

Course Number	06005
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2006 「The International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP)」

～Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students～

【1. Profile of the University】

①University Department	University of Tsukuba, Master's Program in Area Studies		
②President	Yoichi IWASAKI		
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⑤Web-Address	http://www.chiiki.tsukuba.ac.jp		
⑥Enrollment (only GraduateSchool)	927 (include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 246)		

【2. Outline of the Course】

①Course	Refresher Course for Japanological Research and Educational Staffs in Central Asia		
②Degree	Master's degree (2 years)		
③Graduate Course, Department	Master's Program in Area Studies		
	(Address) 〒305-8571 Tennoudai 1-1-1, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki, Japan		
④Collaboration (Universities, Graduate courses, Departments)			
⑤Quota	14	(include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 6) (include Japanese : 0)	
⑥Faculties	86	(Full-time(only for this course):72 Full-time(at the department offering this course): Part-time: 14)	
⑦Representative of the Course	Job Title Professor, Chair of the Master's Program in Area Studies		
	Name	Masaki ONOZAWA	

【3. Contents of the Course】

1) The main point of the establishment

With the independence of the former Soviet constituencies in Central Asia (CA), and with establishment of the Commonwealth of independent states in 1991, there has been a growing interest towards Asian studies in this region. At the same time, there has been a growing interest towards Japanese language and studies in these countries with increasing number of specialized departments, students enrolling into these departments and their faculty members.

Nevertheless, the level of education and professional qualification of the staff members in charge of the education in the field of Japanese studies has yet to be improved to reach international standards. Therefore, this program aims to strengthen the capacity in teaching Japanese language and culture of the universities and institutions in CA. This program attempts to do so by accepting the junior staff members and graduate students of the CA universities concerned into the educational programs at the University of Tsukuba and enhancing their knowledge of Japanese studies. Taking into account that the majority of the faculty members and students in CA possess limited knowledge of Japanese language, the educational curriculum in the University of Tsukuba offers them a unique chance of obtaining the first-hand information and knowledge about Japan through offering them English language educational courses in addition to a number of Japanese language courses available. The primary target countries for this program are Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyz. Each year, six students from the collaborating Universities in three countries mentioned above will have an opportunity to enroll into educational and professional development programs.

2) Contents and Features of the program

Based on the 30 years of educational experience gained at the Masters Program of Area Studies, the educational curriculum exclusively thought in English language will be offered to incoming graduate students enrolling into this program. In addition to developing professional skills of enrolling students their areas of specialization this program will offer the students a chance to complete full curriculum on the Japanese studies as well as to receive academic guidance regarding their dissertations. Finally, through the activities envisaged above, this program will aim to accomplish the task of improving the knowledge of the students through out the wide spectrum of their specialties. Consequently, this will result not only in higher knowledge of graduates but also translate into the higher level of teaching and curriculum development in region enabling educational institutions in those countries to offer internationally competitive programs of the Japanese studies.

3) Educational and teaching system

The educational program includes curriculum requiring students to obtain 10 credits in such subjects as International Political Theory, International Developmental Studies, Cultural Anthropology etc., per academic year in addition to 12 credits Political Economy, Historical aspects of culture and philosophy, Literature. In addition, the requirements include completion of master thesis (graduation thesis) which will be rated at 4 credits. Also, program will offer classes for those students specializing in teaching Japanese language and requiring additional knowledge on curriculum development in order to accommodate the broad spectrum of students' needs.

For the purpose of helping the students to successful complete their master theses, lead supervisor and two co-supervisors are appointed at the beginning of the year to advice each student on the work related to the thesis. The supervision is to be conducted in English and students will be required to complete their thesis in English language. The supervision is to be conducted by the twenty five faculty members specifically selected for the program out of the seventy faculty members of the Master Program for Area Studies. When the nature of the master theses will involve inter-disciplinary research and studies, the faculty from the other departments and programs of the University of Tsukuba will be engaged in the process of the co-supervision.

4) Language of education

English is designed to be the main language of education of this program.

