

Center for Data Science

Data Science Education at GRIPS

Data science literacy is becoming indispensable for 21st century policy makers. Therefore, it would be ideal if, during their time at GRIPS, all GRIPS students acquired extensive data science skills for the conduct of real data analysis. Currently we are making a concerted effort to strengthen GRIPS data science education by reorganizing the curriculum so as to allocate more faculty for instruction in data science. Specifically, we are now providing “Introduction to Data Science” and “Data Science in Practice” as core subjects for data science education. In addition, we offer many other subjects related to data science, such as econometrics, operations research, and geophysical information systems. We also encourage GRIPS student involvement in data science by offering a Certificate in Data Science for Policy Studies (see https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/nd_certificate/certificate_ds/ for details).

We strongly recommend that you take these courses if you are considering writing a policy paper involving quantitative analysis. We have seen many cases where a student has collected invaluable, interesting data demonstrating their research ability, but unfortunately ended up with a simplistic descriptive analysis due to a lack of skill in data analysis. This is a great opportunity missed, not only for the student but also for our school. In that light, if you want to use data in your research it is of crucial importance that you become familiar with data science from the beginning of your studies at GRIPS.

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Developing data science skills can be likened to learning how to drive in order to get a driver’s license, i.e., it is something that anyone can do, but concentrated training in data science courses is not sufficient: you also need some actual ongoing experience in computer programming and model handling, ideally acquired

through working with your own data. Therefore, it would be ideal to make data analysis a constant element of your routine of activities throughout your studies at GRIPS—then you could get “more than credits for courses.”

To encourage such involvement in data science work, GRIPS launched the Center for Data Science (CDS) in April 2022 to support your study of data science, deepen your knowledge and polish your skills. The faculty members of the center are CDS Director Professor Takashi Tsuchiya, and three other professors, Roberto Leon-Gonzalez, Hozumi Morohosi, and Takashi Takenouchi.

CDS is conveniently located in room C505 on the 5th floor at the end of the corridor that opens onto lecture rooms A-H. The main missions of CDS are:

- (1) To provide follow-up on data science-related classes;
- (2) To provide consultations for students and researchers who use data science in their research;
- (3) To provide training sessions in the use of software for data science, including R language and Stata, and in the mathematics necessary for a sufficiently deep understanding of the theoretical aspects of data science;
- (4) To promote joint research relating to data science within and outside GRIPS; and to hold related symposiums; and
- (5) To develop GRIPS's data archives.

The CDS office is open weekdays from 13:20 to 18:10. Teachers and consultant students are ready to help you in a friendly atmosphere, answering any question you have about programming, statistical modeling, and machine learning. We are planning to organize small, informal workshops on computer programming, statistics, machine learning and related mathematics to support you in your study of data science.

Finally, please be sure to visit the CDS web page at the URL below. It’s full of useful tips and information to support your study of data science.

<https://www.grips.ac.jp/en/education/datasciencecenter/>

Thank you very much for your attention. We are looking forward to seeing you at the center, in C505.

Center for Professional Communication

The mission of the Center for Professional Communication (CPC) is to support GRIPS students, faculty, and staff in developing the effective professional communication skills and competencies needed to communicate and interact productively in an environment of multiple stakeholders. To that end, we offer a range of instruction, services, and support in fundamental areas of professional communication in English and Japanese.

The Center faculty are experts in professional communication, disciplinary writing, and language learning and teaching, with advanced academic training and years of professional experience; many hold doctorates and have a strong record of academic and research accomplishments. Our faculty member's expertise encompasses a wide range of areas in economics, political science, public policy, education, psychology, and applied linguistics.

Drawing on extensive scholarship in educational theory and practice, the Center promotes evidence-based curriculum development and instruction, establishes best practices in teaching and learning, and strives to become a recognized center of excellence in Japan and the world.

Below are some of the programs and support structures we offer.

Comprehensive Academic Writing Program in English and Japanese

The Academic Writing Program constitutes an introduction to writing a graduate research paper and becoming a fledgling practitioner of academic values and practices. The program has three goals: (a) to articulate the minimum standard of acceptable academic production across all GRIPS programs; (b) to socialize students into the target discourse community; and (c) to support the production of policy papers, theses, and dissertations at GRIPS. The program includes the following integrated components.

- Assessment of students' academic writing ability at the start of the academic year.
- Instruction and guidance on textual borrowing to prevent plagiarism.

