

Course Number	07004
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2007 「The International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP)」

~Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students~

【1. Profile of the University】

①University Department	Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo		
②President	KOMIYAMA Hiroshi		
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⑤Web-Address	http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/index_j.html		
⑥Enrollment (only Graduate School)	155	(include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 63)	

【2. Outline of the Course】

①Course	Master's Program in Sustainability Science
②Degree	Master of Sustainability Science (2 years)
③Form	The University runs the program independently.
④Graduate Course, Department	Department of Socio-cultural Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences
	(Address) 5-1-5, Kashiwanoha, Kashiwa-city, Chiba-ken 277-8561, Japan
⑤Collaboration (Universities, Graduate courses, Departments)	5 Departments (Department of Natural Environmental Studies, Environmental Systems, Human Environmental Studies, Socio-cultural Environmental Studies, and International Studies) in Institute of Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo
⑥Quota	20 (include MEXT's Scholarship Students: 8) (include Japanese : 7-10)
⑦Faculties	30 (Fulltime:25 Fulltime(other department):3 Parttime:2)
⑧Representative of the Course	Job Title Dean of Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, Professor
	Name AMEMIYA Yoshiyuki

【3. Contents of the Course】

1. Overview of Program

This master's program is designed to train internationally-minded professionals that can help create a sustainable society. Those that complete the program are presented with a Master of Sustainability Science. All lecture courses and practical courses are carried out in English. Students are selected for this program not only through the entrance examination described by the present guideline, "Guidelines for Applicants to the 2008 Master's Program in Sustainability Science", but also through a separate admission scheme based on application materials which should be exclusively applied for oversea applicants. Students from a wide variety of specializations and backgrounds are accepted into the program.

This program not only provides students with the basic knowledge and concepts necessary to build a sustainable society but also features a unique curriculum which emphasizes exercises that enable them to master a diverse set of skills. Students from many different specializations and cultural backgrounds give serious thought to issues related to sustainability through exercises and projects and acquire practical knowledge and skills by stimulating one another intellectually.

2. Objective and Ideals

The objective of this program is to train professionals that can take an active role in efforts to achieve sustainability in a socially, culturally and economically diverse international society, as well as the local communities that form a part of that society. What building a sustainable society means here is pursuing sustainability on the different spatiotemporal scales of people, society, and the world and working to create a new system through which, by securing intergeneration equity between the present, next and future generations and correcting income gaps between developed and developing countries such as north and south divide, people's quality of life can be maintained without harming the ecosystem.

Towards those ends, the program provides knowledge related to various sustainability issues. However, it goes even further than this by way of unique educational methods that emphasize the mutual stimulation of diverse student and faculty interactions. Exercises related to specific cases are used to help students acquire the necessary skills (system thinking, consensus forming, etc.) to propose new systems premised on solutions to those sustainability issues and promote mutual understanding among the various stakeholders. Furthermore, because measures that take cultural and geographical characteristics into consideration will be necessary to achieve sustainability on a global scale, educational activities focus particularly on fostering a strong awareness of the current environmental and social circumstances in Asia.

3. Student Specializations and Method of Selection

This program accepts students from a wide variety of specializations and backgrounds. After enrolling in the program, students will meet and study with peers from different backgrounds. The purpose of the program is to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and sensitivity to create a sustainable society while building on the foundations of the students' individual specializations. We are looking for students with the ability to understand and judge situations from an unblinkered, comprehensive point of view, with logical thinking skills to process various pieces of information and adapt them for use in specific purposes, and a proper understanding of the various elements that are involved in the concept of sustainability. Moreover, the integration of science and humanities and exchanges between different fields form the basis of sustainability science, so the ability to think flexibly without getting caught up in a single viewpoint is required.

Students are selected by the following schemes: entrance examination carried out at Kashiwa Campus of the Univ Tokyo (planned capacity of 10 students) and screening for foreign students from abroad based on application materials (The International Priority Graduate Programs or PGP, Asian Development Bank Scholarship Program, etc.). Details on these selection schemes are posted on the Graduate School of Frontier Science website.

4. Occupational Skills and Playing Fields for Human Resources Produced by This Program

Human resources produced by this program are able to view the social system as a whole and take various elements pertaining sustainability into consideration. They have the skills it takes to contribute to global sustainability by solving regional problems related to environmental issues or sustainability in the field. Problems related to sustainability cannot be solved by treating the symptoms. Instead, a consensus must be built based on various considerations to propose new systems. Only in this way can a better direction be determined. Therefore, human resources are needed that, in addition to possessing an understanding of various matters related to sustainability, can contribute to eliminating the communication gap that arises between different fields, regions and generations and that have the skills to use diverse methods to achieve consensus.

5. Degree

Students who complete the program will receive a Master of Sustainability Science.

6. Overview of Curriculum

(1) Basic composition

The program consists of Knowledge and Concept Oriented Courses, Experiential Learning and Skills Oriented Practical Courses and a Master's Thesis.

(2) Knowledge and Concept Oriented Courses

The Knowledge and Concept Oriented Courses include courses from particularly important fields from the perspective of sustainability science that have been selected from a wide range of academic fields spanning humanities and sciences which have heretofore been part of the Institute of Environmental Studies. The courses are also part of a consistent curriculum developed to provide the necessary coursework for sustainability through coordination with the Transdisciplinary Initiative for Global Sustainability, which was put forth by the University of Tokyo to establish its sustainability science program. These courses allow students to acquire the necessary basic knowledge and concepts to build a sustainable society.

(3) Experiential Learning and Skills Oriented Practical Courses

The Experiential Learning and Skills Oriented Practical Courses are part of a unique curriculum which emphasizes practical exercises to acquire various skills related to sustainability rather than simply gaining a superficial knowledge of the subject matter. The coursework includes training in systems thinking for being able to appropriately assess circumstances from a comprehensive perspective, the acquisition of facilitation and negotiation skills necessary for building a consensus, the development of the ability to think internationally and an understanding of cultural diversity so that work can be performed responsibly in an international venue, and a wide range of experiences through case studies having to do with various examples of international cooperation and environmental issues. Students from many different specializations and cultural backgrounds give serious thought to issues related to sustainability through demanding exercises and projects and acquire practical knowledge and skills by stimulating one another intellectually.

(4) Master's Thesis

A master's thesis on sustainability science is required of all students. Themes for the theses are determined based on discussions with a supervisor. The theme of the master's thesis does not have to be within the existing academic framework and can involve research which applies a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to specific issues related to sustainability or research designed to propose new systems, institutions values and paradigms in order to build a sustainable society. Thus, the student can go beyond simply proposing solutions to environmental problems.

7. Website

<http://www.sustainability.k.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>