

Three Policies of the Graduate School of Political Science*

** Journalism Course and Global Public Policy Course do not have English degree programs. Therefore, each policy for those courses, which is prepared in Japanese, has been translated into English just for reference information only.*

1. Diploma Policy

The Master's Program in Political Science trains researchers to equip them with political science methodology meeting the new global standards. Moreover, students acquire the ability to define social science questions, propose hypotheses, and explain matters logically, and once they complete their master's thesis within the set time limit and pass the review exam, they obtain the Master's Degree in Political Science.

In the Doctoral Program in Political Science students do coursework on methodology, academic presentations, and similar skills, as well as acquiring basic knowledge in political science regarding their specialization and at least one other research area. The students then receive research guidance from the Doctoral Dissertation Guidance Committee based on a doctoral dissertation plan formulated based on the aforementioned knowledge, gaining the ability to generate advanced insights at an international level. Their doctoral theses are examined as the product of this continuous five-year process beginning at the master's program, upon which basis they obtain the Doctoral Degree in Political Science.

The Master's Program in Journalism produces "highly skilled professional journalists" who discover new topics, investigate and analyze them from multiple angles, and provide the public with evidence-based information. The students are able to think logically, acquire specialized skills that can be used strategically in the world of journalism, and apply advanced communication skills. Students who earn the required credits in the relevant subject area and then pass the assessment of their master's thesis are awarded the Master's Degree in Journalism.

The Doctoral Program in Journalism aims to train researchers with a journalism-related specialization and talent who can provide education to train journalists. To do this, the students learn academic methodology and prepare a dissertation proposal by relating the main topic of journalism with other areas like politics, science, media, and the Internet. They are awarded the Doctoral Degree in Journalism after acquiring the ability to break old molds and construct new concepts, producing advanced empirical research, and passing their doctoral dissertation assessment.

The Master's Program in Global Public Policy trains talent who can analyze, evaluate, and formulate public policy from an interdisciplinary perspective centering on social sciences like political science and economics, and especially talent who can engage in evidence-based policymaking (EBPM).

Students learn how to formulate policy issues as social science questions, propose hypotheses, and explain matters logically, and once they complete their master's thesis within the set time limit and pass the review exam, they obtain the Master's Degree in Public Policy.

The Doctoral Program in Global Public Policy trains researchers with advanced skills who can foster talent able to analyze, evaluate, and formulate public policy from an interdisciplinary perspective centering on social sciences like political science and economics, and especially talent who can engage in evidence-based policymaking (EBPM).

To this end, students learn academic methodology and are expected to pass a field final exam that measures whether they have a good overview of the field of public policy. Furthermore, they formulate a doctoral dissertation plan based on broad insights related to public policy and submit a doctoral dissertation under the guidance of the Doctoral Dissertation Guidance Committee. Those who pass the doctoral dissertation oral defense are awarded the Doctoral Degree in Public Policy.

2. Curriculum Policy

As a research and educational institution on the world level, the Graduate School of Political Science fosters political science researchers and highly skilled professionals who will respond keenly to the ever-changing demands of the times, anticipate new developments in the 21st century, and contribute to world peace and human happiness.

Political Science Course

The Master's Program promotes the systematization and advancement of political science education at the graduate level, as well as aiming to be a hub for disseminating political science research from Japan on the world's most advanced political science theories and methods. Therefore, students take three methodological subjects (Empirical Analysis, Formal Models, and Normative Studies) in the first year of the Master's Program. Moreover, we provide an education and research system that allows students to study political science from professional perspectives that are simultaneously deep and broad, centered on the four specializations of contemporary politics, political thought and history, comparative politics, and international relations. As part of this, in addition to implementing multifaceted education through "joint supervision" in the field, we offer a curriculum that incorporates thesis supervision from multiple faculty members through a main advisor/sub-advisor system.

In addition to cultivating the abilities necessary to obtain the above-mentioned master's degree, the Doctoral Program provides an education and research system that fosters researchers and specialists with a high level of comprehensive ability to engage in cutting-edge research that can broaden the horizons of international political science and to nurture the next generation of talent to study political science. As part of this, in addition to the "joint supervision" system in the field continuing from the Master's Program, the "field final exam" and the "analysis certification exam" are conducted as process management, and the "dissertation plan exam" is used to clearly measure research results and to encourage students to proceed step by step in the writing of their doctoral dissertations.

