

*Graduate School of
International Cultural Studies
Tohoku University*



TOHOKU
UNIVERSITY

GSICS and the World (2017)

Nationalities of Students Studying at GSICS



Rankings of Tohoku University

Times Higher Education (THE)
Japan University Rankings 2017 » **2nd** in Japan

AERA 2018 Assessment
by Japanese high schools » **1st** in Japan

QS World University Rankings
2016-17 » **75th** in the world

QS World University Rankings
2016-17 » **5th** in Japan



Dean's Message

I N this globalizing world of the 21st century, we are obliged to consider and solve any problems at issue from a global standpoint since most domestic issues are often directly and explicitly linked to the international situation. Moreover, the notion of "globalization" per se has undergone a rapid change in terms of recent moves in the global community, and this raises more difficulties in understanding all the world's issues. Under these circumstances, it is an urgent need to foster human resources who can tackle on current complicated problems with an outstanding capacity for problem-solving, leadership, and communication skills in foreign languages as well as their own languages. The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies thus aims to promote education and research with an interdisciplinary approach in three areas; (1) area studies from a trans-cultural perspective, (2) social studies on the global community, and (3) scientific studies of language and communication. Within these areas, we aim to develop experts with advanced expertise and research capabilities.

Over the years, we have accepted many international students from various regions across the world. In addition to our regular graduate programs, we have built up specialized educational programs which are conducted in English. We offer education and research programs where students from different social and cultural backgrounds learn together to achieve their academic goals. Our faculty members will be pleased to do everything possible to equip you with the best possible education resources to assist your research activities. The door to our graduate school is always open for those who want to take on the challenge of solving the world's issues with inspiring minds.

I am heartily hopeful that, together, we will make progress toward something unique at our graduate school – something we can do nowhere but here, together with you all, students with challenging spirits and fresh sensibilities.



Naoyuki ONO, Ph.D.

Dean
Graduate School of
International Cultural Studies



Features

GSICS Values Creative Minds

GSICS trains scholars and professionals who can formulate novel questions and provide creative solutions to critical issues confronting human beings.

GSICS Aspires to be Globally Competitive

GSICS strives to develop world-class scholars and professionals, through an educational environment that emphasizes firsthand experience and enables students to obtain comprehensive communication skills.

GSICS is Open to the Community and to the World

GSICS welcomes talented people not only from the surrounding community, but from all over the world as well. We support non-traditional students – including those who are returning to school, working full time, and joining us from abroad. We do our best to meet the special needs of every incoming student.

GSICS Welcomes Challengers

GSICS seeks students with a wide range of educational and experiential backgrounds. Beyond this, we seek students who wish to pursue learning in disciplines they may not have had previous training in. We heartily offer guidance and support to those who wish to challenge in new directions.





About GSICS

The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, launched in 1993, is a graduate school consisting of a two-year Master's program and a three-year Doctoral program in International Cultural Studies. The Graduate School promotes education and research with an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach that goes beyond the framework of existing disciplines in three areas; (1) area studies from an international perspective focusing on Japan and diverse local cultures of the world, (2) social studies where people live together in a global world, and (3) scientific study of language that supports the base of a regional and global community. Within these areas, we aim to develop professionals with a strong sense of culture who act and think globally, as well as develop experts with advanced expertise and research capabilities.

The Graduate School has eight departments, each of which is promoting cutting-edge research and building an educational program unique to the Graduate School. These eight departments are organized into three educational program units called "divisions" that coordinate multiple departments, in order to realize the acquisition of advanced knowledge as well as capabilities that allow students to be active in the global society. These three divisions are responsible for realizing the three pillars of the educational goals of the Graduate School: namely, the development of (1) a deep understanding of different cultures, (2) skills to solve global issues, and (3) communication skills.



