Women Leaders Program to Promote Well-being in Asia

Nagoya University
The MEXT Program for Leading Graduate Schools
The power of W (Women × Well-being) will change the future.

Program Overview

Five-year interdisciplinary program

The program is based on a research and education support structure formed jointly by four graduate schools (five divisions)—International Development, Education and Human Development, Biocultural Sciences, and Medicine (including Health Sciences)—together with the International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education (ICCAE) and the Office for Gender Equality. Lecturers include first-rate researchers in Japan and abroad and world-class experts from international organizations and private corporations. The objective of this five-year interdisciplinary program is to facilitate the acquisition of integrated knowledge—something that is impossible to achieve in a single discipline—and to encourage the acquisition of six core abilities: 1) comprehension of gender-related issues and gender equality, 2) practical skills, 3) onsite skills, 4) planning skills, 5) ability to look at issues from a comprehensive perspective, and 6) communication skills for conveying opinions.

Program Features and Unique Contribution

Emphasis on practical education based on collaboration with partner universities and international organizations

It is important for young people to experience other cultures and develop an international outlook and a broad perspective toward interdisciplinary research if they are to gain the ability to address and solve global issues.

This program aims to foster women leaders with the high expertise and clear vision required to achieve well-being in Asia, by offering five years of practical English education that includes lectures and seminars conducted in English, as well as overseas fieldwork and research opportunities offered in collaboration with partner universities, international organizations, and international cooperation organizations in Japan, including the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Support Structure

Our support continues after program completion

To realize your career aspirations, you may have to overcome different challenges at various stages. At first, you may not know your best career path or you may lack practical experience and information. Later on, you may have difficulty finding positions commensurate with your expertise and experience. As you near your goal, your challenges may include the need to expand your people network and deal with uncertainties about the future.

Under this program, students benefit from a guidance structure provided jointly by the four graduate schools (five divisions) involved. They also have access to Nagoya University’s well-regarded mentor system with a solid track record. Support is provided both during and after the program to help optimize students’ career development strategies.

Mission and Aims

Asian development with a focus on women

Today, when the world is in need of diverse initiatives for the development of sustainable societies, women hold the key to Japan’s revitalization. Women in Japan are anticipated to make the most of their unique strengths and capabilities to work actively in an increasingly wide range of fields.

Asian countries are multicultural societies in various stages of development. They face a multitude of challenges including poverty, diverse health problems, and gender gaps. To address these challenges—especially issues shared by the food, health, and environments, to which women have traditionally made contributions—it is necessary for women in Asia to form networks and partnerships with each other that transcend ethnic origin, nationality, and religion.

This program offers a wide-ranging curriculum, with a focus on food, health, environments, social systems, and education, which have a deep bearing on challenges in Asia. It aims to foster women leaders with solid expertise, a broad perspective, an international outlook grounded in cross-cultural understanding, and a sense of mission—in short, women who can work effectively in a global context to help realize well-being in Asia.
**Voice**

Takahiro Kakehashi  
*Department of Engineering Science, Graduate School of Biobioscience Economics*

In my undergraduate years I studied the effect of soil salinity on agriculture in Kenya. Wanting to broaden my perspectives beyond Kenya, I enrolled in this program because of its focus on well-being in Asia. Through the program, I'm learning more about diversity such as how non-Japanese students build up their arguments and what their researches mean to them. My goal is to apply the findings of leading-edge agricultural research to actual places that can benefit from them. As this program includes lectures by personnel of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), I will take their information into account when deciding on my future direction.

**Voice**

My goal is to apply leading-edge research to agriculture in developing countries.

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**Voice**

Hitomi Tsukuda  
*Department of Educational Sciences, Graduate School of Education and Human Development*

The interdisciplinary classes are a series of surprising discoveries. Ways of thinking and perspectives are so different from graduate school to graduate school. When creating a questionnaire, liberal arts students tend to focus on quality while science and engineering students emphasize quantity. I keenly experienced these differences during the training camp for the Special Lecture on Multicultural Societies. It wasn't easy to come to an agreement on any given theme because of our different cultural and academic backgrounds. I think this mirrors the way it is out in the real world. I want to determine my future career path after participating in overseas fieldwork and internship programs.

**Voice**

Take advantages of the wide-ranging curriculum, and find out what I want to do in the future.

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**Voice**

Tae Sasakabe  
*Department of Preventive Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine*

I enrolled in this program because I want to eventually help eliminate problems such as poverty and discrimination that women easily fall prey to in Pakistan, where I come from. My research theme is poverty and women’s higher education. The guest speakers' lectures have different perspectives and ideas. I've gained new insights for my research through the program.

**Voice**

My theme is poverty and women's higher education. I want to join United Nations in the future.

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**Voice**

Sarwar Aiza  
*Department of International Health, Graduate School of Medicine*

I enrolled in this program because I want to eventually help eliminate problems such as poverty and discrimination that women easily fall prey to in Pakistan, where I come from. My research theme is poverty and women’s higher education. The guest speakers' lectures have been very helpful. I learned about how people in developing countries are trying to solve poverty and gender issues in developing countries. I was also able to hear firsthand the skills and knowledge needed to work in an international organization. In the future I want to work in a United Nations organization such as UNICEF.

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1 Program Scholarship
Each student is eligible to receive an initial stipend of 150,000 JPY / month provided by the MEXT Program for Leading Graduate Schools. Students will be required to take qualifying examinations to enter the doctoral programs. Stipends for doctoral students who pass the qualifying examinations will be increased to 200,000 JPY / month. If a student does not pass the qualifying examinations, his/her program scholarship may be suspended (the student may continue to participate in the program, however). An unsatisfactory attendance record and/or sub-standard academic results could lead to a student's scholarship being suspended. Students are not permitted to receive other non-refundable scholarships while concurrently receiving stipends. Furthermore, students who are currently in regular paid employment cannot receive stipends under this program. Because a program scholarship is regarded as student income, the scholarship will be subject to income tax. Admission to this program does not mean that university enrollment and tuition fees will be waived. There is no additional fee for enrollment in this program.

This Program is funded under the MEXT Program for Leading Graduate Schools. The scholarships provided by the MEXT Program for Leading Graduate Schools will close at the end of academic year 2019.

2 Other Financial Support
Financial support for participating in various program activities, such as the overseas fieldwork, overseas internships, and English program, will be provided as appropriate.

Application Procedure
Please see the application guidelines. If you are interested in applying for admission to the program, please consult with your academic advisor at the affiliated graduate school.

Eligibility
The program is run jointly by four graduate schools (five divisions) —International Development, Education and Human Development, Bioagricultural Sciences, and Medicine (including Health Sciences). Enrollment in a master’s program in one of the four graduate schools is required for admission to this program. In addition, this is a five-year program and only students who plan to enter a doctoral program at one of the above four graduate schools will be accepted.

International students who receive scholarships from the Japanese government, a foreign government, and/or private foundations, and students with regular jobs are eligible to apply but cannot receive program scholarships. For more details, please contact the Well-being Program Office.

The Number of Students to be Admitted to the Program
Approximately 20 students in total from the four graduate schools will be admitted. Priority is given to female students but male students with an appreciation of gender equality are welcome to apply. About 20% of the total admission will be international students.

Recruiting Fair
Recruiting fairs for the program will be held in every March or April. For details, please see our website.

Contact Information
Well-being Program Office, Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, Nagoya University
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