School of International and Public Policy
Hitotsubashi University

Empowering Tomorrow's Policy Makers

Tokyo
Japan

ABOUT US

Hitotsubashi University

Hitotsubashi University has been prominent in the field of social sciences since it was founded in 1875. Holding a leading position among Japanese universities in economics, business, and law, it has produced many leaders in government, commercial, financial, and other sectors.

School of International and Public Policy（IPP)

Established in 2005 as a “joint venture” between the Graduate School of Economics and the Graduate School of Law at Hitotsubashi University, IPP offers advanced, specialized education in law, international relations, and economics with the aim of nurturing individuals capable of conducting rigorous policy analyses and evaluations in both the public and private sectors.

OUR PROGRAM

The IPP has four programs according to the main academic field. Among them, the Asian Public Policy Program (APPP) and the Foreign Service Sub-program (FSS)* are designed for international students and offer all courses in English.

*The FSS is a sub-program within the Global Governance Program.

Although each program has a distinct area of specialization, students can take courses across different IPP programs to enhance their knowledge and skills.

International and Public Administration Course

1. Public Law Program
2. Global Governance Program
   Foreign Service Sub-Program

Public Economics Course

3. Public Economics Program
4. Asian Public Policy Program

IN ASIA AND BEYOND

We aim to establish ourselves as a leading center for public policy education and research in the Asia - Pacific Region.

Students from across Asia come together to learn, collaborate, and grow, building bridges across cultures and creating lasting impacts across borders.

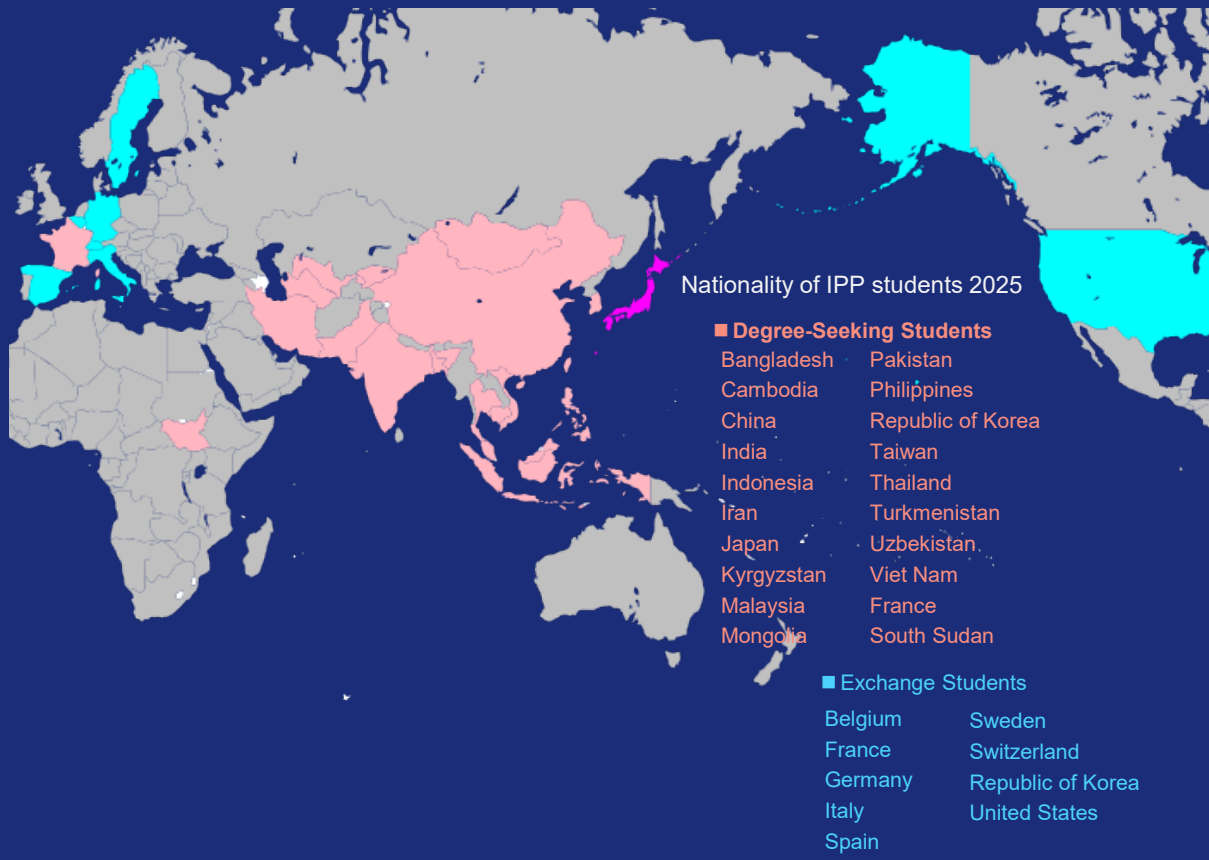
Whether you are from Asia or beyond, here you will gain a deeper understanding and diverse perspectives on international relations and public policy within our learning community.

