

Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability (GSAIS) Shishu-Kan KYOTO UNIVERSITY



[Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability]

Aims to raise young future leaders

Who can resolve the complex and diversified social issues

With a strong sense of responsibility, humaneness and morality.





Gradate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability

Our global society faces many intricate and multidimensional issues. These issues are entangled in a network of complex systems such as culture, industry, economy, and nations. We need to develop a creative and sustainable social system that can continuously strive for solutions for such global issues. Therefore, there is an urgent need for individuals who possess creativity, practical

skills, and leadership to build a new social system.

The Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability (GSAIS; hereafter referred to as Shishu-Kan) was established in April 2013 with the mission to cultivate individuals who will become future leaders.

What is Human Survivability Studies (HSS)?

The issues that threaten the harmonious coexistence within human and ecological communities on this planet are intricate, and involve various factors; from individuals and local communities, to nations and global society. We need new academic approaches that pursue the means and philosophy to overcome such issues. The HSS aims to utilize, reorganize, and integrate the knowledge and wisdom from individual academic disciplines related to the survival of the human race and the ecological community in order to find, analyze, and formulate these complex social issues. Furthermore, the HSS has a strong orientation toward the implementation of practical solutions. In other words, it is a comprehensive integration of academic disciplines that structuralize and communalize the wisdom for survival.

The purpose and meaning of Human Survivability Studies (HSS)

The goals of Shishu-Kan are to establish the new integrated academic field of HSS, and to educate future leaders based on it. Therefore, it is quite different from the existing graduate schools that aim to train professionals and researchers in specific academic fields

The key concept of HSS is wisdom. According to traditional Japanese thinking, wisdom acquired by listening is referred to as "mon"「聞」, while wisdom gained through thinking and reflection is known as "shi"「思」, and wisdom gained through practice is called "shu"「修」.

Based on the concept of "Mon Shi Shu", our curriculum is designed to develop comprehensive knowledge about human survivability, a strong academic expertise, and an attitude of taking practical actions. We hope Shishu-Kan will be a home of future leaders who possess strong will, flexible thinking, ethical views, and a deep understanding of the diversity of values.



Examples of thesis titles from our students

- Understanding of Adults' Scientific Literacy with Performance Assessment and Examination of the Effect of Interest in Science at School Stage
- The Realisation of the Human Right to Water under International Law: The roles of Global Administrative Mechanisms
- Research on behavioral characteristics of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons with urban runoff and practical management in rain for reducing pollutant load
- Analysis of cellular toxicity induced by accumulation of abnormal protein in organelles
- O Development of Competence-based Curriculum in Rwanda -Focusing on critical thinking and career development of Rwandan students-
- On the studies of Down Syndrome in Super-aged Society Towards the Integrated Community Care System for Cohesive Society/Family -

What is special about Shishu-Kan's curriculum?

5-year continuous program to cultivate the leadership based on the HSS



General Foundation Courses (Hasshi)

Students take classes in seven fields from Hasshi (eight thoughts) excluding one's specialized field. Hasshi consists of medical and biological studies, informatics and environment, science and engineering, humanities and philosophy, economics and business, law and policy, languages, and art.



Deliberation with Top Leaders (Jukugi)

We invite top leaders from various fields in governmental and private sectors as well as international organizations. Students can have intense deliberation with these leaders and develop a human network.



Student Residential Colleges

Students stay at the residential colleges where they can experience Kyoto University's tradition of conducting advanced education and research interactively. Students will have unique opportunities to interact and work together with students from varying cultural and academic backgrounds. Thus, they develop the ability to adapt to different cultural environments and communicate with people from diverse backgrounds.



Tailor-made Curricula

Since the academic background and the required expertise for their research topics of the Shishu-Kan's students are diverse, a tailor-made curriculum is designed for each student according to her/his own background and interests. Students will also receive advice and mentoring from two or more faculty members on how to plan their programs of study and their academic research. Students can also take courses from other graduate courses at Kyoto University.



Multiple Supervisor System

In order to learn the basics of various fields of research and study the methodology of problem solving from a wider perspective, Shishu-Kan students are supported by multiple advisers from the GSAIS as well as from other graduate schools and research institutes at Kyoto University.



Overseas Internship (Knight Errantry)

Students are required to do an overseas internship at an overseas organization, institute, or enterprise in order to acquire practical knowledge and experiences, clarify one's own standpoint in the global society, and develop an awareness and sense of responsibility as a global leader. The overseas internship will be implemented based on each student's individual academic expertise and future goals. Non-Japanese students can do the internship in Japan.

[Examples of Overseas Internships]

ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research) Australia, IEA (International Energy Agency) France, IWA (The International Water Association) Holland, UNDP(United Nations Development Program)East Timor, WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) Switzerland, CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization) Australia, ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia) Indonesia, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) Italy, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) France.

