

Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program (MSP)

Purpose of the Program

Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program is a collaborative program designed and administered jointly by GRIPS, Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This program makes it possible for students to benefit from the resources of both institutions in the fields of public policy, security studies, maritime safety, and maritime security.

Students will have the opportunity to acquire professional knowledge, advanced practical application, management, analytical skills, problem-solving skills, and communication skills relevant to their work and international environment while becoming members of a network of future coast guard leaders in Asia. This program will enable them to fulfill their duties and improve their ability to deal with international issues in a timely and appropriate manner.

Furthermore, by fostering mutual understanding, this training program will help to build a network of participating countries, which will in turn help to strengthen international cooperation.

Diploma Policy

This program confers a degree in Policy Studies (Master of Policy Studies) on students who have been enrolled for at least the designated number of years; have acquired the designated number of credits based on the curriculum of the program; have written and given a presentation on research papers on specific subjects, and have passed that process.

In this program, students should acquire the following qualities and abilities:

1. The knowledge and analytical ability to understand problems and challenges, and to identify opportunities for improvement in the areas of maritime safety and security
2. The knowledge, analytical ability, creativity, and leadership to formulate policies and take necessary actions to tackle problems and improve the safety and security environment at sea
3. The practical and professional skills to manage and lead coast guard organizations

4. The ability to conduct policy analysis for problem solving based on academic analysis from multiple perspectives by having a broad knowledge of maritime safety and security policy
5. Develop strong personal bonds that would enable them to work closely together to analyze and tackle issues and challenges that we are facing today and will face in the future

Curriculum Policy

【Basic Policy】

Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program is implemented in cooperation with Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The program offers a wide range of subjects related to maritime issues, as well as various field trips, through which students gain advanced knowledge in both theory and practice, and will attain the ability to formulate policy creatively and deal with maritime challenges effectively.

【Structure of the Curriculum】

Junior coast guard officers from different parts of Asia will study at GRIPS in Tokyo during the first half of the academic year and in Kure, Hiroshima at the Japan Coast Guard Academy (JCGA)—the JCG's most important educational institution—during the second half of the academic year.

Students will attend lectures, which focus on past maritime incidents and possible future scenarios, offered by leading experts and Japan Coast Guard officers. Through lectures and discussions, students will both enhance their understanding of the roles played by maritime law enforcement agencies and learn best practices.

The curriculum consists of required courses, elective courses (highly recommended courses), and elective courses. The required courses include practical training. In addition, students use the knowledge and data analysis techniques they have learned so far on specific policy issues to compile and give a presentation on them as a single issue analysis and policy recommendation.

(Required Courses)

Students will take required and elective courses at GRIPS from October through March. The required courses are International Relations, International Security

Studies, International Law, International Relations in East Asia, International Law of the Sea, and Case Study on Maritime Safety and Security Policy.

From April through July, students will take courses and participate in practical training and educational programs at the JCGA. The required courses are Policy for Search and Rescue, Salvage and Maritime Disaster Prevention, and Maritime Police Policy.

(Elective Courses)

The elective courses will enable students to deepen their knowledge in the fields of their interest. The elective subjects include courses in politics, economics, national security, and policy making.

Students can enhance their ability to effectively execute their duties as coast guard leaders in Asia through the study of a wide range of elective subjects. The JCGA's elective courses are designed to develop students' knowledge of science, technology, and criminal investigation, all of which are vital elements of effective policy formulation.

【Policies on Education and Study Methods】

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credits, of which 4 credits are in seminar-style courses. Also, by taking courses and workshops of academic ethics education for writing papers, students can enhance academic English writing for writing papers.

Students will receive lectures on course work as well as practical case study classes. Students are also required to participate in various site visits and field trips.

100% of the MSP classes in Japan Coast Guard Academy are small group and conducted only for MSP students.

Therefore students are required to actively join class discussions and learn from other countries.

