



# Major in International and Regional Economy



**To develop professionals who understand the regions, Japan, and the world from a global perspective, and who will be able to connect Japan to the world while also helping to support the regions.**

In the coming age we are going to need truly professional economists that are able to take a global viewpoint and a regional viewpoint and then take appropriate action. In the International and Regional Economy Major, students will learn about Japanese economic and social policies, and measures to revitalize the regions, and about economic and social conditions that exist

between Japan and other areas such as Asia, Europe and the United States. Through their studies, students will become professionals with a global perspective capable of putting things into practice. To this end, this major focuses on students acquiring the necessary research and language abilities. Students will take part in a variety of fieldwork, including regional and overseas surveys.

## Points

- We have created two specialist courses that students must complete to ensure that they are equipped with the attributes required of an economist and that they are professionals able to join regions to the world.
- While focusing on teaching the core curriculum of each course, each student is also given the opportunity to study courses in a systematic and comprehensive manner based on the issues that are of particular interest to them.



## Ideal student

- A person with the ambition and courage to play an active role in international society
- Someone who wants to focus on and play an active role in a particular region

## Pathways after graduation

National and local governments, general trading and international trading companies, financial institutions, private-sector companies, research organizations, and NPOs.

## Student's Voice

Now and in the future, I want to contribute in some way to Fukushima—the region that I love.



In the International and Regional Economy Major, I have come to understand the problem areas in today's global economy and the areas that I need to learn more about, as well as how to make the best use of this knowledge to benefit regional economies. In the future, I would like to work in the public sector and play a role in revitalizing regional economies. But now I am still at university, so after thinking about what I can do for my region today, I became involved

in various volunteering activities. For example, I have taken part in a blood donation campaign and also helped to transport items to an evacuation center. However, the volunteer work that left the greatest impression on me was when I helped lawyers who were providing citizens with free legal advice. Many of the people seeking advice earned minimum wages and on hearing about the problems they face in their work places, I wanted to find out what I could do to help them improve their situations. I have not yet decided on a research topic for my thesis, but improving workplace environments is a possible candidate. I am learning many things in my studies and in the future I hope I will be able to make a contribution to Fukushima, the region that I love.



Third Year International and Regional Economy Student  
**Kimiko Kato**  
(from Fukushima Prefecture, Tachibana High School)

Second Year Second Semester Timetable

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	Nuclear Disasters and Regional		Basic Programming	Theory of Industrial Structures	
2	Intermediate German	Regional Economy Theory	Social Development Theory	Global Economy Theory	Supply Chain Management
3	Microeconomics			Intermediate German	Specialized Practicum
4	Clothes Design and Functional			Comparative Economics History	Specialized Practicum
5	International Relations Theory				

## International Comparative Economics Course

In the coming international age, we will need to have a better understanding of the societies and cultures of other countries. This course goes beyond the boundaries of conventional economics courses and students will be taught about a wide range of social and cultural elements on an international scale. The international comparative economics course is intended for students who want to learn about the theoretical, historical, and comparative aspects of the international economy and who want to study practical and policy elements from a global perspective.

- Global Economic Theory
- History of Comparative Economics
- Economic Policy
- International Relations Theory
- Macroeconomics I
- Microeconomics I
- International Surveys Practice
- Global Economic Theory II
- International Public Sector Policy Theory
- Contemporary Capitalism Theory
- Economic Structure Theory
- Economics History
- Japanese Economic History
- History of Social Thought
- Regional Economy Theory II
- Public Finance
- Social Policy
- Regional Policy Theory
- Regional Finance Policy Theory

### Example of the Courses

#### Development Economics

I have been interested in developing countries ever since I was a university student when I was shocked by the famine problem affecting Africa. Also, it is impossible to talk about the contemporary international economy without an understanding of the Asian economy, which continues to grow. In addition to lectures on the sustainable development models and development strategies, in this course we invite guest speakers to talk about development and aid. I believe this course can help us all to consider how we can live in harmony with people from developing countries and how to create a better future. (Written by Prof. Sano)



### Example of the Courses

#### American Economic Theory

Not only is the American economy the biggest in the world, it is also highly advanced. It generates a constant stream of new ideas that are then turned into commercial products. This ability is particularly notable in the fields of IT and finance. However, America became the focal point for the global financial crisis that followed its own sub-prime crisis, and it has been argued that its creation of novel and untested mechanisms generated a financial bubble and these same mechanisms then caused this bubble to collapse. In this course, students will learn about these mechanisms, where they came from, and what the future holds.



### Example of the Courses

#### Asian Economic Theory

Asia, which has been described as *the world economy's growth center*, is made up of many countries, each with its own history, culture, politics, and economic system. Asian economic theory focuses on the various systemic changes that are occurring against the backdrop of the remarkable economic growth occurring in the East Asia region, while also teaching students about the diversity that exists in Asian societies and economic systems. Recently, students have been asked to carry out an international research project comparing the private sector-initiated recovery efforts in Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake with the state-initiated recovery efforts in China that followed the Great Sichuan Earthquake of 2008.



## Regional Economic Policy Course

The word regional signifies spaces on various levels. Neighbourhoods and neighbourhood associations are regions, while regions on the scale of Asia and Europe are also discussed. At present, regional economies are approaching a major turning point amid globalization, and local governments are in the midst of a major transformation. In this course, students will comprehensively consider regional industries and lifestyles as well as administrative and fiscal affairs at local governments while ensuring an international perspective is maintained.

- Regional Economics Theory I
- Regional Policy Theory
- Local Public Finance Systems Theory
- Regional Finance Policy Theory
- Japanese Economics Theory
- Industrial Economics Theory

### Example of the Courses

#### Social Policy and Labor Economics

The fact that people live by working is a human activity that is presumed in all kinds of institutional systems in all kinds of societies. In the case of societies where people who want to work cannot work and people who want to live normally cannot live normally, the society doesn't work whatever system they choose. In this course, you will learn about labor conditions and ways of life seen through social sciences including economics, as well as the principles and systems of social security and labor markets, which are related to them. Perhaps you can envisage a *fair society* there in which to live and work.



### Example of the Courses

#### Comparative Economic History/ European Economic Theory

In regard to *comparative economic history* and *European economic theory*, understanding the current Western economy by placing it in a broad historical context is the main topic. In the case of the latter subject, we will study various aspects of the *inside* of the current economy, with the focus on EU economics. In the case of the former subject, we will consider the present from the *outside* of the so-called modern market economy, namely, (1) human history and environmental history related to the non-market economy; (2) not only industrial, commercial and financial but also agricultural history and rural society history; and (3) socialist history as a criticism of modern capitalism.



### Example of the Courses

#### Economic Geography and Regional Economic Theory Practice

In this course, we will research various aspects of theory, reality, and policy with a focus on economic geography. In general economic theory, spatial and regional differences tend to be placed outside the realm of consideration or resolved in the problem of transportation expenses (cost), for example. However, real economic activity and economic life are certainly deeply rooted in space and regions, and they are developing in a way that is intricately linked with these factors. We will take up and discuss the issues concerning economic space and regions at the global, national, and local levels.

