

Current Situations of Evaluation Education in Japan

Japan Evaluation Society (JES)
International Exchange Committee

Presented on behalf by Takaaki Miyaguchi (JES)

What We Intend to Do

- ▶ To find out and explain the current situations with regard to evaluation studies in Japan, drawing from a survey conducted by JES and other sources

Sources

1. The results of a survey to JES members between March - May 2023, asking them with the following set of questions (for the exact questions, please see Appendix)
2. The materials previously used by JES members
3. Internet search (through Japanese university servers, i.e. site:ac.jp) with the keyword of (program) evaluation, master, doctor
4. List of all university majors (for bachelor, master, and doctoral) offered in Japan by NIAD (2020) → 0 result
5. “Department, Field, Subfield, and Sub-subfield Chart” by Min. of Education (Gov’t Research Grant) → 0 result

Conclusions

1. There are not yet any advanced degree offered dedicated for “evaluation studies” as a standalone discipline
2. But there are a number of graduate school programs whose courses are related to evaluation studies (such as public policy, environmental policy, social welfare, NPO management, medical and public health)
3. There are several newly established research centers dedicated to Evidence-Based Policy Making (EBPM)
4. There are a number of scholars who specialize in evaluation studies but as individual researcher
5. There are numerous universities that offer individual courses related to evaluation studies
6. There can be several types of reasons that evaluation studies have not yet become a standalone discipline in Japan

List of Identified Programs - What we did NOT include

1. Only Master and Doctor Programs are included
→ Undergraduate level is omitted
2. Only those programs that have dedicated [program / major / department / school / center] related to evaluation are included
→ Class level is omitted

Public Policy Studies

Discipline	University	Mas.	Doc.	Center	School	Dept	Prog/Maj.	School Name
Policy	Osaka U	●	●		✓	✓		Osaka School of Int'l Public Policy (OSIPP)
Policy	Osaka U			●	✓			Center for EBPM, OSIPP
Policy	Kyoto U	●	●		✓			School of Government
Policy	Takasaki City U of Economics	●	●			✓		Faculty of Regional Policy
Policy	U of Tokyo	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP)
Policy	Hitotsubashi U	●	●		✓			School of Int'l and Public Policy
Policy	Waseda U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Public Management
Policy	Kwansei Gakuin U	●	●			✓	✓	School of Policy Studies
Policy	Keio U	●	●			✓		Graduate School of Media and Governance
Policy	Chuo U	●	●			✓		Graduate School of Policy Studies
Policy	Tohoku U	●			✓			Graduate School of Public Policy
Policy	Doshisha U	●	●			✓		Graduate School of Policy and Management
Policy	Hosei U	●	●			✓		Graduate School of Public Policy and Social Governance
Policy	Hokkaido U	●	●		✓			Hokkaido U Public Policy School
Policy	Meiji U	●			✓			Graduate School of Governance Studies - Public Policy School-
Policy	Ritsumeikan U	●	●			✓		Graduate School of Policy Science
Policy	Ryukoku U	●	●			✓		Graduate School of Policy Science
Policy	Kyoto Prefecture U	●	●				✓	Public Policy Major

Environmental Studies

Discipline	University	Mas.	Doc.	Center	School	Dept	Prog/Maj.	School Name
Env	Rissho U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Geo-Environmental Science
Env	Musashino U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environmental Sciences
Env	Waseda U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environment and Energy Engineering
Env	Sophia U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
Env	Kyoto U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
Env	Research Inst. for Humanity and Nature		●	✓				Research Inst. for Humanity and Nature
Env	Tottori U of Environmental Studies	●	●		✓			Studies in Environmental Science, Graduate School of Environmental Science and Business Administration
Env	U of Shiga Prefecture	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environmental Science
Env	Kyoto Prefecture U	●	●				✓	Environmental Science Major, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Science
Env	Yokohama National U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environment and Information Sciences
Env	Tokyo Metropolitan U	●	●			✓		Department of Urban Science and Policy, Graduate School of Urban Environmental Sciences
Env	Tohoku U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environmental Studies
Env	Ishikawa Prefectural U	●	●			✓		Division of Environmental Science
Env	Kanazawa U	●	●			✓		Division of Regional Development Studies, Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies
Env	Nagoya U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environmental Studies
Env	Okayama U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environmental and Life Science
Env	Hokkaido U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environmental Science
Env	Prefectural U of Kumamoto	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences

Others

Discipline	University	Mas.	Doc.	Center	School	Dept	Prog/ Maj.	School Name
Urban Planning	Osaka Metropolitan U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Urban Management, Osaka Metropolitan U
Social Welfare	Tokyo U of Social Welfare	●	●		✓			Tokyo University of Social Welfare
Social Welfare	Japan College of Social Work	●	●				✓	Graduate School of Japan College of Social Work, Program Evaluation Course
Env & Int'l Dev Coop	Tokyo Inst. of Tech.	●	●			✓		Global Engineering for Development, Environment and Society
NPO Mgmt	Rikkyo U	●	●			✓		Graduate School of Social Design Studies
Medical/Pub lic Health	Tokyo Medical and Dental U			●			✓	Educational System in Dentistry, Center for Education Research in Medicine and Dentistry
Int'l Dev Coop	Hiroshima U	●	●				✓	International Education Development Program, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Interdisc	Ehime U	●	●		✓			Graduate School of Regional Resilience Studies
Econ	Hitotsubashi U		●				✓	Graduate School of Economics EBPM Program
Econ	Research Inst. of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI)			●				RIETI EBPM Center
Edu	U of Tokyo			●				Center for Research and Education in Program Evaluation (CREPE)

