

Department of Global & Transcultural Studies

Your path to global citizenship starts in Yokohama.

- Explore Japan's past and present.
- Meet people from various cultures.
- Learn in small classes.

Our Department

The Department of Global and Transcultural Studies offers an undergraduate degree program in English. Concentrating on the intersections of global politics, economics, culture, and society, our interdisciplinary program promotes knowledge, skills, and values necessary to engage with the world as responsible global citizens. Situating Japanese Studies at the core of our curriculum, we encourage students to examine the flows of people, ideas, and practices across perceived cultural divides and national and regional boundaries and to understand and appreciate today's complex globalized world.

Convenient Location

Located in Totsuka, on the green hills of Yokohama, our campus offers breathtaking views of Mt. Fuji. Totsuka Station serves major JR train lines and the Yokohama Municipal Subway Blue Line. A short train ride will take you to many cultural and historical heritage sites and attractions in Tokyo, Kamakura, Odawara, Minato Mirai, Yokohama China Town, as well as to scenic beaches and parks.

Affordable housing is another advantage of living in Totsuka. Many of our international students, including those from our exchange partners, live in the Meiji Gakuin International Student House (MISH). MISH provides the perfect opportunity to meet students from around the world, learn from each other, and form meaningful friendships that may last a lifetime. A limited amount of subsidized housing is available to those on a student visa.



Careers with Global Studies



Meiji Gakuin University

[Shirokane Campus] 1-2-37 Shirokanedai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8636, JAPAN
 [Yokohama Campus] 1518 Kamikurata-cho, Totsuka-ku, Yokohama 244-8539, JAPAN
 Office of International Studies Tel: 045-863-2200; from abroad +81-45-863-2200



For admission information,
visit our website.



MEIJI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY
Faculty of International Studies

DO FOR OTHERS
WHAT YOU WANT THEM
TO DO FOR YOU.



Curriculum

Our innovative curriculum has evolved over the course of more than 10 years since the establishment of the department in 2011 to provide a level of education on par with leading universities in English-speaking countries. Engaging with 8 themes related to global issues across 4 academic fields, students acquire broad expertise in Global and Transcultural Studies and develop skills essential for success in the 21st century: critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and language skills. With an annual intake of 55 students, we offer small classes that allow for individualized attention and a more engaging and interactive learning experience.

THEMES	Four Academic Fields	Practicum
1 Cultural Flow	Cultural Studies Sociology/Anthropology Economics Politics	Academic English + Multilingual + Study Abroad + Internship + Projects
2 Gender		
3 Inequality		
4 Human Development		
5 Race and Ethnicity		
6 Sustainability		
7 Governance		
8 Peace and Security		
Interdisciplinary Learning: Analyzing 8 Themes through 4 Academic Fields		
Goals of 4Cs (Critical thinking, Creativity, Communication, Collaboration) + English Skills (Communication, Debating, Public Presentation in English) → Global Career		



Study Japanese

We teach Japanese language classes from beginner to advanced levels. Students with sufficient language skills can take classes in Japanese in the Department of International Studies and through the university's General Education Program.



Keiko Okumura Japanese Language Program Coordinator

We offer a variety of lower- and upper-division Japanese language courses. The upper-division courses are content-based: students learn the language while expanding their knowledge of Japan and other countries. For example, in "Career Japanese," we focus on cross-cultural communication; in "Advanced Japanese 1," we consider social issues in Japan; in "Advanced Japanese 2," we develop academic writing skills by addressing various global issues. Classes are open to students of all cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including those whose first language is Japanese.

More Languages

If you are proficient in Japanese, you can study another foreign language, such as French, Spanish, German, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Italian, Thai, and Korean.

AEP

Academic English Program is a set of foundational courses in liberal arts education. Through a content and language integrated (CLIL) approach, students develop academic English skills necessary to thrive in English medium instruction courses in the GTS program and abroad. Some of our courses include Capstone Project, Rhetoric & Research Writing, and Presentation & Seminar Skills.



GTS Student's Voice

Ai Miyazaki

What I consider the most attractive aspect of this department is that it helps you overcome your fear of speaking English. Starting with courses on critical writing and academic reading for first-year students and continuing with discussions and presentations again and again, you gradually gain confidence. All the classes are conducted in English and that gives you further opportunities to use the language on a daily basis. With so many international students in the department, you quickly make friends, expose yourself to native English, and start speaking more naturally.

