

Info Guide

November 9 - 13, 2026

Graduate School of Design



The Graduate School of Design of Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan invites potential international graduate students to explore what we can offer through Winter School 2026! If you are interested in graduate study with us, join us to meet and learn from some of our leading researchers.

If you are a final-year undergraduate student, a current master's student, or have completed undergraduate studies and are considering Kyushu University for graduate study, we encourage you to apply.

1. Dates

November 9 to 13, 2026 (4.5 days, Monday to Friday)

2. Location

[Ohashi Campus, Kyushu University](#), Fukuoka, Japan ([access map](#))

3. Eligibility

To apply, you must:

- (1) Be eligible to apply for a master's or doctoral program at Kyushu University's Faculty of Design.
 - This means you hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline or are in your final year of a bachelor's program in a relevant discipline, broadly defined.
 - This includes current master's students as well as those holding a master's degree who are interested in doctoral study.
- (2) Be interested in enrolling in a graduate program at the Kyushu University Graduate School of Design.
- (3) Be able to communicate and engage in research in English.

4. Program Fee

The program fee is 25,000 JPY (tentative), which includes program costs as well as lunch on November 9.

Costs Not Included

The program fee does not include the following items; all costs listed below must be paid by the participant directly:

- Travel expenses to Japan and Fukuoka (For administrative and visa preparation purposes, however, an electronic ticket detailing travel to Fukuoka must be sent to

our office in the summer. Details will be shared upon acceptance.)

- Any fees associated with visa applications, etc.
- Hotel/Accommodation fees (see below, “Accommodations”)
- Health insurance (Required. Proof of insurance must be sent to our office in advance.)
- Transportation fees within Fukuoka, including local travel fees on the excursion day to Kyushu University’s Ito Campus (AM) and to Hakata Old Town (PM)
- Breakfast, dinner, and lunch on all dates (Only lunch on Nov 9 is included.)
- Daily spending money
- Any other associated costs

5. Accommodation

You are free to stay at a location of your choice. If you wish, simple, single-occupancy accommodation will be booked for you by our office. Fees will be approximately 60,000 JPY for 6 nights (Nov 8 to 14). Upon confirmation of registration, you must indicate if you would like us to book your hotel accommodations, or you will make arrangements for yourself.

6. Schedule (Subject to change)

Nov 8 (Sun)	For those who choose to book through our office, hotel check-in is from 3:00 PM onwards.	
Nov 9 (Mon)	Introduction to the Graduate School of Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Lunch • Campus Tour • Networking with Current Graduate Students 	
Nov 10 (Tues)	AM	Lectures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visualizing Japan – Lost and Found in Translation, by Assoc. Prof. Madoka Yuki • World of Touch, by Assoc. Prof. Hsin-Ni Ho • Origami Based Engineering Design, by Assoc. Prof. Kazuya Saito
	PM	Session with potential advisor (content will vary)
Nov 11	AM	Lectures

(Weds)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Space as Social Design with Critical Curating through Craftivism: The Textile Cartographies Mouvement, by Prof. Melanie Sarantou • Practical landscape conservation studies for urban, rural and mountainous areas, by Prof. Kazuo Asahiro • Lecture by Acoustic Design professor (To be confirmed)
	PM	Session with potential advisor (content will vary)
Nov 12 (Thurs)	AM	Visit to the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum: Exhibition and Curatorial Lecture
	PM	Tour of Hakata Old Town
Nov 13 (Fri)	AM only	Student Presentations Professor Feedback Closing
Nov 14		For those staying at accommodations arranged by our office, hotel check-out is by 10:00 AM.

7. Lecture descriptions (Subject to change)

Lecture A, Tues Nov 9, 9:15 to 10:00

Visualizing Japan – Lost and Found in Translation, [Assoc. Prof. Madoka Yuki](#)

This lecture focuses on the visualizing of Japan from the foreign point of view, from the 19th century to present. It explores the following two questions: How were stereotyped images of Japan developed by means of photography in the 19th century? How has this exotic imagery been influenced by our current perspectives on Japan and changed in contemporary photographic art?

Dr. Madoka Yuki, associate professor at Kyushu University, is photography historian with curatorial experience. She completed her dissertation at the University of Duisburg-Essen and held curatorial fellowships at international institutions including the Getty Research Institute, Folkwang Museum, and Kupferstichkabinett Dresden through the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Foundation's "Museum Curator for Photography" program.

Lecture B, Tues Nov 9, 10:15 to 11:00

World of Touch, [Assoc. Prof. Hsin-Ni Ho](#)

This lecture explores the science and significance of touch from perceptual, emotional, and technological perspectives. Topics include the mechanisms of touch perception, tactile recognition of materials and objects, affective and social touch, and emerging haptic technologies for communication, accessibility, and human-centered interaction design.