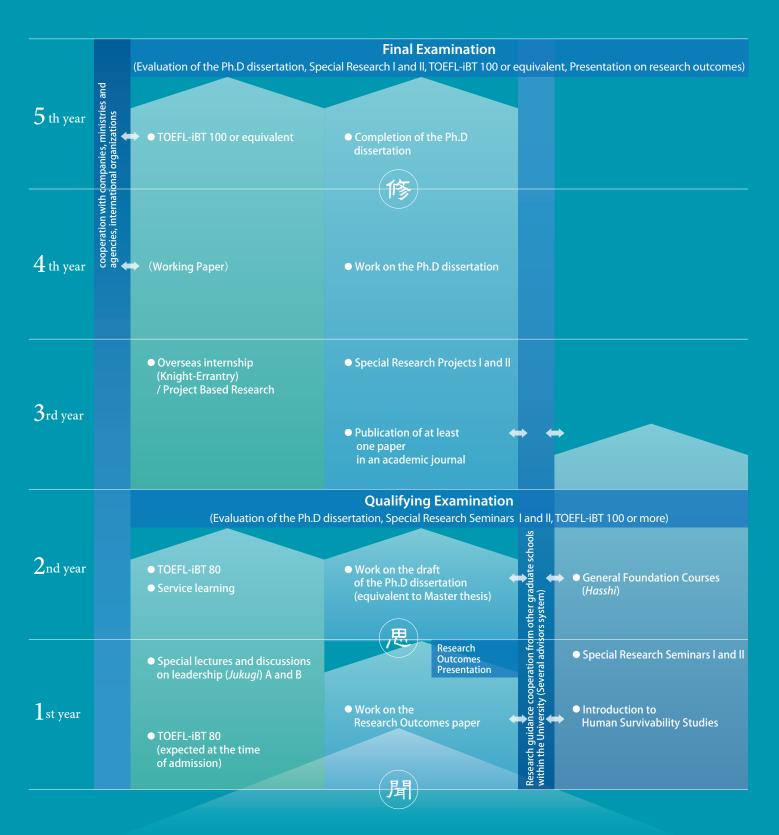


Project-Based Research (PBR)

Each student plans and conducts one's own project-based research (PBR) by involving other parties such as domestic enterprises and governmental sectors. The purpose of the PBR is to acquire the skills of planning, communication, and management that are required to conduct actual projects. Students are responsible for the fundraising, resource management, legal issues, and public relations of the project.

Ph.D

Completion [Doctor of Philosophy]



Education policy

Shishu-Kan aims to develop individuals who can propose and implement practical solutions for actual problems based on expertise and wisdom fostered through their studies in HSS. Our curriculum is designed so that the students can acquire comprehensive knowledge in a wide range of academic fields, develop the ability of conducting trans-disciplinary research with support from multiple advisers, and accumulate practical experiences through internship and PBR.

Moreover, Shishu-Kan intends to be a home for future leaders

who can explore the complexity of contemporary issues and discover concrete problems hindering human survivability, not only providing solutions for known problems.

Full-time employees who work in the government, at a company, or are self-employed, can apply after admission for long-term study. If the application is approved, it is possible to study at Shishu-Kan for a maximum of 10 years.

Messages from graduates and current students



Dai Yamawaki
(Enrolled in Shishu-Kan program

While I conduct my research for master and doctoral theses at the Graduate School of Economics, in the Shishu-Kan program I have acquired systematic leadership through Jukugi and domestic and international service learnings, and learned various academic knowledge through Hasshi. I did my overseas internship as a policy analyst at OECD and IEA and developed

the practical skills in the international environments. Also, I developed negotiation and communication skills through my PBR in which I conducted a collaborative research with the domestic and international organizations and organized international symposiums. I passed highly competitive recruitment exam and started to work at UN-FAO.



Keely Alex (Enrolled in GSAIS in 2013)

I developed research skills and learned how to bridge my research to practice through getting feedbacks from professors and students who have various academic expertise. Also, it was encouraging to directly hear the thoughts and opinions from the leaders of various sectors. I did overseas internship at IEA and UNDP as an analyst for one year in total, and launched a small hydroelectric generation project in Japan as my PBR. I will continue to work hard to make advance.



Go Okui
(Enrolled in GSAIS in 2014)

I joined Shishu-Kan in 2014 after I worked in an enterprise for several years. During the previous 3 years at Shishu-Kan, I have been seeking for a clue for the solution of the global issues through the classes in various academic fields (Hasshi), deliberation with leaders (Jukugi), and daily

discussion with professors and students. In April 2017, I started my overseas internship at UNESCO and took part in a project that reconsiders the role of philosophy and humanities in the ever-changing society.



Moe Fujita

As my own research I developed financial products for hedging the risk of weather in the business situations. I also acquired various knowledge in other fields through Hasshi classes to enlarge my field of view. I also learned the leader's

mind through the discussions with the leaders and the practical experiences at the domestic and overseas service learnings. I will continue my study on the development financial products that can serve for poverty reduction and mitigation.



Ryusuke Kuroki (Enrolled in GSAIS in 2016)

In my first year at Shishu-Kan I could broaden my horizon through Jukugi and the classes. The discussion with my fellow students who have diverse academic fields is very exciting because they have different ideas and viewpoints from mine. Also, I was excited when I found relationship of other academic fields and my own, hydrology. I would like to deepen my understanding of the HSS in the coming years.

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