



**Hitotsubashi
Business Law**

BUSINESS

LAW

STUDENT

EXCHANGE

PROGRAM

FALL 2020

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“I participated in the Business Law Student Exchange Program in its inaugural year. It was an extremely fulfilling and enriching experience.

The program offers a comparative and international approach to the study of business law, complemented by highly interactive classes taught by prominent academics and practitioners. The program's unique combination of practice and theory was one of the highlights for me. Throughout the semester, you have the opportunity to enhance your learning through an internship and various field trips, all of which provide invaluable insights into the legal profession in Japan.

I highly recommend this program to those with an interest in an international career or anyone who hopes to gain a truly comparative perspective on business law while living in one of the most exciting and intriguing cities in the world.”

Stephen McCann
University of Sydney

Welcome to Tokyo!

Hitotsubashi University's Graduate School of Law, Business Law Department ("HBL") has offered a Business Law Student Exchange Program as part of its Global Business Law Program since 2014.

The program provides a limited number of students from law schools outside Japan with an opportunity to study business law for one semester at HBL in the heart of Tokyo, Japan, one of the world's most dynamic and vibrant capital cities.

In principle, only students from schools that have entered into exchange program agreements with HBL are eligible to participate, although exceptional independent students may be admitted.

東京くよん

About Hitotsubashi University

“Hitotsubashi already has a long history of turning out future captains of industry.”
(Business Week)

Throughout the history of modern Japan, Hitotsubashi has prepared the individuals who have lead Japan’s economic development. Unique among universities in Japan, Hitotsubashi has retained its concentrated focus on four schools: Commerce and Management, Law, Economics, and Social Sciences. For this reason, it is sometimes compared to the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The University is relatively small among nationally prominent universities in Japan, with about 120 faculty, 4,400 undergraduate students, and 2,000 graduate students, fostering close interaction between faculty and students. It is the only Japanese university to specialize in social sciences, placing special emphasis on combining practice with theory.

The University believes in the value of international academic exchanges and cooperation and has bilateral exchange agreements with 87 leading universities and research institutions.

The University’s law school is ranked among the top law schools in Japan. Hitotsubashi Law School has consistently had the highest bar passage rate of any law school in Japan since introduction of the current bar examination system in 2006.

“The curriculum at Hitotsubashi was most enlightening in exposing students to Japanese legal practice and culture as a whole. Coupled with field trips to places of legal significance, link-ups with firms for internships and the international nature of the courses, the exchange programme was, for me, unforgettable.”

Chun Wai Poon
Singapore Management University

Business Law Department

Located at Hitotsubashi’s downtown graduate campus, HBL is a special business law department within the Graduate School of Law.

HBL’s goal is to develop legal professionals capable of initiating, managing, and implementing legal innovation on a global scale. Class sizes are small and all students are expected to prepare well and participate proactively.

Classes combine practice with theory to provide valuable graduate-level education to working professionals. To facilitate participation by working professionals, who are the majority of HBL students, classes are taught in the evenings and on week-ends.



Essential Information

The one-semester exchange program (September-December) offers students the opportunity to study in Tokyo, while also experiencing various other aspects of life in one of the world's major capital cities.

Focus on Business Law.

Classes on Japanese, comparative, and international commercial law provide students with a broad-based introduction to issues involved in global business law.

No Japanese language is required, although both Japanese language courses and business law courses taught in Japanese are available on a non-credit basis for interested students.

Outstanding Faculty Combine Practice and Theory.

HBL's regular faculty is comprised of academics distinguished in their respective fields. Many also have substantial experience working in the public or private sectors. Both regular faculty and practitioner adjuncts teach the courses in the Business Law Student Exchange Program.

The class on Legal Practice in Japan gives students an opportunity to learn about the Japanese legal profession and the practice of law at leading law firms and corporate legal departments in Japan.

Diverse and Small Classes.

Each year's student body is intentionally kept small, and is generally limited to no more than twelve students from the outstanding law schools that are our exchange program partners in several countries.

Exchange students attend classes together with Master's degree students who are living and working in Japan. Small class sizes enable intensive in-class interaction and close relationships between students and faculty.



