

6-3. Center for Professional Communication

The mission of the Center for Professional Communication (CPC) is to support GRIPS students, faculty, and staff in developing the effective professional communication skills and competencies needed to communicate and interact productively in an environment of multiple stakeholders. To that end, we offer a range of instruction, services, and support in fundamental areas of professional communication in English and Japanese.

Our faculty are experts in professional communication, disciplinary writing, and language learning and teaching, with advanced academic training and years of professional experience; many hold doctorates and have a strong record of academic and research accomplishments. Our faculty members' expertise encompasses a wide range of disciplines including political science, education, public policy, psychology, and applied linguistics.

Drawing on extensive scholarship in educational theory and practice, the CPC promotes evidence-based curriculum development and instruction, follows best practices in teaching and learning, and strives to become a recognized center of excellence in the area of academic writing.

Below are some of the programs and support structures we offer.

Comprehensive Academic Writing Program in English and Japanese

The Academic Writing Program constitutes an introduction to writing a graduate research paper and becoming a fledgling practitioner of academic values and practices. The program has three goals: (a) to articulate the minimum standard of acceptable academic production across all GRIPS programs; (b) to socialize students into the target discourse community; and (c) to support the production of policy papers, theses, and dissertations at GRIPS. The program includes the following integrated components.

- Assessment of students' academic writing ability at the start of the academic year.
- Instruction and guidance on research ethics including textual borrowing and appropriate AI use.
- Year-long courses in academic writing and research.
- Academic skills workshops and seminars on a wide range of writing-related topics.
- Individual advising on research proposals, theses, and final papers.
- Handbooks, guidebooks, and other materials on academic writing and language learning developed by CPC faculty and customized for students' self-study, guided learning, and research.



Program in Professional and Cross-Cultural Communication

We emphasize the development of strong professional communication skills in GRIPS students, promote cross-cultural communication, and provide opportunities for interaction between Japanese and international students. Our current offerings include:

6. Special Learning Opportunities

- Workshops on various aspects of professional communication in English and Japanese including presentation, professional and business writing, grant proposal writing, and public speaking.
- Workshops on a wide range of topics in cross-cultural communication, Japanese history, culture, and society.
- Special tours and events focusing on Japanese history and culture, and cross-cultural communication.



Editorial Support

We support GRIPS faculty and PhD students in the preparation of their work for publication or use in professional fields. To that end, we offer editing, proofreading, and language support services as well as specialized training in conference presentations.

Communication Lounge

The goals of the CPC Communication Lounge are to promote autonomy in student learning, equip students with the skills and resources they need to be good learners, and create a focal point where Japanese and international students can interact and engage in language, cultural, academic, and special-interest exchanges. We offer the following guided activities.

- Workshops on language learning strategies, study skills, and other areas important for autonomous learning.
- Free-Talk Hour, a special-interest discussion program for Japanese and international students to talk about topics of interest.

Office Hours and Appointments

CPC faculty hold regular office hours. Consultations on academic writing in English are held by appointment and may be reserved by email (cpc@grips.ac.jp). Consultations on Japanese language learning may be reserved by email (cjll@grips.ac.jp).