



Chiba University

(Chiba Pref.)



Japanese Studies Program aims to broaden your view of Japan through studying with Japanese students, visiting local museums and schools as well as other forms of cultural exchange and writing a research paper as a final report. The expected achievement is to learn and understand various aspects of language and culture in Japan and to see Japan from a global perspective.

■ University introduction

1. Outline and characteristics of Chiba University

Chiba University is a comprehensive university founded in 1949. It is ranked high both in terms of size and quality among national universities in Japan. Including the newly established (April 2016) College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, there are currently 10 undergraduate faculties at Chiba University: Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Education, Politics and Economics, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Horticulture, School of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and School of Nursing. There are also a number of graduate schools: Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Graduate School of Education, Graduate School of Science, Graduate School of Engineering, Graduate School of Horticulture, Graduate School of Advanced Integration Science, Graduate School of Nursing, Graduate School of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Law School. There are 9,878 students in the undergraduate program, 2,905 students in Master and Doctoral Programs, and 1,335 faculty members.

Chiba University has been chosen to participate in the *Top Global University project*, and will receive extra funding to promote the globalization of academic education in Japan. International Support Desk takes care of more than 800 international students studying at Chiba University, and helps them adapt to life in Japan on and outside the university campus. Further details can be found on the following website:

<http://www.chibau.ac.jp/international/isd/english/index.html>

Liberal Arts education at Chiba University aims at broadening perspectives, developing critical thinking ability and enriching student personality. A wide range of academic subjects which incorporate active and collaborative learning are offered in order to achieve this goal.

2. International student exchange

Chiba University has university level student exchange agreements with 159 universities in 35 countries and host over 100 students from our partner institutions abroad (as of May, 2016).

3. Number of international students

	International Students	Students in the Japanese Studies Program
2016	787	6
2015	787	9
2014	819	10

4. Characteristics of the area

Classes in the Japanese Studies Program are offered on the main campus at Nishi Chiba in Chiba City, and can be reached by train in less than an hour from either Narita International Airport or Tokyo.

Chiba City with its population of about 960,000 is the largest city and the capital of Chiba Prefecture and lies on Tokyo Bay. Its closeness to the ocean results in a mild climate throughout the year. Prices in Chiba are relatively cheap which makes it an easy place to live. Further details on Chiba Prefecture and its environment can be found on the following website:

<http://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/english/index.html>

■ Course summary

1. Aims

(a) The main purpose of this program is to learn about culture and society in Japan. Japanese language courses are offered to help attain this goal.

This program is designed for those international students who specialize in Japanese language or Japanese culture at their universities, and who wish to keep studying about Japan in the future. The students are expected to attain a high level of competence in Japanese, particularly for academic purposes; to acquire specialized knowledge about Japan; to master basic research skills in order to pursue future studies; and to deepen understanding of Japan through field trips and activities with Japanese students and the local community.

2. Features of the course

(1) Japanese culture and society courses

A variety of classes in Japanese culture and society designed to promote interaction between Japanese and international students and creating a unique international study environment are offered. Some of the courses provide an opportunity of fieldwork and internship.

While studying Japanese students also pursue their research projects in their specialized fields. They are required to submit a final report in Japanese language at the end of spring semester.

(2) Japanese language courses

An array of Japanese language courses commensurate with the student's level of proficiency are offered.

3. Number of students to be accepted

7 students by embassy recommendation, 3 students under the interuniversity exchange agreement(s)

4. Qualifications and requirements

At the time of application and arrival in Japan, applicants must be enrolled as undergraduate students in faculties or schools which offer majors in Japanese language or Japanese culture.

At least two years of study of the Japanese at their home institutions is essential as a prerequisite. Applicants should have language proficiency equivalent to at least N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test and must:

- understand basic lectures and seminars in Japanese which are designed for international students,
- be able to speak on general topics of their interest, know approximately 1000 kanji
- be able to read texts of general interest with dictionaries,
- be able to write a short composition (explanatory text or opinion on general topics) of about 1000 characters.

Note: Priority will be given to students whose academic interest is in the field of Japanese Studies, who have the intention to continue their research after returning to their home country, and who have not studied in Japan before.

5. Achievement

The expected achievement is to learn and understand various aspects of language and culture in Japan, to see Japan from a global perspective and to gain the practical use of basic academic Japanese.

6. Course Period

From October 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018

- Fall semester: October 1, 2017 to mid-February, 2018
- Spring semester: early April 2018 – early August, 2018 (Chiba University has introduced a term system. Because the academic year begins in April, the Fall Semester corresponds to Term 3 and Term 4, and the Spring Semester corresponds to Term 1 and Term 2.) Closing ceremony will be held in mid-August.

7. Overview of courses

Students should select from the courses listed below and accumulate more than eighteen credits. Each term has 8 teaching weeks. Numbers in square brackets [] show the total number of tuition hours per course.

(1) Compulsory subjects

Research Work (Humanities) A/B [30/30]

Students are required to write a research paper (at least 6,000 characters) as their final report. Four teachers with different areas of expertise will be available to give academic instruction and advice in order to complete this task. In July there is a session at

which students present their research papers, which are later collected and published.

<p><u>Examples of previous research paper topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sense of humor: Japanese comedian’s techniques which make people laugh •Image of <i>Oda Nobunaga</i> in the modern media •Usage of an expression of apologizing in modern Japanese •How J-pop lyrics are written: orthographical variation and its effect

(2) Participatory subjects

Research work (Humanities) C/D [30/30]

This course will focus on how to gain the most when visiting Japanese history and folklore museums. In their coursework students will design a museum exhibition guide in the Japanese Language, which they will later translate into their own languages.

