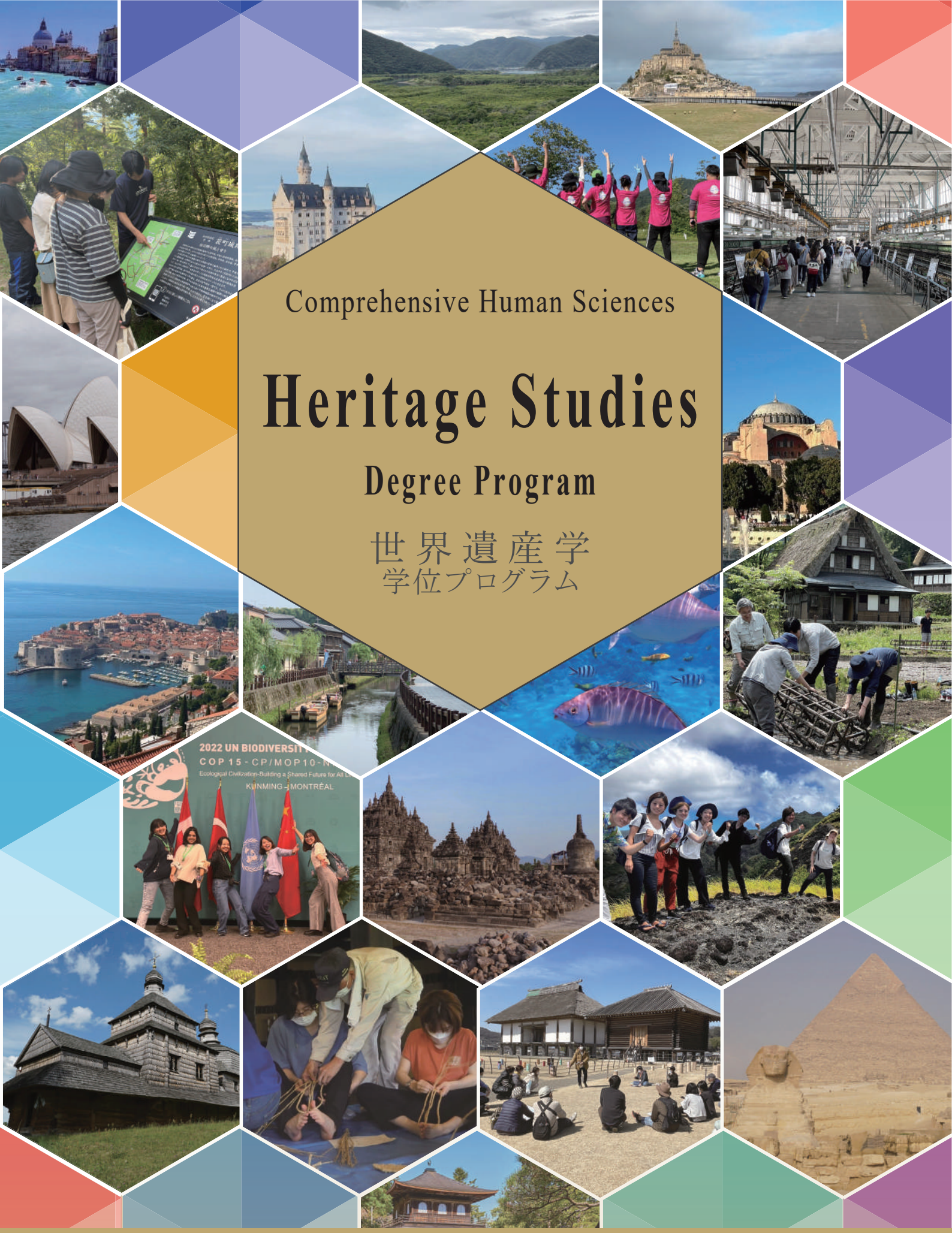


Comprehensive Human Sciences

Heritage Studies

Degree Program

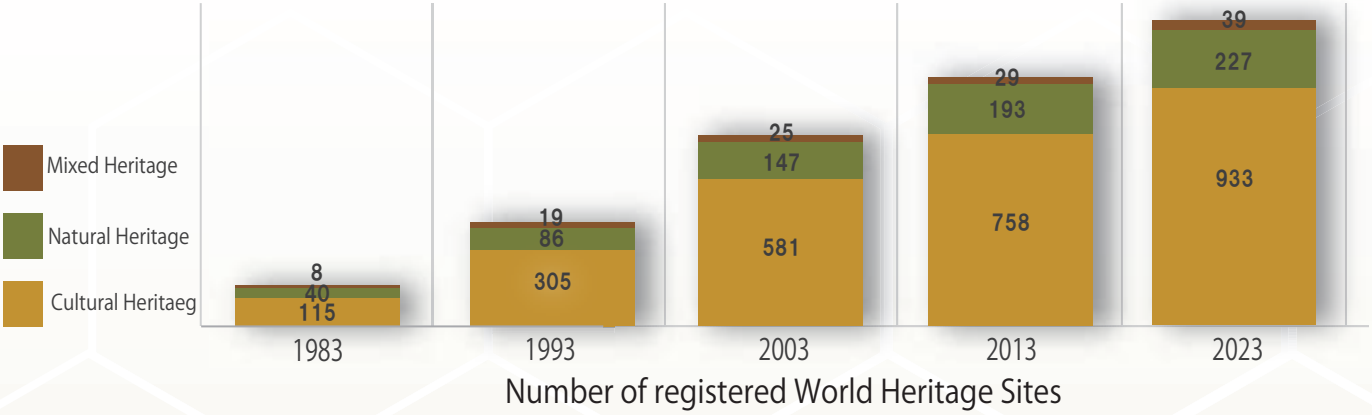
世界遺産学
学位プログラム

筑波大学
University of Tsukuba

World Heritage Today

The World Heritage Convention will welcome more than half-centennial of its adoption in 2022. To date, 195 countries have joined the treaty, and the number of World Heritage properties has reached 1,199. The expansion of theWorld Heritage list has contributed to a greater recognition of the cultures and natural wisdom of humanity and helped people from many countries and regions share the value and meaning of their heritage. However, World Heritage properties also pose modern challenges for us: environmental change, conflict, disasters, and other negative influences on culture and nature; forging a harmonious relationship between protecting heritage sites and improving the lives of their local residents; and launching synergistic initiatives for tourism and heritage management, to name a few. For this reason, World Heritage has always been an important space for the discussion of various issues involved in the preservation and use of nature and culture.

2022 will also mark more than 30-year anniversary of Japan's ratification of the Convention. Japan now has 25 properties inscribed on the World Heritage list, and the number is expected to continue to grow in the future. World Heritage arguably assumes the role of bridging Japan with the rest of the world in terms of approaches and techniques for heritage conservation, as well as the role of paving the way for cutting-edge examples of preserving and leveraging Japan's heritage.



Number of registered World Heritage Sites

The Heritage Studies degree programs at the University of Tsukuba

