

Comparative Studies of Politics and Administration in Asia (CSPA)

Application Guidelines (Fall 2027 Admissions)

Japanese Government Scholarship & Self-Financing Students

If you are applying for a Japanese Government Scholarship, please read Sections 4 & 5 very carefully.

1. Programme Duration and Residential Qualification

- Programme Duration: The CSPA is taught on a full time basis and for completion, as a general rule, takes 12 months for the Japanese Government (MEXT) “Cultural Conflict” Programme Scholars and 24 months for the other Japanese Government Scholars and self-financing students, beginning in October and ending in early September.
- Residential qualification: the registered students are, during the programme, required to reside in either Fukuoka Prefecture or Saga Prefecture. If there is a good reason for a student not to reside in either prefecture, the student may be given a permission to reside outside these prefectures after consultation with the supervisor.

2. Admission Requirements

For admission to the CSPA programme, students must meet the following requirements:

- An undergraduate degree in Politics, International Relations, Public Policy or a related field in Social Sciences from an accredited university;
- A thorough proficiency in English language. If English is not your first language you must demonstrate English competence with TOEFL, IELTS, or equivalent. A TOEFL iBT score of 4.5+ (Band Score)/86+ (Traditional Score), IELTS score of 6.0 or above is required for admission; and
- Sufficient financial support for the duration of the programme. If you are not the recipient of a Japanese government scholarship, you are required to provide a letter of your financial plans.

3. Application Materials

Applicants are required to submit by registered airmail or equivalent (i.e. Federal Express, DHL etc.), **an original** of the following documents to the Faculty of Law, Kyushu University **by December 18, 2026** (applications arriving after the given date will not be accepted):

(1) Completed **CSPA Application Form**. Please note: (1) It is very important that the name that you include in Section 1 of the Application Form is the same as the name in your passport. The Student Visa of successful

applicants will be issued with the name provided in Section 1, and it can cause problems at immigration when entering Japan if the names are different. (2) Nationality. You must indicate if you have dual nationality or Japanese nationality.

(2) A photocopy of the **Graduation Certificate** of the last undergraduate university and graduate school(s) attended, OR a **Certified Letter** from the university at which the applicant is currently attending, stating the expected graduation date.

(3) An **Official School Transcript** of the last university from which the applicant graduated or the university where the applicant is currently attending. A transcript from the undergraduate school is required even if you have already graduated a graduate school. Please note that good grades on the school transcript are required (ideally in the top 25% of the class) if you want a Japanese Government Scholarship. In order to verify this, please include an explanation sheet with information about the grading system of the university.

(4) **Two Letters of Recommendation** from the Dean, the applicant's academic supervisors or other teaching staff who have had direct contact with the applicant; or from a supervisor in the employing body with personal knowledge of the applicant. If you wish to receive a Japanese Government Scholarship, one Letter of Recommendation must be from the Dean addressed to the President of Kyushu University. (*Use the prescribed form.)

*A reference letter in Japanese or English is acceptable.

(5) **Research Proposal** of your master's thesis in two A4 pages (free format).

(6) For applicants whose first language is not English, **Proof of English proficiency** must be provided. A TOEFL iBT score of 4.5+ (Band Score)/86+ (Traditional Score), an IELTS score of 6.0+ or equivalent is required for non-native English speakers. If you want a Japanese Government Scholarship, the level of each of the four skills (i.e. Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing) must be above CEFER B2. Or, the certificate issued by the graduating university must clearly state that the medium of instruction was English.

Please note that for Japanese Government Scholarship candidates, proof of English proficiency is compulsory and there is no waiver.

(7) **Certificate of Citizenship** or **Proof of Residence** in the applicant's home country, i.e., census register, passport (photocopy), or another positive proof of citizenship.

All the application materials should be typed **in English** on the attached forms or additional sheets of A-4 paper. In the case that the required materials are prepared in a language other than English or Japanese, a translation into one of these languages must be attached.

Application materials will **not** be returned to applicants.

4. Application Procedure & Notification of Result

Question 8 of the CSPA Application Form asks whether an applicant wishes to receive a Japanese Government Scholarship.