Dr Hsin-Ni Ho received her Ph.D. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA, in 2006. From 2007 to 2021, she was a Research Scientist with NTT Communication Science Laboratories, Japan. She is currently an Associate Professor with the Faculty of Design, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. She is an expert in thermal perception and thermal displays. Her research interest focuses on understanding how the brain processes cutaneous inputs and integrates them with other sensory inputs to form a unified perception of touch events. She also studies the role of touch in social interactions. The primary goal of her work is to develop haptic interfaces designed for sharing tactile experiences and enhancing affective communication.

Lecture C, Tues Nov 9, 11:15 to 12:00

Origami Based Engineering Design, by [Assoc. Prof. Kazuya Saito](#)

Origami is a traditional Japanese art that creates diverse three-dimensional forms from a single sheet of paper using only folds. In recent years, the mathematical and geometrical principles of origami have been applied to engineering, giving rise to “origami engineering,” where not only shapes but also functions and movements are designed. In this lecture, participants will engage in hands-on exercises folding a variety of origami patterns. Through these activities, they will learn the fundamentals of origami geometry, explore different design tools, and gain knowledge of materials and fabrication processes.

Dr Kazuya Saito received his PhD in Mechanical Sciences from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2009 after completing his MSc at Kyoto University. Following positions at the University of Tokyo, he joined Kyushu University in 2019 and is now Associate Professor, working on origami-based geometry, biomimetics, and advanced structural materials.

Lecture D, Weds Nov 10, 9:15 to 10:00

Safe Space as Social Design with Critical Curating through Craftivism: The Textile Cartographies Mouvement, [Prof. Melanie Sarantou](#)

Curating, as a relational and embodied practice reimagined within social design, can offer transformative practices within socio-cultural and ecological realms. The reconceptualisation of safe spaces in art-based social practices that embrace productive discomfort may foster environments of doing social and being social. This contribution will reframe the role of critical curation within the realm of social design for facilitating safe spaces.

Dr Melanie Sarantou is a professor of social design at Kyushu University in Japan and an adjunct professor at the University of Lapland in Finland. She lectures and supervises in Social and Transformation Design at the Faculty of Design, Kyushu University.

Lecture E, Weds Nov 10, 10:15 to 11:00

Lecture presented by Acoustic Design professor (To be confirmed)

Lecture F, Weds Nov 10, 11:15 to 12:00

Practical landscape conservation studies for urban, rural and mountainous areas, [Prof. Kazuo Asahiro](#)

Professor Asahiro leads the Landscape Conservation Laboratory, focusing on conservation of green spaces from urban to rural and mountainous areas. This lecture introduces the necessity of satoyama conservation in Japan, our conservation activities, disaster recovery efforts, and recent research using 3D point cloud data for urban open spaces, the national historic site Mizuki, and broadleaf plantations.

Dr. Kazuo Asahiro holds a Ph.D. in Design and specializes in landscape and green space conservation, encompassing satoyama management, disaster recovery in rural communities, and UAV-LiDAR-based analysis of urban open spaces and forest environments.

7. Lab sessions

The lab system is unique to Japanese universities. Graduate students select a faculty advisor based on their research interests and enter their advisors' "research lab." A lab does not refer to a room for experimentation but to the group of undergraduate and graduate researchers advised by the faculty member. Lab seminars, or "zemi," are a key feature of Japanese graduate school.

You will be attached to a faculty member's laboratory for two afternoons (Nov 10 and 11). After confirmation of registration, you will indicate your preferred faculty advisors.

8. Applying

To apply, email the following documents in a single PDF as "**FirstName_LastName WS2026 Application**" to gkintl-ofc@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp

- (1) Application form (Please read the instruction sheet first.)
- (2) Academic transcripts for all university programs undertaken, including relevant information on each university's grading system

Applications are due by **7 July 2026** (Tues) at 23:59, Japan Standard Time.

9. Screening

Participants will be selected based on academic record & motivation.

- There is no age limit.
- Current doctoral students are **not** eligible.

10. Notification of acceptance

We will extend acceptances to Winter School 2026 within two weeks of the application deadline. Whether you wish to register or decline, please respond promptly, as documentation for visa applications requires preparation months in advance.

There are various required documents you must send to us from July to October 2026. **When you register, you commit to responding to all documentation requests from our office in a timely manner.** Details will be shared following registration.

11. Questions?

Please contact us if you have any questions. Send application documents in PDF to the Geiko International Office at [gkintl-ofc\[at\]jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:gkintl-ofc@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp) (please replace [at] with @).

We look forward to welcoming you!