Introduction

Based on long-established tradition, Kanazawa Law has made major contributions to the scholarship and teaching of Law. For almost 120 years, the faculty members have performed teaching and research in a scholarly fashion in an academic environment.

Program

First Year and Second Year

Students study the main subjects of Law and Politics (e.g., Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Civil Law, Politics) in lectures and seminars. Furthermore, they study various subjects in liberal arts and two foreign languages. In the winter semester of the second year, each student chooses one of the following three courses as preparation for his/her future study or work.

Third Year and Fourth Year

The Course of Advanced Legal Studies

This course is for students who will go on to graduate school. Almost all of the subjects in this course are elective, so each student can choose the subjects that best provide a foundation for his/her future studies in graduate school. Graduation from this course requires completion of a graduate thesis or two notes on judicial precedents.

The Course of Public Law & Policy Studies

This course is for students who will go on to graduate school. The main focus of this course is to understand public law and political science. In preparation for careers as public servants, students learn about policy formation by taking classes in such issues as policy processes, public administration, and welfare policy and by studying the dynamics of domestic and international politics and their impact on legal systems.

The Course of Business Law Studies

The main focus of this course is to understand corporate law and related subjects. In preparation for careers as business executives, students study civil and commercial law, economics, international law, intellectual property law, international business law and other subjects related to the various activities of companies.

Teaching Language

Almost all subjects are taught in Japanese.

Requirements for Earning Bachelor’s Degree

The Bachelor of Law is awarded to students who are enrolled at least four years (three years for those earning exceptional grades) and have earned at least 126 credits.

Admission

En trance Examination

Students have to pass the screening test for international students who have completed their previous school program. The test is given in February, the same time as the general entrance examination. The test has the form of a written test, and students must have completed their secondary school in Japan. It includes a written test in Japanese (a combined test of “Japanese Language” for the general entrance examination) and an interview. In order to take the test, applicants must have previously taken the Examination for Japanese University Admissions for International Students, as well as the TOEFL test. 

Quota of Enrolled Students

1st year students and 10 third-year students transferred from other universities.

Division of Law and Politics, Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies (Master's Program)

History

The Graduate School of Law at Kanazawa University (Mazubas’s Course) was established in 1971 to provide an opportunity to the students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Law and Politics through seminars and the advice of members of the Faculty of Law. The Graduate School of Law was dissolved and incorporated into the Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies in April 2006.

Program Overview

Division of Law and Politics of the Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies consists of four programs: Basic Science of Law, Public and Social Law, Private Law, and Politics. The student selects the program that covers his/her major area of studies.

Every student and the seminar in Division of Law and Politics is open to a group of students of different faculties, so each student can flexibly set the contents of the lectures and seminars to suit the needs of the participants.

Credits Arrangement

The division of Law and Politics is very flexible, so each student can design his/her own curriculum to best support particular research goals. Altogether, 30 credits (one course in a semester: 2 credits) as a minimum have been stipulated as independent study for writing a master’s thesis, 8 credits for subjects in the program selected by the student, 4 credits for such subjects as “Japanese Language” or “Basic Lecture,” and 10 credits in elective courses. The 10 elective credits may include subjects taught in another division of the Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies.

Special Subjects for International Students

Introduction to Japanese Law

The Division of Law and Politics offers two lectures in “Introduction to Japanese Law” for international students. Each lecture is taught by a faculty member, where one of these is in English and the other is in Japanese. Through these lectures, students can get an outline of Japanese Law.

Basic Lecture

Most international students whose level of Japanese is sufficient to understand lectures taught in Japanese may audit undergraduate lectures. In this case, on condition that he/she becomes the guest of the faculty member giving the chosen lecture, the student can earn credits of “Basic Lecture,” 8 credits or less of the Division of Law and Politics.

Teaching Language

Some subjects are taught in English. Students whose major is one of these subjects may write his/her master’s thesis in English. Other subjects are taught in Japanese.

Requirements for Earning Master’s Degree

Master of Law or Master of Politics is awarded to students who have earned at least 60 credits (including 36 credits of exception, exceptional grades), have earned at least 30 credits, and have submitted an acceptable master’s thesis written under the guidance of a faculty member.

Why Kanazawa?

Kanazawa is one of the most beautiful cities in Japan. Located on the Sea of Japan (“East Sea” in Korean), Kanazawa is an ancient castle town that during the Edo period (1603-1868) was the administrative center of the Cary family, the richest family in the entire country. Kanazawa did not suffer from bombing as the Second World War. It has maintained a whole complex of building inherited a wealth of traditions handicrafts and performing arts. NEIROO approved Kanazawa as a Grand City Network in 2009, which the organization launched to promote international cooperation and exchange among world cities that have developed creative and cultural industries.

Today’s Kanazawa is a medium-sized and comfortable city. It has a population of 460,000 (as of 2010), with many pupils and in the community. This city is the hometown of eyeglasses, hairdressing and education, and the cultural level of the citizenry is high. Students take buses to the Katsuo Car Park, a 10-minute drive from the campus. After class, they can enjoy the nightlife of the Minami-ku district, just in front of the campus, or Korinbo, in the city.

