

Faculty of International Studies FAQ



About the Faculty of International Studies (FIS)

Q. Where does the Faculty of International Studies holds its classes, Yokohama or Shirokane?

The Faculty of International Studies holds its classes on the Yokohama Campus throughout the four years of study. Staying on the same campus for four years strengthens the relationships between senior and junior students and creates a close bond between faculty members and students. The Yokohama Campus is surrounded by a rich natural environment that allows students to enjoy a relaxed and fulfilling college life.

Q. What are the attractive features of the Faculty of International Studies?

[Curriculum]

- Students can freely choose to take courses on a wide range of topics that include language & culture, society, economics, law & politics, etc.
- Many faculty members specialize in pioneering fields such as peace studies and multicultural coexistence.
- The curriculum includes extensive area studies, allowing students to learn about important global regions from various perspectives.

[Language and Study Abroad]

- English courses are well-developed, helping students acquire practical language skills by graduation.
- Students have many opportunities to take classes alongside top-tier international students.
- By joining the Double Degree Program, students can obtain degrees from both Meiji Gakuin in Japan and a U.S. university.

[Student Life]

- Students who have not decided on their academic focus upon entering university can explore various courses before choosing their major.
- Students can frequently consult with faculty members about classes, studying abroad, and future career paths through seminars (International Studies Department) or the Academic Advising System (Global and Transcultural Studies Department).

*The Faculty's Official Website <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/>

Q. What is the difference between the Department of International Studies and the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies?

Both departments focus on "International Studies." The biggest difference is that most courses in

the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies are conducted in English from the first year, including assignments and discussions. Additionally, the Department of International Studies enrolls about 245 students per year, while the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies enrolls about 55 students. However, every Faculty student can take courses from both departments. For example, a student from the Department of International Studies can take English-taught courses in the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies to prepare for studying abroad. Conversely, a student from the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies can take Japanese-taught courses from the Department of International Studies.

Q. How does the Faculty of International Studies differ from the Department of English in the Faculty of Letters?

The Department of English's courses are divided into three specialized concentrations from the third year: "British Literature," "American Literature," and "Linguistics." The curriculum centers on English and American literary studies. In contrast, the Faculty of International Studies provides a broad education in the humanities and social sciences while providing students with practical English skills for global careers.

Q. How does the Faculty of International Studies differ from the Department of International Business in the Faculty of Economics?

While the Department of International Business focuses on business administration from an international perspective, the Faculty of International Studies covers a wider range of topics, including society, economics, politics, and culture. Additionally, the Department of International Business requires a mandatory study abroad program in the second year, whereas the Faculty of International Studies allows students to choose whether to study abroad, when to go, and for how long, based on individual preferences.

Q. How does the Faculty of International Studies differ from the Department of Global Legal Studies in the Faculty of Law?

The Department of Global Legal Studies focuses on international and comparative law. In contrast, the Faculty of International Studies allows students to choose their concentration after enrollment based on their interests, and students can focus on both law and political science.

About the Department of International Studies (IS)

Q. What will I learn in the Department of International Studies?

The Department of International Studies aims to develop individuals capable of analyzing global issues from multiple perspectives, including culture, politics, and economics. Students study practical English from their first to third year and they also learn a second foreign language during their first and second years. From the latter half of the second year, students join a specialized

seminar based on their interests. In the fourth year, students complete a graduation thesis as the culmination of their university studies.

Q. What are seminars?

Seminars are small discussion-based classes with about ten students per faculty member. In the first year, the Introductory Seminar helps students adjust to university life. From the second year, students choose a seminar based on their interests and typically remain in the same seminar until they complete their graduation thesis in the fourth year. Additionally, about half of the seminars hosts a field work program, where students visit countries or regions related to their research themes, conduct field surveys, and interact with local students. These exercises last one to two weeks and may take place in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, or Japan.