In the Heritage Studies degree programs, we welcome students who are motivated to pursue work that contributes to the preservation and use of cultural and natural heritage within and outside of Japan. This program is intended for students to develop the ability to identify issues within the big picture, acquire excellent communication skills backed by expertise, and be ready to take on complex problems. To facilitate this, the program will feature a variety of lectures and many opportunities for discussion between students and faculty. In order to bring the program content to life and connect it to the real world, much of the teaching will even take place at actual heritage preservation sites. The faculty have been actively involved with heritage within and outside of Japan, gathering cutting-edge information from around the world through conferences at relevant international bodies, such as the World Heritage Committee or the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Those who enroll in the Heritage Studies degree program may be surprised to discover all that is involved in preserving cultural and natural heritage. The preservation and use of heritage is a newly emerging academic discipline, which draws on many specialized fields and their practitioners. It requires quick responses to real-world issues, which makes it a truly practical science. We welcome the enthusiasm that has greeted this collaborative project.

The Master’ s Program in Heritage Studies (15 students)

Through research and education across a variety of fields related to the preservation and use of heritage, the Master's course in Heritage Studies degree program is designed to train experts who will develop an active career around cultural and natural heritage properties.

Heritage Studies is an academic discipline that contributes to a wide range of fields from cultural heritage and natural heritage to cultural landscapes, which straddle the boundary between those two. Students will focus on one of these fields as they study Heritage Studies and advance their research.