YEARLY PLAN	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
PROJECT-BASED Learning & Language	Academic English Program + Multilingual Program			
	Intro Seminar	Internship Lecture + Life Career and Development + Field Study + Career-Focused Lectures	Research Project	Graduation Project + Year 4 Seminars + Poster Thesis Presentation
ACTIVE Learning of Specialized Contents	Japanese Language Program for International Students			
	Cultural Studies			
	Society			
	Economics			
GLOBAL Learning & Career	Politics			
	Short- and Long-term Study abroad Programs (Exchange, Double Degree, etc.)			
	Internships + Practica + Career Support			
Extracurricular Activities, School Clubs, Buddy Program, etc.				

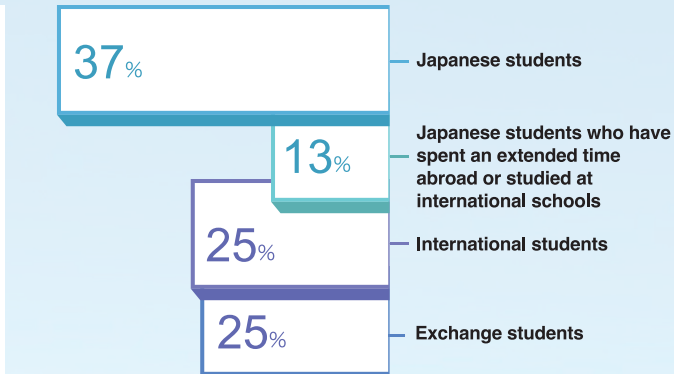
Multicultural Classroom

Our academic community reflects the concept of global citizenship, according to which individuals are members of multiple networks rather than single actors in isolated societies. GTS brings together students and faculty members from around the world. Communicating across cultural and linguistic differences, we are committed to creating a welcoming community where everyone feels respected and supported to learn to their full potential.

Our faculty members have been active as academics in multiple countries. Drawing from their rich experiences at universities around the world, they bring world-class education standards to our classrooms. As former international students, the professors develop positive and caring relationships with current students that are crucial for academic success.

GTS is the home department to students with diverse educational, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds. With students from Japan and around the world, our classes reflect our global community.

non-Japanese	study abroad experience	EST. 2011	faculty: student ratio	22 countries of origin (2011-2023)
70%	100%		1 st	
Faculty	languages spoken	English-medium instruction	Students enrolled in seminars	Students
11	100%		5	
English-based education	work/study experience in	student support	domestic: international	
100%	9 countries	100%	17	50:50



Choose from 100+ Courses

Introduction to Social Anthropology	Introduction to Political Science
Introduction to Sociology	Buddhist Culture
Gender and Society	Global History
Transcultural Studies	Japanese Minority Groups
Japanese Popular Culture	Japanese Foreign Policy
Environmental Politics in Japan and East Asia	Social Entrepreneurship
Regional Economic Development	Labor Economics and Public Policy
Comparative Politics and Policy	Behavioral Economics and Public Policy

Technical Training Courses

Life & Career Development	Advanced Research Analysis
Information Literacy	Qualitative Methods
Translation & Interpretation	Quantitative Methods
Introduction to Business Studies	Supply Chain Management
Introduction to Accounting	Visual Media Methods



More Opportunities for Growth

Study abroad

Study abroad is available at some of the most prestigious universities in the world, including the University of California (USA), University of British Columbia (Canada), University of Manchester (UK), Maastricht University (Netherlands), University of Sydney (Australia), and Yonsei University (South Korea). Meiji Gakuin University holds partnership agreements with 81 universities and 1 consortium in 24 countries around the world.

Field Studies

Students learn to apply conceptual knowledge in real-world contexts through this experiential learning program. It is a combination of a one-term seminar on a particular topic and a faculty-led research trip for a week or two within or outside Japan.

Internship

Students develop transferable skills and earn valuable experience through our internship programs in Japan and abroad. Some examples include: business internships in Hong Kong; the United Nations Youth Volunteers Program; domestic NPOs and private companies; Japanese language teaching assistantships in Australian schools; Walt Disney World® Resort internship (University of California Riverside).

