

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

### **Purpose of the Program**

The objective of this program is to produce highly skilled human resources in the field of public policy by accepting primarily early- and mid-career officials and researchers working in the public sectors such as governments and international organizations and training them systematically to become leaders in their countries. In particular, the program will develop human resources with a high level of academic expertise in policy analysis and policy-making, thus can handle the various policy issues faced by developing and developed countries, and can serve as a bridge between practice and academia.

### **Diploma Policy**

This program confers a Master's degree in Public Policy (Master of Public Administration or Master of Public Policy) on students who have been enrolled for at least the designated number of years, have acquired at least the designated number of credits based on the curriculum of the program, and under the supervision of Faculty Members, have written and given a presentation on research papers on specific subjects, and have been given a pass grade.

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

1. Ability to exercise leadership in policy areas based on a firm foundation of academically high level of expertise in policy analysis, with a deep understanding of different values and systems in a global society
2. Ability to analyze micro and macroeconomic policies and make practical policy recommendations based on the analysis
3. Ability to analyze international development policies that lead to economic development and make practical policy recommendations based on the analysis
4. Ability to analyze international relations theories from the political and administrative perspectives, and to make practical policy recommendations based on the analysis
5. Ability to analyze interdisciplinary and broad public policies and make

practical policy recommendations based on the analysis

## **Curriculum Policy**

### **【Basic Policy】**

The basic policy of the curriculum is for the students to acquire basic knowledge essential for policy research and practical expertise for application and development. In addition, students will address real-world policy issues, and by conducting quantitative analysis using data, case studies, etc. on their own, students will develop the ability to make policy recommendations. Compared to the one-year program, students will gain an academically higher level of expertise in policy analysis and policy-making capability. Through these efforts, the program will cultivate highly skilled human resources in the policy field who can become leaders in the public sectors in their countries.

### **【Structure of the Curriculum】**

This program consists of compulsory courses and elective courses. All students take compulsory courses, which are the core of policy research, and elective courses according to their interests and needs, in order to acquire further expertise. This program has four concentrations on the following respective policy areas: economic policy, international development policy, international relations, and public policy. Elective courses are organized systematically based on these four concentrations. A Faculty Member with expertise in the respective field is assigned as a concentration leader and will give necessary advice to students. Students will select and focus on one of the four policy areas under the guidance of the concentration leader and will take elective courses required for that area. In addition, under the intensive guidance by Faculty Members with expertise in the relevant field, students will write a policy paper proposing solutions to real-world policy issues in the first year; and then, in the second year, students will write a Master's thesis of a higher academic level on various policy challenges faced by developing and developed countries.

### **(Required Courses)**

In the required course "The World and the SDGs", students will broaden their

perspective as a future leader of their country by learning the basics of policy research as well as policy issues that should be tackled across countries, and how to solve them. In Policy Debate Seminar I and Policy Debate Seminar II, which are part of the required courses, students will improve research and communication skills. Students engage in intensive debate on policy issues with fellow students from various countries as well as those from Faculty Members who specialize in the field. By analyzing and discussing in depth the solutions for broad public policy issues, students will gain the ability to make effective and practical policy recommendations. At the same time, the program will train students in the capacity to engage in discussions with people across national borders, to expand international and intellectual networks, and to contribute to the development of policy communities.

### **(Elective Courses)**

The elective courses are systematically structured with recommended courses for each of the four policy areas of economic policy, international development policy, international relations, and public policy. Students take elective courses according to their interests and needs under the guidance of the concentration leader.

The program also offers a number of courses by faculty members with managerial experience in the public sector, which helps students acquire practical knowledge.

In addition, courses to enhance the educational effects are provided, such as courses to strengthen academic writing in English for writing papers and courses on academic ethics education.

### **(Individual Research Guidance)**

In the individual guidance of students, research supervision is provided by a multiple number of main supervisors and sub-supervisors both in the first and second years.

### **【Policies on Education and Study Methods】**

Students are required to take 40 credits to complete the course. 12 credits need to come from required courses, including 4 credits for seminar-style Policy Debate Seminar I and Policy Debate Seminar II. Lectures that are not labeled as seminar-style are also often small in size, with over 30% of lectures having 10 or fewer students and over 30% having 11 to 20 students. These lectures require active participation in in-class discussions, and the contribution to the discussion is part of the grade assessment. Therefore,

students are required not only to acquire knowledge through classroom learning, but also to actively participate in discussions between faculty members and students, or between students, and to integrate their practical experience with new knowledge and understanding, thereby enhancing the quality of learning. In addition, doctoral students are assigned as teaching assistants to assist students in large-size lectures on basic subjects, responding to questions carefully on a daily basis.

### **【Assessment Policy】**

The grade of each subject is evaluated based on the level of knowledge acquired and the level of proficiency in practical skills, taking into account contribution to discussions in class, examinations and reports, etc. Comprehensive competencies will also be assessed based on the quality of the policy paper on specific research topics, and the Master's thesis.

## **Admissions Policy**

### Target Students

This program accepts students who are willing to acquire a wide range of knowledge and expertise, and gain the ability to conduct an academically high level of policy analysis and policy making, thereby contributing to national and regional development. Target students include, but not limited to, early- and mid-career officials and researchers working in the public sectors such as governments and international organizations. In the future, the student is expected to play a leading role in the public sector in their countries while serving as a bridge between practice and academia.

To be admitted, students must have a basic level of academic ability equivalent to that of a university graduate, and an adequate ability to write and communicate in English. Students must also have a strong interest in real-world issues, the ability to explore key policy issues, and to be able to work steadily on research.

### [Screening by application documents]

Screening shall be based on the application documents. The screening will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of past work experience, letters of recommendation, the degree and subjects studied at university

(undergraduate and graduate), the originality of research plans and relevance to realistic policy issues, the willingness to study and research, applicants' future potential, and English proficiency.

[Interview]

In principle, a video system will be used. Applicants will be selected based on criteria such as logic, accuracy, sense of purpose, willingness to study, clarity of career plan after completion and communication ability in English.

