

# Okayama University Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Guidebook

## Master's Course

- Socio-Cultural Basics Sciences
- Comparative Socio-Cultural Sciences
- Public Policy Sciences
- Management Sciences in Organization

## Doctor's Course

- Socio-Cultural Sciences

2015



# Admission Policy

## ～ Policy of enrolment acceptance ～

In the Master's course, we provide interdisciplinary education covering a variety of fields through a program of advanced research. The goal is to train professional people and researchers to have extensive knowledge in the fields of literature, law, and economics, who have excellent thoughts. Our graduates can develop their observation and insight skills, understand diversity and global culture, and respond flexibly to social change.

The Doctorate course is based upon the idea of “the creation of a symbiotic society” and aims at the achievement of the research from various and interdisciplinary approaches.

We welcome individuals, both from Japan and other countries, who have basic knowledge and flexible thoughts, and actively intend to do academic researches with strong senses of purpose and spirits of inquiry in order to tackle the unknown with full intelligence and sensitivity.

In the Master's-level Organizational Management Sciences and Regional Public Policy Management courses, we particularly welcome individuals who strive to acquire more advanced management skills to benefit organizations, as appropriate to specific organizations such as enterprises and government and municipal offices.

## Curriculum policy (curriculum organization and implementation)

The Master's course has been organized and developed to offer a multidisciplinary, comprehensive and interdisciplinary educational system which has continuity with the basic education provided at undergraduate schools such as the Faculty of Letters, Law, and Economics. In particular, the Organizational Management Sciences and Regional Public Policy Management courses have been structured to include field experience in the public sector and in local business.

In the Doctorate course, according to the idea of “the creation of a symbiotic society”, we offer a variety of graduate education programs and also support research taking a multidisciplinary approach targeting culture, organizations, the individual, communities, etc.

## Entrance examination schedule

For the master's course, applications are accepted in September and February, according to the admission qualifications: general screening, special screening for working people, special screening for mature students, and special screening for international students. The entrance examination schedule, application guidelines, examination questions from previous years and information about the examination, can be found on the humanities and social sciences homepage.

Call for applications for the doctoral course (including those who proceed to the next level) is held in February. Detailed information about the entrance examination schedule, application guidelines, and examination information are available on the humanities and social sciences homepage.

For international students who have graduated (or are expected to graduate) from university, that have agreement with Okayama University, a special entrance examination will be held, both for the master and doctoral courses.



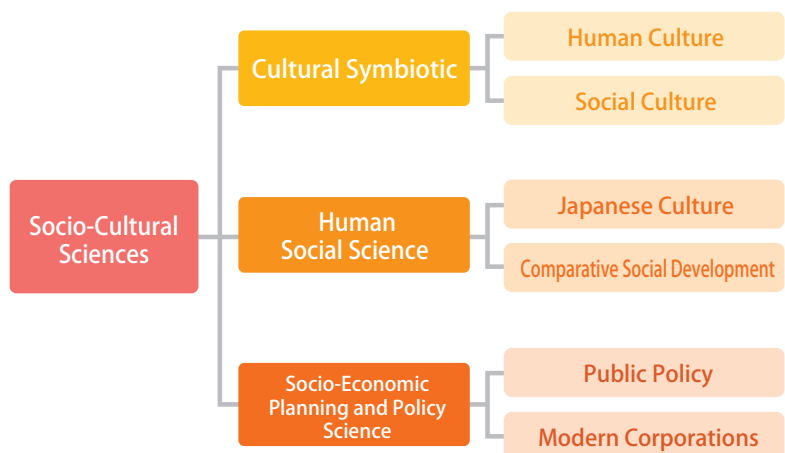
## Master's Course

The Master Program of our graduate school has four departments: Basic Socio-Cultural Sciences, Comparative Socio-Cultural Sciences, Public Policy Sciences and Organizational Management. These departments are continuation of basic academic studies in the Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Economics. Moreover, in response to the request for a new education today, we systematically provide comprehensive and multidisciplinary academic education.



## Doctor's Course

The Doctoral Program of our graduate school has a department of Socio-Cultural Sciences. This department consists of three programs: Cultural Symbiotics (Human culture and Socio-cultural theory), Human Social Sciences (Japanese culture and Comparative social development theory), and Socio-Economic Planning and Policy Science (Public policy and Modern Corporations theory). Based on the philosophy of our research department, which is "Building a Harmonious Society", we promote a multidisciplinary academic approach to the research in culture, individuals, organizations and local society.