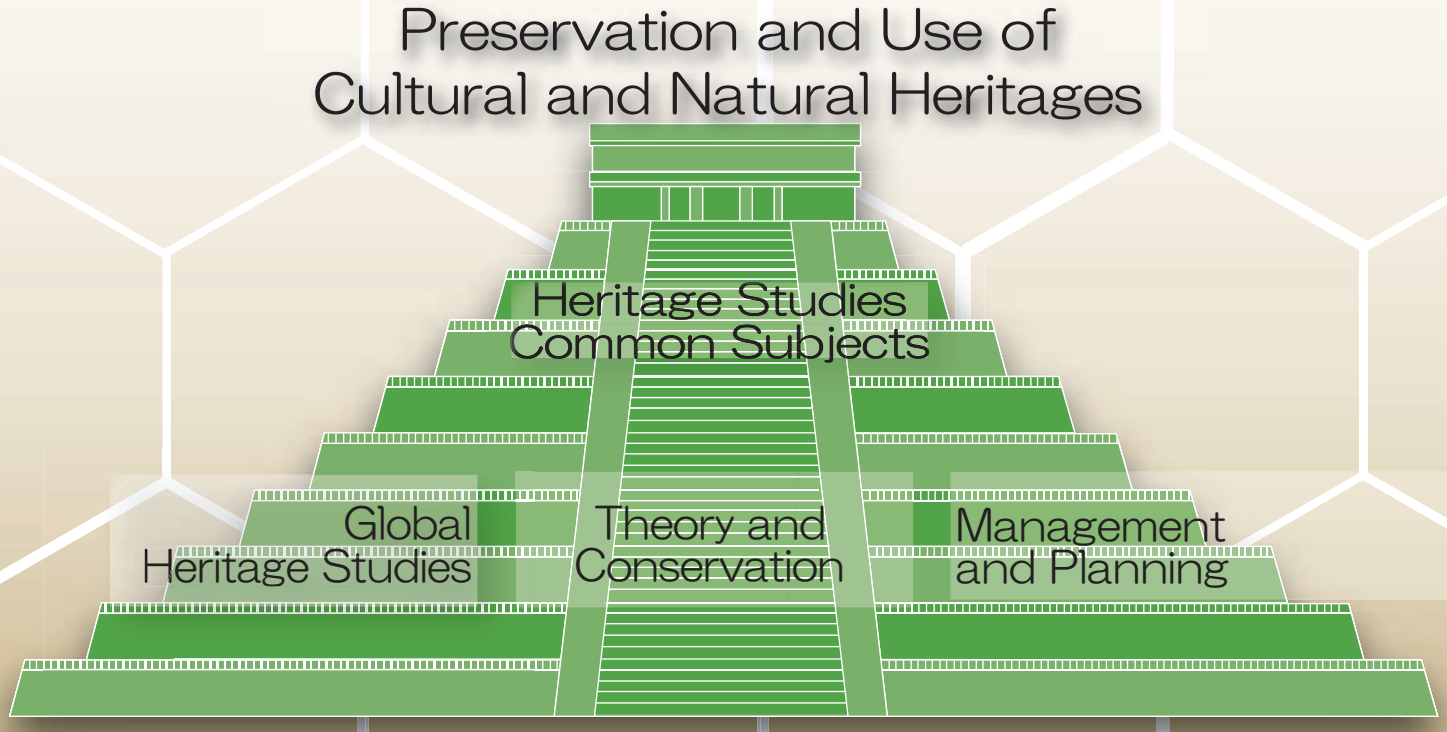
To help students study Heritage Studies effectively and connect the field to their work after completing the program, the Master's program offers three fields of specialization.

The first field is “Global Heritage Studies”, for those who would ike to pursuit the academic theory and practice on the preservation of heritage in the global community. The next field is “Theory and Conservation of Heritage”, in which students investigate methodologies for appraising the value of heritage based on philosophy, aesthetics, art history, and architectural history, and acquire the basic knowledge to become valuable specialists in preserving and restoring heritage. Finally, we have “Heritage Management and Planning”, in which students learn landscape planning, development/tourism planning, and project management of heritage properties in order to consider the wider societal context of heritage in preserving it and communicating its value.

People who can thrive in doing the work of preserving and leveraging heritage must have the creative ability to think laterally across disciplines and connect them together and a specialization that gives them deep knowledge and high proficiency in a particular field. After acquiring broad foundational knowledge, students can choose the courses they want to take from each area of specialization and design a World Heritage Studies program just for themselves.

To meet students' diverse expectations, the classes in the Heritage Studies degree program are taught by faculty who specialize in a variety of subjects and areas related to cultural and natural heritage and who are at the forefront of their academic fields, which include the philosophy of conservation, religious studies, art history, architectural history, archaeology, conservation science, architectural planning, landscape studies, environmental studies, geographical studies, and development/tourism planning.

