

October 2025

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
President Hiroko Ota

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Call for Applications for our
Master's and Doctoral Degree Programs**

Thank you very much for your continuous support in our research and educational activities. I am writing this letter to seek your cooperation in our promotional activities for student recruitment.

The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) was established in 1997 as Japan's first center for full-scale policy research and education, with a mission to contribute to the advancement of democratic governance in Japan and around the world. As a stand-alone national graduate school, we offer various programs in English for government officials, both Japanese and international, to obtain a master's degree in one year (two-year master's programs and three-year doctoral programs are also available). Our programs cover a wide range of fields, including public policy, economic policy, security and foreign policy, science, technology and innovation policy, and disaster management policy, allowing students to study in an interdisciplinary manner. Numerous full scholarships are available for international students.

The most distinctive feature of GRIPS is that it attracts mid-career government officials from over 50 countries each year, particularly from the Indo-Pacific region. Currently, we have 242 international and 159 Japanese students enrolled. These individuals are poised to become future leaders in their respective countries. Our alumni network has already expanded to over 120 countries and regions. I believe that the opportunity to engage with colleagues from more than 50 countries, including Japan, is invaluable for administrators in any country.

To make the most of this unique environment, we are increasing opportunities for students to learn from each other through group discussions. In addition, we launched the Center for Data Science in 2022 to focus on data science education for students. Ability to effectively interpret and analyze big data using econometrics and modern data science methods are essential skills for today's administrators to effectively implement evidence-based policy making (EBPM).

We will soon begin accepting applications for our master's and doctoral programs for enrollment in fall 2026. Please check the link to our Admissions website below for details. Our aim is to nurture "future leaders with the ability to think and act". As policy issues become increasingly complex and difficult, we would like you to consider our programs as an ideal learning opportunity for mid-career and junior staff members in your organization and encourage them to apply to our programs. Additionally, I am enclosing a poster to help interested individuals in your organization learn more about our offerings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us any time. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,



Hiroko Ota

President

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Note:

Admission will be on a strictly competitive basis. This letter does not offer any quota for your organization or guarantee individual admissions in any way.

<Inquiries>

Admissions Office

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-8677

Email: admissions@grips.ac.jp

◆Characteristics of GRIPS◆

<https://www.grips.ac.jp/>

- Our students are candidates for mid-career executives in their respective affiliated organizations: government, public institutions and private companies
- Master's degree programs for 1 year (some for 2 years)
- Full scholarships available. More than 90% of our students are on full scholarship (MEXT, ADB, WB, WCO, IMF, JICA)
- 60% of our students are international students. Government officials from more than 50 countries gather at GRIPS
- Founded the Center for Data Science within the University in 2022. Courses and counseling system to equip students with data analysis ability are offered
- Center for Professional Communication: supports student to improve their academic writing and speaking skills

◆Major master's programs for International students◆

Young Leaders Program

(School of Government, School of Local Governance)

One-year Master's Program of Public Policy (MPI)

Two-year Master's Program of Public Policy (MP2)

Macroeconomic Policy Program

Public Finance Program (Customs course, Tax course)

◆Ph.D. programs for International students◆

Policy Analysis Program

(Public Economics, Development Economics, International Economics)

GRIPS Global Governance Program (G-cube)

(International Development Studies, International Relations)

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Program

Disaster Management Program

◆Voices from our Graduates◆

Excerpts from “Alumnus of the Month”

<https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/alumni/almo/pastalmo/>

Namutebi Edith Nsubuga (Uganda)



Minister Counselor

Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in Kinshasa,

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) State Building and Economic Development Program (SBED) ('17)

**Currently GRIPS Global Governance Program (G-cube)*

The PhD in International Development I received from GRIPS has helped me handle my work more competently, increased my analytical skills, enhanced my writing skills, and boosted my confidence and attitude towards my work in a holistic manner.

Shamsuzzoha (Bangladesh)



Deputy Director

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

Two-year Master's Program of Public Policy (MP2) ('14)

Public Policy Program (Ph.D.) ('17)

The most important thing from my study in GRIPS is that it changed and reshaped my whole idea about public policy and policy-making. Previously, my idea was that public policy is mainly about vision, good planning and dependent largely on individual skills. But GRIPS, in the very first semester, taught me that it is about analysis, mathematical modeling, economics, understanding the market, welfare analysis etc. That is why I loved the economics and econometrics courses, even being from an engineering background, so much that I was the highest scorer in every economics-related course whether it was microeconomics or macroeconomics, and both in intermediate and advanced level courses. I learned every step of how to develop public policies, the 360-degree views and considerations required in each step, the economic and mathematical models that are required to analyze social phenomena and the history and experience of development. At the same time, I learned how to conduct modern research on social science and became aware of the importance operations research.

The academic knowledge and research I gained at GRIPS changed me as a policy-

maker and transformed my approach to public policy, enabling me to perform policy-related tasks based on my acquired knowledge and educate others in the same. This experience opened my eyes to the policy-making cycle in my office and practically set my career course in this field. I cherish this experience and the recognition I received from my job, and much of it is thanks to GRIPS.

Ryan L. Estevez (Philippines)



Undersecretary
Philippines Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
Young Leaders Program ('11)

As a student of GRIPS, I learned of the comparative advantages of first world countries, including Japan, in terms of fiscal reforms especially in the local governments that eventually led me to drafting for consideration of my principal - Senate President Pimentel III, bills that address and empower local governments in the Philippines. The discipline I also learned during the Great Tohoku earthquake (that occurred when I was a student in GRIPS), also gave me living testimonies of the discipline and the resilience of the Japanese people. These experiences have been my consistent and constant examples in giving lectures to local government officials relative to disaster and character-building as well as introducing reforms relative to the creation or establishment of a disaster resilience department for the Philippines.

Talaitupu Li'a (Samoa)



Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Customs and Revenue, Samoa
Public Finance Program ('08)

GRIPS has taught me essential lessons, emphasizing the vitality of passion in every endeavor. My passion for Customs work, coupled with the knowledge gained from studying International Customs Law pushed me to build a career within the Customs field.

This unique blend of academic knowledge and personal growth has been pivotal in shaping my journey and accomplishments in the realm of Customs administration.

Harish Kumar Kallega (India)



Joint Director

Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

Government of India

Macroeconomic Policy Program ('20)

For anyone considering studying at GRIPS, my advice would be that after a few years of work in a professional environment, a stint at GRIPS can be a great opportunity to rejuvenate your knowledge. Updating your skills and know-how in the middle of your career can have a significant impact on your success in the work environment. GRIPS is one of the best options for such a relearning experience. GRIPS offers excellent, richly experienced faculty and the opportunity to learn from professionals across countries. I strongly recommend taking as many relevant courses as possible to enrich your knowledge.

Thursday, 20 November 2025, 8:45:53 AM

Rida Noor
Section Officer Coordination