

Getting in Touch with Diverse Values, Becoming the Bridge for International Peace

Soka University

The Graduate School of International Peace Studies (SIPS) is a new program established in 2018 as part of the Top Global University Project. We have a large number of international students enrolled. In 2019 when I joined SIPS, the 28 students were from 15 different countries and regions and all 8 faculty members are also from different countries. English is used as the medium of instruction at SIPS, and in such a diverse environment, the students deepen their study of International Peace Studies through the two core courses of “International Relations” and “Peace Studies.” A distinctive feature of this department is that it cultivates a comprehensive perspective by reevaluating the causes and solutions of conflicts in global society from multiple perspectives. We are studying hard every day, broadening our perspectives as global citizens toward finding solutions to issues on a global scale.

My first visit to Japan was in 2016. When I was a graduate student at the University of Ghana, I was selected by the head of the department for an opportunity to study at Soka University as an exchange student. At Soka University, international students from various backgrounds study and live together with the Japanese students in the international dormitories. In the international dormitory, I spent my days with Japanese students and was able to feel the diversity in various scenes of daily life. Also, I met many passionate peers at Soka University, and it was my friends I met here who eagerly listened to my passion to impact the world someday, and encouraged me to come back to Japan to study at SIPS. I have taken classes

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The first and second class of the Graduate School of International Peace Studies

such as “Peace and Global Citizenship,” “State Building in Africa,” and “Civil War and Peace Process.” My research is on the role of digital technology and multilateral organizations in reducing youth unemployment, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. This research is something that will lead to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth.

The classes at SIPS are discussion-based, challenging, and offer a lot to take back, which allows me to be constantly engaged. Sharing ideas among other students from different countries and cultures allowed me to develop more awareness about global issues and have confidence in finding innovative and sustainable solutions. Moreover, I was able to present at an international

conference, TICAD7 Post-event hosted by Soka University, and there are various similar opportunities for the students, which I am inspired by every day.

Life in Japan can be difficult, but the University has a full support system even outside of academic aspects such as advice from staff and readily available support. In addition, the faculty members sincerely listen to our concerns and always put students first, and it is reassuring that they are always there for me. I am determined to continue to deepen my learning so that I can become a person who can lead the international community towards a peaceful and sustainable world.



Actively utilizing the learning commons SPACE