

AY 2026 List of Global Environmental Studies Course

Course	Dividend Year	Credit	Level	Outline
Dissertation Work in Advanced Studies IIIA, IIIB, IVA, IVB, VA, VB	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Year (1st Half & 2nd Half each)	2 each	—	Research Guidance and Thesis Writing Guidance
Introduction to Global Environmental Studies	1st Year (1st Half)	2	1	Global environmental issues have recently been understood as multi-faceted and complex planetary boundaries of the earth system. More recently, the safe and just earth system boundary has also been proposed to define a realistic boundary for human societies. The understanding of problems itself is changing. In order to get to the essence of global environmental issues, it is necessary to have an interdisciplinary perspective that transcends the boundaries of conventional academic disciplines, and a transdisciplinary method is required in which not only researchers but also various stakeholders, including citizens, governments, and companies, work together to solve problems. Global Environmental Studies provides a holistic understanding of the interaction cycles between humans and nature as a “convergent knowledge” based on such perspectives and methods. This course aims to understand and acquire the academic foundation of Global Environmental Studies through a series of lectures with practical case studies provided by the faculty members of the Global Environmental Studies Program.
Topics of Global Environmental Studies	1st Year (2nd Half)	2	1	When the interaction of the natural environment becomes dysfunctional, it emerges as a problem that needs to be solved by society. The causes of the problem are intricately intertwined and can be difficult to solve. In such cases, it is necessary to recognize the problem from multiple perspectives from both the humanities and social sciences and the natural sciences, and to co-create solutions with various actors in society, such as governments, companies, and residents. In this course, we will discuss research methods for recognizing global environmental problems and cocreating solutions with specific examples.
Introduction to Transdisciplinary Approach	1st Year (1st Half)	1	1	Depopulation and aging in rural areas in Japan are not only leading to the deterioration of social infrastructure and the disruption of local cultures, but also causing the degradation of satoyama landscapes and the heightened risk of natural disasters and wildlife attacks due to abandoned farmlands. This is evolving into a complex socio-ecological challenge concerning land use. As a countermeasure to this problem, local initiatives such as workation (work + vacation) and Regional Revitalization Cooperation Volunteers (chiiki-okoshi kyouryokutai) are gaining attention. These involve urban inhabitants becoming connected populations, thereby revitalizing local communities. In such initiatives, diverse actors from industry, academia, government, and the private sector must co-create solutions through dialogue that transcends their respective social positions and implement them in society. This course covers the theories and practical examples, both domestic and international, of transdisciplinary research as a methodology for co-creation for and with society through omnibus lectures delivered by faculty members of the Global Environmental Studies program.
Global Environmental Studies Seminar III, IV, V	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Year (Whole Year each)	1 each	4	Given that each global environmental problem encompasses a variety of spatiotemporal scales and complex causal relationships, academic research that contributes to solving these problems is also carried out based on a variety of approaches and goals. Project leaders or participants will present the structure of problems and their causes, the objectives and academic achievements of innovative research approaches, and the remaining challenges for future study, based on their empirical data. (Total: 8 sessions) Targeted points; III: Through the examples of past cases, to be aware of their impact, and to find common features in them. IV: To discover clues for their own research. V : To learn standard methods and components of global environmental research that are necessary for the preparation of one's own research.
Global Sustainability Seminar	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Year (Whole Year each)	1	3	This course is aimed for students to acquire basic knowledge and skills for academic international exchange and networking through participation in meetings as young researchers or poster presentations at international conferences that are decided in consultation with each student's supervisor. Prior to participating in the conference, students will prepare for the application documents and poster production through individual guidance by the instructor of this course or a small-group seminar.