- Year-long academic writing courses.
- Academic skills workshops and seminars on a wide range of writing-related topics.
- Individual advising on research proposals, theses, and final papers in English and Japanese.
- Handbooks, guidebooks, and other materials on academic writing and language learning developed by CPC faculty and customized for students' self-study, guided learning, and research.

Program in Professional Communication Skills

We emphasize the development of strong professional communication skills in GRIPS students, promote cross-cultural communication, and provide opportunities for interaction between Japanese and international students. Our current offerings include:

- Credit-bearing and non-credit courses in all aspects of professional communication in English and Japanese including presentation, negotiation, professional and business writing, grant proposal writing, and public speaking.
- Mini-courses, seminars, and workshops in professional communication skills in English and Japanese on a wide range of topics including policy writing, academic research, modern Japanese history, culture, and society, and cross-cultural communication.
- Special events conducted in English and Japanese on a range of topics in professional communication, professional development, language learning, and Japanese culture including traditional Japanese culture.

Editorial Support

We support GRIPS faculty and PhD students in the preparation of their work for publication or use in professional fields. To that end, we offer editing, proofreading, and language support services as well as specialized training in conference presentations.

Communication Lounge

The goals of the CPC Communication Lounge are to promote autonomy in student learning, equip students with the skills and resources they need to be good learners, and create a focal point where Japanese and international students can interact and engage in language, cultural, academic, and special-interest exchanges. We offer the following semi-guided activities.

- Workshops on language learning strategies, study skills, and other areas important for autonomous learning.
- Special-interest discussion groups for Japanese and international students to talk about topics of interest.

- Language exchange for those interested in practicing language skills.

Office Hours and Appointments

The CPC holds regular office hours for walk-in consultations. Consultations on academic writing in English are held in room C507 and may be reserved through our online system. Consultations on Japanese language learning are held in room C502 and may be reserved by email (cjll@grips.ac.jp). Please check our website, CPC Online, for details.

Japanese Language Courses

The CPC offers a wide range of credit-bearing and non-credit Japanese language courses throughout the academic year.

Credit-bearing Courses

We offer credit-bearing courses at four levels of ability throughout the academic year. Students completing three terms at a given level will be awarded a Certificate of Completion by the CPC.

- **Basic Japanese**
This course is for beginners with no previous Japanese learning experience. It focuses on basic grammar, vocabulary, and practical expressions used in everyday situations. Hiragana, katakana, and basic kanji will also be introduced.
- **Intermediate Japanese**
This course offers useful, practical Japanese for daily life. It is most appropriate for students with a basic knowledge of Japanese. Students will review basic Japanese and advance toward intermediate Japanese.
- **Advanced Japanese**
This course is designed to give advanced students an opportunity to engage in intellectual discussions in class.

Non-credit Courses

A wide range of non-credit courses are offered to cater to various student needs. The current offerings include

- **Survival Japanese**
This course introduces very basic Japanese to beginners with no prior Japanese learning experience.
- **Kana & Kanji**
This course supplements regular Japanese courses by offering additional instruction on the Kana and Kanji scripts and on basic grammar points. Upon request, students can receive guidance on how to prepare for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

Special Events

- Speech Event
- Japanese Cultural and Seasonal Events

Detailed information will be provided before each event. For more information, please check our website CPC Online: <http://www3.grips.ac.jp/~CPC/>

Evaluation

Evaluation is based on the GRIPS Assessment Policy and takes into account attendance and participation. In examinations, the focus is on conversational skills.

Course Credit

Two credits will be awarded for courses offered in the Fall and Spring terms, and one credit will be awarded for courses offered in the Winter term. These credits do not count towards the degree.

Course Registration

- Beginners taking Basic Japanese can choose from several parallel sections offered during the week. Students with previous exposure to Japanese are required to take a placement test in class before registration.
- Registration procedures are the same as for other courses.

Inquiries About Courses

Please contact us by e-mail at cjll@grips.ac.jp or cpc@grips.ac.jp

Japanese Language Tracks

The following diagrams summarize the Japanese language tracks offered by the CPC.

- Students who have no knowledge of Japanese should

enroll in Basic Japanese (Survival Japanese in the Winter Term).

- Students who have some knowledge of Japanese will be placed in appropriate courses after taking a placement test in class.

