

What is the Interfaculty Initiative in Planetary Health?

Planetary Health means "Health of the Earth." This new concept highlights changes such as global warming and abnormal weather; moreover, it draws attention to the destruction of the global ecosystem's homeostasis due to population explosion since the 20th century and global economic activities. It suggests that a global ecological approach is required to resolve existing and future challenges, including emerging infectious diseases.

The Interfaculty Initiative in Planetary Health is a university-wide organization where specialists from sociology, economics, engineering, environmental studies, medicine, data science, and other fields collaborate across disciplines to address this global issue and foster practitioner leaders with a bird's-eye view and the ability to act.

Purpose of the Establishment

<Necessity from a social background>

To resolve pressing global issues, practitioners involved in the policy process should have a high level of expertise and an advanced ability to approach situations from a bird's eye view. For example, the new coronavirus pandemic and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident have demonstrated the challenge of promptly formulating and implementing appropriate policies based on scientific evidence and expert opinion. To promote scientific evidence-based policies, approaches such as forecasting and evaluating efficacy based on data as well as the ability to explain these approaches to people are required. Knowledge of new information technology and its application have recently become necessary. Furthermore, scientifically sound policies cannot be implemented without reconciling opposing interests and values of existing social structures, laws, economic activities, and human rights.

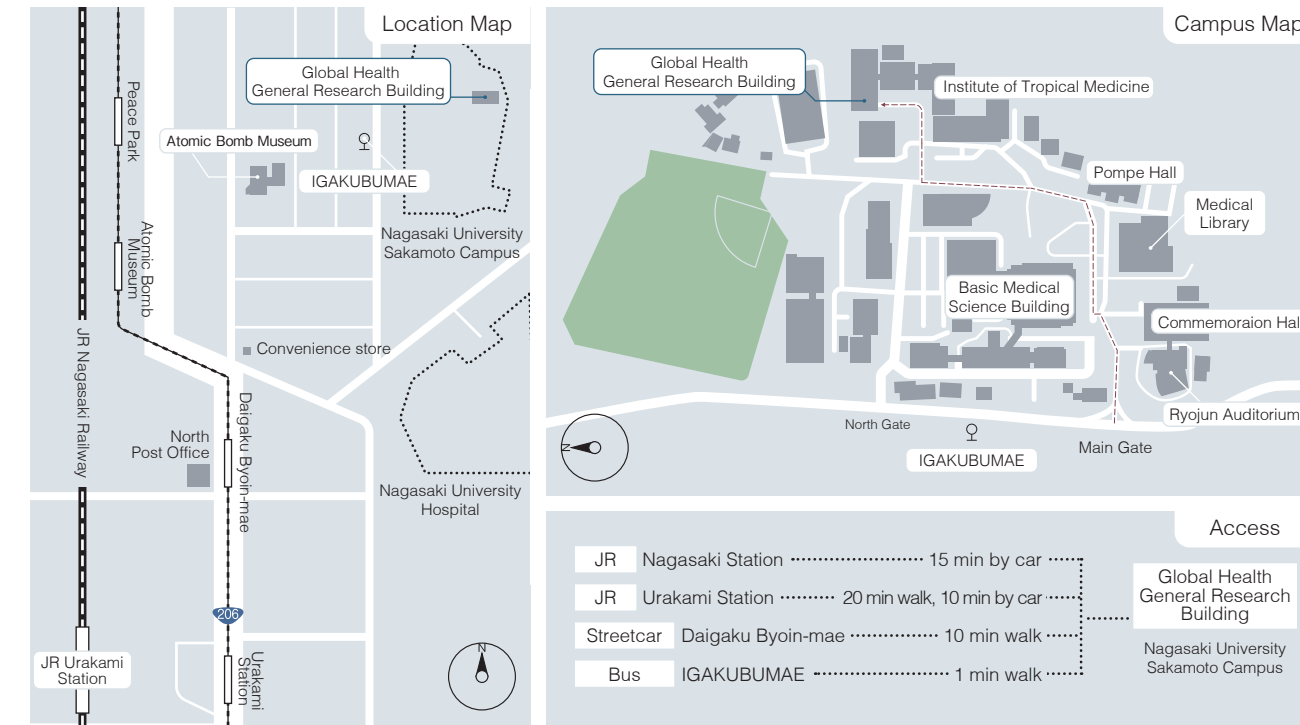
<Purpose of the establishment>

Nagasaki University has a strong history of success in addressing global concerns, such as tropical infectious diseases. With this educational and research foundation, Nagasaki University aims to foster doctoral-level advanced practitioners (i.e., human resources who bridge science and practice) to resolve critical global concerns.

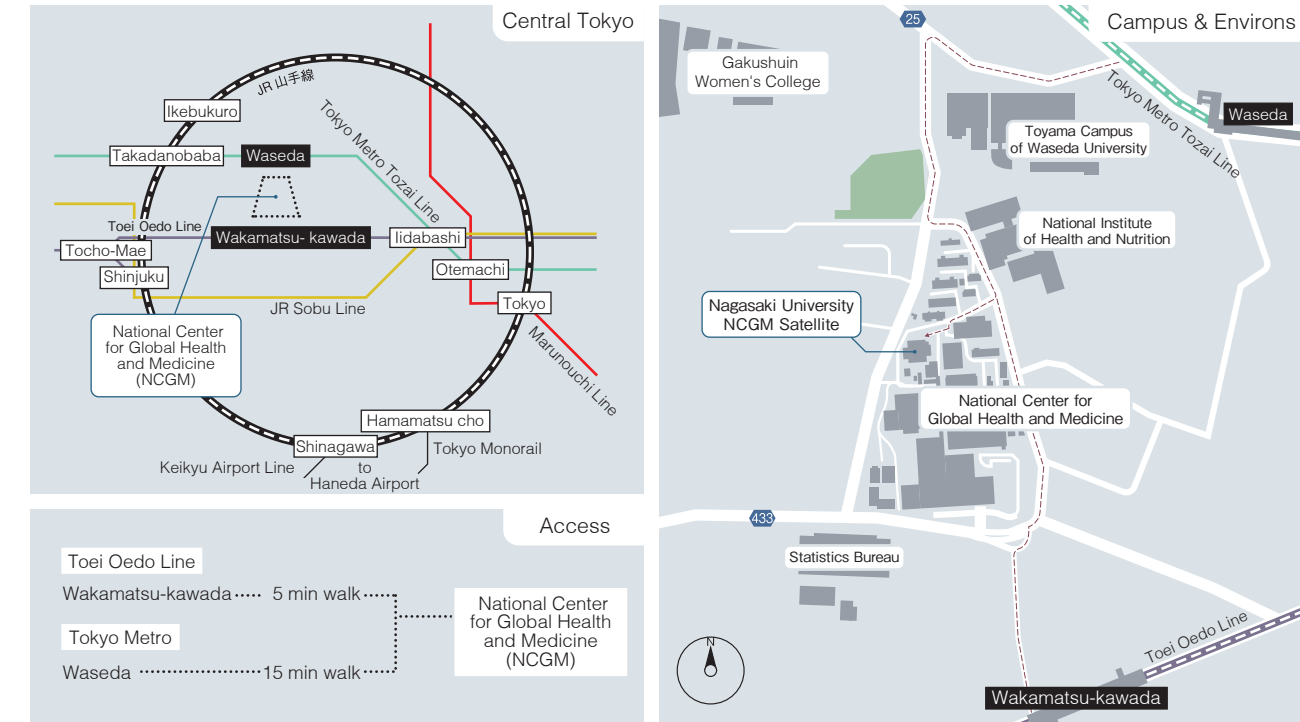
<The purpose of the establishment corresponds to social needs>

Nagasaki University has created a new goal of contributing to planetary health; moreover, it works to solve global concerns beyond those of academic disciplines as a university-wide endeavor. We aim to establish a doctoral-level program to develop advanced practitioners who link scientific data to policies and contribute to policy formulation, decision-making, and policy implementation.

