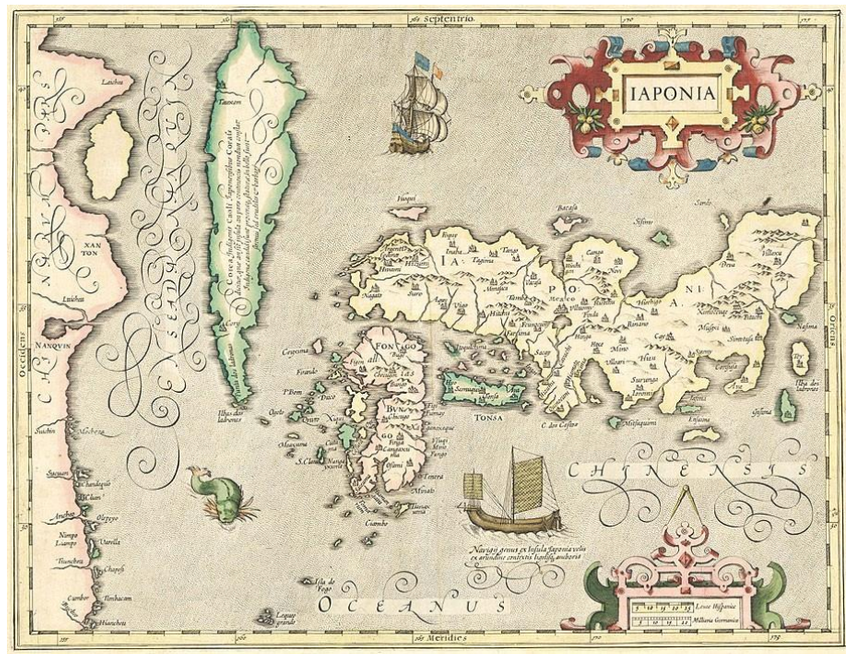


LL.M. & LL.D. PROGRAMS

2027-28

KYUSHU UNIVERSITY
International Programs in Law

Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law

Overview

LL.M. Program

In 1994, the Graduate School of Law at Kyushu University established Japan's first Master's level program taught entirely in English: the LL.M. program.



Drawing upon faculty members with particular strengths in these fields of law, the LL.M. program is designed to provide both Japanese and international students with the ability to confront the many challenges of contemporary international economic affairs and commercial transactions.

Taught in English from a Japanese perspective, the LL.M. program seeks to develop a critical understanding of legal principles within the framework of transnational & comparative law.

LL.D. Program

The LL.D. Program offers students the unique opportunity of preparing a doctoral thesis in English whilst studying at a Japanese university. Participants will pursue a closely supervised program of research for 6 consecutive semesters (3 years) prior to submitting a final dissertation.

The program is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to complete high-level research in law.

The Graduate School of Law encourages applications from suitably qualified applications of all nationalities.

Proposals for doctoral research on any legal topic will be considered.



LL.M. Program Key Points

DURATION OF PROGRAM

The program is taught on a full time basis and takes 12 months for completion, beginning in October every year and ending in September of the following year.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION & CURRICULUM

All program students are expected to complete a 20-credit (approx. five courses per semester) curriculum and write a Master's Thesis. Courses offered within the framework of the LL.M. program include:

- Algorithms and the Law
- Bioethics & the Law
- Comparative Corporate Law
- Contemporary Issues in Competition Law
- Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity
- Environmental and Energy Governance
- Resolution of Transnational Commercial Disputes
- International Financial Law & Regulation
- International Relations & Human Rights
- Japanese Intellectual Property Law in Practice
- Law and Development: Business & Economic History
- Mediation and Conflict Management
- Platforms and the Law
- Science, Technology & Innovation Policy
- Globalization & Commercial Law
- White Collar and Corporate Crime



My years at Kyushu University were transformative, both intellectually and personally. Drawn by a desire to explore the legal complexities of emerging technologies, I pursued my LL.M. with a focus on blockchain regulation and smart contracts. The Faculty of Law provided a truly international environment, where rigorous academic discourse was matched by a spirit of openness and collaboration.

Engaging with professors and peers from a multitude of backgrounds challenged me to think critically and approach legal questions from fresh perspectives. The university's encouragement of innovative research and its commitment to fostering cross-cultural understanding greatly enriched my experience. Living in Fukuoka further broadened my horizons, allowing me to immerse myself in Japanese culture and language, which has been invaluable both professionally and personally.

The relationships I forged at Kyushu—among classmates, mentors, and colleagues—have become lasting sources of inspiration and support. Now practicing law in Austria, specializing in intellectual property, IT, and competition law, I continually draw upon the analytical skills and global outlook developed during my time at Kyushu University.
I am deeply grateful for the opportunities and insights that my studies afforded me, and I look back on my time at Kyushu as a period of profound growth. I would encourage anyone with intellectual curiosity and ambition to embrace all that this remarkable institution has to offer.