Program designed to meet Asia's evolving needs

To address pressing issues in Asia-Pacific countries, we offer lectures and symposiums inviting researchers from abroad. You can expand your knowledge on theories and practices of public policy.

Students gathered from across Asia and Beyond

You will learn alongside young professionals from various Asian countries in public-related sectors, engaging in discussions on diverse topics of their interests and intellectually stimulating each other.



OUR STRENGTH

01 Academic Excellence and Specialization

Hitotsubashi University has established an outstanding research framework in the field of public policy research and has produced numerous achievements. With excellent research infrastructure and guidance from the faculty, you can acquire the expertise needed to become a true professional in your chosen field.

02 Small Classes, Close Guidance for Academic Success

A small class size allows each faculty member to closely guide the students' academic pursuits. This also enables active engagement in in-depth discussions with diverse peers. We believe that this academic setting fosters and trains true professionals in policy and decision-making.

03 Cross-disciplinary and Practical Learning

By studying a wide range of fields, spanning economics, international relations, and public law, you will develop the ability to conduct policy analysis from a comprehensive perspective.

You can also learn practically by learning from research reflecting real-world challenges, seminars led by professionals from the public and private sectors, and analyses using case studies.

ENGLISH PROGRAM

Asian Public Policy Program (APPP)

For Whom?

If you are a young professional in Asian governments, central banks, or other policy-related organizations, the APPP is your pathway to advancing as a fiscal or financial economist, economic planner, policy analyst, or policymaker in your country or on an international stage. This program is ideal for those aspiring to study public policy in an international environment as well.

What you can learn at APPP

The APPP places a strong emphasis on economic policy, with almost all the required and elective courses structured around economics and its applications to policy. You will gain the essential skills to formulate and analyze policies grounded in solid economic theory, preparing you thoroughly for leadership roles in the field.

Strong networks across Asia

Many APPP students have backgrounds in the ministries of finance, national tax agencies, central banks, and other public sectors in Asian countries. You will learn while being inspired by your fellow students and build strong relationships with them, which will be valuable assets for your career.

Program Overview

Program period	Two years starting in September
Degree to be awarded	Master of Public Policy (Public Economics)
Scholarship	The APPP has scholarship collaborations with various prestigious organizations such as the IMF, ADB, JICA, JDS, and MEXT
Application Period	Mid-October - mid-May

Curriculum

1. Theoretical Foundation (Required)

- Microeconomics for Public Policy
- Macroeconomics: Theory and Policy
- Fundamentals of Econometric Methods I, II
- Economic of Public Sector I, II

2. Elective Courses

■ Fiscal Policy

- Economic Analysis of Tax Systems
- Tax Policy I: Tax Policy and Systems
- Tax Policy II: International Taxation
- Fiscal Decentralization and Local Government Finance
- Field Research on Tax Administration

■ Public Sector Policy

Economic Analysis of
- Public Investments
- Social Policy
- Social Security Systems
- Regulation and Public Enterprise

■ Monetary and Financial Policy

- Current Issues in International Economy and Finance
- Financial Sector Reform and Development
- Central Banking
- Asian Economic Development and Integration
- Regional Financial Arrangements and Economic Surveillance in East Asia

3. Current Issues

Workshops and Intensive Courses

- Workshop on Current Topics
- Financial Programming for Macroeconomic Policy Formulation
- ESG Investing and SGDs
- Issues on Public Policy Ⅰ - Ⅹ

4. Thesis Writing Tutorial (Required)

- Thesis Writing Ⅰ, Ⅱ

※The courses offered may vary by year.

