

English-based Degree Program Course outline

Course title	Studies on Small and Medium Enterprises
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Credit	2
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Instructor	Motoko Tsujita
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Course outline
<p>Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have a significant impact on economic growth and employment. Amid the ongoing globalization of the economy and the aging of the population, there is a growing expectation that SMEs will create new technologies and business models.</p> <p>Not a few SMEs are dynamic, flexible, and have innovative capabilities. They are of high value under rapidly changing social-economic circumstances. On the other hand, SMEs face severe obstacles to achieve growth potentials, such as access to finance and human capital.</p> <p>In this class, we will analyze how SMEs have played a crucial role in the postwar Japanese economy and how the Japanese government has facilitated the competitiveness of SMEs. We will also discuss the various issues surrounding SMEs nowadays.</p>

Attainment objectives
<p>To understand how important SMEs are in the national economy as well as the regional economy.</p> <p>To understand how SME policy has been planned and implemented in Japan.</p>

Study Method
<p>① Discussion in the classroom Students give a short presentation based on their assigned reading material. Lively discussions are expected.</p> <p>② Fieldwork (SMEs, local governments, science parks, etc.) We undertake interviews with SME owners and factory tours in Shiga Prefecture and Kyoto City.</p>