

YLP-MEXT Scholarship Program

Young Leaders Program

School of Government

School of Local Governance



政策研究大学院大学
NATIONAL GRADUATE INSTITUTE
FOR POLICY STUDIES

A World of Opportunities for Young Leaders

Message from the Program Director



The Young Leaders Program (YLP) at GRIPS is a special master's degree program for promising young leaders in government. It is fully supported, including full scholarships for all students, by the Japanese government.

The YLP aims at nurturing future national leaders in Asia and other regions, forming international human networks of these leaders, establishing friendly relations among participating countries and improving the quality of public policy.

The specific content of the YLP is designed to provide young leaders with opportunities to enrich and enlarge their knowledge of global, regional and Japanese politics and economies, public administration and policies from comparative, historical and contemporary perspectives. The faculty is composed of eminent academics and former government officials with a wide range of experience in both national and local governments.

I hope you will join the Young Leaders Program and realize your dream of contributing to your country and to the global community in your future career.

Prof. Masahiro Horie

Director of Executive Development
Center for Global Leadership;
Director of Young Leaders Program;
Senior Professor
Specialty: Public Administration



Prof. Mikitaka Masuyama

Vice President; Dean;
Chair of Masters' Program
Committee; Director of Public Policy
Program (Domestic);
Deputy Director of Young Leaders
Program (School of Government);
Professor
*Specialty: Japanese Politics, Legislative
Institutions, Political Methodology*



Prof. Hirofumi Takada

Deputy Director,
Young Leaders Program (School of Local
Governance),
Professor
*Specialty: Local Public Administration and
Finance, Local Revitalization*

About GRIPS

The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) was founded in 1997 by the Japanese government as a stand-alone national graduate university focused on policy studies. Future policy leaders and researchers from all over the world gather here, forming an international research hub.

The Young Leaders Program is a one-year program that culminates in a Master's Degree in Public Administration or Public Policy. The YLP is part of the Japanese government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarship program.

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About the Program

The YLP has two parallel and overlapping programs run through the School of Government and the School of Local Governance. The curriculum for both courses is taught entirely in English and covers a wide range of topics concerning public administration and policy formulation. It also offers the opportunity for intensive discussion with politicians, high-level government officials, corporate directors, journalists and other leaders. The program includes field trips and workshops and requires a final paper based on independent study and research. There are opportunities to collaborate on policy research with other institutions, including Japan's central and local governments. The colloquium, which meets seven or eight times per semester, is an unrivalled opportunity to discuss fresh ideas with eminent speakers.

Goals and mission

The goal of the YLP is to cultivate national leaders of the future in Asia and around the world. Participants gain a deep understanding of Japan through their activities and work during the program and build the foundations for a network of friendly relationships and improved policy planning capacity among national leaders.

Graduates from the YLP are expected to return to their former governmental organizations and apply their knowledge and experience to become strong leaders.

Target group

The Young Leaders Program is for exceptionally promising young government officials who have already shown their dedication through work experience in public administration. Students are admitted on the basis of an appraisal of their potential to become future leaders at home, to play important roles in their countries' development and to maintain strong, long-lasting working relationships with Japan and other countries around the world.



Photo : ★ Masao Nishikawa

2 Curriculum

Course Offerings for 2018-2019

School of Government

Category	Course Name	Credit
I Required Courses	Introduction to Public Policy Studies	2
	Global Governance: Leadership and Negotiation	1
	Introduction to Japan	2
	Colloquium	2
	Independent Study	6
II Recommended Courses	Field Trip	2
	Microeconomics I	2
	Essential Microeconomics	4
	Contemporary Japanese Economy	2
	Japanese Economy	2
	Economic Development of Japan	2
	Government and Politics in Japan	2
	International Relations	2
	International Political Economy	2
	International Security Studies	2
	Comparative Politics	2
	Structure and Process of Government	2
	III Elective Courses	Macroeconomics I
Government and Market		2
Global Development Agendas and Japan's ODA		2
Public Economics		2
International Trade		2
Japanese Financial System		2
Development Economics		2
Japanese Foreign Policy		2
Social Science Questions and Methodologies		2
Local Government System		2
Local Government Finance		2
Local Governance in the Changing World		2
Selected Topics in Policy Studies I-IV		2
Others	Courses offered by the Center for Professional Communication	

