Call for Applications: Participants for the Fourth Session of Owada Chair Program

The Center for International Exchange, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences/College of Arts and Sciences, the University of Tokyo is calling for applications to select students at the graduate level* (doctoral candidates and master's students) to participate in a joint chair program established between UTokyo and Leiden University to promote research and exchange in the study of "Interface between International Law and International Relations".

*Students in the Senior Division may also be considered for participation upon consultation with the Center for International Exchange.

For details regarding the objectives of the Owada Chair Program, please take a look at the website below: https://www.owadachair.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp

1. Specific Focus of the Owada Chair Program

The Owada Chair Program was established in 2021 as a rotating chair program between UTokyo and Leiden University for promoting research and developing academic interest in the study of the intriguing interaction between a utopian (normative framework) approach and an apologist (political reality) approach from diverse interdisciplinary perspectives. A specific theme demonstrating the complex nature of the interface between international law and international relations (politics and economics) will be selected for each new chair. The theme of the fourth session of the Owada Chair Program will be “Sustaining Peace: Challenges and Opportunities of Peace Operations (tentative).”

In line with this focus, the program will consist of a principal lecture by an eminent speaker on the selected theme, followed by active debate between participating students from Leiden University, UTokyo, Keio University, and Waseda University. Here, emphasis will be placed on encouraging debate among participating students with different academic disciplines and divergent perspectives emanating from diverse cultural background. It is thus hoped that this methodology will encourage students to develop their debating capacity that they may not have had a chance to train in their educational milieu.
2. Selection Process

(1) Prospective participants are expected to take part in a series of model debating sessions in preparation for the fourth session of the Owada Chair. The sessions will be held during September and October 2024, i.e. 23 September 2024 (16:00-17:30), 30 September 2024 (19:00-20:30) and 21 October 2024 (19:00-20:30) at the Komaba Campus of UTokyo.

(2) Based on evaluation of these model sessions, 3-4 students will be selected to participate in the debate session and another 3-4 students will be selected to participate in the Ph.D presentation session of the fourth session of the Owada Chair to be held at UTokyo on 1 (pre-meeting: 15:00-17:00 TBD), 2 (opening ceremony: 16:00-19:30) and 3 (student session: 10:00-17:00) November 2024.

3. Application Procedures

Please fill out and submit the application form (here) by 23 August 2024.

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