

**2017 University of the Ryukyus**  
**Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Comparative Culture and Area Studies**  
**(Doctoral Program)**  
International Priority Graduate Program (PGP)  
Advanced Graduate Course for International Students  
**Training Program for Researchers of International Okinawan**  
**Studies**  
**Application Guide**

<b>Application deadline</b>	<b>September 2, 2016 (Fri)</b>
<b>Announcement of acceptance</b>	First selection: September 28, 2016 (Wed) Second selection: October 28, 2016 (Fri)
<b>Admission</b>	<b>April 1, 2017 (Sat)</b>

University of the Ryukyus

**Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences**



1 Senbaru, Nishihara-cho, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa, 903-0213

Phone: 098-895-8184

Fax: 098-895-8187

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The University of the Ryukyus Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Comparative Culture and Area Studies (Doctoral Program) is calling for applications for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) scholarships by special quota.

### **1. Program Outline**

The International Okinawa Researcher Training Program is a doctoral program intended to cultivate research talent to build international networks, open up research, and lead Okinawan studies overseas. The program makes the most of the educational and research achievements of the teaching staff specializing in Comparative Culture and Area Studies such as research on the diverse cultures and societies of the Ryukyu islands that dot over 900 kilometers of ocean, research on the history of interaction with Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, and the East Asia region, as well as international relations in East Asia.

This doctoral program is aimed at international students who have gained a master's degree in Ryukyuan and Okinawan studies or Japanese studies and is intended to cultivate researchers who will pursue Okinawan studies and Japanese studies at universities and research institutions in their home countries, taking leadership roles in humanities and social sciences at tertiary level after obtaining the PhD.

The subjects of the education and research fields are humanities and social sciences, particularly the folk customs, literature, history, languages, societies, and international relations of the Ryukyu islands. These subjects include the following fields of Ryukyuan culture, history and society that can make the most of the education and research achievements of the teaching staff specializing in Comparative Culture and Area Studies.

#### **(1) Education and Research Fields**

- (i) The folklore, literature, performing arts, linguistics and sociology of its diverse cultures
- (ii) Research on the complex history of the Ryukyu Kingdom up to modern times
- (iii) Comparative research on Japanese culture, society and language, and research on Okinawa's standing in Japan
- (iv) Research on the history of interaction with China, Taiwan, Korea, and South-East Asia
- (v) International relations involving Okinawa in East Asia, beginning with post-WWII US military control
- (vi) Comparative studies of Okinawa and surrounding countries

The program welcomes international students who aim to be researchers at universities or public research institutions in their home countries in the future. By studying the diverse aspects of Japanese culture, deepening knowledge of Japanese culture and language through Ryukyuan and Okinawan studies, not just focusing solely on Okinawan studies, Ryukyuan and Okinawan studies at this School offer the opportunity to make a major contribution

to the researches on "Japan, the diverse nation," and "the different Japans." This program cultivates research talent with the capacity to drive wide-ranging Japanese studies.

## **(2) Main target countries and regions for the program**

**Russia, Poland, Austria and other Central-Eastern European countries, as well as Brazil, Argentina, Peru and other South American countries**

## **2. Number of applicants accepted**

**3 (Monbukagakusho scholarship students) in the Doctoral Program (Comparative Culture and Area Studies)**

## **3. Eligibility**

**(1) Nationality:** Applicants must be talented people who can come to Japan from overseas to study as international students and do not have Japanese nationality.

**(2) Age:** Applicants' birth date must be on or after April 2, 1982 (under 35 years on April 1, 2017).

**(3) Academic record:** Applicants must fall under any of the following categories.

- (i) Applicants who hold a master's degree or professional degree, or who expect to be awarded such degree by March 2017 (including applicants who have completed his/her first year)
- (ii) Applicants who have been awarded the equivalent of a master's degree or professional degree overseas, or who expect to be awarded such degree overseas by March 2017
- (iii) Applicants who are at least 24 years old and have academic ability at least equivalent to applicants who hold a master's degree or professional degree, proven in the School by individual assessment for eligibility for admission to this program (including applicants who expect so)

**\*Applicants who apply under category (iii) must complete the Eligibility Assessment application at 4.**

**(4) Health:** Applicants must be free from any physical or mental impediment to their studies at the university.

**(5) Arrival in Japan:** Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan between April 1 and April 7, 2017.

**(6) Other:** The following persons are ineligible. Applicants must decline an offer if any of the following becomes applicable after acceptance.

