

The Undergraduate Program of International Social Studies

■ Bachelor of Arts in International Social Sciences

Program Educational Objectives

Grounded in the interdisciplinary foundations of the social sciences—including sociology, political science, economics, and law—and supplemented by perspectives from information studies, the International Social Sciences Program aims to cultivate individuals capable of understanding, analyzing, and responding to the complex and rapidly evolving issues of global society. Students acquire a comprehensive body of knowledge and methodological skills supported by disciplinary expertise, enabling them to engage in flexible, creative, and socially responsive problem-solving in diverse international contexts.

Graduate Profile	<p>The program seeks to educate next generation of globally minded individuals who possess both strong disciplinary competencies and a broad, integrative understanding of the social sciences. Students develop the capacity to examine social phenomena from international and cross-cultural perspectives, critically evaluate evidence, and apply theoretical knowledge to real-world issues. By providing interdisciplinary education and research training in the social sciences, the program aims to produce graduates capable of contributing to policy development, organizational leadership, international cooperation, and academic inquiry. Another purpose of the program is nurturing awareness to social and cultural diversity, to equip students with capabilities to understand globalized world through a multi-faceted view.</p>
Career Paths after Graduation / Completion	<p>Graduates of the International Social Sciences Program are expected to combine advanced specialist knowledge with generalist perspectives spanning the social sciences. They are able to articulate and analyze global and local social issues, propose evidence-based solutions, and communicate effectively in multilingual multicultural environments. Equipped with competencies essential for a globalized world, graduates are prepared to work in public agencies, international organizations, multinational corporations, non-profit organizations, research institutions, and educational settings. They are also capable of contributing to entrepreneurial ventures and new forms of social value creation. Graduates pursue careers in international and domestic institutions, NGOs, think tanks, and educational or research institutions. A portion of graduates continue to graduate school—either in Japan or abroad—to deepen their expertise in their chosen fields. Some graduates pursue careers in start-ups or innovation-oriented sectors where international social science knowledge is needed.</p>

Diploma Policy

Bachelor of Arts in International Social Sciences is awarded to students who have been admitted to the program and who have acquired the knowledge, skills, and generic competences specified in the curriculum objectives stipulated for the University of Tsukuba's undergraduate degree programs and have reached the following achievement targets in their learning outcomes based on the educational purpose for the Undergraduate Program of International Social Studies.

Knowledge and Skills (Specialized Competences)	1. Understanding International Relations	In addition to its specialized fields, students will gain broad knowledge on international studies in general and various research methods.
	2. Multidisciplinary Knowledge	Students are provided with skills and knowledge through the perspectives from different fields of social sciences, mainly economics, political science, sociology, and law.
	3. Data analysis & application for social science research	Students are trained to mobilize, organize, analyze, and interpret data and information in social science research.
	4. Fundamentals of negotiation skills	Students are given opportunities to develop the skills to engage in mutually beneficial negotiation on issues of local and international importance and context.
	5. Policy-related fundamental skills	These courses are oriented towards practices of policy making, design and implementation.
	6. Cross-cultural awareness skills	These courses offer fundamental knowledge to raise students' awareness on different cultures and perspectives that will encourage a broader understanding of local and global cultural landscapes.
	7. Project analysis and completion skills	Students engage in research projects and seminars to identify, examine, and present key issues in social sciences. In the process, they create and present their graduation thesis to contribute to the production of socially relevant and meaningful knowledge.
	8. Host culture integrative skills	By living and studying in Japan, students obtain a unique opportunity to engage, understand and contextualize the Japanese culture and its contribution to global welfare and society.
	9. Interactive applied competence	Courses that provide opportunities for students to apply their skills and knowledge in practical contexts, allowing them to shape their capacity to solve and prevent problems in society.

<p>Guidelines for Assessing Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>Learning outcomes are evaluated through examinations, quizzes, written assignments, and class discussions, which assess students' progression toward both generic and specialized competences in line with the University policy on accurate competences evaluation. Achievement of specialized competences is further evaluated through a graduation thesis, which integrates theoretical knowledge and empirical inquiry. During the research process, students receive guidance and feedback through seminars, mid-term presentations, and consultations with faculty. The quality and rigor of the final thesis serve as key indicators of attainment of the diploma policy.</p>
--	---

Curriculum Policy

The curriculum is organized based on the following policies.

