2016-2017

International Liberal Arts Program 国際教養プログラム

> Japanese Studies Program 日本研究プログラム





Japan Program at Chiba (J-PAC)

J-PACは、これまで20年以上にわたって千葉大学の協定校から数多くの交換留学生を受入れてきました。 1年または半年という長くはない留学期間ですが、日本の学生、世界各地から集まる留学生とともに学び、 友情を育んだ経験は、参加した人々の人生にとって忘れがたい思い出になっているようです。修了生の中に は、千葉大学に再び留学したり、大学卒業後も日本と何らかの関わりを持ってキャリアを築いている人が少 なくありません。

J-PAC生が学ぶ西千葉キャンパスは、東京まで電車で約40分という便利な場所にありますが、緑豊かなすばらしい環境でもあります。

皆さんも是非J-PACに参加してみませんか。

Since its start 20 years ago, the J-PAC has welcomed students from Chiba University's partner institutions in great numbers. Despite the short period of one year or six months of stay, their experience of the J-PAC has offered to both participant exchange students and the home students who studied with them, unforgettable memories, and has forged lasting friendships. Many of those who have completed our program decide to come back to Chiba for further studies, or return to work in Japan after graduating from their home university.

The lushly green campus of Nishi-Chiba where J-PAC students attend classes is conveniently located only 40 minutes by train from the center of Tokyo.

We hope that you consider applying to the J-PAC soon!

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ONITENITO

CHIBA UNIVERSITY

Chiba University is a comprehensive university founded in 1949. It hosts approximately 14,500 undergraduate and graduate students and 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 Education, Faculty of Law, Politics and Economics, Faculty of Science, School of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Nursing, Faculty of Engineering, and Faculty of Horticulture. 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 Nursing, Graduate School of Engineering, Graduate School of Horticulture, Graduate School of Advanced Integration Science, Graduate School of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Law School. Finally, other facilities providing various services are also attached to the university: among them, the University Library, the Academic Link Center, the Safety and Health Organization and the University Hospital.

Chiba University's distinctive features:

- As the University Charter "Always Aim Higher" expresses, Chiba University aims to foster students with a broad vision, who are able to engage sincerely in all endeavors required by life in global society. To achieve this goal the university has been actively enhancing its liberal arts program and has been promoting the internationalization of its curriculum. Chiba University is the first national university to open a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which was established in April 2016, and which targets the fostering of adults who will be able to approach world issues from a wide and comprehensive perspective.
- Chiba University has been awarded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan the status of "super global university," a name given to educational institutions considered to be at the front line of the globalization of Japanese society. The University has been increasing the number of courses offered in the English language and has been actively promoting the international exchange of foreign and home students. As of November 2015, more than 800 international students are studying at Chiba, and the university holds the 2013 record among national universities for the highest number of students studying abroad through its exchange programs with partner universities.
- The International Support Desk located on-campus provides assistance to international students with their life in Japan. Nishi-Chiba campus is located approximately 40 minutes by train from Tokyo and 45 minutes by car from Narita International Airport. With a warm climate and comparatively cheap prices, you are bound to find life Chiba very enjoyable.

CHIBA UNIVERSITY

Chiba University has four campuses at Nishi-Chiba, Matsudo, Kashiwanoha and Inohana, all located in Chiba Prefecture.

Nishi-Chiba campus	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Law, Politics and Economics, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Law school Graduate School & Faculty of Education Graduate School & Faculty of Engineering Graduate School of Advanced Integration Science Graduate School & Faculty of Science
Matsudo campus Kashiwanoha campus (Matsudo area)	Graduate School & Faculty of Horticulture
Inohana campus	School of Medicine School of Nursing, Graduate School of Nursing Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Graduate School of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences







JAPAN PROGRAM AT CHIBA

J-PAC (Japan Program at Chiba) is offered to students from academic institutions with which Chiba University has university-level student exchange agreements, and whose academic interest is in the area of Japanese culture and society. J-PAC includes International Liberal Arts Program, which offers to students irrespective of their area of specialization, and Japanese Studies Program, which is designed for students who specialize in Japanese studies at their universities. Both start in October and end in August of the following year, however, they can also accommodate students who wish to study at Chiba University for two terms either from October to February (i.e. Fall semester) or from April to early August (i.e. Spring semester) in the following year. The period of each term will be explained in page 18.