Language and culture exchange [30]

Students will participate in foreign language courses provided by Chiba University as native speakers. This course aims to deepen their understanding and awareness of their own language, culture and language education.

(3) Elective and other subjects

Students should select courses from categories 1) to 3) listed below on the basis of their major field of study and Japanese language proficiency level.

1) Japanese courses

Students in the Japanese Studies Program will be assigned to one of the following levels (intermediate and above). They need to take more than three courses in each term at the level commensurate with their Japanese proficiency, and will normally be expected to proceed to the next level in the second semester of their study.

Japanese 500 Intermediate	Integrated Course [90] , Oral Expression 1 [30] , Oral Expression 2 [30] , Grammar [30], Composition [30], Kanji [30]
Japanese 600 Upper Intermediate	Reading Comprehension 1 [30] , Reading Comprehension 2 [30], Oral Expression 1 [30], Oral Expression 2 [30], Grammar [30], Report Writing [30], Kanji [30]

Japanese 700 Pre-Advanced	Reading Comprehension [30], Oral Expression 1 [30], Oral Expression 2 [30], Preparing presentation handouts [30]
	Reading Comprehension [30], Listening Comprehension [30], Grammar [30], Report Writing [30]
Japanese 800 Advanced	Oral Expression [30], Report Writing 1 [30], Report Writing 2 [30], Preparing presentation handouts [30]
	Reading Comprehension [30], Oral Expression 1 [30], Oral Expression 2 [30], Report Writing [30], Grammar [30]

*Courses in the upper rows of Japanese 700 and 800 are provided in the fall semester and courses in the lower columns in the spring semester.

2) Japanese Studies: Humanities

Japanese Traditional Culture: The Spirit of Japan A [15]

The focus is on Japanese culture, society and religion, with frequent discussions.

Contemporary Japanese Lifestyles A [15]

The focus is on customs observed in Japanese society, which will serve as a basis for understanding the psychology of the Japanese people.

Images of Japan A/B [15 each]

Images of Japan held by both Japanese and international students will be discussed based on a variety of subjects and points of view in order to achieve a more objective perspective. Images that the Japanese have of other countries will also be considered in order to broaden the perspective and deepen cross-cultural understanding.

History of Cultural Relations between Japan and Asia A/B [15 each]

The relationship between Japan and Asian countries and with their historical background and their future implications for cultural links and exchange will be discussed.

Japanese Grammar [30]

The focus of the course is on grammatical categories and word inflection in Japanese.

The Japanese Language in Its Diversity [30]

The Japanese language will be viewed from different angles in its geographical diversity, historical background and its relationship to the neighboring Asian languages.

3) Japanese Studies: Social Sciences

Japan Seen through Current Events A/B/C/D [15 each]

Every week an article from a newspaper or weekly magazine and its relevance to daily life will be discussed.

※The following specialized courses at the Faculties of Letters and education have been specially designed with international students in mind. The courses marked with * are primarily intended for regular degree students, but welcome international students, too.

• Faculty of Letters:

Introduction to Japan Studies [30], Multilingual-Multicultural Contacts a/b * [30 each]

• Faculty of Education:

Seminar on International Education I/II [30/30], Education Affairs in Japan I/II [30/30], Reading Articles on Education I/II [30/30], Cross-cultural Communication [30], Instruction on the role of Information in Global society [30]

※Students can also attend classes offered under regular curricula subject with the relevant teacher's approval.

Details of the courses in 2) and 3) will be found at the following web page:

<http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/campus-life/syllabus/index.html>

8. Year in Japan

Oct. Welcome Party

Nov. – Jan.

Programs of Introduction to Japanese Culture (wearing a *yukata*, explanation of wedding costume, *origami*, tea ceremony, calligraphy)

Nov. Field trip (*Bōsō* village, *Sawara* and *Naritasan*)

Dec. Home visits

Jan. Home stay (overnight)

Jun. *Kabuki* demonstration and performance

Aug. Closing Ceremony



International students will also be given an opportunity to introduce their own countries and cultures at the Chiba University Universal Festival, and to meet Japanese children at elementary schools to learn about each other's culture. They are also welcome to participate in a variety of circle/club activities and a number of on-campus events designed for international students.

9. Academic and Personal Advice

The following teachers at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are program coordinators and will provide both academic and personal advice. They will also conduct guidance and homeroom regularly.

Aya YOSHINO (Japanese language education, Applied linguistics)

Kanako NISHIZUMI (Japanese language education, Pragmatics).

Should international students already have their specific research topics, we will do our best to find academic supervisors for them.

10. Certificate of Completion

Chiba University issues Certificates of Completion to those who successfully complete their courses accumulating at least eighteen credits and write a final research essay. Total tuition time exceeds 480 contact hours on the average. Students will be given a certificate showing their acquisition of credits for classes in which they have enrolled, subject to their satisfactory performance. Certificates of Completion will be mailed to the students in mid-October 2018.

■ Accommodation

Single rooms at Chiba University International House will be provided for the students in this course. The dormitory fee is ¥19,000 per month, inclusive of common expenses and the Internet access fees, but excluding electricity, heating, water and sewage charges. Additionally, a one-time payment of ¥15,000 is required when moving in. The International House is located in Inage, one train station from the Nishi Chiba campus, or a short distance on foot or by bicycle.

■ Follow-up after completion of the course

We provide individual counseling regarding future educational and career choices to students who have completed this course. Many course participants continue their study and research at graduate school, teach Japanese at universities or work as translators or interpreters in Japanese companies in or outside Japan.

■ Chiba University address

Office:

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Chiba University: <http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/>

Center for International Education:

<http://cie.chiba-u.ac.jp/>

<http://cie.chiba-u.ac.jp/index-e.html>

You may contact the following contact person about the contents of the course.

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