Field Trips.

As part of the Legal Practice in Japan course, group visits are arranged to places of interest related to law and business. Whenever possible, these field trips are arranged for Tuesday afternoons, although students are expected to keep their schedules flexible while arrangements are pending.

Possible field trips include

- National Diet of Japan
- Supreme Court
- Tokyo Stock Exchange
- Japan Patent Office
- Japan Federation of Bar Associations

“Although I thought that I understood the Japanese legal system and culture well enough to discuss it with students from foreign countries, I found the reality was so different. Being in class with students from other backgrounds and with different perspectives was an interesting and useful opportunity for me to “internationalize” my perspective and my communication style.”

Yasushi Shinozaki, HBL Masters student in Global Business Law



Class of 2019 at the Supreme Court of Japan

Internship Provides Real World Experience

A part-time unpaid internship at a leading law firm or corporation in Tokyo will be arranged for each student registering for the Legal Practice in Japan course. The internship provides practical experience of the Japanese legal environment, making it a critical component of the “hands-on” approach of our program and the Tokyo experience. It is nearly always the case that each exchange student obtains an internship in his or her top choice of category: Japanese law firm, foreign law firm, or corporate legal department.

“Hitotsubashi’s exchange program was a great break from the usual studying and examination style back in Singapore. Instead of written exams, we had to write papers and give presentations on topics of our choice. As someone who learns better and more intuitively when learning about topics I’m personally interested in, this allowed me to gain a greater understanding of the subjects covered in class but on my own terms. It might seem daunting to have to write so many papers but rest assured that you’ll be able to handle it - we all did, and still had a great time.”

The field trips were well-thought out and provided a greater understanding of different aspects of Japan’s corporate/ legal systems. The destinations were places we wouldn’t have been able to visit if the school didn’t plan for them.”



Emelia Kwa
Singapore Management University

“I greatly enjoyed my experience in Hitotsubashi’s business law program. The courses were well curated and my classmates were smart and diverse, representing the legal systems of at least seven different countries. Listening to and engaging with these global perspectives in class discussions focused on international business law topics was, for me, a truly invaluable and unique experience.”



Justin Sha
UC Hastings College of Law

“The program was outstandingly well organized to give students a great opportunity to learn more about Japanese law, also in comparison with other jurisdictions, from both a theoretical and practical point of view. In particular, the internship gave me the unique opportunity to observe the work of Japanese attorneys in my field of interest. I strongly recommend this program to anyone who is interested in Japanese law and the Japanese culture. It was an unforgettable experience for me!”

Svenja Schenck
Goethe University Frankfurt

Exchange Agreements and Admission of Students

Law schools that enter into agreements with HBL can pre-select and nominate up to two students for admission to the Business Law Student Exchange Program. Those nominations will ordinarily be honored so long as the necessary documentation is received by March 31.

To date, HBL has entered into student exchange programs with the Columbia University School of Law, University of California-Hastings College of Law, University of Frankfurt (Goethe University), Melbourne Law School, and Singapore Management University.

Students are expected to be self-funded or supported by scholarships from their home countries/schools. No financial assistance is available via HBL. The Business Law Student Exchange Program can accept a limited number of highly qualified independent students into its on a space available basis.

Housing

Finding short-term housing in Tokyo can be challenging and expensive. Past students have found suitable accommodation either on their own or with the support of HBL. A limited number of dormitory rooms near Hitotsubashi's suburban campus in Kunitachi (about one hour by train from the downtown campus) are available and many students pursue that option, which provides yet another element of Japanese university life and the Tokyo lifestyle.

