

2009 「The International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP)」

~Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students~

【1. Profile of the University】

① University Department	Kagoshima University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences			
② President	YOSHIDA Hiroki, M.D., Ph.D.			
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④ Contact	Division	Health Research Course		
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⑤ Web Address	http://www.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/index.shtml			
⑥ Enrollment (only Graduate School)	166 (including 68 MEXT scholarship students)			

【2. Outline of the Course】

① Course	Public Health Specialist Training Course for developing countries in Asia focusing on Islamic countries
② Degree	Doctoral Course (4 Years)
③ Form	This program is performed in a single University
④ Graduate Course, Department	Health Research Course, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences
	(Address) 8-35-1 Sakuragaoka, Kagoshima 890-8544
⑤ Collaboration (Universities, Graduate courses, Departments)	
⑥ Quota	10 (including 3 MEXT scholarship students) (including 3 Japanese students)
⑦ Faculties	41 (full time: 41 (number of full-time faculty in other departments unknown); part time: 0)
⑧ Representative of the Course	Dean of the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences
	Prof. MATSUYAMA Takami

【3. Contents of the Course】

Overview

This PhD program focuses primarily on female students from developing countries in Asia (mainly Islamic countries) in order to foster public health specialists who can play leading roles in both society and academia. In many countries, female public health workers are key actors in the promotion of public health, including maternal and child health. Examples include rural health workers (*behvarz*) in Iran, female public health nurses in rural health centers in Pakistan and junior public health nurses and Anganwadi workers in India.

The environmental and public health problems faced by today's developing countries have undergone rapid change from issues in maternal and child health care and the control of acute infectious diseases and parasite infection to measures for the prevention of chronic diseases in the fields of public, environmental, and industrial health. In addition, many current public health problems have international repercussions such as international infectious disease epidemics and global environmental problems requiring cross-border prevention measures. Particularly pressing at the current time are the possibility of an international influenza pandemic and the health consequences global climate change.

In order to meet these challenges, it is necessary to train public health specialists with advanced skills, up-to-date knowledge, and a research-oriented mindset who have the ability to cope with various types of situations by drawing from a wide variety of perspectives and experiences. The need to train more female public health specialists—who have already established themselves as key providers of maternal and child health care—is particularly urgent. However, women's opportunities to participate in higher education are limited in some countries, and although women are taking more leading roles in the field of public health in many Asian countries, securing education and establishing a career remains difficult for many women. This program aims to contribute not just to the field of public health but the social empowerment of women in general.

The course, administered in English, targets mainly foreign female students interested in public health from all over Asia, including Islamic countries, and aims to instill in these future public health specialists a wide range of specialist knowledge, broad perspectives, and the ability to cope with public health and environmental problems on an international scale. Classes are given by faculty members of the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences and other faculties at Kagoshima University, including the Faculties of Agriculture and Fishery and the Island Research Center. Major subjects offered as part of the course are as follows:

- i) Environmental and public health: Faculty members specializing in public health and hygiene teach a) fundamental techniques to detect viruses, bacteria and parasites and b) basic approaches regarding environmental assays of heavy metals, ionizing radiation, and non-ionizing radiation in classes, the laboratory, and in the field.
- ii) Community-based prevention: Lectures on international health, maternal and child health, public health and environmental medicine are given in affiliation with the JICA training course held at our graduate school.
- iii) Epidemiology and preventive medicine: Lectures are given on basic epidemiology and preventive medicine, as well as infectious diseases, environmental problems, and risk assessment.

The following major subjects are also available as part of the course: oral health promotion; introduction to occupational and environmental medicine; medical system informatics; data analysis using R; data analysis using R and EPICURE; science ethics; life-science English; life-science English writing; and medical research lectures.

Japanese students are free to enroll in the course. Learning about public health together with foreign students will enhance the future contributions of Japanese students to the field of international public health.