School of Local Governance

Category	Course Name	Credit	
I Required Courses	Introduction to Public Policy Studies	2	
	Local Government System	2	
	Local Government Finance	2	
	Local Governance in the Changing World	2	
	Introduction to Japan	2	
	Colloquium	2	
	Research Paper	4	
	Workshop I	2	
	Workshop II	2	
	II Recommended Courses	Government and Politics in Japan	2
International Relations		2	
Structure and Process of Government		2	
Global Governance: Leadership and Negotiation		1	
Microeconomics I		2	
Essential Microeconomics		4	
Economic Development of Japan		2	
III Elective Courses		Macroeconomics I	2
		Government and Market	2
		Global Development Agendas and Japan's ODA	2
	Public Economics	2	
	International Trade	2	
	Japanese Financial System	2	
	Development Economics	2	
	Japanese Foreign Policy	2	
	International Relations of the Asia Pacific	2	
	East Asian Economies	2	
Others	Social Science Questions and Methodologies	2	
	Selected Topics in Policy Studies I-IV		
	Courses not listed in this table		
Others	Courses offered by the Center for Professional Communication		

Courses offered in the program are subject to change.
For the latest, see
<http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/bulletin/>



Coursework

The Young Leaders Program offers a wide range of courses concerning public administration, economics, political science and policy formulation. In addition to the required courses, students can select subjects in accordance with their interests and needs. All courses are taught in English.

Colloquium

One of the unique features of the Young Leaders Program is the Colloquium, where YLP students are offered an exclusive and unrivalled opportunity to discuss and share ideas with a diverse range of eminent speakers, including many distinguished government leaders and business executives. The Colloquium meets fifteen or sixteen times a year, divided between the fall and spring terms.

Independent Study & Research Paper

During the independent study you work one-on-one with an instructor on your master's thesis (or "policy paper") on a particular topic related to public administration and policy formulation. Students are supported in their research by the Center for Professional Communication (CPC) that organizes Writing Workshops as well as individual consultation throughout the year. The CPC will also help students improve their presentation skills. All students will give a presentation on their research in July.

Field Trips (School of Government)

Educational field trips are organized twice a year and provide a great opportunity to learn about local governments and communities, and socioeconomic developments in Japan. The field trips complement what is being taught in the classrooms and take you to places that you may not be able to explore and learn about on your own. You will visit central and local government offices, cultural and historical heritage sites, and industrial facilities. The YLP School of Government class of 2016 students visited Kagoshima prefecture in February 2017 and Gifu prefecture in July 2017.

Workshops (School of Local Governance)

During the workshops, you will visit central and local governments to meet with officials who will share their first-hand experience and practice in policy planning and implementation. You will also have a chance to visit various facilities such as a day care center for elderly people and a local economic and tourism development facility. You may thus be able to catch a glimpse of how the Japanese government system actually works in everyday life in Japan.



3 Student Support and Resources

One unique aspect of GRIPS is our support system for assisting students in their daily living. We consider this aspect of your lives to be every bit as important as your academic life, especially for foreign scholars unfamiliar with Japan. As international students have comprised, on average, about 60% of the GRIPS student body over the last 10 years, we have developed comprehensive services to assist students in their day-to-day living.

The Student Office organizes orientation programs for incoming students and assists arriving international students in getting organized and settled in Japan. It also organizes a number of social events and activities, including field trips. The Student Office also functions as a hub to promote interaction and understanding between Japanese and foreign nationals.

Faculty

GRIPS has nearly 300-faculty member from a variety of backgrounds. Many of them have served as central and local government officials, diplomats, bankers or business executives. This enables an effective combination of rigorous academic courses complemented by professional expertise and experience.