Journalism Course

As one of the most advanced graduate schools of journalism in the world, the Master's Program implements an educational program for the training of highly skilled professionals as set forth in the diploma policy. In order to cultivate the ability to approach topics scientifically based on a sound critical mindset, students study two methodological subjects (empirical, normative) in the first year. Moreover, mass communication theory and media history are compulsory as "theoretical subjects" in the field of journalism and media, while applied courses are taught to cultivate specialized knowledge and problem-finding skills in journalism and media. Practical subjects in journalism are also compulsory as basic subjects, including Introduction to Newswriting and applied subjects are taught to cultivate communication skills based on mutual understanding.

In addition, there are specialized certification programs in four fields (politics; economics; science and technology;), and accreditation certificates for each program are awarded to students who meet the respective requirements in order to cultivate expertise in these major fields.

In terms of research, specialized research seminars are offered and two joint supervision meetings are held in the second year so that students can finish their master's thesis under multifaceted research supervision.

In the Doctoral Program, not only are the abilities necessary to obtain the abovementioned master's degree cultivated, but students must pass the basic mastery examination based on literature in the field of journalism and one other specialized field (media, politics, international relations, economics, society, culture, science and technology) and the dissertation plan exam as conditions for submitting a doctoral dissertation. Research standards are strictly controlled in terms of methodology, specialized knowledge, and logical structure. Students complete their doctoral dissertations under joint supervision from the Doctoral Dissertation Supervision Committee, as well as attending specialized research seminars and coursework.

Global Public Policy Course

“Common basic subjects” are the foundation of the curriculum, with the basics of research methods, logical thinking, analytical and evaluation methods, and thesis writing techniques being taught to cultivate foundational skills in public policy research. Based on this foundation, “specialized research subjects” are offered in four areas: local government and public administration; politics, international relations, and comparative politics; Japan studies; and public policy and public economics. Basic lecture subjects and applied workshop subjects are combined to teach the specialized knowledge, methodologies, and practical skills essential for public policy research.

Students take these courses to cultivate their basic skills and enhance their research skills, as well as selecting specialized research seminars corresponding to their individual research themes, where they attend seminars and receive supervision to complete their master’s thesis.

Furthermore, this basic framework also includes practical courses to cultivate skills essential for data science and for internships and field studies, and the curriculum is structured to effectively train talent that can engage in EBPM and that have acquired a sense of practical work, which are the goals of the diploma policy.

In order to nurture researchers who can stand at the forefront of public policy research and practitioners who can play an active role at the forefront of global and local fields based on the abilities cultivated under this curriculum, the Doctoral Program has a system that involves not only individual faculty members, but also all faculty members related to the course in providing supervision leading up to the completion of the doctoral degree through opportunities for joint supervision.

3. Admissions Policy

We welcome a large number of richly individual students from all over Japan and the world who aim to cultivate the “enterprising spirit” of the Waseda University motto, who possess a certain high level of basic academic ability, who are filled with curiosity, who formulate plans for themselves, and who are highly motivated to actively engage with various challenges. In order to open up a wide range of opportunities for students with high research abilities and research motivation, both in Japan and abroad, various forms of entrance examinations are conducted. Prospective students are expected to have the language proficiency necessary to conduct research from a global perspective while possessing a solid foundation in Japanese history and society, the logical thinking and expressive skills to conceive and realize creative research, and the mature humanity and practical research skills suitable for a member of an intellectual community.

Political Science Course

In the Master’s Program, students are required to have basic skills in social sciences preparing them sufficiently to receive methodological education that integrates empirical methods, mathematical analysis, and normative theory, as well as basic knowledge to study political science from professional perspectives that are simultaneously deep and broad, which is tested in the research proposal and other writing and through interviews in the entrance examination. Moreover, proficiency in English, which is used heavily in the literature in foreign languages, is required at a level that allows students to make sense of basic literature in the field of political science without using a dictionary and includes a certain level of academic writing ability, which is evaluated by English-language test scores.