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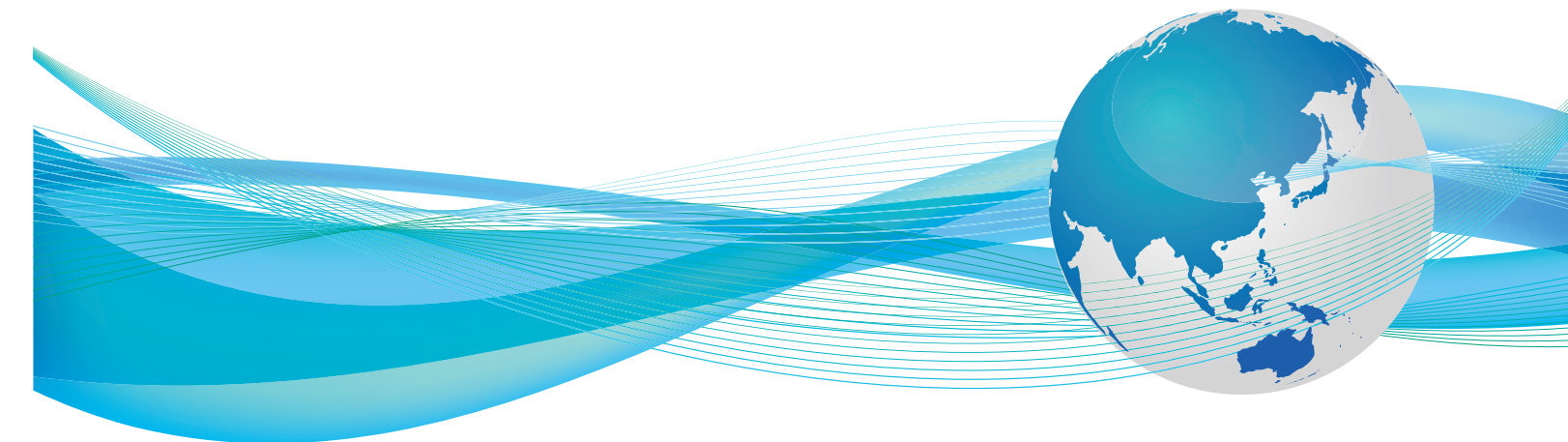
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Nagasaki University Interfaculty Initiative in Planetary Health

長崎大学大学院 プラネタリーヘルス学環

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Programme



Open in October 2022

DrPH Program

—Degrees to be awarded

Doctor of Public Health

—Educational Philosophy and Objectives

The Interfaculty Initiative in Planetary Health aspires to foster human resources to achieve planetary health, which focuses on the coexistence of human civilization with the earth and its ecosystems, through interdisciplinary education and research. To achieve this goal, the Doctor of Public Health program fosters professionals who can bridge the gap between science, policy, and practice in global public health, which is the core of planetary health.

—The human resources to be trained

By analyzing public health problems from an interdisciplinary perspective, presenting solutions, and implementing them, we train leaders to pave the way to realize a society, in which human-kind can live in harmony and health with all living things on the earth.

The Doctor of Public Health program develops leaders who can apply their public health knowledge to promote change toward a society in which all people can live healthy lives on this planet, both physically and psychologically.