VOICES FROM APPP STUDENTS

“Studying in the APPP has been a transformative journey, both professionally and personally. The program sharpened my understanding of evidence-based knowledge and expanded my global perspective through rich classroom discussions. Beyond academics, the kindness and support from the faculty, staff, and classmates made my life in Japan much easier and more fulfilling. I leave the program not only with stronger knowledge and skills, but also with deep gratitude for the friendships and memories that made this experience truly unforgettable.” (Class of 2023, Vietnam)

“I would definitely recommend the APPP to anyone interested in economics and public policy. The program really helps deepen your understanding of how economic principles apply to real-world issues. It's a great chance to learn how to create and evaluate public policies that can make a real difference. If you're passionate about making a positive impact through policy, this program is a great place to start.” (Class of 2023, Philippines)

“The biggest value I derived from the APPP is being in the same class as policymakers from various other countries. It deepened my understanding of how different cultures operate, both the soft and hard aspects.” (Class of 2023, Malaysia)

ENGLISH PROGRAM

Foreign Service Sub-Program (FSS)

For Whom?

The FSS is a perfect program for mid-career professionals from Asia and beyond who are actively engaged in foreign service roles. It also welcomes international students interested in studying international relations and global governance.

What you can learn at FSS

You will advance to become a highly skilled professional with the skills to analyze, shape, and execute foreign policies in your country. You will gain comprehensive skills and knowledge in international relations and global governance in a supportive academic setting.

Small and interactive class with diverse members

You will engage in small discussion-based classes and collaborative projects that enhance teamwork and communication skills and foster valuable professional connections.
By learning together with Japanese students in other IPP programs as well as fellow FSS students with diverse backgrounds, you will acquire wide-ranging perspectives from peers with different experiences and backgrounds.

Program Overview

Program period	Two years starting in September
Degree to be awarded	Master of International and Administrative Policy
Scholarship	The FSS has scholarship collaborations with JDS, JICA-SDGs, and MEXT.
Application Period	Late February - late March

Curriculum

1. Basic Subject: Lean fundamental theories

- US Foreign Policy
- Global Governance Theory
- Quantitative Analysis in International Relations A

2. Core Subject: Work on basic issues of Public Policies

- International Political Economy Ⅰ, Ⅱ
- UN and NGOs
- Regional Studies Ⅰ
- Human Security Ⅰ
- International Institutions
- Quantitative Analysis in International Relations B
- Theories of World Politics
- Research Methods in International Relations

3. Applied Subject: Work on specialized issues of Public Policies

- Community Interests and International Law Ⅰ, Ⅱ
- Theories and Practices of International Security
- New Approaches to International Law and Relations Ⅰ, Ⅱ
- International Relations and Domestic Politics
- Social Entrepreneurship Challenge in the Indo-Pacific
- Euro-Asia Summer School
- Peace Studies
- Gender and International Relations

4. Case Study: Lean how to analyze and evaluate policies

- Japan's Foreign Policy Making Ⅰ, Ⅱ
- Japan's Fiscal and Monetary Policy Making
- International Seminar (UK), (USA)

5. Workshops: Lean how to write Research Paper

- Global Governance Seminar
- Special Seminar for Research Paper Writing

※The courses offered may vary by year.

VOICES FROM FSS STUDENTS

“This program not only deepened my understanding of the complexities of international cooperation but also equipped me with analytical skills to assess global challenges. From engaging in discussions with professors and peers to real-world case studies that bring theory to life, every moment has been enriching. A memorable highlight was participating with diplomats in a course “Japan’s Foreign Policy Making”, where I experienced first-hand global simulations and the delicate balance of diplomacy and policymaking. This program has strengthened my passion for fostering international collaboration and prepared me to contribute meaningfully to global policy discussions.” (Class of 2023, South Sudan)

