



*INTEGRATE,
NO BORDERS.*

Beyond the local, beyond the national
Creating new value



Japanese Studies reaching new heights

From Japan to the world, from the world to Japan

The International Graduate Program in Japanese Studies (GPJS) is a new program offering Master's and Doctoral degrees. It was established with the cooperation of all the university's humanities and social sciences departments, including the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, the Graduate School of Education, the Graduate School of Law, the Graduate School of Economics and Management, the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, and the Institute for Excellence in Higher Education. This degree program makes use of images, data and language from the three unique sections of "Representation", "Material" and "Empathy". Along with affiliated overseas universities, it exceeds the conventional framework of Japanese Studies, and aims to build a platform for a new type of Japanese Studies which is academic and pluralistic, and rich in creativity. Furthermore, coursework will be developed to foster leaders who can rise to the challenge regarding issues in contemporary society.

TOHOKU University Japanese Studies

Japanese Studies as regional research	Japanese Studies as viewpoint and methodology
<p>Varied research targets, such as Japanese history, culture, politics, economics, and law, with an emphasis on "what".</p> <p>Throughout its long history, Japan has created a flexible culture of harmony with nature and multicultural subsumption. Within this is the origin of abundant stories and autonomy.</p>	<p>Various ways to see Japan as the self and the other, with an emphasis on "how".</p> <p>Japanese viewpoints and methodology bring a new problem-solving approach which contributes to the happiness of humankind, and which cannot be seen only in the mainstream Western worldview.</p>



MESSAGE

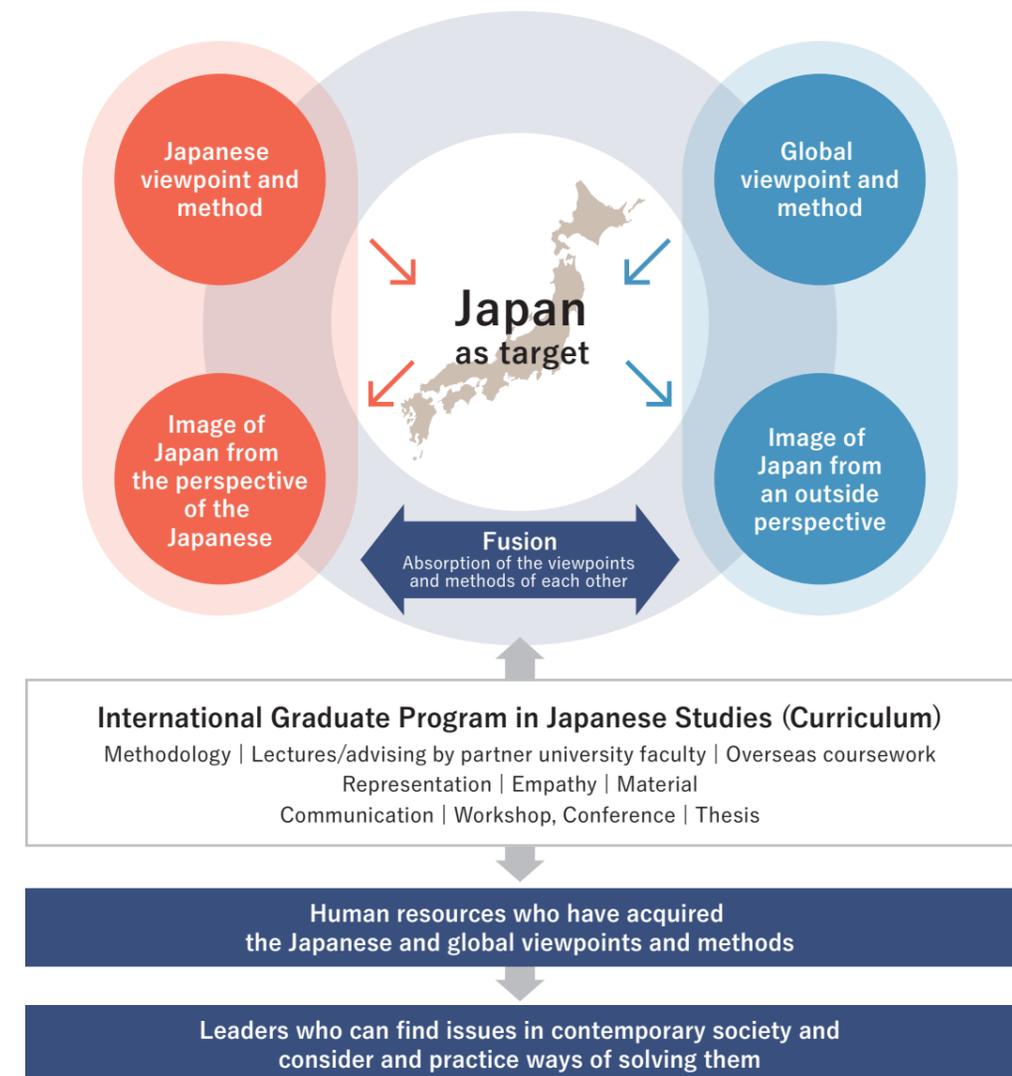
Tackling the complex challenges of modern society, through spaces for practical dialogue originating in Japan