- (i) Any currently serving military personnel or civilians in military employ
- (ii) Any person who is unable to arrive in Japan during the specified period
- (iii) Any person who has been a Monbukagakusho scholarship student in the past and has not engaged in education or research for at least three years from the end of the scholarship until acceptance for this program. However, this does not apply to trainees in Japanese language or culture who graduated from the university at which they were enrolled after returning to their home country, or international students in the Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Program in Science and Engineering and Young Leaders' Program international students who apply as research students.
- (iv) Any person receiving a scholarship or other financial assistance from an institution (including a government institution in the home country) other than the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho)
- (v) Any person who has made an additional application to another university under this scholarship, or who is receiving additional support under a program for international students run by the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) or the Japan Student Services Organization
- (vi) Any person already residing (or planning to reside) in Japan prior to commencement of the program in April 2017 (Persons expecting to be enrolled at a university in Japan as a privately funded international student in the 2017 academic year and expecting to continue residing in Japan into the April term).

#### 4. Eligibility Assessment

Applicants falling under eligibility category (iii) in 3. Eligibility (3) must undergo eligibility assessment. Before applying, the following documents must be sent by **July 29, 2016 (Fri)** to the mailing address given in (3) in 6. Application Procedures.

- 1) Admission Application (item (i) in 7. Application Documents)
- 2) Application for Individual Admission Eligibility Assessment (University's prescribed form) (item (iii) in 7. Application Documents)
- 3) Reasons for Application (University's prescribed form) (item (ii) in 7. Application Documents)
- 4) Academic record from most recent school (Item (xii) in 7. Application Documents)
- 5) Graduation (completion) certificate or attendance certificate from most recent school (item (xi) in 7. Application Documents)
- 6) Research Record (Summaries of the applicant's books, academic papers, research reports, graduation thesis, etc., on the University's prescribed form. Attach originals, reprints or copies.) (item (iv) in 7. Application Documents)
- 7) Research Progress Report (including details of the progress of surveys and research since school etc. graduation [completion], on the University's prescribed form.) (item (v) in 7. Application Documents)

#### 5. Stipend and Other Financial Assistance

Applicants who pass the entrance examination will be recommended to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship by University Recommendation.

**(1) Stipend:** Monthly amount for 2016: 145,000 yen (may be subject to change)

Period of stipend payment: After arriving in Japan, from the time the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Comparative Culture and Area Studies (Doctoral Program) starts in April 2017 to its completion (three years)

However, the stipend will not be paid while taking leave or during long periods of absence. The stipend may be withdrawn in the following circumstances.

- (i) It is ascertained that the application contains false information.
- (ii) The applicant contravenes the pledge to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- (iii) The applicant becomes subject to disciplinary action by the University, including withdrawal, or is expelled from the University.
- (iv) It is determined that the applicant cannot complete the program within the standard term of study due to underachievement or suspension.
- (v) The applicant withdraws from the University or transfers to another university.
- (vi) The applicant's visa status changes from the Student status stipulated in Paragraph 1-(4) of Appendix to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.
- (vii) The applicant receives another scholarship.

**(2) Travel Costs**

- (i) Travel to Japan: Economy class flight tickets will be issued for travel from the international airport closest to the applicant's home, to an international airport in Japan. Applicants travelling to Japan must bear the cost of travel within Japan, the cost of travel from the applicant's home to the closest international airport, including airport taxes, etc. as well as the cost of travel from the international airport in Japan to the University of the Ryukyus. (The "applicant's home" must be the address written on the application form.)

Flight tickets from a country other than the applicant's country of nationality will not be provided.

- (ii) Return travel: Applicants who return to their home countries in the final month of the stipend payment period shall be provided with economy class flight tickets from an international airport in Japan to the international airport closest to the place to which the applicant returns, upon application from the applicant.

Note: The applicant must bear the cost of insurance when travelling to Japan and when returning to their home countries. The airport of departure and arrival must be an airport in the country of the applicant's nationality.

**(3) Tuition Fees**

Students whose admission under this program has been confirmed will not be required to pay the examination fee, admission fee, or tuition fees for the three years to program completion.

**(4) Accommodation**

Students whose admission under this program has been confirmed may stay at the University of the Ryukyus Student Dormitory under a priority arrangement. (Period of accommodation is generally one year.)

**6. Application Procedures**

**(1) Application deadline: September 2, 2016 (Fri)**

**(2) Application process: Mail the application documents by registered express to arrive by the application deadline mentioned above.**

\* Immediately after mailing the documents, notify the University by email to the address at (3) below that the documents have been sent.

