



Waseda University
School of Political Science and Economics

August 7, 2020

Dear Incoming Students,

Greetings from the School of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University. I hope this message finds you well. Coming from all over Asia and the world, our new students in the English-based Degree Program have been affected to varying degrees by the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of all of our staff and faculty, I extend our sympathies to those who have lost friends and loved ones.

At Waseda University, we have just finished up a successful semester of online teaching. It was an adjustment for our professors and students alike, but my general impression is that we all *rose to the occasion* in order to continue to teach and learn together. Many classes were held synchronously using Zoom and similar online platforms, while in other courses the instructors prepared video lectures that students could watch on-demand. We created many opportunities for student interaction through online forums, breakout rooms for small-group discussion, and peer-review workshops. Of course, we all miss being on campus and meeting face-to-face in the classroom.

Waseda University continues to carefully monitor the situation as we make plans for the Fall semester. The University prioritizes the safety of our students, staff and faculty and is committed to making arrangements that will also serve international students and those who cannot come to campus. Though most classes will be taught online, the University is planning on allowing some seminars in classrooms while taking preventative and social-distancing measures. At the same time, circumstances permitting, the campus and dormitories will be open to students who wish to use the library and other facilities. For students away from campus, we provide off-campus proxy access for the library. Please check the webpage that we have set up for incoming students, where we have links to information about the dormitories.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/applicants/incoming/>

I know this is not how you envisioned your first semester at Waseda University. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, I hope that you too will *rise to the occasion* to join us with the motivation, enthusiasm, determination and inquisitiveness that sustain university education.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Administrative Office.
spse-edp@list.waseda.jp

I look forward to meeting all of you online soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marisa Kellam', written in a cursive style.

Marisa Kellam, Ph.D.

Director, English-based Degree Program
School of Political Science and Economics
Waseda University