(1) International Liberal Arts Program

(a) Aims

This program is for those students who have already acquired some Japanese language skills and are interested in Japanese society and culture. It includes a number of courses in Liberal Arts, where Japan serves both as an example and reference point for multidimensional analysis, and where local students and international exchange students from various countries form joint classes in active collaborative effort. It is envisaged that through such collaborative learning they will deepen their understanding of Japan and gain new viewpoints on their native cultures and societies, and acquire the ability to think about global problems from multiple perspectives and solve them irrespective of language barriers and different behavioral patterns.

(b) Characteristics

This program welcomes students from Science, Engineering and Humanities. Students can choose subjects according to their interests and concerns. Courses are offered to attain the following four goals:

- 1 to deepen understanding of Japanese society and culture;
- ② to participate in courses in the areas of Chiba University's greatest strengths;
- ③ to promote intercultural understanding through exchanges with Japanese students;
- (4) to acquire sufficient proficiency in the Japanese language for daily life and university study.

A number of courses will be offered in English and in plain Japanese, including courses where both languages will be used, so the student will be able to select courses that match his/her language level. The courses offered in this program feature collaborative learning, where classes are split into smaller groups, in which students collaborate and learn from each other while working on a given task, thus making classes of their own.

(c) Conditions of application

Applicants must be at least second year students and have received Japanese language tuition of at least 150 contact hours at a recognized educational institution. Students whose Japanese proficiency level is below N2 should demonstrate sufficient English ability to communicate and to take courses taught in English.

(d) Completion of the program

A certificate of completion will be issued to those students who have acquired at least ten credits in each semester and have attended at least six classes in each term.

JAPAN PROGRAM AT CHIBA

(2) Japanese Studies Program

(a) Aims

This program is designed for those international students who specialize in Japanese Studies at their universities, and who wish to study about Japan in the Japanese language. It is envisaged that using Japanese to obtain knowledge in the subjects of their interest will give the students a deeper knowledge of the language itself, and at the same time, through collaborative learning effort in a multicultural environment, will make it possible for them to view Japan from many different perspectives. The students are expected to acquire the fundamental skills essential for conducting individual research into their specific areas of Japanese Studies.

(b) Characteristics

Students can take Japanese language courses according to their level of proficiency and attend courses in Japanese studies together with Japanese undergraduate students. They can also choose from a variety of specialized lectures and seminars offered at different faculties.

At the same time, students are expected to carry out their own research projects using the Japanese language. They are advised to take Research Work (Humanities) A and B, the courses specifically designed to help them pursue their research projects, and submit a research paper, or to enroll in a project-type course, such as work on preparing an exhibition leaflet at the National Museum of Japanese History in the student's native languages (Research Work (Humanities) C and D). In either case the students gain an active learning experience, which goes far beyond acquiring knowledge in the classroom.

The students are encouraged to participate in the Universal Festival, an event where students from different areas of the world introduce their countries and cultures to the audience, and to engage in joint events with Japanese primary schools in the vicinity of Chiba University. Both above projects help the students practice how to deliver their thoughts in the Japanese language, and are meant to broaden their relationships with the local Japanese community.

Those students who are interested in and want to focus on a specific area of Japanese Studies with the intent to pursue their academic interests in the future may apply for funding (scholarship) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT). Chiba University will recommend two-three top candidates to MEXT.

(c) Conditions of application

Applicants must be at least second year students and should at least have Japanese language competence equivalent to the pass level N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test administered by the Japan Foundation at the time of application.

(d) Completion of the program

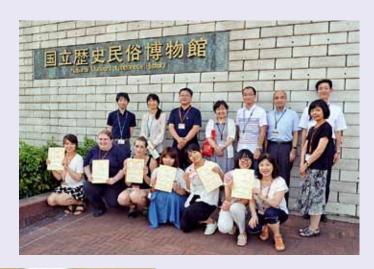
To be granted a Certificate of Completion at this program one has to have acquired at least ten credits in each semester and have attended at least six classes in each term. MEXT scholarship students have to acquire at least nine credits in each semester and must additionally submit a final essay of 6,000 - 9,000 characters.