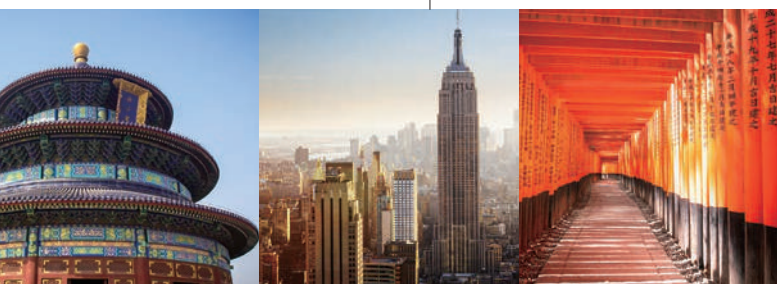
Division of Area Studies

Fostering a deep understanding of different cultures

Department of European and American Studies



ALTHOUGH this department studies the regions of Europe and America, in establishing this department, we have gathered faculty that used to belong to different departments to build a more interdisciplinary education and research system. To be specific, this department will begin with seven faculty members who specialize in French and German Literature, British Theater, History of France and the United States, and Anthropology of Latin America. From a historical view point, Europe and America are regions where various ethnic groups, races, and languages are entangled. It is also the region that was the driving force of the world in the 20th century. The 21st century is an age of increasing globalization, and we are living in an age where we should make a relative evaluation for such regions that have such complex history. For these reasons, this department has divided the fields of European Area Studies and American Area Studies, elucidating the uniqueness and diversity of the culture and society of each region by carrying out education based on individual and specific professional research. Furthermore, we aim to gain an overall grasp of European and American culture through close cooperation between research fields. Based on the meticulous education system discussed above, it is the educational goal of this department to develop human resources that combine the essential expertise and broad-ranging perspectives that will survive in the future of the global era.



Professor	Mariko ICHIKAWA
Professor	Naruhiko TERAMOTO
Professor	Toyoshi OBARA
Associate Professor	Shigeto YOSHIDA
Associate Professor	Keisuke NOMURA
Associate Professor	Ryo YAMAUCHI

Department of Asian and African Studies



THE Asian and African Studies Department was established for the purpose of elucidating the contemporary realities of mainly two regions.

One is the Islamic region that covers a very wide range from Southeast Asia to North Africa. In modern times, the Islamic region has played a role in maintaining the ties between Asia and Africa, but on the other hand, it has also become a cause of friction. The necessity of empirical studies on the characteristics of the Islamic community are now recognized very strongly. The second region is China, which has become a superpower. Although it may seem paradoxical, the base of China's development to lead the political economy of the world may require the studies of history and culture. From this point of view, we believe that it is important to investigate China's presence in Asia and Africa in the 21st century. Students belonging to this department are expected to become internationally active highly specialized professionals, professors, or researchers for the period of change in Asia and Africa by focusing on Islamic regions or Chinese history and culture, if necessary, learning Arabic or Chinese, which is an official language of the United Nations, or other languages, and promoting individual, cross-sectional, and original research to write a dissertation. For this reason, this department has allocated staff whose research specializes in North Africa and China, providing guidance for students to thoroughly acquire the academic skills they need.



Professor

Takashi KURODA

Professor

Minoru KATSUYAMA

Associate Professor

Tomoki OKAWARA

Associate Professor

Lin ZHU

Department of Global Japanese Studies



THE Global Japanese Studies Department consists of faculty members from various disciplines such as Literature, Comparative Culture, Japanese Intellectual History, and Archeology. We have begun this department by newly gathering the faculty members involved in Japanese Studies in the former five departments, which existed up till the academic year of 2014 under the old organization of the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. In the modern era of globalization in progress, qualitative transformation can be seen in Japanese Studies as well. In the traditional Japanese Studies, studies concerning culture unique to Japan with little linkage to the rest of the world, as well as studies concerning the reception and effect of foreign culture in Japan was the mainstream. However, these days, culture originating in Japan is penetrating the world, typically seen in manga and anime. Therefore, we promote complex Japanese Studies that take history into account, not only from the viewpoint of "the world in Japan", but also from the viewpoint of "Japan in the world". Furthermore, one of the features of this department is the wide range of historical periods, from ancient times to modern and contemporary times that are subjects of research. For example, students learning in this department can research on diachronic studies about one aspect of cultural exchange or explore the relationship with foreign countries to address the social phenomenon of a certain era. The Global Japanese Studies Department provides a forum for academic study and exchange of ideas for those who have a strong interest in Japan and its relationship with other countries and who want to acquire a broad perspective and deep knowledge about Japan and the world.

Professor

Midori FUJITA

Professor

Michio SUZUKI

Professor

Sekiko SATO

Associate Professor

Masato SANO

Associate Professor

Orion KLAUTAU

Associate Professor

Shinobu MYOKI

Division of Global Symbiotic Societies

Fostering skills to solve global issues

Department of International Politics and Economy



I N modern international society, "international politics" and "international economy" are increasingly inseparable, becoming closely involved with each other. The essence of such rapid change can only be understood by a complex perspective that goes beyond the framework of traditional political science and economics. In the International Political Economics Department, we take such complex perspectives to build cutting-edge and new knowledge, focusing on Japan and Asia and globalization as well as political economic relations such as those between Japan and the United States, and Asia and the United States. In this way, we seek to implement education and research that leads the world.

