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Tsukuba University Welcomes New Intake to International Sport Programme Japan Fosters Next Generation of Global Sport Leadership Ahead of Tokyo 2020

Tsukuba, JAPAN—September 28 saw the University of Tsukuba host a ceremony to welcome the new intake of students on the 4th Master’s Programme in Sport and Olympic Studies, operated since 2015 by Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS), which was founded as part of the Sport for Tomorrow programme, introduced by the Government of Japan to promote the Olympic and Paralympic movements, along with sport in general.



The group of 23 domestic and international students brings together 18 different nationalities, with members from diverse backgrounds including national sporting associations, educational bodies, and even one former member of the PyeongChang Organizing Committee for the 2018 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games. They follow in the footsteps of an expanding network of former graduates who have gone on to join various sport-related organizations, official bodies, and domestic Olympic committees.

For Olympic and Paralympic host cities and nations, the issue of how best to build a strong, lasting Olympic legacy is a key area for consideration. And as Tokyo prepares to host the 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, TIAS and its master’s programme have an important role to play in making Japan a prominent base for the cultivation of personnel who can promote the Olympic ideals and drive future development in the field of sport around the world.

“It is your great mission to become global leaders in the sporting world,” said TIAS Chairman Hisashi Sanada in a warm welcome speech to the new students. “The TIAS curriculum is designed to prepare you for international leadership positions by guiding you through a broad range of specialist topics in the field of sport. I encourage you to work to the best of your ability and enjoy your time at the beautiful Tsukuba campus to the fullest.” Prof. Caroline Fern Benton, Vice President of the University of Tsukuba and member of the Olympic Education Commission of the IOC, also voiced her high hopes for the 23 new enrollees, adding, “I can see your determination to transform yourselves, and society, for the better through your studies at TIAS. I look forward to seeing where your efforts take you, because I know you all have the potential to become leaders in your chosen fields.”

Comments from 4th Master's Programme participants:



Ingyin Khin, Myanmar

Former Liaison Officer for athletes and delegates representing Japan at International sporting events held in Myanmar (2016/2017). Works for Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) since 2014, Deputy Staff Officer & Coordinator between MOHS and Myanmar Olympic Committee since 2016.

"During my time at TIAS, I look forward to learning more about how sport can contribute to peace-building and international development. I believe I have a lot to learn from Japan, and in the future I hope to apply the knowledge I gain here by helping to educate the younger generation in Myanmar."



Somin Kim, South Korea

Graduate of KSPO's Next Generation Women Sport Leaders Training Programme (2018)

"The biggest appeal of TIAS is its network of international students with unique backgrounds. By deepening my understanding of Olympism and gaining experience through internships at sporting federations, I intend to develop my ability to contribute to a more peaceful world through the Olympics."



Saolotoga Raymond Fasavalu, Samoa

Former member of Samoa Athletics Incorporate secretariat (2007–2012)

"I believe that the high-level master's programme at TIAS holds the key to a brighter future in my home country. And since this is my first study-abroad experience, I am excited to learn about the culture of Japan by actually living here."

Comments from 3rd Master's Programme graduate:



Mariana Ziemkiewicz de Carvalho Pinto, Brazil

Partner Activation Team, 2016 Rio de Janeiro OOC

"TIAS deepened my expertise in my specialist area of sport marketing through practical internships and other opportunities. At the same time, I gained a comprehensive overview of the entire field of sport through the wide-ranging curriculum. With such a diverse student body, TIAS truly is an unparalleled place of learning for those who aim to be leaders in sport."

About Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies:

Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS) was founded in 2014 with the full backing of the Sport for Tomorrow programme, which was introduced by the Government of Japan to promote the Olympic and Paralympic movements, along with the field of sport in general. The academy's parent institute, the University of Tsukuba, has an historical association with the Olympic Movement that stretches back more than a century, with Jigoro Kano—the first-ever Asian member of the International Olympic Committee—serving as the school's president from 1901 to 1920. The academy's Master's Programme in Sport and Olympic Studies, whose fourth year officially begins in October 2018, represents an effort to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the field of global sport, and also provides a forum for international exchange. The programme gathers an expanding network of gifted participants from around the world and, in close cooperation with the Tokyo 2020

Organizing Committee, gives them a unique grounding in Olympic education, along with the latest approaches in diverse sport-related fields including management, teaching, and coaching. For more information, please visit <http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/>

Overview of the Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS)

Parent Institute:	Tsukuba University Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences
Degree title:	Master of Arts in Sport and Olympic Studies
Admission date:	October 2018
Period of study:	2 years, but with a target for early graduation in 18 months
New students:	23
Avg. student age:	29 (age range: 22-49)
Student nationalities:	18 countries, including Japan (4 students), South Korea (2 students), India (2 students), and one student each from the U.S., South Africa, Iran, the U.K., Brazil, Uganda, China, Greece, Myanmar, Nigeria, Singapore, Samoa, Poland, Portugal and Taiwan

Overview of the Master of Arts in Sport and Olympic Studies Programme

(1) Human resources development objective

With a view to the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond, the programme aims to prepare students for careers as leaders on the international sporting stage of the 21st century. Graduates will embody the values of sport and Olympism, and demonstrate an understanding of Japanese culture as well as practical knowledge (acquired through study in English) in the fields of sport management and business, sport medicine, coaching, physical education, and sport for development and peace.

(2) Educational objectives

The programme aims to train students in the following five capabilities.

- 1) Understanding of the role of sport in the context of world affairs and global issues
- 2) Practical leadership ability built on a foundation of leading-edge sport science
- 3) Ability to embody and apply the values of sport and Olympism as they have come to the fore on the occasion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, with a focus on the integrity of sport
- 4) Communications skills based on English language proficiency and Japanese cultural fluency
- 5) Constructive and functional awareness on a global scale, encompassing the overall international context as well as local community perspectives

(3) Programme structure and approach

1) Specialist Modules (all students, 8–10 modules)

Designed to cultivate the next generation of global sporting leaders while also remaining focused on individual participants' own career visions, with a thorough grounding in the workings of international sporting bodies, providing practical skills and a global perspective

2) Specialist Modules (optional choices, 4–8 modules)

Participants choose one of five key fields (Olympic & Paralympic Education; Sport Management; Sport Medicine; Sport for Development & Peace; and Teaching, Coaching & Japanese Culture) and receive in-depth tuition in leading-edge sport

science and practical skills

3) Fundamental Modules (compulsory, 11 modules)

Modules designed to provide a grounding in the fundamentals of sport and Olympic studies (including topics such as Olympism and the value of sport), as well as deepening understanding of Japanese culture and bolstering communication skills

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