“There are multiple courses that deeply involve scholars and students around the world. This is fundamental to IPP, as students are encouraged to broaden their global perspectives and develop critical thinking skills. I have compared the level of accountability and dedication of professors here with those at other universities, such as the University of Tokyo, and I can confidently say that our professors are the most devoted, making excellent role models for students.” (Class of 2023, China)

“At IPP, I gained deep academic insights from expert faculty who are highly specialized in their fields. I also broadened my perspective through discussions and group work with students from diverse countries and professional backgrounds, including those from central banks and government institutions. These experiences have prepared me to work in multicultural settings and inspired me to pursue opportunities in international organizations.” (Double Degree Student, Class of 2024, France)

Exchange Program & Double Degree Program for IPP Students

IPP students have the opportunity to participate in our exchange program or a double-degree program with excellent partner universities. During the study-abroad period, tuition fees will be paid to the IPP, while tuition fees at the host university will be waived.

Exchange Program

Study at our partner university for one or two semesters.

- University of Cambridge - Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne - The Sorbonne School of Economics
- Sciences Po Strasbourg
- Barcelona Institute of International Studies
- Maastricht University - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- University of St. Gallen - School of Economics and Political Science
- Bocconi University
- Renmin University of China - School of Public Administration and Policy
- Seoul National University - Graduate School of International Studies

Double Degree Program

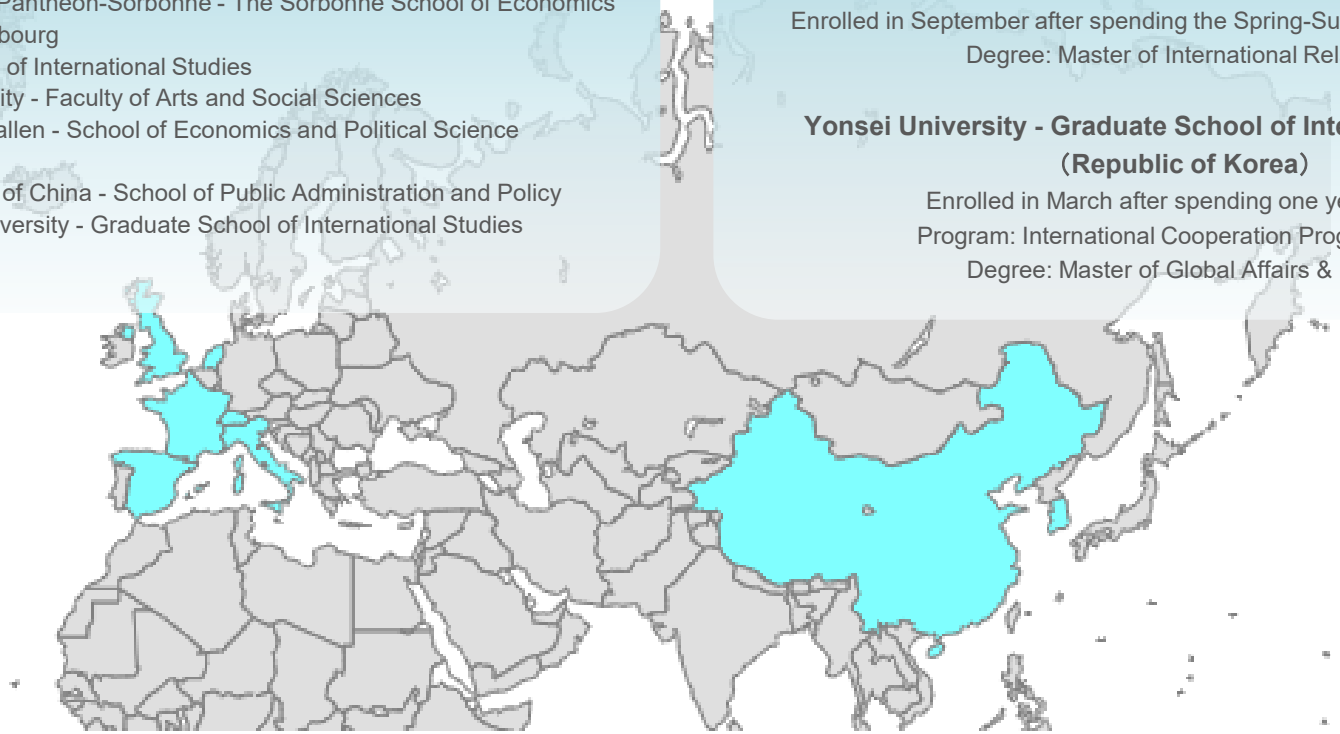
Learn for one year at IPP and one year at one of our two partner universities, seeking two degrees from both universities.