Double Degree Program

This program allows students the opportunity to spend several semesters at San Francisco State University majoring in any discipline of their choice and earn two degrees—from Japan and the USA.

Financial Support

To help students coming from abroad with no family connections in Japan, our department offers a limited number of scholarships in addition to the tuition remission provided by the university. Both are available to students on a student visa.



Check our website for details



Statements by Students and Faculty Members



Gergana Ivanova

Born and raised in Bulgaria, I have studied courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences in English in a non-English speaking country like Japan? You will experience elite college-level education in English, coupled with the invaluable opportunity to immerse yourself in the local language and culture. In my classes, students from various countries explore the intricacies of the Japanese labor market, encountering real-life labor issues in their everyday experiences and exchanging insights from their home countries. I am confident that they gain a profound understanding of both Japan and their roots, as well as the home countries of their peers—a true benefit of learning content in a specific cultural context!



SunYoun Lee

Curious about the advantages of taking courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences in English in a non-English speaking country like Japan? You will experience elite college-level education in English, coupled with the invaluable opportunity to immerse yourself in the local language and culture. In my classes, students from various countries explore the intricacies of the Japanese labor market, encountering real-life labor issues in their everyday experiences and exchanging insights from their home countries. I am confident that they gain a profound understanding of both Japan and their roots, as well as the home countries of their peers—a true benefit of learning content in a specific cultural context!



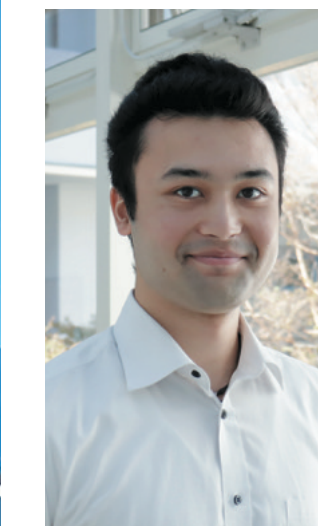
Alexander Vesey

Recently we often encounter "trans-" in various words. As suggested by our name "Transcultural Studies," "trans-" can mean "going over" or "crossing." Due to globalization, flows of people, media, products, and ideas are crossing over older national, regional, and cultural boundaries, and they are changing our lives. In our department, both teachers and students with multicultural backgrounds gather in class to discuss and consider the potentials and problems of globalization. Every day we study topics that expose us to a range of "boundary-crossing" topics and perspectives. I am strongly invigorated by this kind of global learning environment, and thus I always look forward to engaging students in class. We welcome you to study the world with us!



Karin Ohno

I chose GTS because I was attracted to the Double Degree Program. It was challenging to keep up with the classes and the assignments, all of which were in English, but it was a rewarding experience that prepared me for my study abroad later. In GTS, I also met professors I continue to respect and friends I cherish. Having earned two undergraduate degrees, one from Meiji Gakuin University and one from San Francisco State University, I was later awarded an MA in Belgium and a PhD in England. I specialize in Feminist Political Thought and have completed a PhD dissertation on representations of female soldiers in media discourse. GTS is the perfect place for those who want to study abroad or in an international setting while remaining in Japan.



Ryo Toyoshima

Choosing GTS has been one of the most fulfilling decisions in my life. What I find truly fascinating is the diverse backgrounds of our professors and students in our department. This diversity creates a special atmosphere where people with various life experiences come together and share their thoughts and viewpoints. Studying in such an environment has not only broadened my perspective but also expanded my understanding of the subjects we study. The small class sizes have been a significant benefit, too, especially for students like me who find it challenging to concentrate in larger, more distracting classes. Small classes also create an environment where students can easily engage with their professors and receive personal attention—a characteristic that distinguishes our program from others.



Dominic Eftekhazadeh

Exchange Student, University of California, Berkeley

Studying in the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies has been an amazing opportunity. I was able to live in Japanese society while focusing on classes that discussed the economics of Japan. My professors were extremely knowledgeable and made my time here enjoyable. Through this program, I received an amazing education while having enough time to travel across Japan. The new perspectives and cultures that I experienced will stick with me forever.