Oliver Posani
(LL.M. 2019, Kyushu University, Faculty of Law)



LL.D. Program Key Points

DURATION OF PROGRAM

Students are required to submit the final version of their dissertation three years after enrolling on the LL.D. program.

RESEARCH TOPIC

The doctoral thesis may be on any law-related subject agreed in consultation with the academic supervisors and approved by the LL.D. Faculty Committee. However, Kyushu University, Graduate School of Law would particularly welcome doctoral research proposals in these fields:

- Comparative Corporate Law
- Contemporary Issues in Competition Law
- Creative Economy, Innovation & the Law
- Information Law
- Intellectual Property Law and Practice
- International Arbitration
- International Business Law
- International Civil Litigation
- International Maritime Law
- Mediation and Conflict Management
- Public International Law
- White Collar and Corporate Crime
- World Trade Law

A full list of professors and their current research interests can be found at:

https://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/faculty/faculty-members/



"As a proud alumnus of the LL.D. Program at the Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, I am honored to share my journey shaped by global legal education and meaningful cross-cultural experiences. My legal path began with an LL.B. from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, followed by an LL.M. from New York University, and culminated in the pursuit of a doctoral degree at Kyushu University, a decision that has profoundly shaped both my personal and professional life.

The LL.D. Program at Kyushu University offered a rigorous academic environment and an invaluable opportunity to engage in advanced legal research from a comparative and international perspective. It was also during this time that I had the chance to study the Japanese language, further enriching my connection to the culture and people of Japan. Living in Fukuoka remains one of my most cherished experiences - its exceptional quality of life, natural beauty, renowned cuisine, and warm, welcoming atmosphere left a lasting impression.

Currently, I serve as a partner in the Bangkok office of Nishimura & Asahi, Japan's largest law firm, a role that allows me to build legal bridges between Thailand and Japan while continuing to contribute to cross-border practice and regional legal development. As an alumnus, I remain committed to strengthening ties within our global academic and professional networks and to supporting the next generation of Kyushu University scholars with the same generosity and guidance that I once received".

Apinya Sarntikasem
(LL.D. 2014, Kyushu University, Faculty of Law)



Why Fukuoka? Why Kyushu University?

Located in the heart of East Asia, midway between Tokyo, Shanghai and Seoul, Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands. It is a thriving modern metropolis that has not sacrificed its unique local character and charm. Historically known as Hakata, it has long been one of Japan's key ports for commerce with the rest of Asia, and today the spirit of Hakata lives on, for the growing continental ties of recent years have enabled the city to establish itself as a major regional center.

In 2006, Newsweek named Fukuoka as one of the “Ten Most Dynamic Cities” in the world, identifying an energetic regional economy, excellent infrastructure, and the proximity and openness to Asia as key features behind its continued growth. In 2017, Monocle magazine reported a survey of world cities that ranked Fukuoka as the 14th most livable city in the world. Finally, Nomura Research Institute ranked Fukuoka second amongst 100 Japanese cities in 2017.

Kyushu University is the largest university in Kyushu and one of the most prestigious national universities in Japan. Founded in 1911 as one of seven original Imperial Universities, it continues to be a focal point for academic and educational excellence.

Graduate study in Kyushu University provides well-motivated students with the opportunity to study in a dynamic academic atmosphere and to enjoy life in one of Japan's fastest growing cities.

And yet, perhaps the most important feature of Fukuoka for the foreign resident is its people. Known throughout Japan for their friendliness, the people of Fukuoka have long enjoyed good relationships with visitors from abroad. For the foreigners living among Fukuoka's 1.6 million residents, life is both comfortable and stimulating.

Tuition and Financial Aid

TUITION FEES

For the academic year 2027-2028, tuition fees total around ¥900,000. The final amount for 2027-2028 is available upon request after it is confirmed in January 2027.

LL.M. & LL.D. Financial Aid Information is available at:

http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ll-m/

http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ll-d/

Faculty

The Graduate School of Law has a large and diverse faculty, with wide ranging research interests in all major fields of law and political science. Moreover, faculty members have a wide range of experience in business, the legal profession, government service, international organizations, as well as academia. The following is an indicative list of faculty currently involved in the LL.M. program.

Professor VAN UYTSEL Steven (Director of International Programs)
LL.B. (Antwerp University), LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Competition Law, Product Liability & Natural Resources Law.

Professor FENWICK Mark
LL.B. (University of London), M.Phil. & Ph.D. (University of Cambridge), specializing in Corporate Crime and Transnational Business Law.

Professor HAN Sang Hee
B.A. & LL.M. (Korea University), LL.D. (Keio University), Ph.D. (Beijing University), specializing in International Law and Politics.

Professor HAZUCHA Branislav
MJur (University of Oxford), LL.M. (Comenius University), Dr. jur. (Trnava University), LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Intellectual Property Law, Regulation of Emerging Technologies and Cultural Industries, Comparative Law, Empirical Legal Studies.

Professor IGIMI Mariko
LL.B., LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Roman Law.

Professor IRIE Hideaki
BA (University of Tokyo), MS (University of Tokyo), MA (Hosei University), Ph.D. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Conflict Management.