For more on our faculty members, please see <http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/about/directory/>

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in the Tokyo International Exchange Center (TIEC), operated by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

Tokyo Academic Park Residence Halls

In the bayside area, built in 2001 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

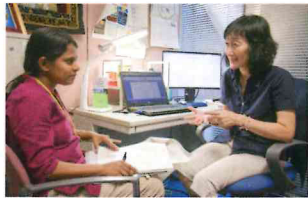
Room Types: Single, Couple, Family



Resources

Center for Professional Communication

The mission of the Center for Professional Communication is to support GRIPS' students, faculty, and staff in developing effective professional communication skills and competencies needed to communicate productively in an environment of multiple stakeholders. To this end, we offer a range of instruction and support in fundamental areas of professional communication in English and Japanese including policy paper writing, professional speaking, grant proposal writing, and digital communications. We also provide opportunities for cultural and academic exchanges through a self-access learning center, organize seminars and special events related to all aspects of professional communication, and prepare customized materials for students and staff on academic and professional writing and language learning.



The center supports Japanese language learning of students who lack Japanese language proficiency for daily living and study. The purpose is to help students achieve greater competence in comprehension and speaking. The center also facilitates cultural and traditional experiences.

Library

- Extensive collection of publications in the field of policy studies, collected from around the world
- Collection contains over 180,000 volumes, including reference books, statistical collections, working papers, and government documents
- Large collections of periodicals that include more than 12,000 journals, many of which are available online
- Well-trained staff are equipped to respond to research-related requests



Facilities

Student Rooms and Computers

- Each student is provided with a study space and laptop computer, accessible 24 hours a day
- A computer help desk is open to all students during regular working hours



Health Services Center

- In-house health clinic
- Nurse on duty daily, doctor available several days a week
- Provides medical advice, basic medical examinations
- Will refer to an appropriate hospital or specialist when necessary



Fitness Center

- Running machines
- Training equipments
- Showers
- DVD for exercises
- Free use by students, faculty, and staff



4 Admissions

Eligibility

The Young Leaders Program is open to young public administrators and government officials who are expected to play active roles in the future as national leaders in their home countries. A minimum of three years of full-time work experience (five is preferable) in the field in the applicant's home country is a prerequisite for admission to the program.

The School of Government focuses on national policy-making and accepts students from 29 countries: P. R. China, Rep. of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey.

The School of Local Governance focuses on enhancement of local governance and government to respond to various regional issues in such areas as education, health, social welfare, and local development. It accepts students from 20 countries:

P. R. China, Rep. of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania.

Admission to the Young Leaders Program requires a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a recognized, accredited university of the highest standard as well as certifiable good health. The applicant should be under 40 years of age as of 1 October, 2018; should be proficient in English with a TOEFL iBT score of 79, TOEFL PBT score of 550, IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or equivalent and must be able to obtain a Student visa prior to arrival in Japan.

Applicants are not eligible if they are unable to travel to Japan during the program dates. People who are active members of military forces or civilians employed by the military during any part of the scholarship period or who are enrolled in a Japanese university under Student status or plan to enroll at a Japanese university as a privately financed international student between the time of application for the GRIPS scholarship and the time the scholarship period is due to commence are also ineligible. Loss of status as public administrator or government official before completion of the program will also render participants ineligible.

Admissions Timeline

Previous Year	Year of Enrollment		
7-10 July – mid-October	12-1 December – January	2-3 February – March	4-5 April – May
Obtain application form and submit completed application to the Japanese Embassy or “recommending authorities”	Document screening by GRIPS Admissions Office	Interviewing shortlisted candidates (in person or by telephone)	Final approval by MEXT and result notification

Scholarships

An allowance of 242,000 yen per month (in FY 2017; amount is subject to change) will be provided to grantees during the term of the scholarship. Grantees who are absent from the university for long periods will no longer be provided with the scholarship. Application, admission and tuition fees will be paid by the Japanese government. Round-trip economy-class air tickets between the student's home country and Japan will be provided.