The International Political Economics Department seeks to carry out education and research on the close international connections between politics and economics. It has courses dealing with political relations in the international environment surrounding Japan, in areas such as national security, regional conflicts, and nationalism. It also has courses that carry out analyses of international economic relations, the elements of which include competition in various industries in the international market, trade, finance and investment, regional economic integration, and the world economic system.

In this department, we offer educational programs that cultivate the skill to gain insight into the phenomenon of international politics and economics. We strive to develop human resources with a wide range of knowledge and ingenious analytical skills, in order to unlock the complex and diverse reality of contemporary international society. We do so by applying knowledge of various subjects in the social sciences, such as International Relations, Political Science, and Economics.

Professor	Kazuo YOKOKAWA
Professor	Gang YE
Associate Professor	Hiro KATSUMATA
Associate Professor	Ryo IKEDA



Department of International Environment and Resources Policy



In the modern world, there is a strong demand for resolutions for global environmental problems such as resource depletion and environmental protection. The Department of International Environmental Resources Policy has five members of faculty, including two cooperating faculty, who specialize in different fields, developing knowledge and human resources to resolve global environmental problems. The following three points highlight the features of this department.

The first feature is our “Emphasis on Practicality”. There may be many approaches to a problem, but this department’s final goal is the resolution of real-life problems. Therefore, this department develops deeper knowledge on public policies and social welfare, taking a field-oriented approach in research and education activities.

The second feature is our “Emphasis on an Integrated Scientific Approach”. Environmental problems typically take complex shapes, and even the same problem can take different shapes depending on cultural or economic situations. Therefore, it is necessary to make full use of knowledge in subjects such as Environmental Engineering, Social Engineering, Economics, Environmental Psychology, and Statistics to take an integrated scientific approach for a multi-faceted study of a problem.

The third feature is our “Emphasis on International Perspectives”. Many of the environmental problems that have occurred on a global scale can be said to have a complex connection with globalization. Therefore it is necessary to understand situations abroad (especially those in the Asian countries) and consider improvement measures from an international perspective.

Professor	Jeongsoo YU
Professor	Dinil PUSHPALAL
Associate Professor	Toshiaki AOKI
Associate Professor	Masahiro SATO
Professor	Shinobu KITANI
Professor	Katsuhito FUYUKI

Department of Multiculturalism



In modern society, where globalization is progressing, there is active movement of people and goods, hence the opportunity of contact of diverse cultures has increased. Now, there is not a day when we don’t talk about different cultures in our day-to-day life. Under such circumstances, global issues, such as ethnic and cultural friction caused by the contact of people having different cultural backgrounds occurs often. However, to solve these problems, and to build a society where people with different ethnic and cultural backgrounds coexist is a challenge that cannot be avoided, internationally as well as domestically. In the department of multiculturalism, we educate and research with the aim to make a society where coexistence of multiple ethnic groups and cultures are possible through interdisciplinary research and comparative studies on various cultural and ethnic groups a reality.

The department has six faculty members with different specialization. The faculty members’ methodologies are different and diverse, such as philosophy, literature, and history, as well as the geographic area of study, such as Asia and Europe. However, the keywords “plurality” and “coexistence” can still be seen as common keywords. Faculty members instruct a diverse range of specialized areas. Furthermore, students can learn and research toward the goal of a symbiotic society and plurality of ethnic groups and cultures by taking a broad perspective through the division’s common subjects and comprehensive exercises in multi-cultural society.



Professor	Naoki ISHIHATA
Professor	Hiroshi YAMASHITA
Professor	Kyoko FUJITA
Professor	Toru SATO
Associate Professor	Yukino SATO
Associate Professor	Koji SAKAMAKI

Division of Language Research

Fostering communication skills

Department of Theoretical Linguistics



THE Department of Language Science boasts diverse faculty members who study various linguistic fields such as semantics, lexicology, pragmatics, and syntax from the perspective of cognitive and generative linguistics. We carry out comparative studies of not only Japanese and English but other various languages of the world, clarifying the similarities and differences that exist between the various languages. In this way, our research aims to elucidate the nature of natural language and its acquisition, learning, understanding, and usage that underlie the human cognitive abilities as well as language functions. Through close cooperation with the Department of Applied Linguistics, we apply the results obtained from theoretical research on language acquisition and education, providing educational programs that have broad scope. Furthermore, we have inherited the knowledge accumulated through the Tohoku University 21st Century COE (Center of Excellence) Program, broadening our research to empirically validate results of linguistic research from psychological and neuroscientific approaches, building interdisciplinary research and education programs.

We look forward to meet applicants overflowing with intellectual curiosity who are interested in discovering and analyzing the similarities and differences found in a variety of languages, and who wish to work together with us to elucidate the grammar and cognitive ability underlying such phenomena.