WHY? Possible Reasons

Historical Development of Disciplines

- ▶ If there hasn't been a strong societal demand for formal evaluation, it may not have developed as a standalone discipline

Cultural Factors

- ▶ Some cultures might have different approaches to assessment and evaluation, or different views on the importance of formal, systematic evaluation

Educational System Structure

- ▶ Japanese educational systems might be more oriented towards traditional disciplines, or there might be regulatory or accreditation barriers to establishing new disciplines

Practical Application

- ▶ In many contexts, evaluation is seen more as a practical set of skills to be applied within various disciplines, rather than as a standalone academic discipline
- ▶ The demand for evaluation skills might be met through coursework within related disciplines, rather than through standalone evaluation programs

Language / translation

- ▶ “評価” is translated into:
- ▶ “Evaluation”, “assessment”, “analysis”, “praise”, “reflection”, “opinions”, “impression”

From Rossi, Lipsey & Freeman (2004)

“Education of Evaluators”

- ▶ The training of evaluators is diverse and often disjointed, occurring in social science departments, professional schools, or even MBA programs
- ▶ Traditional single-discipline programs are ill-equipped to provide the necessary multidisciplinary education, while interdisciplinary programs are scarce and unstable
- ▶ Applied work in evaluations is often undervalued in graduate departments, acting as a barrier to progress in the field
- ▶ While professional schools are increasingly becoming the primary training grounds for evaluators, the inconsistency in their curricula contributes to the continued diversity

Further Research/Investigation

- ▶ Hypothesize and further analyze each of the possible reasons above
- ▶ Look into all syllabi of graduate school courses to find out the degree of emphasis of or selection on “evaluation”
- ▶ Look into other disciplines and their courses, such as political science, anthropology, psychology, sociology, education, public health

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Thank you very much!

International Exchange Committee of Japan Evaluation Society

Appendix

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Survey Questions

(Conducted by Int'l Exchange Comm. of JES in Mar – Apr 2023)

1. Are you aware of any universities in Japan that are conducting evaluation education? This includes programs outside of your own organization, but excludes the JES Evaluation Personnel Training Course. (If your answer is no, the survey ends here.)
2. If you answered 'yes' to the above question, please provide the names of these universities or organizations conducting evaluation education (in both Japanese and English).
3. Please provide the names of the evaluation education courses (classes) being conducted at the organizations mentioned above (in both Japanese and English).
4. Please provide the approximate number of hours for the evaluation education courses (classes) mentioned above.
5. Please provide the main target audience and the approximate annual number of attendees for the evaluation education courses (classes) mentioned above (e.g., 20 undergraduate students, 5 master's students, etc.)
6. If a certificate of completion is given for the evaluation education courses (classes) mentioned above, please provide its name (in both Japanese and English). If no certificate is given, please write 'none'.
7. Please describe the unique features of the evaluation education courses (classes) mentioned above, as well as the language of instruction (Japanese, English, etc.).
8. If there is a URL related to the evaluation education courses (classes) mentioned above, please provide it.
9. If it's not too much trouble, please provide the name and contact information of someone who has detailed information about the evaluation education courses (classes) mentioned above.

JES M&E Training Course

- Certified Professional Evaluator Course
- Period: 6-day training (7 hours/day), conducted twice a year (spring and autumn)
- Participants: 30-40 trainees/course * it is always become full within several minutes.
- Course requirements: it is desirable to have evaluation experiences
- Participation fee:
 - JES member - 77,000yen + exam fee + text fee
 - Non-JES - 104,500yen + exam fee + text fee
- Contents: 6 Units (see the chart →)
- After attending the course and passing the examination, **JES Certificate of Professional Evaluator** provided
- Language: Japanese
- Instructors: JES members including professors and consultants

	Topics	Major Contents
1 st Unit	Introduction of evaluation Ethics and social responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current status of evaluation in Japan - Related laws and regulations - Code of ethics - Social responsibility of evaluators
2 nd Unit	Basic theory of evaluation Evaluation design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is evaluation - History of evaluation - Basic and integration task - Rating - Basic flow of evaluation - Communication with stakeholders - Evaluation cost
3 rd Unit	Analytical method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theory evaluation (logic model development) - Qualitative data collection/analysis - Quantitative data collection/analysis - Impact evaluation - Cost benefit analysis
4 th Unit	Judgement of analysis results and feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration of evaluation results - Creation of recommendations
5 th Unit	Special subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current status and problems of public administration evaluation, university evaluation, school evaluation, ODA evaluation, policy evaluation, health-sector evaluation etc.
6 th Unit	Various evaluation approaches Prospect of evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical evaluation, scientific evaluation, empowerment evaluation, participatory evaluation, collaborative evaluation, meta-evaluation etc. - Prospect of evaluation in Japan

(Source: JES Website)