Campus Location



Academic Calendar

Students are expected to arrive in Tokyo at the beginning of September. Following orientation, the 13-week semester begins in early September and concludes in mid-December, allowing students to return home before the year-end holiday season. Below is the tentative calendar (subject to change):

Date	Details
September 7 - 9 (Mon - Wed)	Dormitory Orientation for HBL Exchange Students (participation mandatory for dormitory residents)
September 10 (Thu)	Program Orientation, Welcome Lunch, Visit to Disaster Preparedness Center (participation mandatory)
September 11 (Fri)	Group Sightseeing Activity (optional)
September 14 (Mon)	First Day of Classes
September 21 (Mon)	National Holiday (no classes)
September 22 (Tues)	National Holiday (no classes)
November 3 (Tues)	National Holiday (regular classes are held)
November 23 (Mon)	National Holiday (regular classes are held)
December 16 (Tues)	Last Day of Classes
December 17 (Weds)	Final Class Party
December 22 (Fri)	Term Papers Due (unless earlier date set by instructor)

Outside Events

Some professors arrange opportunities to participate in outside seminars as part of their course content. Usually these are included in the original course syllabus, although sometimes they are added later. Students are expected to be flexible with their schedules and prioritize these opportunities.

When possible, students are informed of outside presentations on current issues of import to the Tokyo legal community. Joining these events provides students with the opportunity to network with Japanese and foreign lawyers as well as to gain cutting-edge legal practice tips.



“The Hitotsubashi business law program is a very well-arranged combination of theory, discussion with students from different jurisdictions, and practical insights. In addition to professional enrichment, this exchange program gives the possibility to get to know people from all around the world, who share the common interest in the culture and law system of Japan. Especially the internships in Tokyo law firms offer outstanding first-hand experience. Participating in this program was a truly unique and unforgettable experience for me.”

Hans Trageser
Goethe University Frankfurt

Credits and Course Load

A typical course load is six 2-credit subjects, providing students with 12 transferable credits. Classroom hours and instruction are normally sufficient for exchange students to obtain credit toward graduation from their home institutions, however the transfer of credits to home institutions is always subject to the policies and procedures of each institution.

Fall 2020 Schedule (tentative/subject to change)

TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU
13:30 16:00		Most field trips will be scheduled during this time.		
16:00 17:45		Legal Practice in Japan (Credits: 2) (Beyer)		
18:20 20:05	Comparative Employment Law (Credits: 2) (Beyer/Nakakubo)	International Dispute Resolution (Credits:2) (Greer/Nonaka)	Intro to Japanese Business Law (Credits: 2) (Beyer)	Start-up Law and Practice: The Silicon Valley Model (Credits: 2) (Sasaki)
20:15 22:00	International Privacy Law (Credits: 2) (FitzGerald)	International Entertainment Law (Credits:2) (Rosen)		Corporate Law: Mergers and Acquisitions (Credits:2) (Murdock/Yukevich)



Class of 2018 at the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (Nichibenren)

Grading

Although assessment criteria are at the discretion of individual instructors, grading at HBL typically focuses on three elements: class participation, a research paper and class presentation of research--graded in roughly equal proportion--rather than on a single final exam.

This grading method is particularly suited to learning through a combination of in-class interactions, in-depth research, and analytical writing.

“It was enlightening to be in a classroom with students from so many countries. Even though we were studying Japanese business law, everyone did so in the context of the other country’s law that they knew (such as Germany or Singapore), as well as the style of legal interpretation common to their jurisdiction. This diversity in the classroom helped me to understand multiple points of view and how people see and interpret things differently based on experience, culture, etc. Since we all want to do business worldwide, this was a precious opportunity. I feel more connected to the world from studying this way.”

**Ryoko Ishino, HBL Masters student
in Global Business Law**



Full Year of Study

HBL also offers a full load of graduate level global business law subjects in English during the spring semester. This creates the possibility of a full year of study at HBL to earn a double degree if allowed under the terms of an exchange agreement or otherwise approved. Please note that the Business Law Student Exchange Program is only offered during the September-December semester; we are unable to accept students for a single semester of study during the April-July semester.

“The Hitotsubashi exchange gave me a unique chance to understand so much more than the black letter framework of Japan’s legal system. I was immersed in the socio-cultural context of the law and had the opportunity to compare Japanese law and business practices to other countries. I also really enjoyed the opportunity to undertake an internship with a law firm in Tokyo, which provided an amazing window into the working life of Japanese and foreign lawyers. If you are keen on a Japanese legal career, or if you would like to bring legal insights back to your home country, the Hitotsubashi exchange is the perfect way to experience life and the law in Japan.”