**(3) Mailing address for submission of application documents:**

University of the Ryukyus  
Attn: Academic Affairs Unit  
Faculty of Law and Letters - Faculty of Tourism Sciences and Industrial Management  
1 Senbaru, Nishihara-cho, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa, 903-0213  
Phone: 098-895-8184 Fax: 098-895-8187  
**Email: [hbgakmu@to.jim.u-ryukyu.ac.jp](mailto:hbgakmu@to.jim.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)**

## 7. Application Documents

Application Documents	Notes
(i) Admission Application	Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship Application Form (printed on both sides)
(ii) Reasons for Application	Form prescribed by the University showing reasons for your application and an outline of your research
(iii) Application for Individual Admission Eligibility Assessment	Form prescribed by the University showing the required information (To be submitted only by applicants who fall under category (iii) in 3. Eligibility (3) on page 2)
(iv) Research Record	A Japanese translation of an outline of the applicant's research record showing books, academic papers, research reports, master's thesis, etc. on the form prescribed by the University.
(v) Research Progress Report	A Japanese translation of details of the progress of surveys and research after school etc. graduation [completion] on the University's prescribed form (To be submitted only by applicants who fall under category (iii) in 3. Eligibility (3) on page 2)
(vi) Master's thesis or applicant's research thesis (copy)	Master's thesis at assessment stage is acceptable.
(vii) Recommendation letters (2)	Recommendation letters from staff at the applicant's university who are at least at the level of graduate school dean (addressed to the President of the University)
(viii) Japanese Language Proficiency Evaluation Sheet	The University's prescribed form or a Japanese language proficiency evaluation form by the teacher in charge of Japanese language education
(ix) Medical Certificate	Certification on the University's prescribed form
(x) Copy of the applicant's passport and resident card	Foreigners currently residing in Japan must submit a copy of their resident card showing full details as issued by the local mayor (no omissions), issued within one month prior to application.
(xi) Most recent degree or certificate of completion (or expected completion)	Degree or certificate by the president (graduate school dean) of the applicant's university * Attach a translation into Japanese.
(xii) Academic record from most recent university	Academic record in a sealed envelope, issued by the president (graduate school dean) of the applicant's university * Attach a translation into Japanese. * Either show the grading scale, or attach a grading scale table, for calculation of the grade point average (GPA). (See Assessment of Academic Achievement on the next page.)
(xiii) Photo	A 4.5 × 3.5 cm photo taken in the last 6 months, showing the upper body, facing directly forward, without headwear Paste the photo onto the application form at the specified place.
(xiv) Application for Special Consideration for Examinations and/or Study	Application with the University's prescribed form (Only applicants to whom 11. Special Consideration for Examinations and/or Study on page 7 applies need submit this application.)
<b>Important Points</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. These documents should be prepared in either Japanese or English as far as possible using word processing software. All pages must be A4 and printed on both sides. (If the documents are prepared in a language other than Japanese or English, Japanese translations must be attached.)</li> <li>2. If there are any omissions or mistakes in the submitted documents, if the necessary attachments are not all submitted, or if they are received after the deadline, the application will not be accepted.</li> <li>3. The University will return no submitted documents whatsoever.</li> <li>4. Once submitted, no changes to the application will be accepted for any reason.</li> </ol>

## 8. Selection Process

### (1) First selection (Document assessment)

Document assessment	Details																																										
Master's thesis	The content of the master's thesis, or equivalent, is assessed.																																										
Japanese Language Proficiency Evaluation Sheet	Japanese language proficiency is assessed using the Japanese Language Proficiency Evaluation Sheet or equivalent.																																										
Research Plan	The content of the research plan, or equivalent, is assessed.																																										
Assessment of Academic Achievement	<p><b>* The applicant's GPA over the last 2 years is assessed to determine whether it was at least 2.30.</b></p> <p>&lt;&lt;GPA Calculation&gt;&gt;</p> <p>The GPA is calculated by converting academic achievement into "grade points" according to the table below, before applying the formula.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="5">Grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4-level rating (Pattern 1)</td> <td>—</td> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-level rating (Pattern 2)</td> <td>—</td> <td>100-80</td> <td>79-70</td> <td>69-60</td> <td>59 or less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-level rating (Pattern 3)</td> <td>100-90</td> <td>89-80</td> <td>79-70</td> <td>69-60</td> <td>59 or less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-level rating (Pattern 4)</td> <td>S</td> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-level rating (Pattern 5)</td> <td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> <td>D</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade point</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Formula</p> $\frac{([\text{No. of GP3 Credits}] \times 3) + ([\text{No. of GP2 Credits}] \times 2) + ([\text{No. of GP1 Credits}] \times 1) + ([\text{No. of GP0 Credits}] \times 0)}{\text{Total Number of Registered Credits}}$		Grade					4-level rating (Pattern 1)	—	A	B	C	F	4-level rating (Pattern 2)	—	100-80	79-70	69-60	59 or less	5-level rating (Pattern 3)	100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	59 or less	5-level rating (Pattern 4)	S	A	B	C	F	5-level rating (Pattern 5)	A	B	C	D	F	Grade point	3	3	2	1	0
		Grade																																									
	4-level rating (Pattern 1)	—	A	B	C	F																																					
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	5-level rating (Pattern 4)	S	A	B	C	F																																					
	5-level rating (Pattern 5)	A	B	C	D	F																																					
Grade point	3	3	2	1	0																																						

### (2) Second selection (Interview over the Internet in Japanese)

Second selection is an interview conducted over Skype or equivalent. Applicants must prepare the necessary software and hardware etc. in advance.

