

Program Overview (Development Studies Programs Offered by Various Universities)

Name of University	University of the Ryukyus
Name of School	Graduate School of Health Sciences
Features of School	<p>The Graduate School of Health Sciences aims to train leaders and researchers with a high degree of research capacities in the field of health sciences. Our graduate school consists of two educational research fields, “International Island Health” and “Human Health Development” which conduct unique educational research regarding health related states and the longevity on Okinawa, the physical, psychosocial and cultural factors that influence health, the development of health resources and advanced healthcare technology, and island health in Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>https://www.ryudai-igakubu-hokengakka.com/en/graduate-school-top/about/</p>
Program Outline	<p>The Okinawa Global Health Science Course accepts students from a wide range of disciplines including healthcare, biomedical science, public health and health policy planning. Students choose a laboratory/department and improve research skills under supervisors. Students also can improve practical skills by attending a JICA training course for health practitioners from low and middle income countries.</p> <p>Okinawa is only the Japanese prefecture located in the subtropical zone. Thus, the health challenges in Okinawa are often similar to those of low and middle income countries. This program offers students an opportunity to learn how high level of longevity and eradication of parasitic diseases are achieved in Okinawa.</p>
Outline of Subjects	<p>“Asia and Pacific Health”</p> <p>Okinawa's health development post-World War II will be explained from a health systems perspective, and practitioners and researchers in the field of global health will be invited to introduce Japan's experiences in international health development.</p> <p>“Tropical Medicine”</p> <p>Malaria and soil-transmitted helminthiasis control in Okinawa will be introduced of this subject, and discuss how to apply to the experience to low- and middle-income countries. Tropical diseases research in Okinawa also will be explained.</p> <p>“Global Health/ Advanced Global Health”</p> <p>Using Okinawa's experience in maternal and child health and infectious disease control as a case study, discussion of problem solving in low- and middle-income countries are promoted. Students can participate in the training program in JICA Okinawa Center to discuss and learn from practitioners in low- and middle-income countries.</p>

	<p>“Environmental Health”</p> <p>In this course we address the environmental health problems in Japan that are related to the rapid economic growth and specific local context (i.e., Okinawa). These environmental health issues include diseases caused by pollution (e.g., Minamata disease), degradation of air and water quality, occupational health hazards, and aircraft noise pollution from the U.S. bases. We discuss how Japanese actions and policies taken to control the environmental health issues can be applied to low- and middle-income countries.</p>
Related URL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://www.ryudai-igakubu-hokengakka.com/en/graduate-school-top/okinawa-global-health-science/ ● https://www.ryudai-igakubu-hokengakka.com/en/graduate-school-top/about/#graduate-school-about_introduction ● https://tiglon.jim.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/Portal/Public/Syllabus/SearchMain.aspx ● http://rais.skr.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/jikanwari/R3-2/02daigakuin/06hoken/hoken_master_health_2.pdf
Program's appeal	<p>Voices from students who take the subjects</p> <p>“Asia and Pacific Health”</p> <p>Joining the Asia and Pacific Health class helped me increase my knowledge of global health, and its involvement in Asian and Pacific countries specifically. Okinawa's success in getting rid of several infectious diseases including malaria is a key lesson to inspire my role as a future leader in health in my country. Moreover, the class allows me to better understand current health challenges in Okinawa such as how lifestyle change is affecting people's health and the ongoing improvement measures.</p> <p>“Tropical Medicine”</p> <p>Tropical diseases continue to be a serious issue in several parts of the world causing millions of deaths every year. The Tropical Medicine class provides an extensive explanation of the involvement of the field over the years, the importance of clinical research in establishing diagnostics and disease control strategies. A key lesson from this is the necessity of collaboration among clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and field workers. Also, with the current globalization which facilitates disease spread, tropical medicine is an important field for developing and developed countries.</p> <p>“Global Health/ Advanced Global Health”</p> <p>As a passionate about reproductive, maternal, and child health and inequality control, this class allowed me to learn from countries' experiences in implementing MCH strategies. Through the MCH short training offered by JICA and included in this class,</p>

I had the chance to discuss with other participants, approaches that work in MCH and how. The success story of Okinawa in MCH showed that the continuum of care and collaboration among health practitioners, decision-makers, and the community can be key to health system strengthening.

“Environmental Health”

This course helps to understand the relation between environment and health, major challenge and how should they be addressed, with focus on Japanese experiences.

Message for future JICA scholars

This is an excellent opportunity to study and have many exciting experiences on our beautiful island, Okinawa. We really look forward to receiving your application.