

Course Number	07003
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2007 「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 Graduate School)	983 (include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 259)		

【2. Outline of the Course】

①Course	Educational & Cultural Policy Administration Staff Retraining Program for Central Asian Region
②Degree	Master's degree
③Form	1 year program for Master's degree in International Studies
④Graduate Course, Department	Master's Program in Area Studies
	(Address) 〒305-8571 Tennoudai 1-1-1, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki, Japan
⑤Collaboration (Universities, Graduate courses, Departments)	(Uzbekistan) Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies University of World Economy and Diplomacy Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages (Kyrgyzstan) Kyrgyz State National University (Kazakhstan) Eurasian National University Al-Farabi Kazakh National University T.Ryskulov Kazakh Economic University
⑥Quota	12 (include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 4) (include Japanese : 0)
⑦Faculties	37 (Fulltime:17 Fulltime(other department):10 Parttime:10)
⑧Representative of the Course	Job Title 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 demand for professionals in the policy related fields. One of the most acute fields with such a lack of specialists is the Educational and Cultural policy. These fields are instrumental in setting up effective educational, research and cultural exchange programs and bringing up a new generation of policy makers in the region.

Such urgent need for qualified specialists is a result and a consequence of the fact that the level of education and professional qualification of the staff members in charge of the education and cultural affairs programs has yet to be reformed and improved significantly to reach international standards. Therefore, this program aims to strengthen the capacity in educational and cultural policy formulation in this region by training the staff members capable to contribute both to the formulation and implementation of effective educational and cultural policies and to the task of analyzing implications of such policies within 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 in educational and cultural policy fields. 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 through offering them three trimester based comprehensive English-language graduate education in addition to a number of Japanese language courses available. The primary target countries for this program are Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Each year, four students from five regional countries will have an opportunity to enroll into educational and professional development programs on a scholarship-based scheme with additional 6 students on a self- or alternatively financed schemes.

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 also offer the students a chance to obtain knowledge in Japanese language and gain access to the academic guidance through provided supervision scheme.

Alternatively, students will also be offered a chance to join Winter (Obihiro, Hokkaido) and Summer Schools (organized in Ryukyu University in Naha, Okinawa) organized on a extra-curriculum and commercial basis. During both summer schools, students will have an opportunity to earn credits (3 credits per time) which will be counted as full course credits towards obtaining a Master degree.

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 level of 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 in educational and cultural affairs.

3. Educational and teaching system

The educational program includes curriculum requiring students to obtain 10 credits in disciplinary subjects such as International Political Theory, International Developmental Studies, Cultural Anthropology etc., per academic year in addition to 12 credits in specialized subjects such as Public Policy, Educational Administration, Political Economy, Historical aspects of culture and philosophy, etc. 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 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 professionals at the Ministries of Education and Culture, faculty members and in some cases graduate students of the universities in Central Asia countries - namely, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (with applicants from Turkmenistan to be considered on a base by case basis). The application process is to be conducted in several stages and is implemented and supervised directly by the University of Tsukuba. 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 for academic year of 2007

November 2007	– 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 2008	– deadline for applications
February 2008	– the first stage screening of the applications at the University of Tsukuba
February-March 2008	– 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 2008	– 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 2008	– 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 2008	– 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 2008	– Procedural preparations will begin on the arrival of successful candidates (to be conducted in collaboration with regional partner institutions)
November 2008	– Arrival in Japan (in a status of research students)
December 1, 2008	– Enrolling in the Master Program in Area Studies as a full time students
November 30, 2009	– 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 at strengthening the capacity of the staff members of the Central Asian Ministries of Education and Culture and related Universities in their policy formulation and implementation. Therefore, after graduation it is expected that graduates will be involved in the work for their governments in the fields of their specialization or teaching and supervision in the educational and research institutions in their respective countries. In addition, it is expected that graduates will not only play the roles of policy formulators and educators in their institutions but also will assume the leading roles in pursuing collaborative projects, research and exchanges between Japanese agencies and institutions, 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. The University of Tsukuba Center for Central Asian Research and Education established in the premises of the University of Tsukuba in Japan and Tashkent University of Oriental Studies in Uzbekistan are designed to become 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 Humanities and Social Sciences are also tasked with the assessing and evaluating this program.

8. The reasons for requesting special allocation of research students

After gaining of independence by Central Asian states in 1991 and establishing Commonwealth of Independent States, the allocations of scholarships through the recommendation scheme of the Japanese Embassies abroad consisted of 2-4 students per year per each country. Such situation does not allow sufficient provision for the strengthening of the areas of educational and cultural policy studies in those countries. By specifically providing additional scholarships to promote these areas, it is expected that the understanding and knowledge in three countries targeted by this program will improve accomplishing the tasks of the proposed program. Above all, this program will give an additional stimulus for the cooperation with Japan throughout Central Asian region.

9. 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 Center for Central Asian Research and Education in the premises of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies was welcomed in the Action Plan of the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo in June within the framework of the Central Asia + Japan Forum as a venue for enhancing training in Japanese language and culture and organizing collaborative research.