<p>Curriculum Design Framework</p>	<p>General policy This program's general policy is to provide students with tools to understand international issues in the globalized world through a multidisciplinary perspective, encompassing areas such as economics, political science, sociology, and law.</p> <p>Sequential course structure The curriculum allows the student to obtain knowledge in a gradual and structured way, through general foundation subjects in a first stage, foundation subjects for major and major subjects later. Finally, students write the graduation thesis as a synthesis of their academic development.</p> <p>Implementation policy Through a broad perspective on global issues, the educational philosophy of the program aims to develop students' ability to think about these issues in a multidisciplinary way, both from a theoretical standpoint and in solving practical problems based on empirical data. To achieve this goal, educational resources include classes that promote the debate of ideas and a multidisciplinary curriculum centered on Economics, Sociology, Law, and Political Science. Students' participation in events such as the National Model United Nations in Washington, DC, and joint workshops involving high schools in Japan has fostered their ability to debate international issues and connect with the local community within the context of the country's internationalization. Through internships, students have played a highly dynamic role, taking part in programs in Japan and countries such as India, Mongolia, China, and Ethiopia, in institutions ranging from international organizations to private companies. Topics addressed include issues such as child welfare promotion, food security, financial management, marketing and green energy. All these activities aim to nurture students as global human resources who will undoubtedly contribute positively to solving current and future international challenges.</p>
---	---

<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p>	<p>The program employs distinctive educational methods designed to foster critical thinking, empirical inquiry, and global engagement. Faculty develop materials that encourage students to question assumptions and analyze social phenomena from comparative and international perspectives. The curriculum emphasizes active learning—such as fieldwork, collaborative projects, and case studies, data analysis—and promotes interaction with practitioners through internship programs in institutions such as international organizations, NGOs, Japanese and global industries. The program encourages experiential learning through research projects, and community engagement in international or multicultural settings, which includes High School-University collaboration project and the participation of students in the National Model United Nations in Washington D.C. every year.</p>
---	---

Admission Policy

<p>Desired Student Profile</p>	<p>The program seeks applicants who possess strong foundational academic skills, intellectual curiosity about global social issues, and the capacity for logical reasoning and expression. Applicants are expected to demonstrate interest in analyzing social phenomena from international perspectives and to show readiness for academic learning conducted primarily in English.</p>
<p>Student Evaluation and Selection</p>	<p>Applicants are evaluated based on their academic preparation, logical thinking skills, communication abilities, and motivation for studying international social sciences. Selection methods include document review, standardized assessments and interviews. The program particularly values applicants who demonstrate clear academic goals, awareness of global issues, and the ability to learn autonomously.</p>

Learning Support Framework

<p>Academic Support</p>	<p>The program provides diverse forms of academic support to ensure effective learning, including academic advising, research guidance, language support, and opportunities for international engagement. Courses on research methods and empirical inquiry equip students with essential skills for completing their capstone projects.</p>
<p>Opportunities for Peer Interaction</p>	<p>The program promotes peer learning through seminars, study groups, student-led academic events, and shared learning spaces. Students organize activities such as reading groups and interdisciplinary discussions, which foster academic collaboration and intellectual community.</p>
<p>Opportunities for Student-Faculty Interaction</p>	<p>Faculty members offer office hours, advising sessions, and individualized feedback to support student research and academic development. Small classes and seminars facilitate close interaction between students and faculty. The program also organizes annual faculty-student events such as the “students, professors and staff liaison meetings” to encourage dialogue beyond coursework.</p>

Approaches to Assuring and Enhancing Educational Quality

The program systematically reviews student achievement, learning outcomes, and curriculum effectiveness through faculty meetings and quality assurance processes. Feedback from course evaluations, students and faculty discussions is used to refine the curriculum, teaching methods, and learning environment. Faculty development discussions and regular curriculum reviews ensure the delivery of high-quality education aligned with program goals.