5) Eligibility, method of application and selection criteria

The program is open for faculty members and graduate students of the universities in three countries of Central Asia - namely, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Those applicants recommended for the program by the Universities are required to return to their host universities and stay employed with their universities over several years after their graduation from the program. The local partner universities of the University of Tsukuba are assigned the task of accepting the applications. After the first stage of application screening, the faculty members of the University of Tsukuba will be commissioned to conduct interviews with those applicants who successfully passed on to the second stage. The documents of those successfully passing the stage of interviews will then be sent for the final approval and related procedures to the University of Tsukuba. After final selection, the University of Tsukuba will commence the procedures of recommending successful applicants to be granted the awards of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. The successful applicants will receive the notifications of awards from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and will enroll into the University of Tsukuba in December (third trimester).

The application time schedule

November	– program is officially announced with related documents sent to partner institutions (the applications and guidelines will also be available through the internet)
End of January	– deadline for applications
February	– the first stage screening of the applications at the University of Tsukuba
February-March	– the commissioning of the faculty members of the University of Tsukuba for the interviews with those applications who successfully passed the first stage of screening
Late March	– the final decision by the University of Tsukuba on those candidates to be recommended for the award of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Mid-April	– the recommendation to be send from the University of Tsukuba to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to award scholarships to the selected candidates
End of June	– Notifications of awards of scholarship to be sent by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to the successful candidates
Beginning of July	– Procedural preparations will begin on the arrival of successful candidates (to be conducted in collaboration with regional partner institutions)
November	– Arrival in Japan (in a status of research students)
December 1	– Enrolling in the Master Program in Area Studies as a full time students
November 30	– Graduation from the Master Program in Area Studies and award of the Master degree

Notes: The University of Tsukuba uses trimester system of education. Accordingly, the enrollment of students, which is planned for December 1, and their graduation under this program will follow the different pattern compared to the usual enrolment and graduation in Japanese universities (which normally takes place on April and March respectively).

6) Career path after the graduation, expectations from the graduates and follow-up programs

This program is aimed to strengthen the teaching capacity of the faculty members of the Central Asian Universities. Therefore, after graduation it is expected that graduates will be involved in the teaching and supervision on Japanese studies in the educational and research institutions in their respective countries. It is thus expected that the quality of teaching in Japanese studies will improve dramatically and the number of faculty members in the universities in the respective three countries of Central Asia will increase drastically. In addition, it is expected that graduates will not only play the roles of educators in their institutions but also will assume the leading roles in pursuing collaborative research and exchanges between University of Tsukuba, other Japanese universities and their Central Asian counterparts. It is also planned that those graduating from the program will have an opportunity to benefit from the follow-up activities which will include the further educational activities and participation in the international conferences concerning Japanese studies. The Tsukuba University Collaboration Center established in the premises of the Tashkent University of Oriental Studies is designed to become one of those centers which will take on the task of following-up activities after the completion of the program.

7) The evaluation and assessment of this program

The University of Tsukuba represented by the Department of International Collaboration has three committees dealing with exchange of students, collaboration between universities and internationalization of education process. These committees conduct the evaluation and assessment of the foreign students exchange programs conducted in the University of Tsukuba on an annual basis. In addition, the committee on the educational activities of Master Program in Area Studies and the committee on the Promotion of Social Linkages of the Graduate School of Social Sciences and humanities are also tasked with the assessing and evaluating this program.

8) Other Issues

The University of Tsukuba has nearly 5 years of experience in dealing with three Central Asian countries which are targeted by this program. In the course of such cooperation, cooperation agreements were signed with seven universities and several short term exchanges of students were conducted. In addition, the University of Tsukuba Collaboration Center was open in the premises of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, which is entrusted with the task of enhancing Japanese studies and Japanese language education in Central Asian region. The effectiveness of such cooperation was also recognized by the Japanese Embassies in the Central Asian countries. In particular, establishment of the University of Tsukuba Collaboration Center in the premises of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies was welcomed in the Action Plan of the Foreign Ministers' Meeting within the framework of the Central Asia + Japan Forum as a venue for enhancing training in Japanese language and culture and organizing collaborative research.