



NAGASAKI FIELD-TRIP SUMMER 2026



History, Waves, and Unforgettable Moments of Friendship!

If anyone thinks our **MPMA field trip** was just a bunch of dry public policy lectures, they clearly haven't traveled with the Class of 2026!

As the saying goes, *"If you want to know what someone is really like, go on a trip with them."* Our 2-day journey in Nagasaki was not only a fantastic outdoor classroom hosted by Rikkyo University, but also the ultimate test of teamwork, professor-student bonds, and the photo-posing skills of the entire MPMA family.



On the morning of the first day, fresh off the plane at Nagasaki Airport, we were still fixing our hair for check-in photos when the adventure officially began.



Our first stop was **Shimabara Castle**. Catching sight of real Katana swords and feudal Samurai iron armor, we felt like a group of time travelers! Everyone was tiptoeing around, inspecting every nook and cranny, eyes glowing like we were about to role-play as apprentice Samurais. But the funniest part was climbing to the 5th floor of the castle tower: all the students were huffing and puffing while frantically trying to find the best angles for a photo!



Next, we headed to the **Gamadasu Dome**. The simulations of the Mount Unzen eruption gave us a quick heart attack, but the most priceless practical lesson in Disaster Management was the resilient spirit of the local people in rebuilding their lives. Suddenly, we all looked at each other, nodding in silent agreement, feeling a profound newfound respect and love for the people of Japan.

By late afternoon, the group checked into a hotel near **Oshidorino Pond**. And this was where our friendship grew even tighter. After a long day of traveling and absorbing endless knowledge, nothing beat unwinding together in the warm mineral waters of the Onsen overlooking Oshidorino Pond. All our tiredness vanished into thin air. We truly treasured every peaceful moment, chatting lively about everything from class assignments to fascinating cultural experiences. Afterward, we gathered for a buffet dinner packed with delicious local specialties. The cozy dining atmosphere turned our professors into the most approachable, youthful, and warm companions.

The morning of the second day brought us to silent, solemn, yet deeply meaningful pages of history. We began our visit at the **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum**. Looking at the shattered artifacts, the clock frozen at that fateful moment, and listening to the authentic stories of history, the entire group was moved to silence.



Having gained a thorough understanding of the historical context inside the museum, we walked out into the park to stand before the **Atomic Bomb Hypocenter**, the exact location where the bomb detonated on August 9, 1945. Standing at that very historic coordinate made the lessons on the consequences of war, urban recovery, and the true value of peace more profound than ever, bringing every member closer together in mutual appreciation.

After those deeply moving moments, we headed straight to the port to prepare for the ultimate highlight: Conquering **Gunkanjima** (Battleship Island)!



The journey from the mainland to the island felt like a scene straight out of a movie: The cruise ship glided under the massive suspension bridges spanning Nagasaki Bay. With the sea breeze whipping through our hair, everyone instantly switched into "supermodel mode." Students and professors lined up along the deck, snapping non-stop to create the most "so deep" photos of 2026!

The route took us past the historical shipyards of the Mitsubishi Corporation. Looking at the giant cranes and colossal ships along the shoreline, the MPMA crew finally realized the sheer scale of Japan's industrialization cradle.



When Gunkanjima appeared towering like a giant concrete battleship, the excitement reached its peak! The 2026 weather was super cooperative, allowing us to land successfully. Walking through the melancholic ruins of this UNESCO World Heritage site, we were fascinated to learn how Hashima evolved from a densely populated industrial hub with Japan's earliest concrete high-rises into a captivating ghost town. We imagined the bustling mining era while having fun recognizing iconic scenes from the movie *Skyfall*!



If someone asks what our biggest takeaway was after 2 days in Nagasaki, I won't just list off museums or UNESCO sites. The biggest "profit" for the MPMA Class of 2026 was:

- An Incredible Professor-Student Connection: The professors and staff were no longer "intimidating figures of authority," but dedicated, approachable, and enthusiastic companions.
- Rock-Solid MPMA Friendships: Coming from different countries, through shared Onsen soaks, group meals, and hundreds of candid, funny photos taken of one another, we truly became a family!



The Nagasaki 2026 trip was far more than just a field trip, it was the wildest, most vibrant, and most unforgettable memory of our youth as MPMA students!