Kanazawa is an international city that has the most international students to get the most out of their time in Japan.

Contact Information

School of Law (undergraduate program) and Division of Law & Politics (master’s program):
Office of Student Affairs, Section for Law and Economics, Kanazawa University Kakinomachi, Kanazawa 920-1192, Japan
Tel: +81-76-264-5461
E-mail: n-gakind@adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp
Fax: +81-76-264-5468
Website of Kanazawa Law: http://www.law.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/
Quota of Enrolled Students enter the Graduate School in April the following year and examination on the major subject chosen by the examinee and examination is conducted in Japanese. It consists of a written master's programs twice yearly in July and February. The examination in Japanese for all students applying to our Entrance Examination in October of the same year or April the following year. pass this entrance examination enter the Graduate School in October of the same year or April the following year.

Admission
Entrance Examination in English
The Division of Human and Social-Environmental Studies (Doctoral Program) holds an entrance examination, in July and February of each year, for all students who have received a Master degree from a Japanese or foreign university. Admission decisions on international students are based on the results of an oral examination (in Japanese) and master's thesis, and research plan. Successful applicants applying in July enter the Graduate School in October of the same year. Those applying in February enter in April of the same year.

Program

Credit Arrangement
During his/her residence in the doctoral program, the student must earn at least 16 credits, 6 of which may be given by his/her supervisor. The student must earn the remaining 10 credits from other faculty members (1 course = 2 credits). This regulation, we have come to know as the rule of faculty members will help the student to improve his/her ability to carry out creative scientific research based on different perspectives and disciplines.

Publication of Articles
Students are expected to publish at least two articles on his/her research topic in journals before submitting his/her dissertation. “Human and Social-Environmental Studies,” published by the Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies at KU, provides opportunities for students to publish their articles. PDF files of articles published in this journal can be accessed on the Internet.

Teaching Language: Some subjects are taught in English. Students whose major involves one of these subjects may write his/her dissertation in English. Other subjects are taught in Japanese.

Requirements for Earning Doctor's Degree:
The Doctor degree is awarded to students who are enrolled at least three years (one year for those earning exceptional grades), have earned at least 16 credits, and have submitted an acceptable dissertation written under the guidance of a faculty member.

Law School (Graduate School for Candidates of National Bar Examination)
Law School is a postgraduate program closely modeled on the American post-graduate system. Graduation from a law school is currently the condition to sit for the national bar examination. Kanazawa University established its Law School in 2004 as one of the first such law schools in Japan. The Law School consists of a three-year program for students who have graduated from undergraduate law programs other than an undergraduate law program and a two-year program for students who have graduated from an undergraduate law program. The Quota of Enrolled Students of Law School at Kanazawa University is 25 per year. The “Jius Doctor” degree is conferred to graduates of the Law School.

Program for Exchange Students from Sister Universities of KU and KU Law
Kanazawa University has more than 100 sister universities. With many of them, KU has concluded university-wide agreements for student exchange. Furthermore, the Law School at Kanazawa University has initiated its own department-level student exchange programs, a noteworthy example being the agreement made with the College of Law at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. Exchange students stay at KU as non-degree students. Japanese ability is not necessary for exchange students of KU if they are able to attend courses taught in English. Moreover, KU offers a variety of Japanese language courses, which can be taken not only by degree students but also by non-degree students.

Faculty of Law (Faculty Members)
A “Faculty” of Kanazawa University means an academic affiliation of teaching staff, in our case that of Law and Politics. The Faculty of Law consists of about 50 professors and associate professors, many of whom (about 40%) are in charge of teaching students in the School of Law (undergraduate program), Division of Law & Politics (master’s program), and Division of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies (doctoral program). Some of the faculty members (about 30%) are in charge of teaching students in the Law School (graduate school for bar exam candidates), and the remainder of them are in charge of teaching students in other schools (mainly the School/Division of International Studies).

Admission
Admission and tuition Fees are subject to change. Therefore, please refer to the website for the most current information. Degree students with financial difficulties who are enrolled in the undergraduate or graduate courses are eligible for tuition exemption (full or half) if they demonstrate an exemplary academic record. Admission and tuition fees of exchange students are waived.

Various organizations support scholarship programs for international students through Kanazawa University. Please see our website for more information on opportunities available to international students at KU.

Students in master/doctoral programs generally have the opportunity to serve as Research/Teaching Assistants and receive compensation from KU.

Division of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies (Doctoral Program)
History Since 1993, Kanazawa University has hosted a graduate school that can confer the Doctor of Law and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Since the reorganization of KU’s graduate schools in 2006, the Division of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies has offered programs leading to the acquisition of the Doctor of Law and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

Program

Credits Arrangement
During his/her residence in the doctoral program, the student must earn at least 16 credits, 6 of which may be given by his/her supervisor. The student must earn the remaining 10 credits from other faculty members (1 course = 2 credits). With this regulation, we have come to know as the rule of faculty members will help the student to improve his/her ability to carry out creative scientific research based on different perspectives and disciplines.

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