Sciences Po Strasbourg (France)

Enrolled in September after spending the Spring-Summer semester at IPP
Degree: Master of International Relations

Yonsei University - Graduate School of International Studies (Republic of Korea)

Enrolled in March after spending one year at IPP
Program: International Cooperation Program (PIC)
Degree: Master of Global Affairs & Policy



Exchange Program

Double Degree Program

For students who want to spend one or two semesters at IPP,
IPP welcomes students from partner universities with our exchange program and double degree program.

Exchange students at IPP can fully pursue their academic interests, as they can take any courses* related to their academic interests at IPP and other graduate or undergraduate courses at Hitotsubashi University, including Japanese language courses.
*Some courses are not open for exchange students.

Study period: one or two semesters
Language requirement: English fluency (TOEFL iBT 80 or equivalent score is preferred.)
Admission period: Mid-April for Autumn semester
Mid-October for Spring semester
Tuition and fees: Pay tuition and fees to home universities.

Link to factsheet

Students spend one year at IPP and one year at their home university, seeking two degrees from both universities. The curriculum is catered to double-degree students to fulfill degree requirements, which allows them to explore two academic disciplines in depth, gaining a comprehensive understanding of both subjects.

Enrollment program: Foreign Service Sub-program (FSS)
Degree at IPP: Master of International and Administrative Policy
Study period at IPP: At least one academic year
Tuition and fees: Pay tuition and fees to home universities.

Link to factsheet

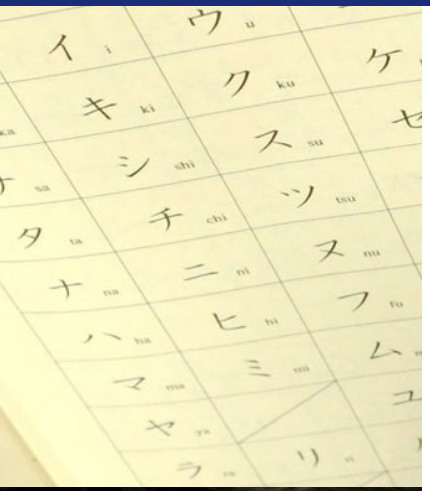
"I chose to do my exchange at IPP because I was looking to enrich my academic knowledge with non-Western perspectives. I really enjoyed taking courses that fit my interests and fostered discussions between students. Thanks to the reduced size of the classes, my interaction with the professors was very fulfilling. Besides the school moments, having the opportunity to explore Japan and learn its language has broadened my mind and equipped me with personal skills that will be valuable for my future."

2025 Spring Exchange student from
Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

"I participated in the double degree program to immerse myself in a culture completely different from the Western one. Being part of the supportive and international environment at IPP, where students from diverse backgrounds come together and engage in open discussions on a wide range of topics, helped me grow both academically and personally. This experience gave me strong confidence in pursuing a future career in international relations."

2024-25 Double Degree student from Sciences Po Strasbourg

Japanese Language Education



Japanese language courses are available for international students. You can boost your Japanese language proficiency through our language courses and make your life in Japan easier through our Japanese support system.

Japanese courses

- Intensive course for beginners (2 to 5 classes per week)
- Intermediate course for intermediate- to advanced-level learners
- Content-based Japanese language courses to study social sciences

Japanese Language Support

- Language partner: Pair up with a Japanese student
- Language community: Interact with local Japanese students in English and Japanese
- Tutoring system run by HU students that offers thesis proofreading*

  *Not a professional service

Link to Japanese Language Education

Accommodation

There are two residential halls for international students, Residence Hall Ikkyo-ryo and Residence Hall Kunitachi. APPP students, FSS students funded by JICA or JDS and exchange students are given priority for a room in Residence Hall Ikkyo-Ryo.