# Contents

~ Specific courses•contents of the courses and research contents ~

## ▶ Management Course of Regional Public Policy

As the region is gaining more autonomy, the local policies must be adapted to the changes in the local communities. Until now the focus has largely been on the metropolitan area. However, the aim of this course is to educate people who will be able to plan, evaluate and create new policies focusing on the Chugoku area, as microcosm of the region. At the same time, we also take on the task of enhancing the capacity as policy-makers for local government officials in Okayama Prefecture, and surrounding prefectures.

We also welcome all the students aiming to become public officials, as long as they have the policy ability to match the needs. Through this course, Okayama University students, local government, business community and NPOs, members of "the network for creation of the region (Agora)", are taking part in researching and debating on the issues of the regional urban development and local medical care.



Possibility of cooperation on city planning between Kurashiki city and Kurashiki Central Hospital

## ▶ Management Sciences in Organization (Business School):

This division strives to train students to assess the range of issues faced by contemporary organizations (corporations, public organizations, government agencies, etc.) from a multifaceted approach encompassing management, accounting, and economics in organization. At the same time, it is imparting training on practical administrative problem resolution. In particular, students of this division are trained to actively engage in a variety of management issues, including strategic planning, human resources, market researches, finance and accounting, etc. The division of Management Sciences in Organization further provides students with opportunities to accede skilled professions, such as certified public accountants and tax accountants. After completion of the course students can earn the master's degree equivalent to the Master of Business Administration (MBA).



practical lecture in 'accounting fundamentals'

◆ Additional educational contents (courses) are introduced in the website  
<http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/hss/index.html>

## Research Topics

~ Specific research contents ~

### ▶ Ikeda family collection:

Okayama University Library possesses various material and belongings of historic Okayama clans, from festive clothing of Marquis Ikeda to Ikeda family collection of books. Ever since 1632, when the feudal lord Ikeda Mitsumasa came to Okayama Castle on his way from Tottori, up until the abolition of feudal system, for 240 years, many of these treasures were kept in Okayama university library. There are only a handful of places in the whole country where the official documents about feudal clans' affairs, in ruling the domains are preserved, and Okayama university library is one of them. These valuable academic information recourses are actively used in teaching undergraduate and graduate students. These collections are enriched with various documents from Mimasaka region, Miura family of old Katsuyama clan, and we continue with our work on investigating these regional materials.

Why don't you try researching the living history of the region here, based on these original texts?



Okayama University Library Collection

### ▶ Geography:

Today, as the globalization advances, the importance of research on local biological topography (region) is more visible. Issues and phenomena in regions caused by globalization become clear after comparing the regions. Therefore, the comparison is required not only with different regions of the world, but also with the daily lives of neighboring regions. So far, in the geography domain of human behavioral studies, there have been many researches focusing on the local industry and regional cities, located mainly in mountainous areas, and researching about their society, economy, and cultures. Furthermore, the research is also promoted and done on diverse geographic phenomena, and target different industrial regions, such as Canada, United States, cities in China, India, and Australia.

This research environment that allows great freedom, has given many university teachers in recent years. This optimum research is guaranteed not only for those interested in the dynamics of region but to all people striving towards becoming a researcher.



Urban landscape Vancouver- study area



## Studying abroad system / international student exchange program

### ● Okayama University short-stay study program

26 universities in 8 countries have entered the exchange program agreement with Okayama University, where Japanese students are exempt from tuition etc.

### ● International exchange program based on inter department exchange agreements

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences concluded agreements on international exchange with many foreign universities and is conducting exchange programs (dispatching and acceptance of students).

We are putting into practice a two-way degree system in cooperation with a number of universities in China, Korea and Taiwan.

### ● International exchange program based on the inter-university exchange agreements

By engaging in the international exchange agreements with universities and research centers overseas, we are encouraging dispatch and acceptance of students studying abroad in various fields/ disciplines.

### ● Overseas Exchange Student Support Project

We offer scholarship to support students who are sent to study at foreign universities, and who are superior in both academic performance and personality.