In the Doctoral Program, students are expected to have a systematic understanding of political science research methods consisting of empirical methods, mathematical analysis, and normative theory, as well as the ability to apply these methods and to complete a doctoral dissertation using these methods. In terms of English proficiency, students are expected to read and understand specialized papers and books and to have sufficient training and high proficiency in academic writing. These will be judged in writing and in an interview.

Journalism Course

The Master's Program, based on Waseda University's mottoes of "enterprising spirit" and "independence of learning," welcomes students from all over Japan and the world who have high basic academic skills, are intellectually curious, actively want to engage with diverse values and numerous challenges, and show a strong interest in the public role and practice of journalism. We emphasize recurrent education and actively welcome not only new and older graduates but also working adults who already have practical experience and are active on the front lines, such as active journalists. We do not have any requirements regarding an undergraduate major for any of these cases. However, in preparing a research plan at the time of application, prior study and sufficient understanding of the fields of journalism and media related to the research theme are required. Moreover, students are required to have the ability to logically explain the background of the problem, problem awareness, research method, and significance of the research theme. The above requirements are tested in the research plan and other writing and through an interview during the entrance examination. Moreover, proficiency in English, which is used heavily in the literature in foreign languages, is required at a level that allows students to make sense of basic literature in the field of journalism without using a dictionary and includes a certain level of academic writing ability, which is evaluated by English-language test scores.

In the Doctoral Program, students are required to have the abilities described in the diploma policy for the master's degree, including two methodological subjects (empirical and normative), and to have the expertise to engage in advanced research that opens up the horizons of international journalism research.

Global Public Policy Course

The Master's Program, based on the mottoes of "enterprising spirit," "independence of learning," and "bridging theory and reality" lauded in the Waseda University song, welcomes students from all over Japan and the world who have high basic academic skills, are intellectually curious, have a motivation to study, and accept diverse values. Expecting the enrollment of not only new and older graduates but also working adults who already have practical experience and are active on the front lines in various areas, we offer education for acquiring advanced specialized knowledge and analytical skills after admission.

Important factors in the selection process are the content of the research plan submitted by the applicant and the suitability of the applicant to the interdisciplinary and practical curriculum offered by the Global Public Policy Course. An especially important criterion, whether the applicant wishes to continue their research after completing the course or to become a practitioner, is whether they are likely to complete their master's thesis based on the submitted plan. These are tested in the research plan and other writing and through an interview during the entrance examination. Moreover, proficiency in English, which is used heavily in the literature in foreign languages, is required at a level that allows students to make sense of basic literature in the field of public policy without using a dictionary and includes a certain level of academic writing ability, which is evaluated by English-language test scores.

In the Doctoral Program, students are expected to meet the above requirements for a master's degree and to have the ability to become researchers at the forefront of public policy research and practitioners active at the forefront of global and local fields. Those who wish to go on to a more advanced level are required to master methodological subjects while enrolled in the Master's Program, to obtain a certain grade level for the master's thesis as specified by the Graduate School of Political Science, and to prepare a feasible research plan toward the completion of the doctoral dissertation. Those who meet these requirements will be admitted.

4. Learning Outcomes and Assessment Policy

1. Master's Program

(1) Political Science Course

No.	Learning Outcomes	Direct Evaluation Methods (overview)	Indirect Evaluation Methods (overview)
1	The student can acquire specialized knowledge about research ethics and political science methodology.	Rate of credit acquisition for compulsory subjects in political science methodology and breakdown of grades by course	Rate of student extension (incl. extension student and extension student for regular courses) and student withdrawal
2	The student can write a master's thesis that is logically consistent in their own field of study.	Pass rate of master's thesis	Student survey
3	The student can apply the specialized knowledge that they have obtained (in political science and related social sciences) and conduct empirical analysis at a level that meets the needs of further education and employers.	Pass rate of master's thesis	Student survey
4	The student can acquire an attitude to solve politics-related issues through academic exchange and collaboration with diverse people.	Rate of credit acquisition from research guidance courses	Student survey

