

Cultural Sciences

In the division of Cultural Sciences students study various aspects of cultures and civilizations which, with the unique histories of the areas in the background, continue to clash and open a dialogue.

Our division deals with conveying the intellectual properties of mankind and is comprised of two fields: the field of Cultural and Historical Studies which looks into the aspects and dynamics of civilizations and cultures that transcend regions, as well as pursues comparative studies of cultures, and the field of Area Studies which focuses on the regions' unique cultural characteristics and expansively explores regional cultures.

Cultural and Historical Studies

What is "civilization" and what does it consist of? By exploring these questions, we observe a variety of specific elements including nation, gender, religion, science, technology, art and material lifestyles as well as unique cultural value systems characterizing various human groups ranging from racial or religious minorities to large social or transnational entities.

In addition, we pay special attention both to the complex interactions between civilizations and the conflicting relationships within civilizations themselves. Furthermore, when we take into account the fact that many of today's challenges are deeply enrooted in each civilization's history, it becomes obvious that our field is dealing with distinctly contemporary issues and elucidates from multiple perspectives the role "civilization" plays and ought to play.



Inthar tribespeople's floating market, Shan State, southern area of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Great Buddha and the Stone Lion on Mt Baguashan, Changhua, Taiwan

Area Studies

This field comprises three specialties: "Asian Studies," "European Studies" and "English / American Studies." In order to cope with problems that arise in the contemporary world, serious study of the histories of various regions and their cultural achievements, sustained by a profound insight into the future, is needed. In meeting such demands of the times, we aspire for comprehensive area studies which encompass a wider and more fruitful perspective from which to pursue the study of inter-regional relationships and regional comparisons.

Support for Students

The following financial support is available:

- 1) The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences funds transportation and accommodation expenses for those who are making presentations at international conferences overseas and interdisciplinary projects initiated by students.
- 2) The university provides students with opportunities such as domestic and overseas internships, Excellent Student Scholarships, tuition waivers, and the exemption or delayed payment of admission fees.

* The details for support are available on the university homepage.

Intercultural Exchange Opportunities

Among a total of 1,157 international students from 60 different countries at Hiroshima University, 120 and 6 students are enrolled in graduate and undergraduate courses respectively as of November 2014. This diversity should give both Japanese and international students many opportunities to learn from each other.