Living in Residence Hall Ikkyo-Ryo gives you plenty of opportunities to join the student community. Thanks to the many social events organized by residents, you will get to know other students and foster friendships. Community assistants provide support and advice to you.

“I loved living in Residence Hall Ikkyo-Ryo and organizing intercultural events together with my floor mates. My semester at IPP gave me completely new insights both academically and culturally, which will certainly be helpful for my international career.” 2023 Exchange Student from University of St. Gallen

Link to Residence Hall Ikkyo-Ryo

FACULTY

Asian Public Policy Program

Prof. Ii, Masako

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Prof. Ii has been a research fellow at the Center for Health Policy and Economic Research (HIAS Health). Her studies focus on health care and welfare policy.

Associate Prof. FUEKI, Takuji

Ph.D. in Economics, Indiana University, Bloomington. His research focuses on monetary and fiscal policy analysis and the impact of rising government debt. He aims to teach how to conduct quantitative policy analysis.

Prof. SEKINE, Toshitaka

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Oxford. In his course Central Banking, Prof. Sekine shares his 33 years of experience at the Bank of Japan, the International Monetary Fund, and the Bank for International Settlements. He hopes to show how economics and econometric analysis are applied to policy and the real thrill of working in the public service of a central bank.

Assistant Prof. Nguyen Thanh Tung

Ph.D. in Economics, Hitotsubashi University. His fields of study include labor market regulations, especially minimum wage in developing countries, gender inequality, and development policy.

Global Governance Program

Prof. AONO, Toshihiko

Ph.D. in History, University of California, Santa Barbara. Visiting fellow at the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the University of Cambridge. His area of expertise is History of the Cold War, History of International Relations, and US diplomatic history.

Prof. AKIYAMA, Nobumasa

Ph.D. in Law, Hitotsubashi University. Prof. Akiyama served as the Minister Counsellor at Japan's Permanent Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna (2016-2018) and is a member of the Public Security Examination Commission at the Ministry of Justice. His expertise is international security, with a particular focus on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Prof. ICHIHARA, Maiko

Ph.D. in Political Science, George Washington University. Prof. Ichihara is the steering committee chair of the East Asia Democracy Forum, and serves on steering committees of the World Movement for Democracy, Japan Factcheck Center, and International Coalition for Democratic Renewal. She has undertaken research on democracy diplomacy and influence operations.

Prof. OBAYASHI, Kazuhiro

Ph.D. in Political Science, George Washington University. Professor Obayashi's area of expertise is international relations. He conducts research on civil wars, peacebuilding, and global governance in these issue areas using quantitative and qualitative methods, including field research.

Associate Prof. KWON, Yongseok

Ph.D. in Law, Hitotsubashi University. Visiting scholar at Seoul National University and Waseda University. His area of expertise is the history of Korea, Japanese diplomacy, and East Asian international relations. His research focuses on the cultural aspects of the Japan-Korea relationship, including pop culture and sports.

Prof. MATSUMOTO, Futoshi

Being seconded from Japanese Foreign Ministry. Former Ambassador of Japan to Iraq and former Chargés d'Affaires in Syria. Arabist. Served in many posts in the Middle East in addition to Paris and NY. Experts in the Middle East and Intelligence. My class is devoted to discussing current international affairs including conducting diplomatic negotiation games.

Dean’s Message

I'm delighted you are considering our public policy school in Japan for your studies in international and public policy. As Dean, I believe you will find our program uniquely positioned to offer an unparalleled educational experience.

Japan, a nation at the forefront of innovation and global cooperation in Asia, provides an exceptional living laboratory for understanding complex policy challenges. Our curriculum combines rigorous academic training with practical insights, equipping students with the analytical tools and cultural understanding essential for impactful careers. You will delve into critical issues such as global governance, public administration, and social security policy in the rapidly aging society, while gaining a deep appreciation for the Japanese approach to policymaking.

Studying in Japan will not only enhance your academic profile but also offer rich cultural immersion, broadening your worldview in profound ways. For regular students, opportunities for further study in our partner institutions across Asia and Europe are available. Our exchange program enables students to broaden their perspectives and experiences further by engaging in diverse policy environments and academic cultures.