Professor	Yoshio KAWAHIRA
Professor	Naoyuki ONO
Professor	Hiroyuki ETO
Professor	Daiko TAKAHASHI
Professor	Satoshi UEHARA
Associate Professor	Takeshi NAKAMOTO
Associate Professor	Kensaku SOEJIMA



Department of Applied Linguistics



I n the Department of Applied Linguistics, faculty and students research language by applying various related science and technology, and it applies the research results to language education. As seen in the name of the department "Applied Linguistics", "application" is a keyword in our research. Research is applied, and this can be seen from the beginning to the end of our research.

The research interests of our faculty members are: Grammar studies and Japanese education that incorporates methods of cognitive science and computational linguistics; Corpus studies as well as teaching English as a second/foreign language; Spanish language teaching and language instructor education based on language education research; Development, implementation, and research of German education that applies ICT; Higher educational research (teaching methods, evaluation, quality assurance, and professional development); Second language acquisition research and bilingual education; Syntax based on functionalist and cognitivist linguistic theories and contrastive linguistic and linguistic typology studies related to semantics; Research on acquisition of Japanese as a second language as well as Japanese education.

All faculty members of our department are in charge of language education at Tohoku University. The languages they are in charge of are Japanese, English, German, and Spanish. Faculty members apply their research to education and gain feedback from education for their research. With the close collaboration of research and education, this department opens up new horizons for Applied Linguistics research.

Professor
Professor
Professor
Professor
Professor
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Senior Assistant Professor

Takeshi OKADA
Mitsuhiro SHIGAKI
Kensuke SUGIURA
Kei YOSHIMOTO
Yoshio KITAHARA
Peter John WANNER
Wataru NAKAMURA
Natsue SUGAYA
Hyeonjeong JEONG

Course taught in English

The International Graduate Program in Language Sciences

The International Graduate Program in Language Sciences consists of a 2-year Master's program and a 3-year doctoral program affiliated with the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies at Tohoku University. The aim of this program is to promote interdisciplinary education and research concerning human language from multiple perspectives of linguistics, psychology, brain science and information science. Based on recent development in linguistics and other relevant disciplines, the program seeks comprehensive understanding of issues associated with linguistic communication, language acquisition and loss, language and brain, and natural language processing. The program is conducted in collaboration with the Research Center for Language, Brain and Cognition.



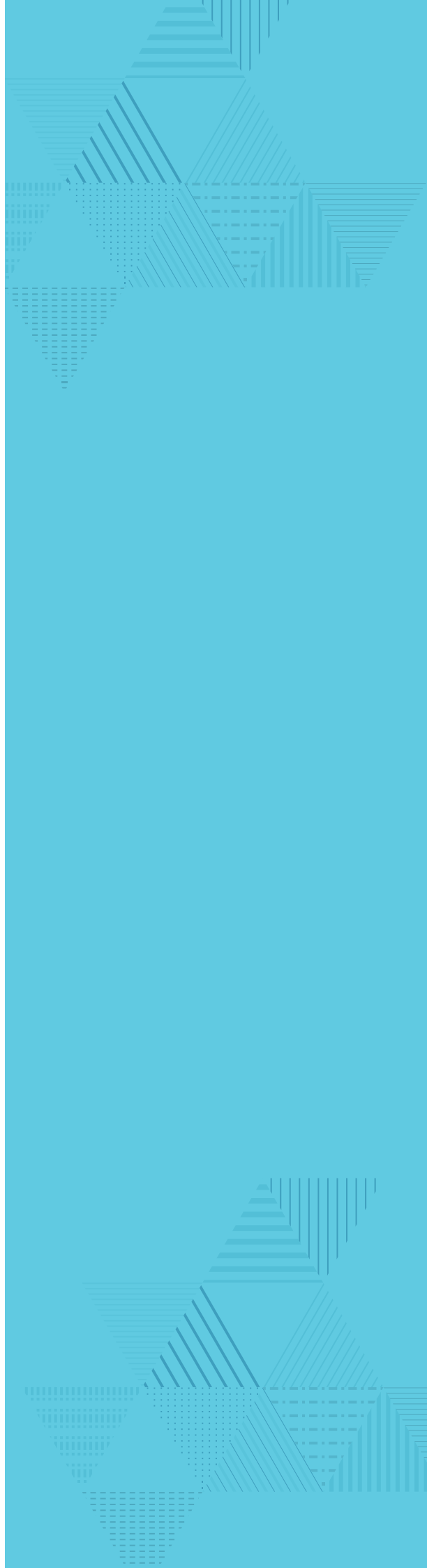


Photo credit: City of Sendai

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