**Alice Kennedy
Melbourne Law School**

Course Descriptions

In most semesters, 6 to 8 subjects are taught in English. Exchange students who require more than 14 transferable credits should consult the Program Director to find a suitable solution. Students interested in auditing business law courses taught in Japanese or attending Japanese language classes should inquire separately.

Comparative Labor/Employment Law

Credits: 2

Instructor(s): Beyer/Nakakubo

This course examines the fundamentals of employment law, comparing primarily Japan and the U.S., with other jurisdictions informing the comparison from time to time. Beginning with an overview of the employment systems of Japan and the U.S., the course goes on to make specific comparisons of a number of aspects of labor and employment law.

Corporate Law: Mergers and Acquisitions

Credits: 2

Instructor(s): Murdock/Yukevich

This course introduces students to key legal aspects of mergers and acquisitions transactions between Japanese companies and foreign companies. We will look mainly at cross-border acquisitions of non-listed targets by Japanese companies (outbound), with some coverage of sales of or divestitures by Japanese companies to foreign buyers (inbound), and acquisitions of publicly-listed foreign companies. The course will have a practical orientation, with focus on how deals are actually negotiated and closed, and difficult issues resolved.

International Dispute Resolution

Credits: 2

Instructor(s): Greer/Nonaka

This course will focus on selected topics in dispute resolution involving Japan and Asia, including the interpretation and drafting of contract provisions, dispute resolution procedures both within and outside Japan, and negotiation, litigation, and international commercial arbitration as means of resolving disputes. There will be a focus on real world case studies involving dispute resolution between Japanese and non-Japanese parties.

International Entertainment Law

Credits: 2

Instructor(s): Rosen

This course will focus on the application of legal matters, such as contracts, torts, copyright and trademark, to the entertainment industry. A central concern of the course will be separating the artistic entity from the legal entity. The course will compare practices in the United States with those of the Japan and other countries, and consider whether a “global standard” exists in the world-wide entertainment market.

Introduction to Japanese Business Law

Credits: 2

Instructor(s): Beyer

To help equip students for transnational work involving Japan, this course will introduce the Japanese legal system, specific areas of law relating to business in Japan, and contemporary business issues.

Course Descriptions (continued)

Legal Practice in Japan Credits: 2 Instructor(s): Beyer

This course will introduce students to legal practice in Japan through background readings and through guest lectures by a number of Japanese legal practitioners, such as practicing lawyers and members of corporate legal departments. This course is a prerequisite for students who wish to undertake an internship at a law firm or corporation in Japan.



Special Topics: International Privacy Law Credits: 2 Instructor(s): FitzGerald

This course will provide students with an overview of privacy law and data protection principles, how nations interpret these principles, and the practical application of comparative privacy and data protection law in modern business. Students will develop an understanding of privacy law through examination of laws of Asian, European and North American nations, and gain an appreciation of how global privacy law and data protection continues to evolve.

Special Topics: Law for Start-ups Credits: 2 Instructor(s): Sasaki

The so called “Silicon Valley Model” has become the global standard start-up model. This course will provide students with an overview of the principles of the Silicon Valley Model, the laws on which it is based, and the practice of those laws. We will discuss specific issues relevant to start-ups, such as allocation of founders’ possessive stock, convertible debt and equity financings, venture capital financing, and exit transactions. We will also examine how the legal issues faced by startups are different than those of more mature businesses.

Directed Research Credits: 2 Instructor(s): HBL Faculty

A student who wishes to conduct research in English on a topic of Japanese or Asian law that is not covered by existing English course offerings may do so upon securing the agreement of an ICS faculty member to act as adviser to such independent research. In such case the student, in consultation with the faculty adviser, shall create a reading list on the topic and shall produce a written report to be submitted to the faculty adviser for evaluation and grading.