(2) Global Public Policy Course

No.	Learning Outcomes	Direct Evaluation Methods (overview)	Indirect Evaluation Methods (overview)
1	The student can acquire specialized knowledge about research ethics and political science methodology.	Rate of credit acquisition for compulsory subjects in political science methodology and breakdown of grades by course	Rate of student extension (incl. extension student and extension student for regular courses) and student withdrawal
2	The student can write a master's thesis that is logically consistent in their own field of study.	Pass rate of master's thesis	Student survey
3	The student can apply the specialized knowledge that they have obtained (in public policy and related social sciences, such as political science) and conduct empirical analysis at a level that meets the needs of further education and employers.	Pass rate of master's thesis	Student survey
4	The student can acquire an attitude to solve politics-related issues through academic exchange and collaboration with diverse people.	Rate of credit acquisition from research guidance courses	Student survey

(3) Journalism Course

No.	Learning Outcomes	Direct Evaluation Methods (overview)	Indirect Evaluation Methods (overview)
1	The student can acquire specialized knowledge about research ethics and political science methodology.	Rate of credit acquisition for compulsory subjects in political science methodology and breakdown of grades by course	Rate of student extension (incl. extension student and extension student for regular courses) and student withdrawal
2	The student can write a master's thesis that is logically consistent in their own field of study.	Pass rate of master's thesis	Student survey
3	The student can apply the specialized knowledge that they have obtained (in journalism and related social sciences, such as political science) and conduct empirical analysis at a level that meets the needs of further education and employers.	Pass rate of master's thesis	Student survey
4	The student can acquire an attitude of wanting to solve politics-related issues through academic exchange and collaboration with diverse people.	Rate of credit acquisition from research guidance courses	Student survey

2. Doctoral Programs

(1) Political Science Course

No.	Learning Outcomes	Direct Evaluation Methods (overview)	Indirect Evaluation Methods (overview)
1	The student can acquire various theories and political science methodologies, including normative, mathematical, and quantitative analysis, at a level that allows them to discuss issues on an equal footing within expert groups, and can teach one of these areas as a specialty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of presentations at academic conferences • Status of papers published in peer-reviewed journals 	Rate of student extension (incl. extension student and extension student for regular courses) and student withdrawal
2	The student can write a doctoral dissertation with high academic value in their own field of study that can be recognized domestically and internationally.	Doctoral degree attainment rate	Student survey
3	The student can apply in-depth specialized knowledge that they have obtained to perform cutting-edge political science analysis.	Doctoral degree attainment rate	Student survey
4	The student can acquire an attitude not only to solve politics-related problems but also provide feedback into society at large, through academic exchange and collaboration with diverse people.	Pass rate of research guidance courses	Student survey

(2) Global Public Policy Course

No.	Learning Outcomes	Direct Evaluation Methods (overview)	Indirect Evaluation Methods (overview)
1	The student can engage in evidence-based debate founded on political science methodologies, including normative, mathematical, and quantitative analysis, at a level that allows them to discuss issues on an equal footing within expert groups and has the ability to summarize the discussion as a concrete outcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of presentations at academic conferences • Status of papers published in peer-reviewed journals 	Rate of student extension (incl. extension student and extension student for regular courses) and student withdrawal
2	The student can write a doctoral dissertation with high academic value in their own field of study that can be recognized domestically and internationally.	Doctoral degree attainment rate	Student survey
3	The student can apply in-depth specialized knowledge that they have obtained to produce cutting-edge intellectual work about public policy.	Doctoral degree attainment rate	Student survey
4	The student can convey to society how public policy should work and how reporting should be done through academic exchange and collaboration with diverse people.	Pass rate of research guidance courses	Student survey

(3) Journalism Course

No.	Learning Outcomes	Direct Evaluation Methods (overview)	Indirect Evaluation Methods (overview)
1	The student can engage in evidence-based debate founded on political science methodologies, including normative, mathematical, and quantitative analysis, at a level that allows them to discuss issues on an equal footing within expert groups, and has the ability to summarize the discussion as a concrete outcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of presentations at academic conferences • Status of papers published in peer-reviewed journals 	Rate of student extension (incl. extension student and extension student for regular courses) and student withdrawal
2	The student can write a doctoral dissertation with high academic value in their own field of study that can be recognized domestically and internationally.	Doctoral degree attainment rate	Student survey
3	The student can apply the in-depth specialized knowledge that they have obtained to produce cutting-edge intellectual work about journalism.	Doctoral degree attainment rate	Student survey
4	The student can convey to society how journalism should work and how reporting should be done through academic exchange and collaboration with diverse people.	Pass rate of research guidance courses	Student survey