Affiliated University: Jilin University (China)

## The voice of international students

### 「While enjoying an exchange student's life」

I came from Jilin University in China through a student exchange program. I must say that I was worried about studying a foreign country's law in a foreign language. But, the teachers always kindly explained the contents of lectures, and other graduate students accepted me positively, helping me to study. Also, I find it very appealing that the most of the classes have small number of people, and teachers can take time and respond to each student's needs. Both library and the law department's reference room are well equipped and you can study to your heart's content. Although I am already a lawyer in my country, in the future I would like to become a lawyer who can support Japanese companies expanding to China's market. I believe that all the knowledge I received here will be very useful in the future.

O-NECUS Short-Term Student Exchange Program SUN, Zhibang (Jilin University)

## East Asia studies centre

The centre for East Asia studies has been established for the purposes of promoting education, and academic exchange between East Asia and its neighbouring countries. Another aim of the centre is sharing and dispatching of research results, as well as creation and management of an international academic network. International symposiums, support for exchange students, and those who wish to study abroad are also the role of the centre. This support consists of helping students on writing their thesis, introducing a language partner/ tutor, holding international parties and so on. Personal counselling for those who wish to study abroad is also possible.



the atmosphere of international exchange party

## Employment of graduates (for the past three years)

### Master course

#### 【Civil servants and teachers】

Okayama Prefectural Office, Kochi Prefectural Government, Wakayama Prefectural Government, Okayama City Hall, Kurashiki City Hall, Tamano City Hall, City Hall Kishiwada, Okayama Prefecture Kibi Ancient Cultural Heritage Center, Tottori Prefectural Board of Education, Kobe City Board of Education, Okayama university commercial college attached high school, Okayama University of Science attached High School, "Shuujutsu" high school and junior high school, Tokyo Metropolitan High School "Aoi"

#### 【Companies】

Prefectural Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry, Okayama Information Processing Center, Sanyo newspaper company, Tenmaya, Mizuto company, Ryobi Holdings, Kasaoka Chikyo Museum, Koji Miyake tax counselor office, Kurisaka labor and social insurance consultant firm, Kurashiki medical co-op, Chugoku bank, Japan Finance Corporation, Kyorin accounting center, Softbank Mobile, IBM Japan

### Doctoral course

#### 【Civil servants and teachers】

**Japan** : Izumo City Cultural Environment and cultural properties division, Hachinohe Institute of Technology, Nagoya Economics University, Osaka University, Kurashiki City College

**Foreign countries** : Economic department of Japanese diplomatic mission in Poland, Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau, National University of China International Institute

#### 【Companies】

**Japan** : MIMOCA (Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art), Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Research Organization, NTT Communications Corporation

**Foreign countries** : China law firm, Jiangsu law firm clerk, Democratic Progressive Party Central International Secretariat section



## Messages from Graduates

Let's hear the voice of graduates,  
active in various fields !

### Five years at Okayama University Graduate School

**IWASAKI Mariko** [Hachinohe Institute of Technology]

Doctoral course/ socio-cultural sciences major/ human and social sciences course. Graduated in 2011.



I majored in Japanese language history, and did my research on the topic of transition in the usage of adjectives and affix "like" (childlike, girly etc.) and "seeming, typical" (ladylike, typical spring etc.) Even though I wasn't a high achieving student, my teacher advisor waited patiently for me to advance in my research on my own. Through trying

again and again, and deepening my research little by little, I was even able to present my research and thesis at conferences and meetings both on and off campus. Also, while continuing my research, I was able to meet many esteemed colleagues.

Looking back at it now, I can say I've lived these five years with my whole energy, and I've been blessed with these surroundings. I was fortunate enough to be given a position to work as a researcher around the time I graduated. This too could not have been possible without the support of the people around me. Including the painful times too, I feel that I was able to spend my time productively.

### Let's open up the area to talk about areas in the wheel of industry, government and academia !

**KAWANO Yutaka**

[social welfare corporation Okayama City Council of Social Welfare Secretary General]  
Master course/ Public Policy Science major/ Regional Public Policy course/ graduated in 2010.



I am currently involved in the promotion of community welfare in Okayama City Council of Social Welfare, after retiring from Okayama City Hall. During my tenure, I was responsible for urban development and civil cooperation, and similar pioneering fields, without fully understanding it, so it was all through trial and error.

And now, a course for researching regional public policy has been established.

Thinking "this is it" I entered the school, and for the next three years I was able to share the same thoughts as local government officials, prefectural assembly members, and regular students. Together with the course teachers, we held discussions from various angles like law, politics, economics, management etc., and by actually doing fieldwork, obtained many useful ideas. Also, I was able to build a social network of people outside off work too.