JAPAN PROGRAM AT CHIBA

(3) Guidance provided for J-PAC students

J-PAC students will be enrolled as "exchange students". Guidance regarding everyday life in Japan and an array of Japanese language courses are offered by the program coordinators. We will also advise J-PAC students regarding specific program-related courses as well as various cultural programs and activities. We also select tutors for them from among the graduate and undergraduate students at Chiba.

Research Work





Class in English with Japanese students

Nikkensei closing ceremony



COURSE OFFERINGS

Students in the International Liberal Arts Program and Japanese Studies Program should select courses that match their interests and language ability from the courses listed below.

Except for Japanese language courses and a number of courses specifically designed for international students, all courses are also offered to Japanese students. This creates a unique international study environment and enables students to broaden their perspectives.

Students in the International Liberal Arts Program whose Japanese language competence is equivalent to Japanese 5xx at Chiba University or lower have to take two subjects in English or in English/Japanese in each term.

In addition to the courses listed below (subjects to change), exchange students may enroll in any other course given at Chiba University with the teacher's permission. There are 8 teaching weeks in a term and the duration of classes at Chiba University is 90 minutes.

Courses marked with * are specialized courses for faculty students. All other courses are designed as general education courses for regular undergraduate students.

(1) Courses which deepen understanding of Japanese society and culture

	Fall semester (T4-5, from October to early February)	Spring semester (T1-2, from April to early August)
Courses taught in English	 Introduction to the Japanese Language Introduction to Japanese Grammatical System Language and Culture B Race: Japanese and the US Society Globalizing Japan: Society and Culture A Globalizing Japan: Society and Culture B Seminar on Global and Japanese Economy (Seminar Ib)* 	 Introduction to the Japanese Language Introduction to Japanese Grammatical System Language and Culture A Schooling and Equity Perspective on Health and Healthcare Deviance and Taboo Social Inequality and Stratification Global Social Change Seminar on Global and Japanese Economy (Seminar Ia)*
Courses where both Japanese and English are used	 Bilingualism and Language Television Literacy Religion and Society Education, Societies and Inequality Presenting about "Japan" in English 	 Japanese in American movies Presenting about "Japan" in English
Courses taught in Japanese	 Selected Aspects of the Japanese Language Contemporary Japanese Lifestyles A · B Postwar Japanese Diet C · D History of Cultural Relations between Japan and Asia A · B Understanding Cultural Relations between Modern Japan and China Literary Theory* Multilingual-Multicultural Contacts b* Seminar on International Education II* Education Affairs in Japan II* Reading Topics of Education II* 	 Japanese Grammatical System Japanese Traditional Culture: The Spirit of Japan A · B Postwar Japanese Diet A · B Japan Viewed through Current Events Images of Japan A · B Multilingual-Multicultural Contacts a* Seminar on International Education I* Education Affairs in Japan I* Reading Topics of Education I* History of Japanese Architecture* Japanese Politics*
Courses designed specifically for international students	 Research Work (Humanities) A Research Work (Humanities) C 	 Research Work (Humanities) B Research Work (Humanities) D Introduction to Japanese Studies c*

COURSE OFFERINGS

(2) Courses in the areas of Chiba University's greatest strengths

	Fall semester (T4-5, from October to early February)	Spring semester (T1-2, from April to early August)
Courses taught in English	 Introduction to Architectural Design Environmental Issues: Think Globally and Act Locally Climate Change Leadership 1 · 2 Urban Life and Environment 1 · 2 	Fundamentals of Imaging ScienceDesign ScienceRemote Sensing and Its Applications
Courses where both Japanese and English are used	Design Project Work	
Courses designed specifically for international students	Research Work (Science and Engineering) A	Research Work (Science and Engineering) B

(3) Courses promoting intercultural understanding through exchanges with Japanese students

