The Educational Policy of Aoyama Gakuin

Aoyama Gakuin has as its aim education based upon the Christian faith and as its purpose the building up of persons who live in sincerity before God, who seek for truth with humility, and who actively take responsibility for all people and for society in a spirit of love and service.

Access to AGU

Aoyama Campus is located in the center of Tokyo with convenient access by public transportation. Both Shibuya Station and Omotesando Station are within 10 minutes’ walking distance.

- From Narita Airport to Shibuya Station (70-125 minutes).
- From Haneda Airport to Shibuya Station (30-70 minutes).

Train from Narita Airport to Shibuya Station or Omotesando Station:
- Take the JR Narita Express and get off at Shibuya station (75 minutes).
- For those who wish to get to AGU from Omotesando station, take the JR Narita Express to Shibuya station, change to Tokyo metro Ginza line or Hanzomon line, and get off at Omotesando station (5 minute-walk from B1 exit). Link for JR Narita Express ([https://www.jreast.co.jp/enex/](https://www.jreast.co.jp/enex/)).

The Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights Program
Welcome to Aoyama Gakuin University

Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU) is one of the top private universities in Asia, located in the heart of metropolitan Tokyo, Japan.

School Motto >>> The Salt of the Earth, The Light of the World (Matthew 5:13-16)

About SMIPRP

The Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights Program (SMIPRP) is a 12-month master’s degree program at AGU’s Graduate School of Business and offers cutting-edge classes and practical management skills for future leaders, particularly in customs organizations around the world. All instruction on the SMIPRP is given in English, and the program is open to students worldwide. This master’s degree program operates under the sponsorship of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Our Mission

Developing countries face enormous challenges in trying to achieve sustainable development. This is due, in part, to the lack of effective and efficient financial institutions and regulatory regimes. To build such institutions, developing countries need human capital with excellence in management knowledge and skills capable of designing and implementing sound public policies. This is where AGU finds its mission: “to be a school for training and research for future leaders in the policy arena.”

The SMIPRP at AGU’s Graduate School of Business, in cooperation with WCO, takes a leading role in achieving this mission by offering a master’s degree program that nurtures future leaders in customs-related organizations. As a leading research institution in Business and Management, we pursue quality research in such areas as strategic and organizational management and intellectual property rights, offering continuous feedback to future executives in customs-related organizations.

The characteristics of the SMIPRP are threefold:

- The SMIPRP places its educational focus on management.
- The SMIPRP aims to incorporate Western theories of business management and research findings with those of Japan as the economic center of Asia.
- The SMIPRP strives to educate students about the management practices of private companies from a practical standpoint, which we believe contributes to nurturing future leaders not only for the organizational development of customs but also for the sustainable development of countries.

Program Overview

The SMIPRP is configured by four pillars, under which several numbers of courses are available for students as follows:

1. Strategic Management
   Course Subjects:
   - Competitive Strategy/ Management/ Organizational Management/ Innovation Management/ Multinational Financial Management

2. Intellectual Property Rights
   Course Subjects:
   - IPR Enforcement at the Border/ Intellectual Property Rights / Copyright law

3. Customs and Tariffs
   Course Subjects:
   - Customs Reforms & Modernization/ Practicum in Customs Administration/ Customs Law/ Customs Tariff Law

4. Research
   Course Subjects:
   - Master Thesis / Academic Writing/ Statistical Analysis

Skills

The SMIPRP aims to provide students with management knowledge and skills in three main areas:

- Strategic skills
- Relational skills
- Practical skills

Admissions Flow

Application Advice:
Complete STEPS 1, 2, and 3 A.S.A.P so you will have ample time to assemble the strongest possible application packet.

Admissions Calendar

STEP 1  Online Registration
STEP 2  Notification of ID & Password
STEP 3  Download Application Forms
STEP 4  Submit by post Designated Application Forms & Other Required Documents
STEP 5  Online Interview with Selected Applicants:
- After reviewing applications, the Admissions Committee for the SMIPRP will request an interview for selected applicants (i.e., those applicants who have successfully passed the documentary examination). Those who are selected will receive a notification and scheduling information about the interview via e-mail. Interviews are conducted via Zoom.

4. Admissions Calendar

- Online Registration: Early September
- Notification of ID & Password: Early October
- Download Application Forms: Early October
- Submit by post Designated Application Forms: Early September
- Online Interview with Selected Applicants: Early October
- Announcement of Final Successful Applicants: Early November
- Arrangement for Enrollment: Early December
- Arrival in Japan: Late December

What the Scholarship Covers

- A monthly stipend is granted to cover living expenses during your studies at AGU. This stipend cannot be increased to cover family members. The amount of your stipend is subject to change.
- Your admission and tuition fees will be paid by the scholarship sponsors.
- Round-trip economy-class air tickets between your home country and Japan are also included.

5. WCO Scholarship

Full tuition scholarship is awarded to full-time candidates who have been accepted for study at AGU and approved by the WCO. You may apply for the scholarship when you submit the application for admission.

Requirements to Apply for the Scholarship
- Government officials of developing countries with at least two years’ work experience in customs-related fields.
- Preferably under 40 years of age as of 1 April of the enrollment year.

For those who have received education in English, please obtain an official letter of proof from the graduated university indicating that your education was conducted in English.

The Graduate School of Business at AGU welcomes potential students who have a strong interest in conducting rigorous empirical and/or theoretical research integrated with their own practical work experiences. If you wish to apply for the SMIPRP at AGU, please visit our website (https://www.aoyamasmiprp.jp/), carefully read and strictly follow the admission guidelines and instructions.

1. Number to be admitted
   The number of students to be admitted for the SMIPRP course is approximately 10.

2. Qualification for Applicants
   - Bachelor’s Degree or Higher
   - Proficiency in English: Suitable level of proficiency in English to be able to write a thesis is required. Minimum scores in relevant English tests should be as follows:
     - TOEFL iBT (internet-based test or Home Edition) 79 / TOEFL PBT (paper-based test) 550
     - IELTS Academic Module 6.5 (in each band)
   - The score should be obtained within the past two years of the application.
   - The Official Letter of Proof
     For those who have received education in English, please obtain an official letter of proof from the graduated university indicating that your education was conducted in English.

3. Application Procedure (Please check the SMIPRP website for more details)
   - Step 1 Online Registration:
     First, you will need to create a login account to proceed with your application. To create a login account, fill out and submit the online registration form with the necessary information.
   - Step 2 Notification of ID&Password:
     Upon your submission of the online registration form, your ID and password will be sent to you via e-mail.
   - Step 3 Download Application Forms:
     Go to the top page of the SMIPRP website and click the LOGIN button. Then you are required to enter the provided ID and password on the login page to proceed to the next step in order to download and fill out the designated form(s).
   - Step 4 Submit by post Designated Application Forms & Other Required Documents:
     Send all the designated application forms and other required documents by the deadline.

4. Admissions Calendar

- Online Interview: Early October
- Notification of Invitation to Interview: Late September
- Online Registration: Early September
- Submission of Enrollment Documents: Early December

- TOEFL iBT (internet-based test or Home Edition) 79 / TOEFL PBT (paper-based test) 550
- IELTS Academic Module 6.5 (in each band)

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