Section 5 below describes the conditions of eligibility for the scholarship.

The application procedure is different depending on whether you are applying for a Japanese Government Scholarship or not:

i. Applicants NOT wishing to receive a Japanese Government Scholarship

The applicants will be selected through an online or in-person (if convenient) interview.

Interviews will be held either by Videoconferencing application, phone or (if it is convenient) in person, in mid-January 2027.

Formal confirmation of a place on the programme will be informed to the candidate by the end of March 2027.

ii. Applicants wishing to receive a Japanese Government Scholarship

The applicants will be selected through an online or in-person (if convenient) interview.

Interviews will be held either by Videoconferencing application, phone, or (if it is convenient) in person, in mid-January 2027.

If the CSPA Admissions Committee decides to award a scholarship, the applicant will be informed ***by the end of January 2027.***

A successful candidate who has been awarded a scholarship will then be required to submit the Japanese Government Scholarship Application Form and supporting materials. This form will be provided to all successful candidates by e-mail they are informed their application for a scholarship has been successful.

The completed Scholarship Application Form must be submitted **before February 5, 2027.**

Formal confirmation of a place on the programme and the award of the scholarship will be informed to the candidate by end-March 2027.

5. Conditions of Eligibility for the Japanese Government Scholarship

To be eligible for a Japanese Government Scholarship, a candidate must meet **all** of the following conditions:

- (1) **Nationality:** Applicants must be citizens of a nation recognized under the foreign scholarship programme of the Japanese Ministry of Education and be a resident in that nation until they come to Japan after they are awarded the scholarship. Anyone holding Japanese nationality is not eligible to receive a scholarship.
 - (2) **Education:** Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree in Politics, International Relations, Public Policy or a related field in Social Sciences from an accredited University. If they are currently enrolling at a university, graduation must take place before October 1, 2027 in order to be eligible.
 - (3) **Age:** All applicants must be under 35 years of old as of April 2, 2027. i.e. Any candidate born before April 1, 1992, is not eligible for a Japanese government scholarship.
 - (4) **Military personnel** are not eligible for this scholarship if they remain on active duty.
 - (5) **Existing financial support:** Persons already receiving financial support from their home government or another organization are ineligible for this scholarship.
 - (6) **Research Topic:** Applicants, who would like to apply for a Japanese Government Scholarship should choose a research topic related to the theme of "Cultural Conflict" in a wider sense. Please consult the curriculum document below for additional information on the type of topic that is appropriate for the program, for "cultural conflict" here includes more diverse topics than usual. The courses listed in Section VII provide a good indication, although other related fields are acceptable.
- *Please note that if you are **NOT** applying for a Japanese Government Scholarship, there is no need for the thesis topic to be in the area of "cultural conflict," and a proposal on any topic in Politics, International Relations or Public Policy is acceptable.
- (7) **Visa:** Applicants should comply with Japanese government regulations for obtaining the appropriate visa, including medical screenings.
 - (8) **Warning:** If a scholarship grantee's annual GPA falls below 2.30 or the grading standard set by the university, the payments of the scholarship may be suspended or terminated.

6. Tuition & Fees

Students receiving a Japanese government scholarship do not have to pay any fees.

On enrollment, all incoming self-funded students must pay an Examination Fee and Entrance Fee, in addition to the Tuition Fees.

For the academic year 2026-2027, the fees were as follows:

Tuition Fees (for one year): ¥535,800

Registration Fee: ¥30,000

Entrance Fee: ¥282,000

Please note that this amount is subject to annual review. The final amount for 2027-28 is available upon request from admission@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp.

A fee waiver scheme operates for self-funded students demonstrating a high level of academic performance. Please note that it is rare for students to receive a waiver on the Entrance Fee, and for the Tuition Fee successful candidates normally only receive a remission of up to 50%.

7. Warning

(1) Successful applicants will have their enrolment at Kyushu University withdrawn immediately in the event of **any** of the following:

- If the applicant is found to have made false statements on his/her application.
- If the applicant is subject to disciplinary measures or has been found to have no promise for academic achievement by the University.
- If the applicant is absent from the University for a prolonged period of time without permission.
- If the student has insufficient resources to finance their studies in Kyushu University.