	Fall semester (T4-5, from October to early February)	Spring semester (T1-2, from April to early August)
Courses taught in English	Intercultural Communication B	
Courses where both Japanese and English are used	Japanese Culture from Intercultural Perspectives	 Intercultural Communication A Language and Culture Exchange
Courses taught in Japanese	· Cross-cultural Communication*	
Courses designed specifically for international students		Research Work (Humanities) E

(4) Japanese language courses

Aims	Level and course code		Number of subjects per week/ number of classes per week
Advanced language skills required to study or research in Japanese	Advanced	Japanese 8xx	4 subjects/4 classes or 5 subjects/5 classes
		Japanese 7xx	4 subjects/4 classes or 5 subjects/5 classes
	Intermediate	Japanese 6xx	7 subjects/7 classes
		Japanese 5xx	5 subjects/7 classes
		Japanese 4xx	6 subjects/8 classes
Basic language skills	Pre-intermediate	Japanese 3xx	5 subjects/7 classes
	Basic	Japanese 2xx	4 subjects/6 classes
		Japanese 1xx	4 subjects/6 classes

J-PAC YEAR IN JAPAN

FALL SEMESTER (Term 4 · Term 5)

Late September Orientation, Class registration

October First half of Fall semester (Term 4) begins

Early November University Festival

One-day bus trip for J-PAC students

Late November Home visit

Early December Second half of Fall semester (Term 5) begins

Late January Home stay (overnight)
Mid-February Spring vacation

The fall semester (Term 4 • Term 5) starts in early October and ends in early February.

J-PAC students are required to arrive at Chiba University International House on an appointed day in late September. Orientation will be held in the following week. There is no break between terms. There is a one-week winter holiday which starts in late December and lasts till early January.

SPRING SEMESTER (Term 1 · Term 2)

Late March Orientation, Class registration

Early April First half of Spring semester (Term 1) begins
Early June Second half of Spring semester (Term 2) begins

Early August End-of-term examination
Mid-to-late August Departure from Japan

The spring semester (Term 1 • Term 2) starts in April and ends in August. There is no break between terms.

OInternational House

Students stay at Chiba University International House in single rooms, which are furnished with a bed, desk, kitchenette, shower and toilet. The monthly rent is $\frac{19,000}{\text{Additionally}}$, a one-time payment of $\frac{15,000}{\text{Total}}$ is required when moving in. The International House is located in Inage, one short train stop from the university.

*The amount of the monthly rent and a one-time payment is subject to change.

OLiving expenses in Japan

For your reference, living expenses including meals, electricity and phone bills are about ¥70,000 per month. You will also need to pay for textbooks, travel and other activities. Please note that under the Japanese law you will NOT be able to receive overseas money transfers until you have lived in Japan for six (6) months. Please take this into consideration in your financial planning before you apply for the program.

Chiba University does not allow short-term exchange students to do part-time jobs.

OInsurance

In addition to the National Health Insurance, students are required to buy the accident insurance policies which are offered at Chiba University.

OAcademic Transcript

After completion of the program, Chiba University will issue academic transcripts for all the students and mail them to their home institutions. <u>Individual students will normally get their transcripts in mid-October</u> (mid-April in case students study at Chiba University from October to February). Those students who want to later have their Chiba university credits recognized by their home institutions are strongly advised to consult their academic supervisors in their countries beforehand.

J-PAC YEAR IN JAPAN

Experience the Culture of Japan Program

International students have the opportunity to attend home visit and home stay programs and interact with people of various social and professional backgrounds. They also have a chance to experience traditional Japanese culture such as the tea ceremony or calligraphy. Other events such as bus tours within Chiba Prefecture or attending kabuki theatre performance at Tokyo's National Theatre are also offered to J-PAC students.

Exchange with Chiba University students who have studied or plan to study overseas

The number of Chiba University students who go overseas to study at our sister universities keeps growing every year. We encourage them and J-PAC students to get together and exchange their opinions. Having the same experience of studying abroad at different countries as well as hosting international students at their countries enables both groups of students to compare different cultures and educational systems and objectively look at Japan as a host country.

