

AY2026

Application and Course Registration Guide for EDP Advanced Seminars and Thesis



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AY2026 Schedule

for applying to EDP Advanced Seminar I

		Eligible students	Time period	Method
1 st Period	Application	2nd year students and above	From 10 am on March 18 (Wed) to 3 pm on March 20 (Fri)	MyWaseda Application Form
	Result	-	By March 27 (Fri)	Individual notification
2 nd Period	Application	2nd year students and above who did not succeed in the 1st period	From 10 am on March 30 (Mon) to 3 pm on March 31 (Tue)	MyWaseda Application Form
	Result	-	By April 3 (Fri)	Individual notification
3 rd Period	Application	2nd year students and above who did not succeed in the 1st or 2nd period	From 10 am on April 6 (Mon) to 3 pm on April 7 (Tue)	MyWaseda Application Form
	Result	-	By April 10 (Fri)	Individual notification

1. About Advanced Seminars and Thesis

The Advanced Seminars at Waseda University follow the traditional "zemi" style, offering students an opportunity for active learning and directed research within a small group led by a professor from the Faculty of Political Science and Economics. While participation in Advanced Seminars is not mandatory for graduation, joining these seminars can provide a highly enriching experience that enhances your academic journey.

Each Advanced Seminar is limited to 15 students and represents a two-year commitment between the students and the professor. Enrollment requires an application and selection process, with acceptance determined by the professor. Beyond these foundational elements, the structure and focus of each seminar vary. Typically, seminars are centered around a specific theme or research topic defined by the professor, with students actively engaging in discussions and activities.

Writing a thesis is optional but exclusively available to students participating in an Advanced Seminar. Students who choose this option will receive personalized guidance from their seminar professor throughout the thesis-writing process.

The Advanced Seminars are structured sequentially from Advanced Seminar I to Advanced Seminar IV, with each seminar offered either in the spring or fall semester, as outlined below. Students must take these seminars in numerical order and may not enroll in more than one seminar at the same time:

- **Advanced Seminar I:** Offered only in the spring semester
- **Advanced Seminar II:** Offered only in the fall semester
- **Advanced Seminar III:** Offered only in the spring semester
- **Advanced Seminar IV:** Offered only in the fall semester

Students wishing to enroll in Advanced Seminar I must apply and successfully pass the selection process held in March.

2. Professors Offering Advanced Seminars

Advanced Seminars are offered by the following professors. Please note that the availability of specific seminars may vary each year. For the most up-to-date information, refer to the announcements from the SPSE office.

- Professor Jou: comparative politics
- Professor Kellam: comparative politics
- Professor Seddon: international political economy
(AS1 is not offered for AY2026)
- Professor Asako: political economy
- Professor Tomura: international macroeconomics and finance
- Professor Shimokawa: development economics
- Professor Kawamura: microeconomics
- Professor Kvasov: microeconomics
- Professor Veszteg: microeconomics and experimental economics
- Professor Dejarnette: behavioral economics and creative economics
(AS1 is not offered for AY2026)
- Professor Yamamoto: political methodology
- Professor Rujiwattanapong: macroeconomics and labour economics

For more information about the Advanced Seminars, please click on the link below.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/students/enrollment/seminars/>

3. Selection Process for Advanced Seminar I

The selection process for Advanced Seminar I is conducted every March.

Applicants have three opportunities to apply within a period of approximately one month. If you are not successful in the first selection process, you can participate in the second and/or third selection periods.

In principle, selection is based on document screening. Interviews or individual assignments are not required for selection unless specifically indicated by the professor.

4. Eligibility for Applying

Students in the SPSE who meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for any Advanced Seminar I, regardless of their major. Information about the selection process will be announced to eligible students by the SPSE Administrative Office prior to the application period.

- Students must be at least in their second year as of the fall semester immediately prior to the application period (excluding students expected to graduate at the end of the AY2025 fall semester) and must have been enrolled for at least 1.5 years as of the AY2026 spring semester.
- Students must not have previously taken an Advanced Seminar or JDP-Zemi.
- Students must be enrolled as of the AY2026 spring semester.

5. How to Apply

To apply, you must submit your application form through MyWaseda during the designated application period. Please note that you can freely modify the information you have entered within the application period, however, no corrections or changes will be allowed once the application period has ended. A grade report may also be sent to the professor along with your application form.

The main sections to be completed on the MyWaseda application form are outlined below. Please note that these questions are subject to change:

Required Items

- Choice of seminar/professor
- Reason for application
- Academic/research interests
- Self-Introduction

Optional Items

- Plan for study abroad
- Plan after graduation
- Any other comments

6. Notice of Selection

The results of the selection process will be communicated individually and confidentially to students by the SPSE Administrative Office.

7. Course Registration of Advanced Seminars

If you pass the selection process, Advanced Seminar I will be automatically registered as a course for the spring semester. The timing of registration will vary depending on the selection period.

Upon earning credits in Advanced Seminar I, you will be automatically registered for Advanced Seminar II in the fall semester, followed by Advanced Seminar III and Advanced Seminar IV in the subsequent semesters, respectively.

Please note that if a student fails to earn credit for an Advanced Seminar course, they will not be permitted to enroll in any subsequent Advanced Seminar courses.