Curriculum Map

	1Q (Oct.–Dec.)	2Q (Jan.–Feb.)	Spring adjustment period (Mar.)	3Q (Apr.–May)	4Q (Jun.–Aug.)	Summer adjustment period (Sep.)
Year 1	Advanced Planetary Health (2 credits) Advanced Organizational Management (1 credit) Epidemiology I, Statistics I	Advanced Diplomacy Management (1 credit) Health Systems and Policy I Quantitative Research Methods Qualitative Research Methods		Advanced Implementation Science (1 credit) Advanced Global Health Governance (1 credit)	Advanced Policy Processes (1 credit) Medical economics	Practical training (2 credits)
Year 2	Advanced Health Systems (1 credit)	Advanced Methods of Policy Analysis (1 credit)	Qualifying Writing Exam	Project proposal preparation Qualifying Oral Exam	Project Exercise (4 credits) In-service Training and Fellowship	
Year 3				Project Exercise (4 credits) In-service Training and Fellowship	Dissertation review Final Oral Exam	

Graduate Careers

Students are assumed to have prior job experience and possess a certain outlook for a career path in health policy; thus, we presume a career path that is in line with the student's desired career path. This also applies to the selection of training sites for practical training and fellowships, which begins in the latter half of the second year. We expect an ideal match between the training sites and students' career paths. The following is a list of possible career paths:

- Japanese governmental organizations
- International organizations, international partnership organizations
- Non-governmental organizations, private foundations, corporations, think tanks



1 Diploma Policy

To receive a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program degree, students must earn the required credits, write a doctoral dissertation (project thesis) on a policy proposal or other theme, and pass a final test. This degree is awarded to individuals who demonstrate leadership in the field of global health, as well as propose, implement, and evaluate policies, while contributing to global public health improvement, as described below:

1. Develop a plan for a healthy policy's planning, implementation, and evaluation.
2. Organize groups of stakeholders in health policy.
3. Clarify issues during the administration of a health policy.
4. Describe the background, objectives, management methods, and vision of past, present, and future health policies.

2 Curriculum Policy

Acquire the knowledge and skills required for global health policy formulation, plan implementation, and evaluation.

1. An overview of planetary health
 - a. Knowledge of the relationship between human health, civilization, and the global natural environment
 - b. Understand planetary health implications for health policy
2. Acquire the insight and analytical skills required for planning, implementing, and evaluating a health policy
 - a. Theoretical understanding of policy processes and implementation science
 - b. Ability to analyze health systems and make recommendations
 - c. Understand data analysis methods used in policy making and evaluation
3. Acquire leadership and management abilities
 - a. Organizational management skills
 - b. Negotiation and communication skills
 - c. Knowledge of global health governance
4. Project Exercise
 - a. Ability to propose and implement health-policy-related projects
 - b. Ability to write a doctoral dissertation
5. The level of achievement will be assessed through reports, written examinations, the quality of articles, presentations, and discussions.

3 Admission Policy

We seek students who meet the academic standards and criteria outlined below:

1. Those who possess basic knowledge and skills in the field of public health or related fields* as well as logical thinking which is necessary to develop academic and practical abilities.
2. Those who display leadership qualities and cooperativeness, possess communication skills to solve problems, and have a willingness to contribute to the improvement of public health.
3. Those with a passion and a clear vision for advancing health policy formulation and implementation.

*: In addition to public health, "related fields" include a wide range of fields such as healthcare, health sciences, environmental studies, social development, peacebuilding, international cooperation, public policy, and organizational management.

< Admissions Information >

Intake Quota	Five Students
Entry Requirements	A person classified under any of the following categories: 1. Four years or more of work experience and a Master of Public Health degree 2. Four years or more of work experience and a master's degree other than 1 3. Abilities equivalent to or greater than the preceding two items, as determined by the Interfaculty Initiative in Planetary Health. Please refer to the application guideline to be announced in the future for further information on application requirements.
Applicant's category	Standard
Selection Method	Selection for admission is based on a comprehensive evaluation of the applicant's performance in the interview, foreign language examinations, and document review. In the interview, based on the submitted documents, candidates will be asked questions and answers about their interest and motivation to carry out their academic duties and their specific future career plans, focusing on the Personal Statement. For the Foreign Language Test, the applicant will be evaluated on his/her English proficiency (CEFR B2 level or higher) necessary to take courses and receive research guidance in English. In addition, students with acquired language skills will be evaluated separately.