The tutor system

Each J-PAC student is introduced to a Chiba University student, who becomes his or her fellow-tutor, and often the very first friend at Chiba University who can provide invaluable help in settling down and everyday life. CIRE strongly encourages all J-PAC students to make the most of this unique tutor system.

Japanese Language Study Room

The Japanese Language Study Room is a facility located at the Center for International Research and Education where international students can find a variety of Japanese language teaching materials and references, use computers and the internet and also find help from Japanese student-tutors who are there on duty during the opening hours.

English House

English House located on-campus provides a relaxing atomosphere to meet new people and have English conversations.



English House



Japanese Language Study Room

RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

(1) International Liberal Arts Program & Japanese Studies Program 〈How to apply〉

To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled at an institution of higher education that has an inter-university agreement with Chiba University. Eligible international students will be exempted from the registration, admission and tuition fees at Chiba University and may have their credits obtained at Chiba University recognized at their home institutions. Applicants must have completed at least one year of undergraduate course work at the time of application. Also, students accepted into the program must agree to return to their home institution upon completion of the exchange program.

The selection of participants will be made at Chiba University on the basis of their academic record, personal statement of purpose and two recommendation letters from their current teachers. Applicants should send completed applications to the address shown at the next page through their home institution.

(Documents to submit)

(a) Application forms, (b) Plan of study, (c) Academic transcript from the applicant's home institution, (d) 1 letter of reference from an academic teacher at the applicant's home institution who has known the applicant for at least one year, (e) Certificate of Japanese language proficiency by a Japanese language instructor, (f) 1 copy of the photo page of your passport, (g) 2 photos with size: 3 cm x 4 cm

Schedule

- (1) Applicants should send applications by <u>March 10, 2016</u> for admission to the program beginning in October 2016 and by September 10, 2016 for admission to the program beginning in April 2017.
- (2) We will inform the applicant's institution of the result of application in the end of May 2016 (in late November for applicants for admission to the program beginning in April). Guide for J-PAC Students as well as information on what preparation is necessary before arrival in Japan will be mailed to successful applicants at a later date.
- (3) We will mail a Certificate of Eligibility to the applicant's institution by the end of August (in late February for applicants for admission to the program beginning in April). This certificate is required for Japanese visa application.

(2) Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship

Information on recruitment requirements and application form for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship will be mailed to our partner institutions from which Chiba University has previously received international students in the Japanese Studies Program at the end of January. Applicants should submit both Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship and J-PAC Program application forms and documents (a)-(g) (the same as stated in the section above) to Chiba University.

Note that Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (*nikkensei*) do not have the one-semester option and can only enroll from October to August in the following year (eleven months).

Before you apply, please check the following flowchart.

Is your Japanese language Competence equivalent to level N2 or higher of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test administered by the Japan Foundation?

No.

Yes.

Is your major Japanese or Japanese studies at your university? And do you wish to study about Japan in the Japanese language?

No.

Yes.

International Liberal Arts Program

Japanese Studies Program

SCHOLARSHIPS

(1) International Liberal Arts Program and Japanese Studies Program

Applicants may be eligible for a JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) scholarship of approximately ¥80,000/month (subject to change). Chiba University will normally recommend several eligible candidates for JASSO scholarships. Applicants who are due to commence their study in October will be notified about the JASSO decision by June 30. However, please note that the number of JASSO scholarships is limited and being accepted as J-PAC student does not guarantee your scholarship application will be successful.

(2) Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Nikkensei)

Chiba University will normally recommend two-three top ranking applicants for a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship. Please note that recommendation from Chiba University does not guarantee that the application will be successful.

☐ For more information or application forms for the J-PAC, please contact:

Japan Program At Chiba

International Student Devision, Chiba University

1-33 Yayoi-cho, Inage-ku, Chiba-shi, 263-8522 Japan

Fax: 81-43-290-2198

E-mail: jpac@office.chiba-u.jp







In Japan, I have had the chance to take an amazingly diverse variety of classes. Not only have I taken specific Japanese classes, targeting my most lacking areas (vocabulary, reading comprehension, pretty much everything), but I have also taken classes alongside Japanese students, allowing me to gain a grasp on how the Japanese education system works. I have taken Japanese culture, English literature, Language Acquisition, and language courses such as Korean and Japanese Sign Language. Not only did these classes teach me new information, they enabled me to raise my opinion and carry on discussion in Japanese. I experienced what it was like to look at old information in a new language, and to learn a new language though one I was more proficient in. I have pushed my limits and realized I could do things that I could never have imagined when I first began learning Japanese.