Students will earn a Master of Heritage Studies upon completing the Master's course in Heritage Studies degree program.



The Doctoral Program in Heritage Studies (5 students)

Preserving and using World Heritage requires academic research on individual heritage properties, analyzing and evaluating them, developing techniques for preserving and restoring them, and advanced ideas and techniques for proposing restoration and maintenance plans. It also demands a big-picture analysis of the conditions surrounding individual properties and the cooperation with related areas to establish comprehensive management plans and systems for the continued preservation of those properties.

Since the adoption of the World Heritage Convention in 1972, the preservation of World Heritage has made great strides under UNESCO's leadership. However, though the half-centennial of the Convention's adoption is upon us, many issues have arisen: an increase in the number of inscribed properties, independent preservation by developing countries, rebuilding in the wake of conflict and disaster, crisis management, and reconciling community life and the promotion of tourism with the preservation of heritage. Fields related to Heritage Studies are also attracting unprecedented interest in Japan due to its declining population and aging society, which have weakened communities and made the transmission and preservation of heritage an issue, and because the usage of heritage is also being explored as a touristic resource and a way to revitalize communities.

The doctoral course in Heritage Studies degree program is designed to give students the highly advanced expertise and research skills they need to be active both within and outside of Japan as researchers and specialists in the preservation of Heritage.

Students will challenge the academic research on the various fields, such as the preservation of cultural heritage, the conservation of natural heritage, the improvement and management of heritage sites, cultural landscapes, conservation sciences, cultural tourism, architectural and art theory and so on. Among these fields, students will choose one from which to conduct research for their doctoral dissertation, and in conducting that research, they will discover the potential for the preservation and use of heritage to contribute to the growth of society and forge a path for its sustainable future.

Students will earn a Doctor of Philosophy in Heritage Studies upon completing the program.

Certificate Programme on Nature Conservation

http：//www.conservation.tsukuba.ac.jp/

Heritage studies degree program in the Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Science and Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences of the University of Tsukuba offers certificate programs for graduate students since 2014. This program aims to develop human resources who are active in international and domestic organizations related to nature conservation based on the interdisciplinary knowledge and skills of nature and culture.

International exchange and collaboration

The University of Tsukuba has concluded exchange agreements with universities and research institutions in 69 countries and regions, and the Heritage Studies degree program has concluded exchange agreements with the following important partner schools in Heritage Studies and actively facilitates exchanges between researchers and students.

Germany's Brandenburgische Technische Universit ä t (BTU) Cottbus -Sentenberg was the first school in the world to open a Master's program in World Heritage Studies and has been actively facilitating exchange between faculty and students ever since our program was first established in Japan. Even though it is a technical school, its fields run the gamut from the social sciences and natural sciences to architecture, and it has developed programs related to the World Heritage specialization.

The University of Tsukuba is a member school of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM), which is a cooperative network made up of educational institutions, governmental organizations, and private organizations. Students from our program participate in AAHM's Field School.

We are cooperating to the opening of Heritage Science Program in the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST).

Graduate Status

The master's and doctoral degree students could find employment in the following organizations:

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology,
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
UNESCO
National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan
Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
The Nature Conservation Society of Japan,
Japan Patent Office,
The Japan Foundation,
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties,
Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties,
Japan International Cooperation Agency,
Japan Travel Bureau Foundation,
Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau,
The Japan Foundation Center,
National Museum of Japanese History,
Nezu Museum,
Mt. Fuji World Heritage Centre, Shizuoka
The National Museum of World Culture, Sweden
China Academy of Cultural Heritage, China
National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo

Program member

Uekita Yasufumi
Project Management of Heritage Sites

Yagi Haruo
History of Eastern Art

Kuroda Nobu
Cultural Landscape

Matsui Toshiya
Conservation Acience

Ito Hiromu
Development/ Tourism Planning

Shimoda Ichita
Architectual Heritage

Ikeda Mariko
Civil Participation, Preservation and Usege

Iida Yoshihiko
Landscape and Socio-Ecological Planning

Higo Tokihisa
Egyptology, Cultural History

Mitsui Satomi
Protected Area Management

Matsui Keisuke
Geography of Culture and Tourism

Nonaka Katsutoshi
City Planning

Takizawa Makoto
Japanese Archeology

Graduate Admissions

Please refer to the following website and contact the admission office
https://eng.ap-graduate.tsukuba.ac.jp/

1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-8571, Japan
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