*More about Seminars <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/is/seminar/>

*More about Field Study <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/is/field-study/>

About the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies (GTS)

Q. What will I learn in the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies?

The Department of Global and Transcultural Studies offers small-class education with about 55 students per year. The curriculum covers diverse topics, including culture, society, politics, and economics, and this thematic breadth teaches students to analyze global issues from multiple perspectives. All courses are conducted in English from the first year to develop practical English proficiency. This prepares students for careers in international organizations and overseas companies. The program also encourages participation in study abroad programs, internships, and Field Studies. Instead of a graduation thesis, students complete an English-language “Graduation Project.”

Q. What kind of students enroll in the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies?

Approximately three-fourths of the students are Japanese nationals, but they come from diverse backgrounds, including:

1. Japanese students who graduated from domestic high schools
2. Returnees who have lived abroad before returning to Japan
3. Foreign students residing in Japan who graduated from a public Japanese high school or an international school
4. International students from various countries

Q. Are there English-language courses for students who need additional support?

Yes. The Department of Global and Transcultural Studies offers its “Academic English Program (AEP),” which helps students to effectively engage in English-taught courses. Students take a

placement test (TOEFL ITP) upon enrollment, and the department assigns their AEP classes based on their English proficiency.

More about the Academic English Program <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/gts/fl-subj/>

About Admissions

Q. Where can I ask questions about the entrance exams?

For questions about entrance exams, please contact the Admissions Center.

*Admissions Information in Japanese for the university, including both Faculty departments. (You can use a translation service to read this in other languages.):

<https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/admission/>

Admissions information in English for GTS:

<https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/admission/information/seido/gts/index.html>

The Faculty of International Studies offers a September admission system for both departments.

During the summer and spring “Open Campus” events at our Yokohama and Shirokane campuses, students and faculty members will be available for personal consultation.

The following link (contents in Japanese) offers a web-based format to experience the campus.

*Entrance Exam Information (Online Open Campus)

https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/admission/event/online_opencampus/

Q. How should I prepare for the General Entrance Exams in February?

A note to students applying from outside the Japanese high school system: These tests are primarily conducted in Japanese. If you are not able read, write and speak Japanese and considering applying to the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies, you should use the AO examination system discussed below.

Past exam questions are available online for reference (in Japanese):

<https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/admission/reference/kakomon/>

Both the Dept. of International Studies and The Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies utilize the university's system for giving examination credits to students who achieve high scores on tests such as the TOEFL, GTEC, etc. Please check the university's main Admissions page (in Japanese) for more information:

https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/admission/information/ippan_all_english/

Q. What is the AO entrance exam for the Department of International Studies?

The AO entrance exam for the Department of International Studies has two categories: AO(A) and AO(B).

- AO(A): This category is for applicants with achievements in research projects, volunteer work, sports, or cultural activities, as well as those who have studied at an international school in Japan for over three years or have studied abroad for more than three months. It includes an English examination and essay writing test in Japanese, as well as an interview.
- AO(B): This category is for applicants with a certain level of English proficiency. Applicants must submit an English proficiency test score (such as EIKEN or TOEFL). Those who meet the score requirements are exempt from the English test and only need to take the essay and interview. The essay content is the same for both AO(A) and AO(B).

Q. Should I apply for AO(A) or AO(B) in the Department of International Studies?

If you meet the criteria for both categories, you may apply for either one, but you cannot apply for both at the same time. Choose the one that best reflects your strengths and qualifications.

Q. What is the difference between AO(A) and AO(B) for the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies?

Both exams are open to applicants regardless of nationality. However, they have different English proficiency requirements and consider the primary language of education during high school.

- AO(A): This is like entrance exams for liberal arts colleges abroad. Applicants submit an application form, written responses to several short questions, academic transcripts, one letter of recommendation, and an English proficiency test score. Those who pass the document screening will have an online interview (for overseas applicants) or an in-person interview (for applicants in Japan).
- AO(B): This is akin to the standard AO entrance exam used by other departments. Applicants first undergo a document screening. Those who pass will then be invited to the Shirokane campus in Tokyo to take an English exam and an essay writing test, as well as an interview. Applicants with an EIKEN Pre-1 Grade or an equivalent English proficiency test score are exempt from the English test.

