

Guidelines for the Master's Seminar in Environmental Studies for Advanced Society (required course for Master's students)

Guidelines for the Doctoral Seminar in Environmental Studies for Advanced Society (required course for PhD students)

Seminars in charge: Prof. Etsuro Shibata, Prof. Masanobu Kamitakahara
and Assoc.Prof. Shun Yokoyama
(Assoc.Prof. Shun Yokoyama is the main person in charge for the seminars)

Course summary

The goal of the seminar is to help students conducting Master's and Doctoral thesis research in Environmental Studies for Advanced Society to clarify trends in research and to position their own research within relevant fields of study. This is achieved by introducing and analyzing pertinent Japanese and international research articles and also by discussing the background surrounding the topic and reporting on progress the student's research to date.

Seminar content

- M1 Introduction of Master's Research (10 min presentation; 5 min Q&A), Evaluators: 2 faculty members

Each student is required to summarize previous research related to their research theme. This allows the student to position their research theme within the relevant field(s) of study, and to discuss the direction of pertinent Japanese and international research.

- M2 Interim Presentation (15 min presentation; 10 min Q&A), Evaluators: 2 faculty members

Each student will report and discuss progress of their Master's research.

- D1 Introduction of Doctoral Research (15 min presentation; 10 min Q&A), Evaluators: 2 faculty members

Each student will present and discuss the results of Doctoral research conducted during their first year. It is expected that students will discuss trends in Japanese and international research in the relevant field(s) of study and set up their research theme as well as original ideas related to this.

- D2 Interim Presentation (15 min presentation; 10 min Q&A), Evaluators: 2 faculty members

Each student will report and discuss the progress of their Doctoral research.

Seminar schedule (unless otherwise indicated, seminars will be held from 13:00 to 16:10)

Year of study	April enrollment	October enrollment	Content
M1	10/30	2/26	Intro of Master's research
M2	7/16, 7/17, 7/30, 7/31	12/3	Interim presentation
D1	10/30	2/26	Intro of Doctoral research
D2	7/16, 7/17, 7/30, 7/31	12/3	Interim presentation

No.1 Meeting Room and No. 4 Lecture Room in Eco Lab

Seminar Guidelines

- Faculty evaluators will be appointed by the presenting student's major advisor and should be from labs other than that to which the presenting student belongs.
- Presentations should be made in either Japanese or English.
- Presentations will be conducted simultaneously in two locations.
- Students will listen and comment (using the form provided) on all presentations given in their assigned room. Students' attendance will be verified based on submission of this comment form.
- Seminars will be carried out as per instruction of the research lab assigned to conduct the seminar.
- The M1D1 seminars on 10/30 will be exceptionally held as part of the 2nd Academic Forum on Environmental Studies.
- **The presentation location and the attendance evaluation may change depending on the outbreak of coronavirus. Details will be contacted.**
- Research labs assigned to conduct seminars (to be repeated in the order presented below)

Year	Year of study	Research lab	Year	Year of study	Research lab
R2 2020	M2, D2 (April enrollment)	Komai lab	R4 2022	M2, D2 (April enrollment)	Sato (Motoyuki) lab
	M1, D1 (April enrollment)	Takahashi (Hideyuki) lab		M1, D1 (April enrollment)	Kano lab
	M2, D2 (October enrollment)	Ito lab		M2, D2 (October enrollment)	Okamoto lab
	M1, D1 (October enrollment)	Shibata (Etsuro) lab		M1, D1 (October enrollment)	Takahashi (Hiroshi) lab
R3 2021	M2, D2 (April enrollment)	Omata lab	R5 2023	M2, D2 (April enrollment)	Kamitakahara lab
	M1, D1 (April enrollment)	Fukuyama lab		M1, D1 (April enrollment)	Inoue lab
	M2, D2 (October enrollment)	Sato (Yoshinori) lab		M2, D2 (October enrollment)	Kawada lab
	M1, D1 (October enrollment)	Humanities		M1, D1 (October enrollment)	Komai lab

Credit approval

Master's seminar in Environmental Studies for Advanced Society (**required** course for Master's students)

Master's seminar credits will be awarded to students who deliver both Introduction to Master's Research and M2 Interim presentations and are evaluated by their supervising professors as having performed satisfactorily. Attendance at the seminars is extremely important and it should also be kept in mind that this is a required course.

Doctoral seminar in Environmental Studies for Advanced Society (**required** course for Doctoral students)

Doctoral seminar credits will be awarded to students who deliver both D1 Results Presentation and D2 Interim presentations and are evaluated by their supervising professors as having performed satisfactorily. Attendance at the seminars is extremely important and it should also be kept in mind that this is a required course.