Application procedures

Applicants should obtain an application form from the Japanese embassies or recommending authorities in the eligible countries (please check the GRIPS website for details about the recommending authorities in your country). Applicants must submit the following documentation in hard copy: application, essays, photographs, university transcripts, university graduation /degree certificates, certificate of English proficiency, recommendation letter from the recommending authority, recommendation letter from the applicant's direct superior at work, certificate of health and a passport copy. The application deadline is usually around mid-October. Please check with the Japanese embassy for the exact date.

For details, please see

http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/inter_programs/leader/



6-9 June-September

Finalizing the admissions process and pre-departure preparation (visa application, accommodation etc.)

10 October

Arrival in Japan and start of the program

5 Alumni

One of the greatest resources and joys of studying at GRIPS is the diversity of the student community. The connections you make at GRIPS are a valuable part of your degree. The GRIPS Alumni Network will ensure they are lifetime bonds by keeping you in touch with fellow alumni and the school.

As a GRIPS graduate, you will join an impressive network of over 4,000 alumni - including some 371 from YLP - who are actively shaping future policies in more than 100 countries around the world. We offer a variety of ways to remain engaged with GRIPS and strengthen your ties with fellow alumni around the globe. These include alumni reunions, seminars, a searchable alumni directory and online networking opportunities utilizing social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Number of YLP Alumni

P.R.China	South Korea	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand
34	9	23	20	23	5	26
Brunei	Vietnam	Laos	Myanmar	Cambodia	Mongolia	Kazakhstan
3	7	18	17	23	8	12
Kyrgyz Republic	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Bangladesh	India	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
8	1	25	11	10	12	6
Australia	Hungary	Czech Republic	Slovakia	Bulgaria	Poland	Romania
14	9	11	4	5	17	7
Turkey	Japan					
2	1					
						Total 371

as of June 2017



Alumni Voices



Cheong Belinda (Australia, 2013)

Assistant Director, Parliamentary Budget Office

"During my year on the Young Leaders Program in Japan I had the opportunity to learn about public policy in Japan as well as Japanese society and culture. I enjoyed the collaborative study environment at GRIPS which encouraged discussion among students and staff. One of my most memorable experiences was getting to know my fellow students from around the world, especially on field trips."



Cristina Preda (Romania, 2012)

Public manager, Ministry of European Funds

"When I started the YLP programme I did not know how much I would like it and how much studying at GRIPS will change me. The programme gave me the opportunity to enrich my knowledge in so many ways: academic, cultural and first, and most important, personal, through the interaction with the special people that I have met and I shall never forget. As a bonus, I learnt so much about the fascinating Japanese culture and people."



Tuy Sinna (Cambodia, 2012)

Assistant attached the Office of the Council of Ministers

"YLP is both widely known and deeply respected as one of wonderfully unique program among other programs in GRIPS. It offers an excellent program and wonderful experience both living and studying. GRIPS serves as a huge Asian gateway connecting globally to policy maker and think tanker in policy and economic as well as worldwide alumni. To me, I felt special and privileged to be a part of GRIPS, especially YLP network. "



Xintao Zheng (China, 2011)

Consul, Consulate-General of People's Republic of China in Vancouver

"My one-year study in GRIPS as a YLP student is definitely the most memorable experience in my life. It is so fruitful and enjoyable because here at GRIPS, we can learn so much from the professors who are the experts in their respective fields, and the various courses which designed to satisfy the different needs of each student; we are taken good care of by all the very supportive school staff members and the friendly Japanese fellow students; we also make friends and build connections with students from diversified backgrounds like you and me."