8. Credits of Advanced Seminars

The credits for Advanced Seminar and Thesis courses are as follows:

- Advanced Seminar I / II / III / IV: 2 credits for each course
- Thesis: 2 credits

For these courses, the categories of credits to be counted are as follows:

- Students entering in/before 2018: "Workshops & Seminars"
- Students entering in/after 2019: "Seminars"

9. Rules on Enrollment

Please refer to the SPSE website for detailed information regarding the application periods and forms for the following procedures.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/students/enrollment/seminars/>

Dropping Advanced Seminars

If a student wish to drop (cancel) the Advanced Seminar, they must submit an application form with approval from the professor to the SPSE office during the designated period. Once the Advanced Seminar is dropped (canceled), the student will not be able to apply for another Advanced Seminar or JDP-Zemi, nor can they re-enroll in their former Advanced Seminar.

Changing Advanced Seminars

Students are permitted to change advanced seminars only between Advanced Seminar II (fall) and Advanced Seminar III (spring), except for certain cases involving study abroad (see exceptions below). The student must submit an application form to the SPSE office during the designated period and must be accepted into the new professor's Advanced Seminar III.

Thesis

The "Thesis" course is automatically registered, concurrently with Advanced Seminar IV in the fall semester. Thesis guidance is provided through the Advanced Seminar IV. Students are not permitted to enroll in the 'Thesis' course unless they have successfully passed Advanced Seminar I.

If a student wishes to drop (cancel) Thesis, they must submit an application form with approval of the professor to the SPSE office during the designated period.

Also, if a student intends to submit their thesis in a semester after passing Advanced Seminar IV, they can drop Thesis in the fall semester and re-enroll in a later semester. In such cases, students will have received thesis-related guidance throughout the Advanced Seminar course. To make this change, students must complete two procedures:

1. Submit an application form to drop the Thesis course.
2. Submit a separate application form to register for the Thesis course.

Both forms must be submitted to the SPSE Administrative Office during the

designated periods with the professor's approval.

Students must consult with their Advanced Seminar instructor to determine the most appropriate timing for writing their thesis.

If a student enrolls in Advanced Seminar II or III in their final semester and wishes to enroll in the Thesis course concurrently, this is permitted with the professor's approval and upon submission of the required application form during the designated period. However, students cannot enroll in Thesis course concurrently with Advanced Seminar I, even if Advanced Seminar I is taken in their final semester before graduation.

In general, students must be enrolled in an Advanced Seminar for more than one semester to be eligible to write a thesis.

Studying Abroad (excluding leave of absence)

Participation in Advanced Seminars is compatible with studying abroad. The following rules apply:

- If you pass Advanced Seminar I and study abroad in the following fall semester (half a year), you will be automatically registered for Advanced Seminar III in the spring semester upon your return to Waseda.

AY2026		AY2027	
Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Advanced Seminar I	Study abroad	Advanced Seminar III	Advanced Seminar IV Thesis

- If you pass Advanced Seminar I and study abroad in the following fall and spring semesters (a year), you will be automatically registered for Advanced Seminar II in the fall semester after you return to Waseda.

AY2026		AY2027	
Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Advanced Seminar I	Study abroad	Study abroad	Advanced Seminar II

- If you prefer, you may enroll in Advanced Seminar IV instead of Advanced Seminar II. To do so, you must submit an application form, approved by the

professor, to the SPSE Administrative office during the designated period. Additionally, you will be eligible to register for Thesis course with Advanced Seminar IV. However, please note that once you enroll in Advanced Seminar IV, you will not be able to take Advanced Seminar III in the future.

AY2026		AY2027	
Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Advanced Seminar I	Study abroad	Study abroad	Advanced Seminar IV Thesis

- If you pass Advanced Seminar II and study abroad in the following spring semester (half a year), you will be automatically registered for Advanced Seminar IV and Thesis in the fall semester upon your return to Waseda.

AY2026		AY2027	
Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Advanced Seminar I	Advanced Seminar II	Study abroad	Advanced Seminar IV Thesis

- If you pass Advanced Seminar II and then study abroad in the following spring and fall semesters (a year), you will be automatically registered for Advanced Seminar III in the spring semester upon your return to Waseda.

AY2026	AY2027		AY2028
Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Advanced Seminar II	Study abroad	Study abroad	Advanced Seminar III

Returning to Advanced Seminars after a Leave of Absence

Students who return to Waseda after a leave of absence and were previously enrolled in Advanced Seminars will not be automatically re-enrolled in an Advanced Seminar upon their return.

AY2026		AY2027	
Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Advanced Seminar I	Leave of Absence	Leave of Absence	*1Advanced Seminar II

AY2026		AY2027	
Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Advanced Seminar I	Leave of Absence	*2 -	*1Advanced Seminar II

*1 If students wish to continue in the Advanced Seminar they were originally enrolled in before the leave of absence, they must submit an application form to the SPSE Administrative Office and be accepted by the professor.

*2 Students may not be able to resume the course immediately upon returning to Waseda, as each Advanced Seminar is offered only in a specific semester.

10. EDP students who want to apply for a JDP-Zemi

EDP students are eligible to enroll in JDP *Senmon-Enshu* (専門演習, hereinafter JDP-zemi) which are advanced seminars in the JDP. Students who wish to enroll in a JDP-zemi must participate in the same selection process as JDP students. This process takes place in September-October.

JDP-zemi Eligibility

Students who are fluent in Japanese may apply for all JDP-zemi.

In addition, some JDP-zemi are open to students who are not fluent in Japanese. The list of these JDP-zemi can be found in the document named “年度演習要項” and “年度演習第●回選考日程について” which include an “EDP★” mark. These documents will be posted on the SPSE website.

In these JDP-zemi, classroom discussions will primarily be conducted in Japanese, as with other JDP-zemi. However, assignments and presentations may be submitted or conducted in English.

Detailed Information for JDP-zemi Selection

For more information, please refer to the “Application Guide for *Senmon-Enshu* (JDP-zemi) for EDP Students” posted on the SPSE website.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/students/enrollment/seminar/>

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