Additional explanation regarding the M1 Introduction to Master's Research presentation

1. Objective

Two major requirements of any research are “originality” and “priority.” That is to say, researchers should always seek to conduct research that has not been done before, and before anyone else. To this end, it is essential to know what research has been conducted in the past and what research is presently being (or about to be) conducted. In terms of Master's level research, students must be sufficiently aware of the background, purpose, expected results, implications, societal and scholarly significance, and ethical dimensions of their chosen research theme.

The Introduction of Master's Research presentation is expected to cover the following items, which correspond to the content of the first chapter of a Master's thesis, and not actual research data.

Another important aspect of the seminar is for students to understand, discuss, and evaluate the presentations made by other students.

2. Presentation content

- Background and societal needs of the research field in the question
- Research objective(s)
- Previous research
- Expected results or outcomes
- Contribution to the specific and related fields of study

3. Important notes

- The presentation of previous research should be much more comprehensive than simply introducing a single non-Japanese paper.
- When literature is being introduced, multiple articles should be summarized and integrated so as to explain the context of the student's own research. These research articles can be in Japanese or any other language.
- If the student has yet not chosen a research theme, the student should give a presentation on an area in which they are currently interested.
- If the student's research theme is an extension of the student's graduation research (i.e. undergraduate), the presentation should contain material that demonstrates advancement beyond this.

Internship

(Optional required course for Master's and Doctoral students, 2 credits)

Guidelines

Eligibility: M1 and D1 students (exceptions may be granted)

Period: 10 days to 1 month, typically between the end of July to the end of September.

(5 days: 1 credit, 10 or more days: 2 credits)

Students will submit a report upon completion of the internship.

- Class absences due to internship will not be recognized as authorized absences.
- Although the internship is an optional required course for Master's students, it is strongly recommended that Master's students choose this option.
- Students should consult with their supervising professor to identify an appropriate internship. Yet they are also expected to make their own arrangements to find a suitable host by making use of public advertisements for internships, etc.
- Doctoral students who work full time should choose one of the following internships.
 - a. Become a mentor for an RESD student in Japan.
 RESD program: The Regional Environmental and Sustainable Development Certificate Program is a joint program offered by six university departments in three countries: Qinghua University (China), Tongji University (China), KAIST (South Korea), POSTECH (South Korea), Kanazawa University, Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies.
 - b. Host and supervise a Master internship students in one's current place of employment.
 - c. Other

What is an internship?

Internships are a work-experience programs whereby students are able to gain hands-on or practical training at a company or other institution. Changes in Japan's socio-economic landscape resulting from the advance of internationalization and I.T. as well as shifts in the structure of industry have been accompanied by changes in customary employment practices (e.g. thorough implementation of merit-based systems) and the types of workers sought by companies. In this context, universities, which play a central role in the cultivation of future workers, have been strengthening their educational function to nurture creative graduates that meet the needs of industry. As part of this overall effort, there is a growing interest in internships as one means to cultivate future personnel through industry-academic collaboration. It is hoped that students will be able to complete a single project in a fixed time period, carry out their work while interacting with others, and use the internship as an opportunity to further polish skills that they will need when entering society.

The significance and goal of internships

(1) Improving and strengthening the link between academics and society

Internships enable students to link academic education and research with “real world” experience. It is hoped that students will learn how they can apply knowledge acquired at the university to society.

(2) Nurturing a strong sense of professionalism

Internships are an opportunity for students to assess their fit in terms of occupation and to think about career aspirations, which should help them to proactively choose careers and to develop a sense of professionalism. In addition, internships improve students’ ability to adapt to the work environment after finding employment.

(3) Cultivation of independent and creative individuals

By providing students with the opportunity to accumulate work experience in companies and other organizations and to develop key competences attained from seeing advanced knowledge and skills being applied in real-world settings, internships help to cultivate individuals who are able to think and act independently. In addition, by allowing students to experience first-hand the dynamism that arises through the application of innovative technology and knowhow, internships contribute to the cultivation of creative individuals who can pioneer new industries and hold strong aspirations to tackle new and hitherto unknown frontiers.

For questions regarding internships, please contact the following:

Deputy Chair, Department of Environmental Studies for Advanced Society

Prof. Masanobu Kamitakahara (masanobu.kamitakahara.a6@tohoku.ac.jp)

Prof. Etsuro Shibata (etsuro.shibata.e3@tohoku.ac.jp)