Thank you for considering joining our vibrant community and contributing to the next generation of policy innovators. We look forward to receiving your application and helping you achieve your goals.

Shinji Yamashige
Dean, School of International and Public Policy, Hitotsubashi University

ACCESS & LOCATION

Our main campus is nestled in the quiet and academic city of Kunitachi, known for its vibrant student life and welcoming community. With easy access to central Tokyo, students enjoy the perfect balance of peaceful study and urban excitement.

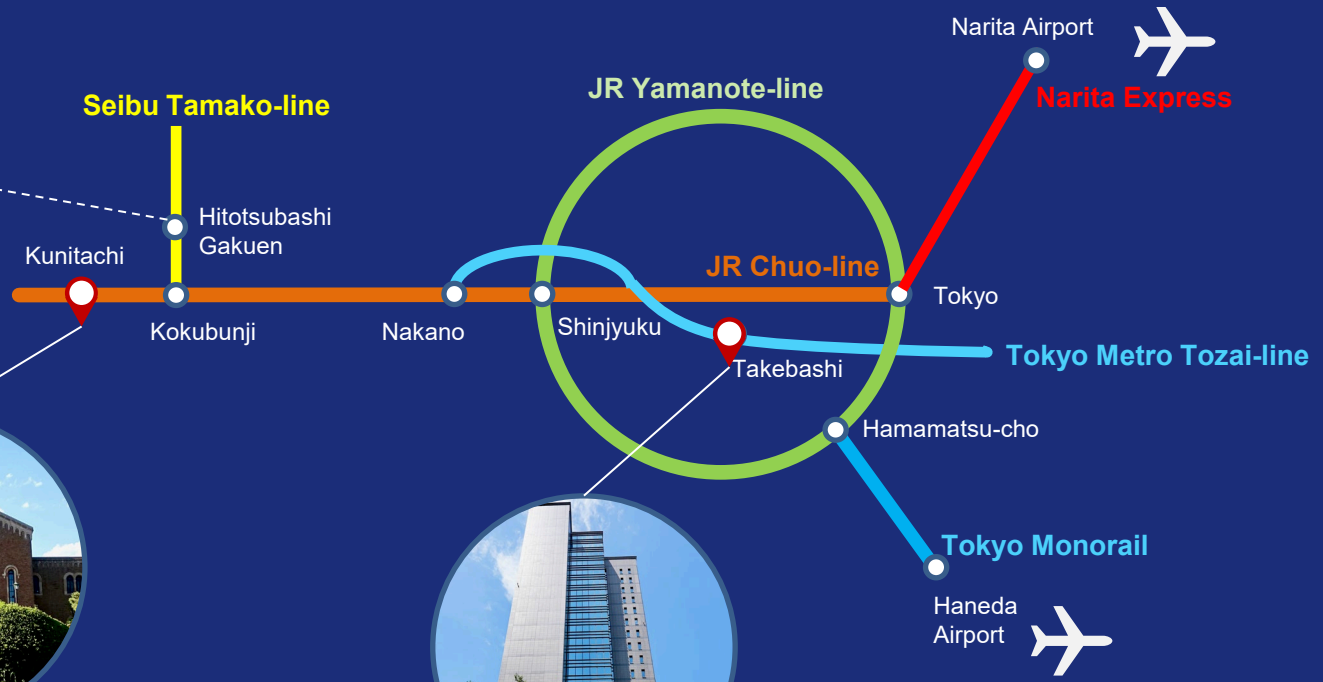
Ikkyo-ryo (residence hall)

Kunitachi Campus (Main Campus)

2-1 Naka, Kunitachi, Tokyo 186-8601, Japan
8-minute walk from Kunitachi Station
Kunitachi station to Shinjyuku Station: about 30 minutes

Chiyoda Campus

National Center of Sciences, 2-1-2 Hitotsubashi,
Chiyoda, Tokyo 101-8439, Japan
5 minute walk from Exit Takebashi Station



Empowering Tomorrow's Policy Makers

School of International and Public Policy, Hitotsubashi University

HITOTSUBASHI

HITOTSUBASHI UNIVERSITY