Even now, every three months, together with the regular students, OB and teachers, I take part in a seminar or an area's Agora. I am very grateful that in these discussions we can touch on the trends of regional public policy.

### To the working people who aim for MBA

**HASHIMOTO Taishi** [Chugoku Bank]

Master course/ organizational management major/ organizational economics course/ graduated in 2010.



To enter the Business School for the sole purpose of obtaining an MBA is not something I would suggest working people should do. Even though the classes are mainly on working nights or Saturdays, you lose a lot of sleep for doing homework and beforehand preparation. Also, the time you can spend with your family is severely limited. Furthermore, with such an absence of purpose, it is extremely

difficult to find a topic and complete a thesis.

On the other hand, to me, who wanted to solve the problems of work through research, business school became irreplaceable for my studying. The knowledge obtained through classes, and the papers of our predecessors, discussions with students from different backgrounds, and advice from our teachers with advanced knowledge in each field, all of that helped me learn and become aware of things that are not possible through simple everyday actions.

For businesspeople seeking knowledge, two years of learning in a graduate school will definitely be meaningful/worthwhile.

### Making the best out of a studying abroad experience for those becoming a university teacher in one's own country ?

**YO Ka** [Central University of Finance and Economics, School of Finance / Assistant Professor]

Doctoral course/ Industrial Society culture Department (social system culture theory course)



I become filled with emotion every time I remember the youthful days I had spent in Okayama University. The calm and rustically simple atmosphere, free and vigorous study environment, kind and generous teachers and students who interacted with me gently and with no prejudice... "Tolerance, kindness, good faith" is what I was able to experience and

learn while studying in Japan, and it is a treasure of a lifetime.

I wasn't thinking about a teaching profession from the beginning. Since the beginning of graduate school, I studied a lot of subjects I was interested in anyway. While taking the lectures, my field of view started spreading more and more, and with my own interest I challenged myself...

If I were to say something to future/younger students, don't waste precious time you have at the Graduate School, but use that time to expand your knowledge, polish your skills and rediscover yourself.

## Realizing the potential of knowledge

**MIKI Makoto** [long term studies system/ an employed freshmen]  
Master course/ basic socio-cultural studies major/ philosophy and cultural studies course/ enrolled in 2012.



I've been interested in religious thoughts, ideas, and opinions about death for a long time, and I realized that I wanted to study properly again. I chose Okayama University because they had experts on Augustine and Pascal. Indeed, it was necessary to study philosophy, and the history of philosophical thought for my entrance examination, as a part of the screening for working persons. But this came to be very useful after being admitted.

After retiring, I was obliged to only work for a short time, so I was able to apply for the full time courses.

Studying for the first time in 40 years has been very fun, and my courses had a limited number of people too. It wasn't only knowledge I attained; I also learned the methods for logical approach and an academic way of verification. Lectures in related fields such as psychoanalysis and politics were also very stimulating.

I was surprised that the theories from some 40 years ago still lingered in today's modern philosophical thought.

I've come to realize the potential of knowledge. I hope in this next year, to once again reform/innovate my own knowledge.

## Fun and meaningful research life/ life or a researcher

**Cao Thi Quynh Trang**

Master course/basic socio — cultural studies/ economic theory and statistics/ enrolled in 2013



For me the charming characteristics of Okayama University are: a green and peaceful environment, teachers who always have students' best interest in mind, independent and meaningful study/ research time, deepening friendships and helping each other through discussion. Also, being able to have cultural exchange with students from many other countries is certainly one of those charms. In particular, education and academic

exchange has been intensified through the work of the centre for East Asia studies.

Researchers from many fields gather through tutoring sessions and lectures. By approaching the matter from a different perspective, and giving feedback to each other, this helps us deepen our own research. Moreover, we are also able to learn through helping our friends prepare an interesting and understandable presentation of their research progress.

This optimal environment of Okayama University makes our life enjoyable, and makes it easier to face our daily research.

## A great place for research

**OGA Muneo**

Master course, Public Policy Sciences, Legal Policies/ enrolled in 2013



I am currently a student enrolled through a special screening policy for working persons (judicial scribe). In my work, I often have a chance to meet and work with professionals and organizations such as lawyers, the court or regional affairs bureau. Most of the time, for this type of work a high level of legal knowledge is required. However, I have not studied law at university and do not possess such expertise. Besides that, I have

also felt the need to refine and improve my skills. At the moment, I am enrolled into a 3 year, long term program, and I must say that I have received guidance from my mentor more than I had expected, either individual or through practical courses with limited number of people. I believe that this is the best environment for one's research. It does not cover such a wide range that you would when studying for a licence. Instead, it allows you to learn research methods, choose your topic and research slowly and deeply.