Akhmal bin Abu Basar (Malaysia, 2010)

Principal Assistant Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department

"As an alumnus, I see YLP-GRIPS as a uniquely designed program and an experiential learning at its finest. Fruitful intellectual discourses were held with prominent politicians, officials, corporate leaders and entrepreneurs. Furthermore, learning was made easy by the professors and coordinators who were always very helpful. Not only I gained knowledge, YLP-GRIPS thought me values. In short, I enjoyed the experience, I learnt a lot and I will forever cherish the hospitality."

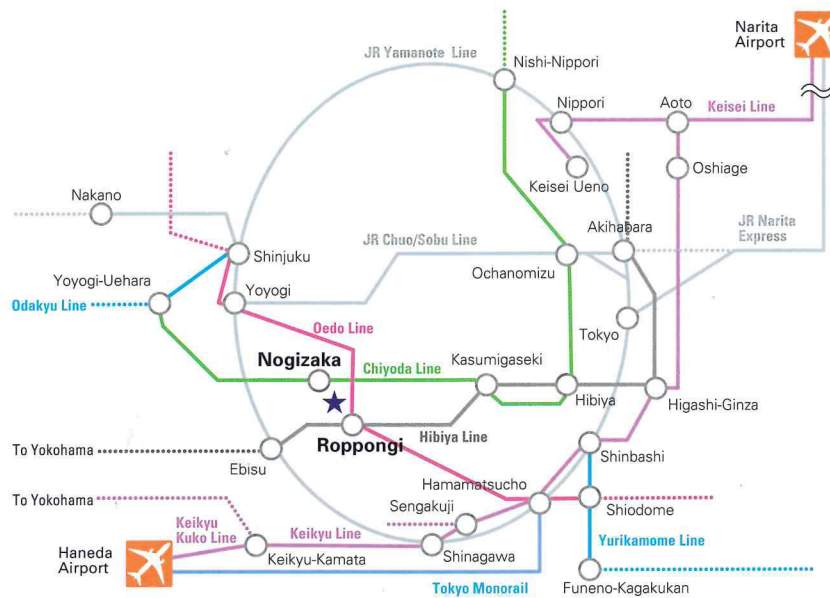
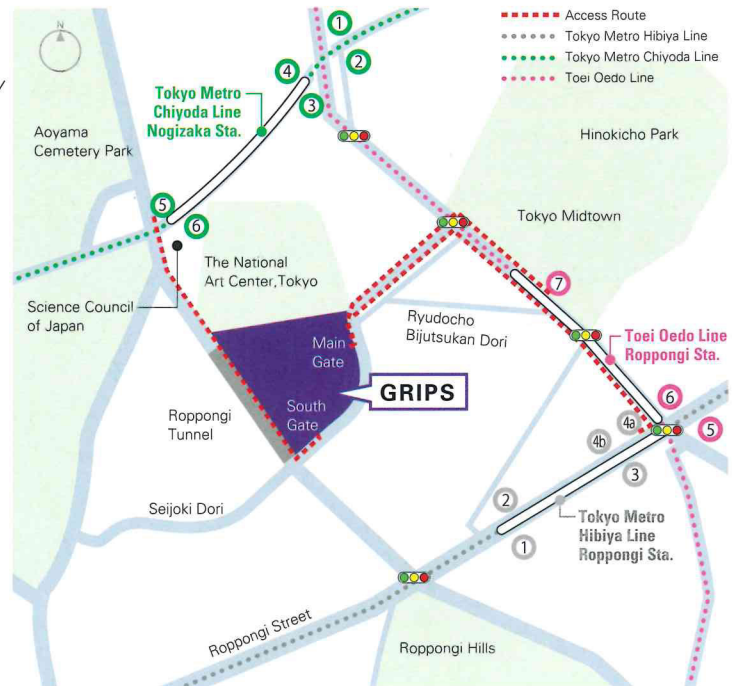
Address and Contact Information

Getting to GRIPS

The GRIPS building is located in the center of Tokyo, conveniently accessible by public transport. Both Nogizaka Station on the Chiyoda Line and Roppongi Station on the Oedo and Hibiya Lines are within 10 minutes walking distance.



Roppongi Hills



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