The applicant must speak about the details of his/her master's thesis or equivalent.
The applicant must speak about the details of his/her research plan or equivalent.
The applicant must speak about his/her Japanese language proficiency.

### ◎Second selection schedule (Interview over the Internet in Japanese)

#### October 4 (Tue) to 7 (Fri) 2016 (Japan time)

When scheduling interview dates and times, the time difference between Japan and each applicant's country will be taken into account and be decided in coordination with each applicant. The interview date and time will be notified by email.

\* Applicants will be contacted to ensure Skype or equivalent can be used by the day before the interview.

## 9. Announcement of Acceptance

### (1) Announcement of first selection (Document assessment) acceptance

**September 28, 2016 (Wed) at 16:00 (Japan time) on the website below:** Successful applicants will also be notified by email.

### (2) Announcement of second selection (Skype [or equivalent] interview) acceptance

**October 28, 2016 (Fri) at 16:00 (Japan time) on the website below:** Successful applicants will also be notified by email.

### (3) Recommendation to Monbukagakusho

Applicants accepted at the second selection will be recommended to the Monbukagakusho as a Candidate for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship by University Recommendation and will be notified by email after the final decision.

**\*Announcement of Acceptance** ⇨ University of the Ryukyus Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences website <http://www.ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/>

## 10. Admission Date: April 1, 2017 (Sat)

Successful applicants will be notified separately of the admission procedures.

## 11. Special Consideration for Examinations and/or Study

Applicants for admission to the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences who have a physical disability or who otherwise require special consideration for examinations and/or study due to illness or injury must inform the School beforehand. **Depending on the nature of such special considerations, time may be required to respond, so such applicants should inform the School as soon as possible.**

Based on the information provided, it may be necessary to consult in writing with the School, as follows.

(1) Deadline for consultation: **September 2, 2016 (Fri)**

(2) Consultation process: Such applicants must submit a separate Application for Consultation (item (xiv) in 7. Application Documents) and if necessary, the School will confirm details with the applicant or other relevant person.

## 12. Mailing Address for Submission of Application Documents and Contact Details

University of the Ryukyus  
Attn: Academic Affairs Unit  
Faculty of Law and Letters - Faculty of Tourism Sciences and Industrial Management  
1 Senbaru, Nishihara-cho, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa, 903-0213  
Phone: 098-895-8184 Fax: 098-895-8187  
**Email: [hbgakmu@to.jim.u-ryukyu.ac.jp](mailto:hbgakmu@to.jim.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)**



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**Reasons for Application**

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Planned research topic

(2) Motivations for applying

(3) Outline of research after admission (Give specific detail.)

(i) Details of the research and its aims and significance

(ii) Research methods, research plan (with specific details), as in the Admission Application

(4) Mid- to long-term career prospects and research after program completion

(5) Main achievements: As in your Research Record

## Research Record (Doctoral Program)

Full name					List book and paper titles and give an outline for each below.
The Title of Book, Paper, etc.	Sole or joint authorship	Publication or presentation month/year	Publisher, journal, scientific society, etc.		Outline

The Title of Book, Paper, etc.		Sole or joint authorship	Publication or presentation month/year	Publisher, journal, scientific society, etc.		Outline

# Research Progress Report (Doctoral Program)

(For Individual Admission  
Eligibility Assessment)

Full name	Give details below of the progress of your surveys and research since school etc. graduation (completion).



# Japanese Language Proficiency Evaluation Sheet (Doctoral Program)

Applicant's full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's native language: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Circle the number of the applicable description.

## I. Listening ability

1. Has no listening comprehension.
2. Can understand slow, clear speech.
3. Listening comprehension is passable.
4. Comprehension is quite adequate.

## II. Speaking ability

1. Can't speak Japanese at all.
2. Can convey intentions.
3. Can speak Japanese to a certain extent.
4. Can speak fluently.

## III. Reading ability

1. Can't read Japanese at all.
2. Can read some Japanese.
3. Has a rough understanding.
4. Reading ability is quite adequate.

## IV. Writing

1. Can't write Japanese at all.
2. Can write simple sentences.
3. Can write coherent sentences.
4. Can write logical sentences.

## V. Comments (Overall evaluation, including capacity to take university lectures)

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I can vouch for the above evaluation.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's place of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's full name (and signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Seal: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The evaluator must be a person who teaches Japanese at a senior high school or university, or a government or public organization employee in a position of responsibility who has thorough comprehension of the Japanese language, or a Japanese embassy official or employee.