Q. Should I apply for AO(A) or AO(B) in the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies?

AO(A) is recommended for applicants who:

1. Have studied at a high school where English is the primary language of instruction (e.g., a school in the U.S. or Canada).
2. Have attended an international school in Japan where English is the primary language of instruction.
3. Have studied in a non-English-speaking country and currently reside abroad and therefore are ineligible for AO(B).

AO(B) is recommended for applicants who:

Have studied at a high school in Japan where Japanese is the primary language of instruction. Even if an applicant has a multicultural background or is from a foreign country, if they have graduated or will graduate from a Japanese high school, they are advised to apply through AO(B).

About Studying Abroad

Q. Where can I find information about studying abroad?

Please visit the university's International Center website for information on study abroad programs. After enrollment, the International Center provides support for students interested in studying abroad and those currently abroad.

International Center Website (in Japanese) <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/international/>

Q. What types of long-term study abroad programs are available?

There are three main categories:

- University Study Abroad Programs
- Faculty and Department Study Abroad Program
- Non-Partner (Self-Financed) Study Abroad Programs

University-wide Study Abroad Programs – Open to students from all faculties:

1. UC (University of California) Program
2. ISP (International Student Program)
3. ACUCA (The Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia) Program
4. Exchange Programs (Students must meet eligibility requirements and pay the tuition fees of the host university)
5. Global Career Internship (UCR-Disney)
6. International Contribution Internship (e.g., UN Youth Volunteer Program, overseas volunteer programs)

*More information in the University Guide (in Japanese) <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/request/>

*Contact: International Center <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/international/>

Faculty-Specific Study Abroad Programs – Available only to students in the Faculty of International Studies.

The Faculty of International Studies' Double Degree Program gives its students the opportunity to earn degrees from both Meiji Gakuin University and our partner university in the U.S. (details below).

Q. What is the UCR-Disney program?

The UCR-Disney program allows students to study tourism and business at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) Extension Center. This is followed by a paid internship at Walt Disney World in Florida.

*Contact: International Center <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/international/>

Q. Who is eligible for long-term study abroad programs?

Generally, students must be in their second year or above. University selection for study abroad programs typically take place about one year before departure, during the spring or fall semester.

Q. Can I graduate in four years if I study abroad?

Meiji Gakuin University has a credit transfer system for recognized study abroad programs. This allows students to apply credits earned abroad toward graduation. Most students who study abroad graduate within four years but depending on the courses taken and study abroad period, some students may require more than four years to complete their degree.

Q. How much does study abroad cost?

For long-term exchange programs at partner universities, students only need to pay tuition to Meiji Gakuin University and do not have to pay tuition to the host university. However, students are responsible for living expenses. Costs for other study abroad programs vary depending on the program.

*More information: International Center <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/international/>

Q. What percentage of students go on study abroad programs?

The number varies by year, but recent figures are approximately:

- Long-term study abroad: 15-20% of International Studies students, around 20–30% of Global and Transcultural Studies students
- Short-term study abroad: 25-30% of International Studies students, around 5% of Global and Transcultural Studies students

**Long-term study abroad refers to programs lasting at least one semester, including overseas internships.*

**Short-term study abroad programs take place during summer or spring vacations, mainly focusing on language training.*

**Additionally, some students take a leave of absence to study abroad independently or participate in international internships.*

**The Department of Global and Transcultural Studies has many students who graduated from high schools outside Japan or are enrolled as foreign students. If these students are excluded from the calculations, then the percentage of students who go to study abroad is significantly higher.*

Overseas Study Programs Managed by the Faculty of International Studies

<https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/student/sa/>

*Contact: Faculty of International Studies Office <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/en/contact/>

Q. What types of study abroad programs are available exclusively to students of the Faculty of International Studies?

The following three programs are available:

- Double Degree Program (San Francisco State University)
- Japanese Language Teaching Assistant (TA) Programs (Australia, U.S.)
- Business Program (Hong Kong)

