

Graduate School of Law and Politics

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Law and Politics aims to enable students to acquire advanced research skills, outstanding academic expertise, and practical specialized knowledge, and develop the ability to examine laws and politics of the present age that are dependent on new science and technology based on deep understanding of the legal rules and historically formed social structure, thereby establishing a future vision for the social order, both domestic and international.

The Graduate School of Law and Politics nurtures high-caliber specialists through its master's degree program and doctoral degree program, conferring a Master's Degree in Law and a Doctoral Degree in Philosophy in Law respectively.

The Graduate School of Law and Politics accepts students with diverse backgrounds with an aptitude for developing the ability to appropriately establish themes relating to various legal and political issues, select the optimal method of analyzing and addressing such themes, and apply the method without fail. To maximize the qualities of such students, the Graduate School of Law and Politics offers three programs, the general program, the scholar's program, and the intellectual property law program, in the master's degree program, with the aim of training highly skilled professionals, researchers with broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, an international mindset and design prowess, and experts in intellectual property law. The doctoral degree program is designed to enable students to develop the ability to conduct specialized research independently and acquire academic expertise required for such research, with a view to continuing to produce university faculty, researchers and highly skilled professionals who can play active roles in society.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire advanced specialized knowledge in social sciences based on practical wisdom in law and politics, and develop the ability to appropriately make practical judgments utilizing such expertise.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire a wide range of knowledge and broad perspectives, and develop the ability to think from multifaceted, comprehensive and objective viewpoints.

Sophisticated international mindset

Develop the ability to proactively foster relationships with others while respecting differences in language, society, and culture.

Advanced design prowess

Develop the ability to: identify problems based on academic expertise in law, politics and economics; devise institutional or policy approaches to solutions; and work in cooperation with people in various fields to identify and solve problems.

Through such education, the Graduate School of Law and Politics aims to guide students to cultivate practical wisdom in law and politics and acquire broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, an international mindset and design prowess. Upon completion of the graduate program, students are expected to have the ability to play a

leading role in various areas of society, whether as a highly skilled professional, researcher or expert in intellectual property law.

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Law and Politics confers degrees on individuals who have achieved the following objectives in the master's and doctoral degree programs.

To complete the master's degree program, students are required to develop the ability to conduct research on law and politics, acquire advanced specialized knowledge necessary for professional workers, and write a master's thesis that can contribute to the progress of the respective areas of specialties. A Master's Degree in Law is conferred on individuals who have earned the stipulated number of credits in required subjects, elective required subjects and other specified subjects, and passed a master's thesis review and final examination.

A Doctoral Degree in Philosophy in Law is conferred on individuals who have written and submitted a doctoral dissertation in the field of law and politics with sufficient academic value, theoretical consistency and high-level originality, which can make a significant contribution to the advancement of an academic theory or application of such a theory (e.g. discovery of previously unknown phenomena or objects; establishment and development of new theories or political or practical recommendations; presentation of new academic ideas; and the re-evaluation of historical facts), and who are recognized to have overall knowledge in the field covered by the doctoral dissertation and sufficient scholastic ability to conduct research independently. To be more specific, students are required to receive research guidance, earn the stipulated number of credits in the specified subjects, and pass a doctoral dissertation review and final examination to be awarded a doctoral degree, subject to meeting the following objectives.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire cutting-edge, specialized advanced knowledge and academic expertise in law and politics.

Develop the ability to use specialized knowledge and academic expertise in law and politics for problem-solving.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire a broad range of knowledge that underlies expertise.

Develop the ability to think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints and make objective judgments.

Sophisticated international mindset

Develop the ability to understand different languages, societies and cultures.

Develop the ability to communicate with people while respecting differences in language, society, and culture.

Advanced design prowess

Develop the ability to identify social problems and devise institutional or policy approaches to solutions based on advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in law and politics from broader perspectives.

Under the abovementioned policies, the Graduate School of Law and Politics aims to develop individuals with enough knowledge and intellect to conceive ideas for building a social order through legal and political systems, and with the ability to understand different values present in society, coordinate among such differences, and delve deeply into relevant matters based on advanced specialized knowledge.

Teaching and Learning Policy (Curriculum Policy)

In line with the Curriculum Policy of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Law and Politics offers three programs, the general law and politics program, the researcher training program, and the intellectual property law program, in the master's degree program, with the aim of training researchers, highly skilled professionals, and experts in intellectual property law with broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, an international mindset and design prowess. In these three programs, an instructor is assigned to students to give individualized support and coordination to help them with course registration and study plan development. The academic performance of students is strictly evaluated based on learning attitude and the results of written or essay examinations and credits are awarded accordingly.

The general law and politics program offers a wide variety of subjects and individualized guidance to enable students to study a diverse range of legal and political topics with an understanding of factual situations. The researcher training program places importance on international comparison and aims to enable students to develop a theoretical and systematic understanding of law and politics and acquire basic skills necessary to work as a researcher in the future. The intellectual property law program is designed to train professionals in intellectual property with high-level skills to use basic knowledge and understanding of intellectual property law to play a leading role in related areas.

The doctoral degree program of the Graduate School of Law and Politics is designed to enable students to develop the ability to conduct specialized research independently based on broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, an international mindset and design prowess, and acquire academic expertise required for such research, with a view to producing university faculty, researchers and highly skilled professionals who can play active roles in society. A supervisor is assigned to students to give individualized support and coordination in conducting research to write a doctoral dissertation.

< Principles of Curriculum Design >

Students are required to earn the stipulated number of credits in required Academic Major education subjects, elective required subjects and elective subjects in law and politics, and acquire cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and academic expertise in the field of their specialty.

Students are also required to study advanced Liberal Arts education subjects to develop the ability to think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints and acquire a broad range of knowledge that underlies expertise.

Furthermore, students study advanced Global Literacy education subjects to develop the ability to understand different languages, societies and cultures.

To cultivate design prowess, students are guided to write a master's thesis in the master's degree program and a doctoral dissertation (in law) in the doctoral degree program.

< Contents and Methods of Education >

Lecture-based and seminar-based subjects are designed to help students acquire advanced specialized knowledge and academic expertise.

To acquire design prowess, students in the master's degree program write a master's thesis under the research guidance of an instructor, and a doctoral dissertation in the doctoral degree program under the research guidance of a supervisor.

< Academic Performance Evaluation Method >

The method of evaluating the academic performance of students varies depending on the type of coursework. Evaluation is based on the assessment of achievement of learning goals specified in the syllabus.

Academic performance in lecture-based subjects is strictly evaluated by examinations.

Academic performance in seminar-based subjects is evaluated by taking into consideration the quality of reports and learning attitude in a manner that suits the nature of each subject. Evaluation methods are made public at the beginning via the syllabus, etc.

Master's students and doctoral students are subjected to a review of their master's thesis and doctoral dissertation (in law) respectively, as well as oral examination.

Under the abovementioned policies, the Graduate School of Law and Politics develops a curriculum designed to nurture individuals with expertise and skills in law and politics, along with broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, an international mindset and design prowess, and with intellect and judgment with which to identify social problems and devise approaches to solutions.