【Assessment Policy】

In the assessment of academic achievement in each subject, students are relatively evaluated for their knowledge acquisition and understanding and practical skills in principle, considering their attendance, contribution to the class, scores of examinations, submitted reports, etc., and their overall ability is evaluated through the writing of papers for specific research subjects.

Admissions Policy

Target Students

Junior officers from maritime safety and security related organizations in Asian countries.

Prior to admission, job experience of more than 5 years in the field of maritime safety and security related areas, as well as experience in a leadership position is required. Students must have good academic English ability.

Evaluation methods and Standards

[Screening by documents]

The screening process will consider various aspects of applicants such as; a comprehensive evaluation of past work experiences, evaluations by their 2 references, university (Faculty) degrees, study content and grades, originality of research plans and relevance to real policy issues, how concrete their awareness of issues, content of master's theses, their English proficiency in their writing papers, etc.

[Interview]

We will use a TV Conference system. First, candidates are asked to take examination in English which relates to maritime safety followed by interview. The criteria for screening will include the applicant's willingness to study, clarity of their career plans after graduation, logic, accuracy, sense of purpose for policy issues, and English communication abilities etc.

Curriculum Map: Maritime Safety and Security Program (MSP)

			Diploma Policy 1	Diploma Policy 2	Diploma Policy 3	Diploma Policy 4	Diploma Policy 5
Category	Course No.	Course Name	1. The knowledge and analytical ability to understand problems and challenges, and to identify opportunities for improvement in the areas of maritime safety and security	2. The knowledge, analytical ability, creativity, and leadership to formulate policies and take necessary actions to tackle problems and improve the safety and security environment at sea	3. The practical and professional skills to manage and lead coast guard organizations	4. The ability to conduct policy analysis for problem solving based on academic analysis from multiple perspectives by having a broad knowledge of maritime safety and security policy	5. Develop strong personal bonds that would enable them to work closely together to analyze and tackle issues and challenges that we are facing today and will face in the future
I Required Courses	MSP4000E	Independent Study				○	○
	GOV1400E	International Relations in East Asia	○				
	GOV2200EA/B	International Relations	○				
	GOV2240EB	International Security Studies	○				
	MSP2000E	Maritime Police Policy	○	○			
	MSP3000E	International Law	○	○			
	MSP3010E	International Law of the Sea	○	○			
	MSP3020E	Policy for Search & Rescue, Salvage and Maritime Disaster Prevention	○	○			
	MSP5000E	Case Study on Maritime Safety and Security Policy I		○	○		
	MSP5010E	Case Study on Maritime Safety and Security Policy II		○	○		
II Recommended Courses	ECO1020E	Essential Microeconomics	○				
	ECO1080E	Essential Macroeconomics	○				
	ECO2020EB	Government and Market	○				
	GOV2100E	Government and Politics in Japan	○				
	GOV2210E	International Political Economy	○				
	GOV2280E	Military Operations, Strategy, and Policy	○	○			
	GOV2310E	Comparative Politics	○				
	GOV2460E	State and Politics in Southeast Asia	○				
	GOV3240E	Non-Traditional Security	○				
	GEN5020E	The World and the SDGs	○	○			
	MOR1000E	Introduction to Quantitative Methods	○				
	MSP2040E	Marine Environment and Pollution	○	○			
	MSP3030E	International Comparative Criminal Law	○	○			
	MSP3100E	Introduction to International Maritime Safety and Security Conventions	○	○			
	MSP2030E	Introduction to Oceanography	○	○			
	MSP2050E	Traffic Management Systems I			○		
	MSP2060E	Traffic Management Systems II			○		
	MSP3060E	Ship Maneuverability and Practical Operation			○		
	MSP3070E	Fundamentals of Advanced Energy Engineering	○	○			
MSP3080E	Information Management System I			○			
MSP3090E	Information Management System II			○			
III Elective Courses		Selected Topics in Policy Studies I - IV	○	○	○	○	○
		Courses not listed in this table	○	○	○	○	○
X Others		Courses offered by the Center for Professional Communication				○	○