Q. What is the Double Degree Program?

The Double Degree Program allows students to obtain degrees from both Meiji Gakuin University and San Francisco State University (SFSU). Only students from the Faculty of International Studies are eligible to apply. The total duration of the program, from enrollment to graduation at both universities, is approximately 5.5 years, with an average study abroad period of 2.5 years. Since this program is part of a recognized credit transfer system, students whose major at SFSU closely relates to the Faculty of International Studies (such as International Relations) may be able to graduate earlier by transferring a relatively large number of credits. While students must pay tuition fees to both Meiji Gakuin University and SFSU during their study abroad period, they can apply for a scholarship from Meiji Gakuin University to cover the equivalent amount of Meiji Gakuin's tuition fees.

*Estimated annual tuition and living expenses at SFSU: approximately \$50,048 (as of 2026).

Q. What is the Japanese Teaching Assistant (TA) Program?

This is an approximately six-month unpaid internship program where students assist in Japanese language education at elementary, junior high, and high schools in Australia and the U.S.

Q. What is the Business Program in Hong Kong?

This is an approximately one-month internship program held during the summer vacation at Japanese-affiliated companies in Hong Kong. Participants gain experience in business etiquette and basic office tasks. (Please note that this program may not be offered every year.)

Career Opportunities

Q. What career paths do graduates pursue? (Some sites will require translation from Japanese.)

For detailed information on career opportunities, please refer to the following resources:

- University Guide <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/request/>
- Faculty of International Studies (FIS) Brochure <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/about/ebook/>

- University website: Career <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/career/>
- FIS website [Voices of Current Students and Alumni]
 - Department of International Studies <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/is/voice/>
 - Department of Global and Transcultural Studies <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/gts/voice/>

Q. Can I receive job-hunting support while studying abroad?

Yes. Meiji Gakuin University's Career Center provides job-hunting consultations before and during study abroad to students wishing to work in Japan upon graduation. (This support is provided in Japanese only.)

Other Information

Q. Are there dormitories for students?

Meiji Gakuin University offers a female-only dormitory (in front of the JR Line Higashi-Kanagawa Sta.) and an international student dormitory near Totsuka Station (5-minute walk). Applications for dormitory accommodations generally open around November. As spots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, many students who pass the special exams secure places early. However, there are opportunities to apply after the general entrance exam results are announced.

*For information on availability, please check the university website:

Student Dormitories <https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/gakusei/welfare.html#D>

Q. Is it convenient to live alone near the Yokohama Campus?

Many students in the Faculty of International Studies rent an apartment and live near the Yokohama Campus or around Totsuka Station, the nearest train station. The Totsuka area has a wide range of restaurants, cafés, and commercial facilities, as well as numerous part-time job opportunities.

Q. Are there opportunities for international exchange?

Yes. The Faculty of International Studies includes students from diverse backgrounds, such as returnees, international students, and faculty members with various nationalities. Meiji Gakuin University also hosts many exchange students from overseas partner universities, most of whom study at the Yokohama Campus. The first floor of Building 8, where many Faculty of International Studies classes take place, serves as an International Lounge, facilitating cross-cultural interactions. Additionally, the University hosts a “Buddy Program” which enables small groups of Japanese students and international students to engage in meaningful exchanges.

Q. What qualifications can I obtain in the Faculty of International Studies?

Department of International Studies:

- Junior High School Teaching License (Social Studies)

- High School Teaching License (Geography, History, Civics)
- Social Welfare Administrator Certification

Department of Global and Transcultural Studies does not offer teaching licenses, but GTS students can obtain a Social Welfare Administrator Certification.

*Students in the Department of International Studies may also pursue an Elementary School Teaching License (Type II) by enrolling in a correspondence course at another university while completing the teaching program at Meiji Gakuin University (additional tuition fees apply). All of these programs will require a high level of Japanese language competency.

*Please be aware that obtaining a teaching license requires completing specific courses and a teaching practicum. As a result, students who plan to study abroad for an extended period may find it difficult to graduate within four years.

Further Information:

University Guide [Teaching License Program & Career Support]

<https://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/request/>

Faculty of International Studies Brochure <https://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/ebook/>