

Graduate School of Sociology

社会学研究科



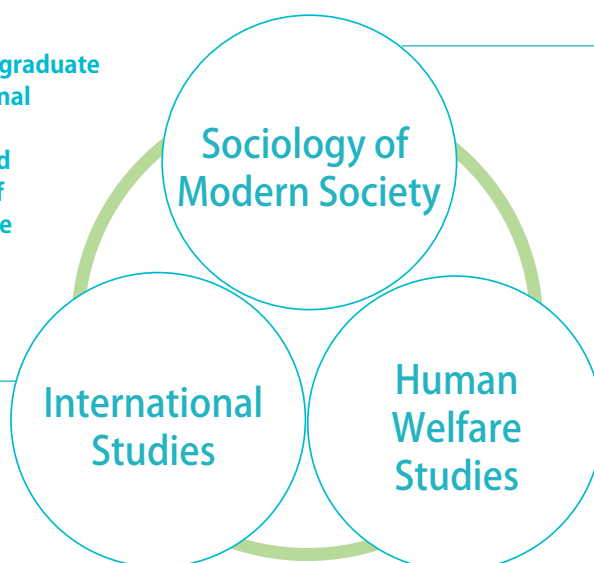
We offer graduate students at the M.A. and PhD levels a rich and innovative research environment, enabling them to pursue a wide variety of domestic and international issues through interdisciplinary exchange.

The Graduate School of Sociology was established in 1972 to promote a comprehensive understanding of an increasingly complex world and to tackle issues of modern society in collaboration with many sociological subfields, as well as social policy, social welfare, anthropology, and economic sociology. The School conducts graduate programs designed to prepare students for scholarly and applied research, and for teaching in sociology and other social sciences.

Three major research fields

The School's programs cover three sociological subfields which provide a framework for research and training; Sociology of Modern Society, Human Welfare Studies, and International Studies. The graduate program has been carefully designed to offer students a rich and comprehensive sociological education, while simultaneously providing space and incentives for them to explore and develop their own ideas.

This research field aims to enable graduate students to develop an international perspective. Courses are offered mainly in English and are designed to meet the interests and needs of students such that they can pursue original research. Research areas include modern society and social welfare in the context of global transformations.



This research field emphasizes organizations and institutions, cultural studies, social environment, media studies, sociology of education, and sociology of sports.

This research field emphasizes public welfare and welfare policy and practice.

Internationalization, Advanced Research Methods Certificate and Collaborative Research Project

Specifically, we seek to offer high academic standards with emphasis on the following: Internationalization, Graduate Certificate in Applied Research Methods, and Collaborative Research Project.

Our courses help students prepare for the increasingly sophisticated requirements of a global society. International experience is designed to enable students to conduct social research exercises on issues that will be of importance to Japan and other East Asian and Western countries. Our programs include lectures and interactive workshops conducted by internationally distinguished scholars. Students who wish to attend Ritsumeikan University to do research as partial fulfillment of a graduate degree from another university may participate in a Dual Master's Degree Program by being admitted to and satisfying the requirements of the two graduate schools. Currently, students are enrolled in joint degrees in Lancaster University in the UK and Chung-Ang University in South Korea.

The program leading to the Advanced Research Methods Certificate provides excellent methodological training for graduate students seeking advanced study in quantitative and qualitative research techniques for the social sciences. This certificate program responds to the growing need for professional social researchers in many fields to produce, analyze, and report data.

We also have a tradition of close collaboration between faculty and students. Students learn sociology not just through formal course work, but also through active participation in collaborative research projects with faculty and other graduate students. Thriving research projects in many areas provide valuable training.