced to issue certificates to students who complete a designated number of credits.

The new curriculum to be introduced in 2027 will include required courses in which JDP and EDP students study together and engage in discussions and presentations in English. While acknowledging different admissions systems, the curriculum emphasizes a shared academic foundation after enrollment. In 2026, institutional design work for this new curriculum will proceed.

•Initiatives to Motivate Study Abroad

We will continue incorporating testimonials from students with overseas study experience into information sessions, brochures, and explanatory videos to motivate students to study abroad even before enrollment.

The Kawagishi Norikazu Scholarship, established in 2023 to support long-term overseas research by motivated graduate students, will continue to be operated. In addition, we will further promote the Faculty of Political Science and Economics Global Leader Dispatch Scholarship, whose award amount was increased starting in fiscal year 2025.

(5) Other Initiatives

•Enhancing Diversity and Ensuring Reasonable Accommodation

To promote diversity in faculty recruitment, the following measures have been implemented since the 2021 academic year:

1. Ensuring that at least one female applicant is included on shortlists and invited to mock lectures and related evaluations.
2. Faculty Members providing information to selection committees when suitable female candidates are identified.

Based on these measures, we will continue to exercise due consideration in each recruitment process to ensure the sustained hiring of outstanding faculty members.