Professor, Faculty of Arts and Letters
Program Director, GPJS

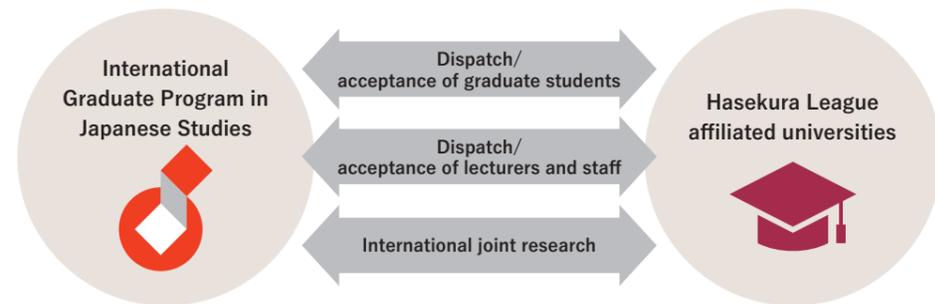
ONO Koji

Tohoku University has established a group of 11 "International Joint Graduate Programs", which transcend the conventional framework of education to deliver collaborative education in partnership with leading overseas universities. One of these programs is the International Graduate Program in Japanese Studies (GPJS), which, in collaboration with overseas education and research institutions (the Hasekura League), combines the characteristic features and strengths of our humanities and social sciences departments in order to develop Japanese Studies as a new interdisciplinary field.

The term "Japanese Studies" here is imbued with the humble aspiration to create new spaces, from here in Japan, designed to facilitate practical dialogue across the humanities and social sciences. The aim in doing so is to tackle and break through the complex challenges of modern society. In pursuing "interdisciplinary" or "multifaceted" education and research—as it has long been described—we often come up against a very common-sense barrier: Dealing with subjects outside our "field of expertise" can often feel arduous. Sometimes, the harder we strive for dialogue, the higher this barrier seems to extend. Nevertheless, we still believe that the power of the humanities and social sciences to sustain the present and shape the future can be greatly enhanced through sustained dialogue between diverse contemporaries. To give shape to this belief, the Tohoku University International Graduate Program in Japanese Studies will consciously work to create spaces for dialogue, such as our Hasekura symposiums and international conferences. We hope you will join us in enjoying these spaces as we engage in dialogue and tackle the challenges of today.



The Hasekura League, a unique Japanese Studies network, has been established through a collaboration between Tohoku University and its affiliated universities. Through this initiative, we actively engage in various activities and achieve significant results.



A distinguishing characteristic of the Hasekura League is its strong emphasis on broad and interconnected exchanges. The number of participating universities has grown, and at present, the network extends to 38 universities from 24 countries worldwide, including Tohoku University. Moving forward, we aim to further expand this network globally and advance the exploration and creation of Japanese Studies on a worldwide scale under the name "Hasekura".

Member Universities (As of October 2025, 38 universities from 24 countries)

Europe

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 University of Vienna, Austria | 15 University of Oslo, Norway |
| 2 Ghent University, Belgium | 16 Jagiellonian University, Poland |
| 3 KU Leuven, Belgium | 17 University of Warsaw, Poland |
| 4 University Grenoble Alpes, France | 18 Nova University Lisbon, Portugal |
| 5 Heidelberg University, Germany | 19 Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia |
| 6 Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy | 20 Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain |
| 7 L'Orientale University of Naples, Italy | 21 University of Granada, Spain |
| 8 Sapienza University of Rome, Italy | 22 University of Salamanca, Spain |
| 9 University of Bologna, Italy | 23 Stockholm University, Sweden |
| 10 University of Florence, Italy | 24 University of Lausanne, Switzerland |
| 11 University of Padova, Italy | 25 University of Cambridge, United Kingdom |
| 12 University of Turin, Italy | 26 University of East Anglia, United Kingdom |
| 13 Leiden University, Netherlands | 27 University of Sheffield, United Kingdom |
| 14 Utrecht University, Netherlands | |

Africa

- 28 Alassane Ouattara University, Ivory Coast
- 29 University of Ghana, Ghana

Asia

- 30 Tohoku University, Japan
- 31 Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea
- 32 University of the Philippines, Philippines
- 33 National University of Singapore, Singapore

Oceania

- 34 Curtin University, Australia
- 35 Massey University, New Zealand

America

- 36 University of British Columbia, Canada
- 37 University of Georgia, United States of America
- 38 Western Washington University, United States of America





GPJS

International
Graduate Program in
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