## Enjoying the global learning place

**NAKANO Sachiko**

Doctoral course/ socio-cultural sciences/ cultural symbiosis course/ enrolled in 2013.



As I am very interested in different cultures, I am doing my research on the cross-cultural adaptation of international students. The language partnership system allows us to study together with international students, and to learn each other's languages and cultures. Interacting with different cultures has a positive impact on research, and can lead to new discoveries. It is really a valuable experience to study in an environment such as this, which has so many international students! Lectures are held

as seminars, a practical system where by analyzing practical topics one can actually feel the change, and see how your reading comprehension, writing, methodology and presentation skills improve. I am taking up the challenge of presenting at an international conference because I know I will get enough support. Of course, in the research laboratory, through discussions with teachers and friends, and through lectures we learn how to summarise our data, and how to write abstracts and presentations in English. Through practising this trial and error process, we gain confidence, and are able to present abroad, at international conferences. I want to take up more challenges, using these skills that the whole world can accept and understand !

## Greetings,

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences established in April 2006 through the reorganization. The Graduate School is a classification system consisting of both a 3-year doctor's and a 2-year master's courses. The Graduate School has been based on the Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Law, and Faculty of Economics. We have been covering most disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Our primary objectives are to inherit and develop "knowledge" and to return "knowledge" to the region. Many graduates are now active at home and abroad.

Along with research-deepening in each of our areas of expertise, in consideration of comprehensiveness and interdisciplinarity, we conduct graduate education on the basis of the advanced research achievement. While enhancing and deepening the academic content theoretically and fundamentally, we have served also to the development of the close relationship with society. In the relationship with the local community, in the master's course the Management Sciences in Organization(Business School) aims to develop skills of management and staff in companies and organizations in Okayama Prefecture and neighboring regions, and the Course of Regional Public Policy in the Public Policy Sciences to foster professionals who can make a regional policy.

Alternatively, actively pursuing international exchange, we have signed exchange agreements with universities in Asia and Europe, promoting the academic exchange and faculty exchange programs. In order to further promote exchanges with universities in East Asia, we established the Center for East Asian studies as an affiliate facility in April 2010.

The Graduate School, that boasts a variety of disciplines and expedite international exchange and contribution to society, will surely come up to expectations of those who aspire to research in the field of humanities and social sciences, who interest in learning of humanities and social sciences, and even who, for the career of their own, aim at skills and the acquisition of professional knowledge.

We desire the people who are interested in or applying for our Graduate School. It is certainly that in the Japanese society facing to the progress of globalization, depopulation and aging population, the acquisition of professional knowledge and skills and academic study of humanities and social sciences have a great significance for individuals and society to find a way out of such difficult aspects. Why don't you proceed on the path to skill up and academic pursuit with our Graduate School? We welcome you and give you an opportunity to learn and study.

Learning is equal to all people.

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Dean.HARUNA Shoji

## Access



### From Okayama Airport

- At the bus stop number 2, take Oka-den bus・Chutetsu bus, to the West Exit of Okayama Station (Okayama Eki Nishi Guchi yuki). Get off at the bus stop OKAYAMA EKI NISHI GUCHI. Take the public transportation from there (see below).

### From JR Okayama station

- West Exit of Okayama Station: Take Oka-den bus number 47, "Okayama Rika Daigaku yuki". Get off at the bus stop OKADAI-NISHIMON (West Gate of Okayama University). Walk approximately 2 minutes to the university gate.
- East Exit of Okayama Station: Take Oka-den Myozenji bus line, "Myozenji - Okayama Daigaku yuki". Get off at bus stop OKADAI-NISHIMON (West Gate of Okayama University). Walk approximately 2 minutes to the university gate.
- East Exit of Okayama Station: Take Oka-den Higashiyama Bus Line, "Tsudaka Eigyou Shogyo yuki". Get off at the bus stop "OKAYAMA DAIGAKU SUJI". Walk approximately 9 minutes to the university west gate.

※ These buses you can also use from the JR "Hokkaiin station", Tsuyama-line. (Get on the bus stop "Hokkaiin Eki Mae")

## City Map



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HP: