

WASEDA UNIVERSITY

School of Political
Science and Economics

Tokyo, Japan



Unique Student Experience in Central Tokyo

The School of Political Science and Economics (SPSE) is one of the original academic units established when Waseda University was founded in 1882. The SPSE offers a unique combination with its vibrant, international student culture in central Tokyo and curricula in political science and economics that are fully comparable to those of top universities in North America and Europe. This means that students can take full advantage of being at one of the most prestigious and selective universities in Japan,^{*1} and at the same time acquire universal skills and knowledge that make them employable all around the world.^{*2}

^{*1} No. 1 private university in Japan (QS World University Rankings 2025).

^{*2} Ranked No. 30 in the world for Employer Reputation (QS World University Rankings 2025).



Specialized Degrees in Political Science and Economics

Our B.A. degree programs in Political Science and Economics are equivalent to majors in these disciplines from top universities in North America and to the respective single honors degree programs at leading UK universities. Our B.A. in Global Political Economy is similar to a double major where students take an even balance of coursework in both subjects, but we do not require students to complete any more credits than in the two other B.A. programs we offer. Our curriculum emphasizes quantitative methods and data analysis, which have become particularly sought-after skills. For both political science and economics, we teach essential methodology, including mathematics, statistics, game theory, experimental methods, network analysis, and programming.



Fully Bilingual Program

The SPSE welcomes about 800 new students each year in April into the Japanese-based Degree Program (JDP), and approximately 100 new students in September into the English-based Degree Program (EDP).

While our EDP students can obtain all credits for completion by taking courses entirely in English, we offer most courses at all levels (introductory, intermediate, and advanced) in both English and Japanese. Taking courses in Japanese may be particularly beneficial for EDP students who are proficient in both languages and seek careers in or related to Japanese companies or organizations.

Visit our Web Syllabus to
see the courses we offer!



Diverse Faculty with International Experience

Many of our full-time faculty members who teach for the English-based Degree Program at the SPSE have extensive teaching and research experience at leading universities outside of Japan.

Meet our faculty at the SPSE!



Jack Seddon Associate Professor
Ph.D. in International Relations, University of Oxford



Voice of Professor

The SPSE is enriched by a truly cosmopolitan faculty committed to preparing students to transition into a globalized world. We bring together scholars with degrees and professional experience obtained from across Japan and the world's leading universities. Participating in various co-curricular and bilingual activities is part of the undergraduate trajectory in the SPSE. As enrolled undergraduates, students will benefit from classes guided by professors immersed in various international learning methodologies and Japanese teaching traditions. We collectively seek, through our diverse faculty, to inspire and reward students with challenging learning opportunities, numerous teaching resources not usually available in one location, and connections with intellectual communities and professional networks that span the globe.

Working Closely with Professors

At the SPSE, students engage in discussion-based courses known as "seminars" throughout their studies. These seminars are conducted in small groups, typically ranging from 5 to 15 students, which fosters collaboration on in-depth discussions and analyses with their professors. To further enrich the educational experience, some professors organize social gatherings or seminar trips once or twice a year, creating a relaxed atmosphere for additional interaction. Moreover, these seminars often provide opportunities for students to connect with seniors and juniors, enhancing their networking and collaborative skills. In their final year, students have the option to write a thesis under the supervision of their seminar professor.

Junko Koeda Professor
Ph.D. in Economics, University of California Los Angeles

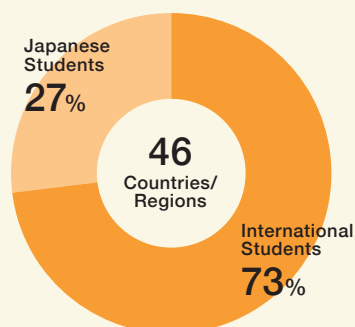


Voice of Professor

Our seminar provides a dynamic learning environment where students from various countries unite to analyze real-world economic situations. Utilizing the latest reports from government organizations and international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund, participants apply their undergraduate macroeconomics and finance knowledge to understand diverse global economic scenarios based on actual data. The seminar encourages active interaction between senior and junior students, fostering a collaborative atmosphere that enhances learning and mentorship. Additionally, an optional data analysis team is available for students eager to further develop their quantitative abilities and engage in detailed empirical research. This interactive setting is ideal for those looking to broaden their economic perspectives and apply their academic knowledge in a global context.

Global Learning Environment

We place great value in the international learning environment at the SPSE. Our students come from many countries and regions in the world and hold a variety of nationalities.



(As of November 2023)

Jialu Benjamin Guo

Major in Political Science

Voice of Student

Waseda University's School of Political Science and Economics provides access to top-tier tertiary education through distinguished professors who have experience from some of the best universities and institutions in the world. Even as a political science major, I was free to select courses in the economics discipline, allowing me to gain skills in working with Game Theory and other theoretical models that have enhanced my understanding of politics. The international student community has also been eye-opening, allowing everyone to engage with those who have lived in the different political, economic, and social communities we see in classes, thereby better contextualising our classes.



Curriculum Overview

Learn more about our degree programs !



Our three-degree programs are defined through credit requirements that specify a mix between political science and economics.



B.A. in Political Science

POL

ECON



B.A. in Economics

POL

ECON



B.A. in Global Political Economy

POL

ECON

Introduction

Foundation

Specialization

Political Science	Political Analysis	Contemporary/ Japanese Politics	Political Communication, Political Institutions, Political Behavior, Comparative Political Economy, etc.
		Comparative Politics	Comparative Democratization, Politics of Western Europe, Politics of East Asia, etc.
	International Relations	International Politics	International Organization, International Political Economy, International History, etc.
	Public Philosophy	Public Policy	Public Policy, Public Administration, Local Government, NPOs and NGOs, etc.
		Political Thought and Political History	Japanese Political Thought, Western Political History, Constitutionalism, Contemporary Political Theory, etc.
Economics	Microeconomics	Economic Policy	Labor Economics, Health Economics, Environmental Economics, Political Economics, Law and Economics, etc.
		International Economics	Development Economics, Asian Economy, Spatial Economics, etc.
	Macroeconomics	Intermediate Micro/Macroeconomics	Japanese Economy, Advanced Micro/Macroeconomics, Welfare Economics, Public Economics, etc.
		Finance	Money and Banking, International Trade, Public Finance, etc.
		Economic History	Japanese Economic History, Global Economic History, Economic Thought, Institutional Analysis, etc.
Methodology	Game Theory	Mathematical Analysis	Advanced Game Theory, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Mathematical Economics, etc.
	Statistics	Econometrics	Quantitative Analysis, Network Analysis, Applied Econometrics, Advanced Econometrics, etc.
Seminars	Basic Seminar	Intermediate Seminar	Advanced Seminar, Thesis

Academic Writing, Japanese and Other Languages, General Studies, etc.

*Courses are subject to change

Study Abroad Opportunities

Waseda University has numerous student exchange agreements with universities all around the world. SPSE students have the opportunity to participate in university-wide programs offered by the Center for International Education (CIE), and exclusive study abroad programs that are only open to SPSE students. Recent SPSE students' destinations include Yale University, UC Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, New York University, UC San Diego, McGill University, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, University of Sydney, National University of Singapore, City University of Hong Kong, National Taiwan University, Peking University, and Fudan University.

Study abroad programs exclusively for SPSE students



University-wide study abroad programs



Shiho Chan

Major in Global Political Economy

Voice of Student

I had the incredible opportunity to study abroad at University College London (UCL) and I am very grateful for this precious experience. Living in student accommodation, I met international students from different countries and backgrounds. Initially, I was apprehensive about interacting with people from outside my country, but stepping out of my comfort zone allowed me to form meaningful friendships. At UCL, I enjoyed the freedom to choose my courses, which enriched my academic experience. Although my major is Global Political Economy, I also took fascinating and informative courses on commerce and finance. These courses broadened my knowledge and were instrumental in shaping my academic journey. Overall, it has been a transformative experience that has broadened my horizons academically, culturally, and personally.



Employability and Post-Graduate Education

Students at the SPSE proceed to various fields after completing the EDP, putting their acquired skills in political science and economics to full use. Below are some examples of companies and graduate schools our students have joined after graduation.

Examples of Selected Employers

Accenture Japan Ltd
ABeam Consulting Ltd.
Bloomberg L. P.
Bosch Corporation
Citibank, N.A., Tokyo Branch
DBS Bank Limited
Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting LLC
Japan Airlines
Johnson & Johnson K.K.
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
LG Electronics Incorporated
Mitsubishi Corporation
Mizuho Financial Group, Inc.
Nike
PwC Consulting LLC
Sony Global Solutions Inc.

Examples of Selected Master's and Ph.D. Programs

The University of British Columbia
University of California, Los Angeles
University College London
University of Edinburgh
University of Hong Kong
Johns Hopkins University
London School of Economics and Political Science
Nanyang Technological University
Peking University
University of Rochester
The University of Sydney
The University of Tokyo
Waseda University
Yale University

Emi Takeuchi

Major in Economics

Voice of Student

"Economics is naturally a broad church that encompasses many areas and views," my Basic Seminar professor reminded me. This advice shaped my university journey. The mix of political science, economics, and methodology courses helped me discover my interests in macroeconomics and finance. This led me to take Professor Koeda's Advanced Seminar, where my thesis on the Nikkei 225's comovement sparked my fascination with financial markets. Through the SPSE student network, I participated in TEDxWasedaU and WEFF*, which honed my soft and hard skills. The combination of a well-structured curriculum, diverse extracurricular activities, and exposure to intelligent peers and industry professionals has played a crucial role in helping me attain a position in the front office of a foreign investment bank.



*WEFF: Waseda Economics and Finance Forum

Learn more about our graduate schools here



Visit the Career Center website to see the detailed career paths of our international students



The Academic Year at the SPSE

● For Prospective Students

● For New Students

● For Current Students

Intercultural
Communication
Center (ICC)



Center for
International
Education (CIE)



Career
Center



Academic Orientation by SPSE ●

Entrance Ceremony ●

SPSE Welcome Session for New EDP Students ●●

ICC Circle (Club Activities) fair ●●

ICC Japanese Culture Events ●●

ICC Welcome Cafe ●●



New Year Holidays

SPSE English-based Degree Program
Application Period Begins! ●

Fall Semester Classes End

Spring Semester Classes Start

Study Abroad Fair by CIE ●●

Job-Hunting Guidance for
International Students
by Career Center ●●

ICC Welcome Cafe ●●

Waseda Museum Week ●●●

ICC Japanese Chat Club ●●

ICC Japanese Culture Events ●●
ICC Japanese Chat Club ●●



Spring Semester
Classes End

Going Abroad for Exchange Program
(Typically at the end of second year) ●

Aug.

Sep.

Oct.

Nov.

Dec.

Jan.

Feb.

Mar.

Apr.

May

Jun.

Jul.

Aug.

Sep.

Open Campus Days ●



Study Abroad Fair by CIE ●●

Waseda CULTURE & ART WEEK ●●●

Waseda Homecoming Day Inviting Alumni ●●

Job-Hunting Guidance for International
Students by the Career Center ●●

SPSE Information Session ●

ICC Welcome Cafe ●●

Fall Semester Classes Start



Waseda Festival (Waseda-Sai) ●●●

Practical Seminars for International Students
by the Career Center ●●

ICC Japanese Chat Club ●●



Graduation Ceremony ●

This information is based on events in 2023. Events are subject to change.

Additional Information

Admissions Information



Visit our website for information on admissions. Please make sure to check the latest information when you apply to our program.

Tuition and Scholarships



Waseda University offers various scholarships for international students. Visit our website for details on the tuition and scholarships that we offer.

Student Dormitory



Students may apply to live in one of the many dormitories provided by Waseda University and affiliated companies. Visit the Residence Life Center website for more details.

Japanese Language Courses



In addition to the courses offered by the SPSE and other departments, students can take courses established by the Center for Japanese Language (CJL) and count them as credits towards graduation.

Student and Faculty Voices



Visit our website to see what our students and faculty say about our program.

The SPSE Youtube Channel



Visit our Youtube channel to see our content regarding student life!

Location



Situated in central Tokyo, Waseda University's convenient location allows you to get to the main cities and famous landmarks in the Greater Tokyo Area by public transportation!



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