8. Inquiries

Inquiries by phone cannot be accepted. Written inquiries regarding this programme and submitted materials should be addressed to:

Admission Office of the CSPA Programme,
Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University,

744 Motooka, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka 819-0395, Japan.

Alternatively, candidates may correspond by e-mail:

E-mail: *admission@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp*

CSPA Program (Curriculum)

I. Purpose

The curriculum of the CSPA program aims to foster next-generation political experts possessing the skills to navigate the multiple “cultural conflicts” characterizing today’s world. The program creates an education and research environment where individuals from different countries can co-learn, develop their problem-solving skills, and constantly improve and re-train their abilities.

The one-year **master’s program (CSPA)** aims to create an education and research curriculum that combines advanced, multi-disciplinary, and principled content by combining core subjects, elective subjects, and foundational subjects. Students in the master’s program (CSPA) must take the required credits (20 coursework credits in total) from the “Core Courses,” “Elective Courses,” and “Foundational Courses,” as well as write a master’s thesis (50 or more pages) (10 thesis credits).

Further details can be found on the curriculum in Sections III to VII below.

II. Background

Many social problems, divisions, and exclusions of modern society arise from so-called “cultural conflict” in a wider sense. Cultural differences between countries, regions, communities, genders, and generations have historically created conflicts and destabilized society. However, such conflicts have become increasingly serious and intensified in recent years, giving rise to so-called “culture wars,” which make regulatory design and enforcement increasingly challenging. Rapid technological innovation and the challenges of achieving social acceptance of new technologies have added to the challenge, as technologies have a major impact on our way of life across all domains, both domestically and internationally, while making cultural conflicts between various human groups increasingly complex.

This program examines the challenges of designing and enforcing politics and other regulatory instruments in the context of such cultural conflict.

In particular, three primary sites of cultural conflict are the focus of the programs, namely **Mobility**, **Memory**, and **Machine**.

Mobility relates to our ability to move, the possibility of the free movement of people, goods, capital, services, and information, as well as means of transportation. The gain or loss of mobility directly affects our access to resources essential for survival and opportunities for self-realization. In modern society, people, goods, capital, and information move globally, and after the COVID-19 pandemic, remote and virtual solutions have penetrated various aspects of daily life, partially replacing our physical movement.

Possible thesis topics related to this theme might include political issues related to migration, political participation, swing in party support, urban mobility, international trade, economic regulation, or digital information.

Memory refers to the function of retaining experiences and reproducing them in some way and relates to our personal and collective memories. Beyond debates over historical recognition that transcend national borders and issues of cultural property restitution, we see instances where sensitive information continues to drift online without being erased due to ICT development, making “forgetting” difficult, as seen in issues like the right to be forgotten in the context of data protection.

Possible thesis topics related to this theme might include political issues related to historical analysis, path dependence, cultural heritage, environmental conservation, or data protection and data governance.

Machine refers to the totality of hardware, software, and technologies that increasingly connect us to the world, mediating and structuring our relationship with the natural and social environment. With molecular robots and brain-machine interfaces, cyborgs—human-machine integrated bodies where machines work as autonomous regulatory systems without conscious awareness—are no longer science fiction but are a social reality.

Possible thesis topics related to this theme might include political issues related to digital and nuclear technologies, healthcare technologies and bioethics, land development, regional integration mechanisms, mass media, or public policy and policy campaign.

We invite applications that seek to explore topics in these or related areas of politics or policy studies in a world of heightened cultural conflict.

III. CSPA Core Courses (3 credits required)

In the “Core Subject Group,” courses are assigned to help students independently identify issues related to “cultural conflict” and develop the ability to solve these problems proactively while

collaborating with others.

In the **Political Studies Primer**, students will learn about the economic analysis of politics, comparative institutional analysis, behavioral economics, and the selection and combination of regulatory methods, to provide students enrolled on this program with a strong theoretical perspective on the role that the political system should play in social regulation, more generally.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy examines the three elements—Mobility, Memory, and Machine—that intensify “cultural conflicts” in contemporary society, focusing on their technological innovations and the nature of their social acceptance. The course is also open to students from natural science faculties and schools at Kyushu University, fostering an environment for interdisciplinary exploration that bridges the sciences and humanities.