Faculty

Professors

Vicki L. Beyer, Director, Business Law Student Exchange Program/Director, Global Business Law Program
Comparative employment law/Comparative corporate governance
University of Nebraska at Omaha (BA, 1980); University of Washington (MA, 1987); University of Washington School of Law (JD, 1990); Bond University (LLM, 1994)
Formerly Asst. Professor of Law at Bond University (1990-1994); Program Director and Assoc. Professor of Law at Temple University Law School Program in Japan (1994-2000); In-house lawyer (2000-2017).

Yuriko Inoue
Intellectual property law
University of Tokyo (BA, 1986), University of Tokyo (LLB, 1990)
Visiting Professor at the Institute of Information, Amsterdam University (2006, 2007-2008).

Hiroya Nakakubo
Labor and employment law
University of Tokyo (LLB, 1980); Harvard Law School (LLM, 1990)
Visiting Scholar at University of Pennsylvania Law School (1989-1990), University of Washington Law School (1997), Cornell Law School (2010, and University of Glasgow (2013), and Visiting Professor at Goethe University Frankfurt (1999).

Chihiro Nunoi, Director, Global Business Law Program
Comparative corporate law
Hitotsubashi University (LLB, 1979); Hitotsubashi University (MA, 1981)
Visiting Scholar at Bonn University (1986-1987) and Munich University (1993-1994) in Germany.

Zenichi Shishido
Comparative corporate governance
University of Tokyo (LLB, 1980); University of Tokyo (PhD, 2007)
Visiting Professor at Columbia Law School (1998-1999), Harvard Law School (2005). Visiting Professor at UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall) on an ongoing basis.

Masao Yoshimura
Taxation law
University of Tokyo (LLB, 1999)
Formerly taught at Yokohama National University (2002-2012).

Kei Amemiya (Professor from Practice —partner at Morrison and Foerster)
Competition Law
Chuo University (LL.B. 1989); University of Michigan (LL.M. 1998).

Masakazu Iwakura (Professor from Practice—senior partner at Nishimura & Asahi)
Mergers & Acquisitions
University of Tokyo (LLB, 1985); Harvard Law School (LLM, 1993)
Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School (2007, 2013).

Associate Professor

Keisuke Seki
Patent law and policy
Tokyo University of Science (BPharm, 2004); University of Tokyo (MSc, 2006); University of New Hampshire School of Law (LL.M., 2014), Japan Patent Office (2006-2019).

For full profiles of HBL faculty, please refer to the HBL website at
http://www.law.hit-u.ac.jp/bl/english/#anchor_faculty.

Adjunct Professors and Guest Lecturers

- Pieter S. de Ganon (Morrison & Foerster) – Legal Aspects of IP Strategy
- Evan M. FitzGerald (U.N. University) – Legal English, International Privacy Law
- Joel Greer (ZeLo Law Firm) – International Dispute Resolution
- Wataru Higuchi (Anderson Mori & Tomotsune) – Current Issues in Financial Regulation
- John Inge (Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe) – Legal Aspects of IP Strategy
- Arshad Karim (Twitter) – International Contract Drafting
- Peter Kilner (Clifford Chance) – International Contract Drafting
- Joel Lee (Automation Anywhere) – International Contract Drafting
- Uwani Martin (Natixis Japan Securities Co., Ltd.) – Japanese Securities Law
- Mitsuo Matsushita (Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu) – Comparative Competition Law
- Mork Murdock (Squire Patton Boggs) – Mergers and Acquisitions
- Takahiro Nonaka (DLA Piper) – International Dispute Resolution
- Dan Rosen (Chuo University) – International Entertainment Law; American Business Law
- Yuriko Sagara (Nakamura Law & Patent Office) – Legal Aspects of IP Strategy
- John Y. Sasaki (JSV Foreign Law Office) – Law for Start-Ups
- Jeff Shimamoto (U-NEXT Co., Ltd.) – International Contract Drafting
- Allan Smith (RGA Reinsurance Co.) – International Competition Law
- Yoshihiro Takatori (Orrick) – International Competition Law
- Stan Yukevich (Morrison & Foerster) - Mergers and Acquisitions

For information on the Business Law Student Exchange Program, contact:

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