Professor KOJIMA Ryu (Director of International Programs)
LL.B. (University of Tokyo), LL.M. (Harvard University), specializing in Intellectual Property Law, and Law & Culture

Professor TERAMOTO Shinto
LL.B. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Intellectual Property Law.

Professor TOKUMOTO Minoru
LL.B., LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), LL.M. (Yale Law School), specializing in Commercial Law, Corporate Law & Business Law.

Associate Professor KAWASAKI Kunihiro
LL.B.(Keio University), LL.M. (University of Chicago), J.D. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Corporate Law, Commercial Law and Securities Regulation.

Associate Professor NARIHARA Satoshi
B.A. (Waseda University), M.S.I. (University of Tokyo), specializing in Information Law.

Associate Professor NISHIMURA Tomoumi
LL.B. & LL.M. (Chuo University), specializing in Philosophy of Law and Legal Informatics.

Associate Professor YATSUNAMI Ren
LL.B., LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Private International Law and International Business Law.

Assistant Professor LEE Peter
LL.B. (Pusan University), LL.M. & LL.D. (Kyushu University), specializing in Transport Law, Maritime Law and E-Commerce Law.

Assistant Professor LI Xiaorong
LL.M. & LL.D. (Peking University), specializing in basic theories of international tax law and international tax dispute resolution mechanisms.

Emeritus Faculty

Emeritus Professor AKASHI Kinji
LL.B. & LL.M. (Keio University), Ph.D. (Utrecht University), specializing in Basic Theories of International Law and History of International Law.

Emeritus Professor KONO Toshiyuki (Former Executive Vice President of Kyushu University)
LL.B. & LL.M. (Kyoto University), specializing in Private International Law and Civil Litigation, and Law & Culture.

Emeritus Professor PEJOVIC Caslav
LL.B. (University of Montenegro), LL.M. (Belgrade University), LL.M. (Kyoto University), Ph.D. (Zagreb University), specializing in Maritime Law, International Business Law & E-Commerce.



Campus, Facilities and Services

Campus

The Graduate School of Law moved from its traditional location in Hakozaki to the campus of Kyushu University in Ito in the summer of 2018. Further details on the new campus are available here:

http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/campus/ito

Library

The Law Library of Kyushu University houses one of the largest collections in Japan with over 310,000 volumes. It is particularly well known for its collection of international and foreign-language materials, and provides an excellent research resource for all graduate students.

Technology

Kyushu University provides wireless access throughout the campus. International students enrolled on a program at the Graduate School of Law are given access to the LL.M. Study Room, which contains a number of computers and network hubs for laptops. Students are also given access to an extensive selection of on-line databases containing both English and Japanese materials, including LEXIS/NEXIS & WESTLAW.

Health Care

All international students are obliged to join a national health insurance scheme. For a nominal monthly charge, 70% of health costs are covered by insurance. Students are free to choose their health care provider.

Student Supporters

All international students enrolled on a course in the Graduate School of Law will be provided with a Supporter to assist with various practical matters upon arriving in Japan.

Kyushu University International Affairs Department

International Affairs Department, Kyushu University is responsible for providing a range of services for supporting incoming students and researchers from overseas.

The International Affairs Department web page can be found at:

https://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/intlweb/en/

Housing

Kyushu University offers a number of housing options.

Further information is available at: https://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/intlweb/en/student/housing

Application Information: LL.M. Program

Application Procedure

The application procedure for October 2027 entry is available on the international programs website.
http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/

Requirements for Admission

For admission to the LL.M. program, students must have or expect to have by the time of enrolment:

- An undergraduate law degree from an accredited university.
- A thorough knowledge of the English language. Please note: if English is not your native language you must take the TOEFL test or equivalent. A TOEFL score of 4.5+ or 92+ (Internet-based) is required for admission.
- Sufficient financial support for the program of study.

Application Forms

Application forms for the program are available from the Admissions Office of the LL.M. Program or may be downloaded from http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ll-m/

Please write to the following address to request hard copies of the necessary application materials:

Admission Office of the LL.M. Program
Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, East Zone 2,
744 Motooka, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka, 819-0395, Japan.
Fax: 81 (Japan)-92-802-5407

Further information on the LL.M. program is available upon request from: admission@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp



Application Information: LL.D. Program

Application Procedure

The application procedure for October 2027 entry is available on the international programs website.
https://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ll-d/

Requirements for Admission

The LL.D. program is open to applicants with:

- A Master's degree (in law or a related discipline) from an accredited university. All applicants will be expected to have completed some form of legal study at a graduate level.
- Competence in the English language is a prerequisite of the program and proof of
- English ability will be required of non-native speakers. In principle, a TOEFL score of 5 + or 100+ (Internet-based) is required.
- Sufficient financial support for the program of study.



Application Forms

Application forms for the program are available from the Admissions Office of the LL.D. Program or may be downloaded from http://www.law.kyushu-u.ac.jp/programsinenglish/html/programs-admissions/academic-programs/ll-d/

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