Cultural Conflict Camp will bring together students enrolled in this program and graduate students enrolled in the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology at Kyushu University to discuss cutting-edge social issues in a cultural conflict and combine their different skills to work together to create and solve social problems.

The core courses, we offer are marked © in the class list in Section VII below.

IV. CSPA Elective Courses (12 credits required)

Courses are offered to examine issues related to “cultural conflict.” These courses are categorized based on three elements—Mobility, Memory, and Machine—that exacerbate “cultural conflicts” in contemporary society. Students enrolled in this program are expected to select and take courses not only aligned with their research interests but also relevant to the themes of their master’s dissertation.

In the elective courses, we offer courses marked ○ in the class list “Mobility, Memory, Machine” of Section VII below.

V. CSPA Foundational Courses (5 credits required)

This group includes courses designed to provide a fundamental perspective and skills necessary for examining issues related to “cultural conflict” across contemporary settings. Addressing these challenges in the humanities and social sciences requires principled reflection grounded in fundamental understandings. Therefore, the courses emphasize learning from philosophical and historical perspectives, particularly in foundational subjects related to law and political

science, which are essential for such inquiry.

For the foundational courses, we offer courses are marked ○ in the class list in Section VII below.

VI. CSPA Thesis Requirement (10 credits required)

Master's program students are required to earn the necessary credits from the Core, Elective, and Foundational Subject Groups and write a master's thesis (50 or more A4 pages).

Students in this program are also expected to present their progress in the *Research Workshop on Cultural Conflict, Law, and Policy*, where they receive critical feedback from faculty and peers, refining the content of their theses or dissertations through this iterative process.

VII. Indicative Course List

CLASS NAME	MOBILITY (13)	MEMORY (15)	MACHINE (13)	FOUNDATIONAL (29)
Algorithms & the Law	○		○	
Big Tech & Competition Law			○	
Bioethics & the Law			○	
Borders & Development in Asia	○	○		
Comparative Corporate Law				○
Comprehensive Research Seminar (LL.D.)				○
Creative Economy & Cultural Diversity	○	○		
Creative Thinking (AI)		○	○	
CSPA Academic Literacy				○
CSPA Research Methodology				○
CSPA Thesis Workshop				○
Cultural Conflict Camp	◎	◎	◎	
Cultural Heritage Law	○	○		
Diplomatic Documents		○		
Effective Legal Writing				○
EU Technology Law			○	
Fintech & the Law			○	
Global Governance		○		
Global Value Chains & Law	○			
Globalization & Commercial Law	○			
Governance and Democracy				○
Implementation and Operation of the Hague Conventions				○
International Commercial Arbitration				○
International Conference Presentation Practices				○
International Criminal Law	○	○		
International Financial Law & Regulation				○
International Law in Today's World				○
International Maritime Law	○			
International Relations & Human Rights	○			
International Tax Law				○
Introduction to EU Law				○
Introduction to Japanese Law				○
Introduction to Roman Law & Civil Law Tradition				○
Japan's Development in Context		○		
Japanese Constitutional & Administrative Law		○		
Japanese Diplomacy		○		
Japanese Intellectual Property Law in Practice			○	
JICA Internship				○
Law & Development: Busines & Economic History		○		
Legal Research Methodology & Writing				○
Legal Studies Primer				◎
Legal Tech, Legal Design & Technology			○	
Mediation & Other Conflict Management Approaches				○
Perspectives in International Relations				○
Platforms & the Law	○		○	
Politics & Governance in Japan				○
Political Studies Primer				◎
Postwar Diplomatic History of Japan		○		
Private International Law				○
Public Policy & Philosophy			○	
Resolution of Transnational Commercial Disputes				○
Science, Technology & Innovation Policy	◎	◎	◎	
Smart Cities, Urban Planning and Law	○		○	
Secured Transaction Law				○
Political Theories & Concepts				○
Understanding Regionalism		○		
White Collar & Corporate Crime				○
YLP Internship				○