

Osaka School of International Public Policy

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of the University of Osaka, the Osaka School of International Public Policy educates students to acquire advanced specialized knowledge in specific disciplines in the master's degree program, and systematically advanced specialized knowledge in specific disciplines in the doctoral degree program, and to develop the ability to: analyze various public issues arising in society, especially international issues, from broad perspectives; shed light on the true nature of such issues based on such analysis; present solutions to the issues in a convincing manner; play a leadership role in society; and contribute to the progress of culture and the improvement of safety and welfare of people.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Generally, public policy issues have legal, political and economic aspects. Because solutions to such issues require advanced specialized knowledge in law, politics, and economics, the Osaka School of International Public Policy aims to nurture individuals with a profound understanding of the latest methodologies and academic approaches of relevant disciplines. In addition, doctoral students are guided to acquire advanced and systematic specialized skills.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

To address public policy issues, it is not sufficient to analyze the issues from a legal, political or economic perspective only. Instead, one has to be able to address the issues based on a profound understanding of historical, ideological, religious and other cultural backgrounds and natural-scientific knowledge. Therefore, students are guided to foster high-level knowledge in, and understanding of, disciplines other than their specialty. In addition, doctoral students are guided to develop the ability to flexibly apply advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking from interdisciplinary and multifaceted perspectives.

Sophisticated international mindset

In today's international society, rapid globalization is accelerating the mobility of people, goods and capital across national borders on an unprecedented scale. Basically, national borders are irrelevant to global environmental problems that require urgent attention today, such as global warming and natural disasters. Against this backdrop, the border between international society and domestic society has become increasingly blurred, making international and domestic problems more closely linked with each other. For this reason, most public policy issues are international in nature. The most important educational objective of the Osaka School of International Public Policy is, therefore, to nurture individuals with the ability to address such issues to the fullest extent in a truly professional manner. In addition, doctoral students are guided to acquire advanced and systematic academic expertise required to address public policy issues.

Advanced design prowess

Even if one conducts multi-angle analysis of a public policy issue, this still cannot bring about social innovation if the results of the analysis are not explained in a convincing manner. Therefore, the Osaka School of International Public Policy aims to nurture individuals with the high-level communication and presentation skills required to play a leadership role. In addition, doctoral students are guided to foster advanced and systematic design prowess.

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of the University of Osaka, the Osaka School of International Public Policy confers a Master's Degree in International Public Policy and a Doctoral Degree in International Public Policy, Law or Economics on individuals enrolled in the master's degree program and doctoral degree program respectively, who have fulfilled the prescribed requirements and acquired advanced specialized knowledge in the fields of specialization, written a master's thesis/doctoral dissertation that meets certain requirements, and passed an oral examination.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire advanced specialized knowledge in law, politics and economics and complete a master's thesis/doctoral dissertation that describes the theme, methodology, analysis/argument and conclusion in a logically structured manner and that meets the following requirements.

- (1) Novelty: The thesis/dissertation should be novel and original in contents.
- (2) Continuity: The thesis/dissertation should be written based on a sufficient understanding of the results of preceding research and clearly show how the thesis/dissertation research is associated with the preceding research.
- (3) Reliability: The thesis/dissertation should be based on reliable sources and data.
- (4) Logicity: The thesis/dissertation should be logically written.
- (5) Clarity: The thesis/dissertation should be written clearly and appropriately.

In addition, the doctoral dissertation should have high academic value in the field of specialization. Conferral of a doctoral degree is also conditioned on the acquisition of sufficient scholastic expertise and skills to conduct research independently and the ability to continue to present academic papers and other intellectual outputs with academic value that meets certain standards.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire deep knowledge in a broad range of disciplines in addition to law, politics and economics, and develop a profound understanding of these disciplines.

Sophisticated international mindset

- (1) Acquire communication skills to interact with people around the world.
- (2) Acquire the ability to live in harmony with people with different backgrounds as a member of international society.

Advanced design prowess

Develop the ability to: write a master's thesis/doctoral dissertation clearly and plainly in a manner that allows the argument to be correctly understood by readers; make a clear, well-prepared presentation at an oral examination; and discuss their research with academic staff on the thesis/dissertation review committee on an equal footing.

Teaching and Learning Policy (Curriculum Policy)

In line with the Curriculum Policy of the University of Osaka, the Osaka School of International Public Policy offers Academic Major education subjects, advanced Global Literacy education subjects, and advanced Liberal Arts education subjects in the following manner to nurture individuals with the competencies shown from 1 to 4 below.

< Principles of Curriculum Design >

Academic staff of the Osaka School of International Public Policy are leading researchers in law, politics and economics, who teach a diverse range of subjects in cutting-edge, specialized fields. Upon enrollment, a supervisor is assigned to each student, and in the second year, an assistant supervisor is also appointed. Through the research guidance given by them, the student is led to write a master's thesis/doctoral dissertation and, in doing so, foster advanced design prowess. The Osaka School of International Public Policy also offers beginner-level subjects to learn the basics of law, politics and economics, along with a variety of cooperative courses and subjects taught by academic staff of other organizations of the University of Osaka to help students acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking. A significant number of subjects are taught in English.

< Contents and Methods of Education >

1. Specialized knowledge: Academic staff of the Osaka School of International Public Policy are leading researchers in law, politics and economics, who teach a diverse range of subjects in cutting-edge, specialized fields. Besides lecture-based subjects, many seminar-based subjects are offered to help students effectively develop advanced specialized knowledge through closer interactions with academic staff.
2. Academic expertise and broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking: Subjects, including regular ones, are taught using various methodologies to promote interdisciplinary research. In the field of social science, practical education is given the same level of importance as theoretical research. The Osaka School of International Public Policy ensures practical relevance of its education by offering subjects taught by researchers with experience in working at governmental agencies and international institutions, and business persons in the public and private sectors who serve as part-time lecturers.
3. International mindset: The Osaka School of International Public Policy offers many subjects to foster an international mindset, such as International Relations, International Law, and International Economics, many of which are taught in English. Subjects to learn basic approaches of economic research, such as Microeconomic Theory, Econometric Methods and Macroeconomic Theory, are all taught in English.
4. Design prowess: The Osaka School of International Public Police educates students to foster advanced design prowess through research guidance to write a master's thesis/doctoral dissertation. Students are also educated to enhance communication and leadership skills and foster the ability to play a guiding role through subjects designed to develop negotiation, debating and leadership skills as well as internship. The doctoral degree program offers project-based seminars in addition to regular subjects.

< Academic Performance Evaluation Method >

The academic performance of students is evaluated by assessing the level of achievement of learning goals specified in the syllabus of each subject, using the method specified in it. The evaluation is based mainly on: examinations, assignments, and reports for lecture-based subjects; and assignments, reports, and oral presentations for seminar-based subjects. The master's thesis/doctoral dissertation is evaluated through review and oral presentation of its contents.