Andrew Wilson Tuck University of Alabama U.S.A.

Nick DeLannoy

University of Illinois at Chicago U.S.A.

My year in Japan on the J-PAC program was honestly one of the best years of my life thus far. As soon as I got there, I wished I never had to leavel I did so many new things and met so many amazing new friends from all over the world that I will never forget it! As for the classes, everything was great! All of the teachers were really nice and funny, and they made the classes even more interesting. I was able to take plenty of Japanese language classes as well as tons of great cultural education classes. I learned a lot about not only Japanese culture, but many other cultures as well. It was a great experience to study with Japanese students and get good Japanese conversation practice in my bilingual classes. I think J-PAC really changed my life for the better. Now that I' m back in America, I' m working as hard as I can to graduate early and start hurrying back towards Asia!

The time I spend with the J-PAC students is always full of discoveries. In courses such as 'Japanese Studies,' where Japanese and J-PAC students learn collaboratively about topics related to Japanese culture and society, I came to realize that certain behaviors and social trends, which I thought were obvious for people living in Japan, were in fact not that evident for others. This realization often allowed me to see Japanese culture from a whole new perspective. Outside of class, I had the chance to chat casually with J-PAC students at places like the 'English House.' Learning and explaining about each other' s country was interesting and challenging at the same time, but it helped break down the stereotypes that I held towards some cultures. And I hope that this was the effect on my interlocutors too. This year, I' m the tutor of one of the J-PAC students, and using my experience I wish to help him get a deeper understanding of Japan and spend a fruitful time during his stay here.

Munetoshi Hayashi

Undergraduate Faculty of Letters Chiba University ブラツェヤク・ウテ

デュッセルドルフ大学 ドイツ 私は千葉大学で色々な授業に参加し、新しい経験がたくさんできました。日本語の授業では日本語能力を上達させることができ、日常生活の中で日本語を使うことに自信を得ましたが、色々な国から来た人と一緒に勉強したり、話し合ったりすることで、日本だけではなく他の国の文化や習慣や生活などに関しても学んだことはもっと面白かったです。

私は二言語の授業にも参加しました。授業では、学生達は他人の国と自分の国の特徴と習慣と文化を比べ、評しました。前に知らなかった色々なことを学び、自分の見方も時々変化しました。授業はいつも賑やかで、楽しかったです。他の国の学生とともに学び、美しい思い出をたくさん作ることができ、その国に関してもっと知りたいという思いが沸いてきました。

J-PACのプログラムで私は成長し、世界への見方も積極的になったと思います。 J-PAC生と日本人の学生と千葉大学の皆さんと一緒に過ごした時間を決して忘れられません。

日研生として千葉大学で一年間の勉強ができて、本当によかったと思います。 特に特別研究 I・Ⅱ に参加することで、充実した日々を送ることができました。

国の大学ではゼミに入ったり長い論文を書いたりする経験がなかった自分にとっては、何かを研究することはきわめて難しく、自分にはできないことだと思っていましたが、この一年間、授業に参加している先生と留学生たちと何回も同じテーブルを囲んで、自分の考えを言ったり、皆と話し合ったりして、難しいこともだんだん楽しめるようになりました。勿論、肌で日本の文化を感じる絶好のチャンス一教室の外の生活も素晴らしいです。校内の多彩なサークル、グループ活動、言語交流ボランティアから、校外のホームステイ、工場見学、バスツアーなどまで、いろいろな活動を体験することで、日本の文化とはなにか、そして、自国の文化とはなにかに対する認識を新たにすることができました。皆さんもぜひ、好奇心や観察意識を持って、この一年間を満喫してください。

張洋子

日本語・日本文化研修生 湖南大学 中国

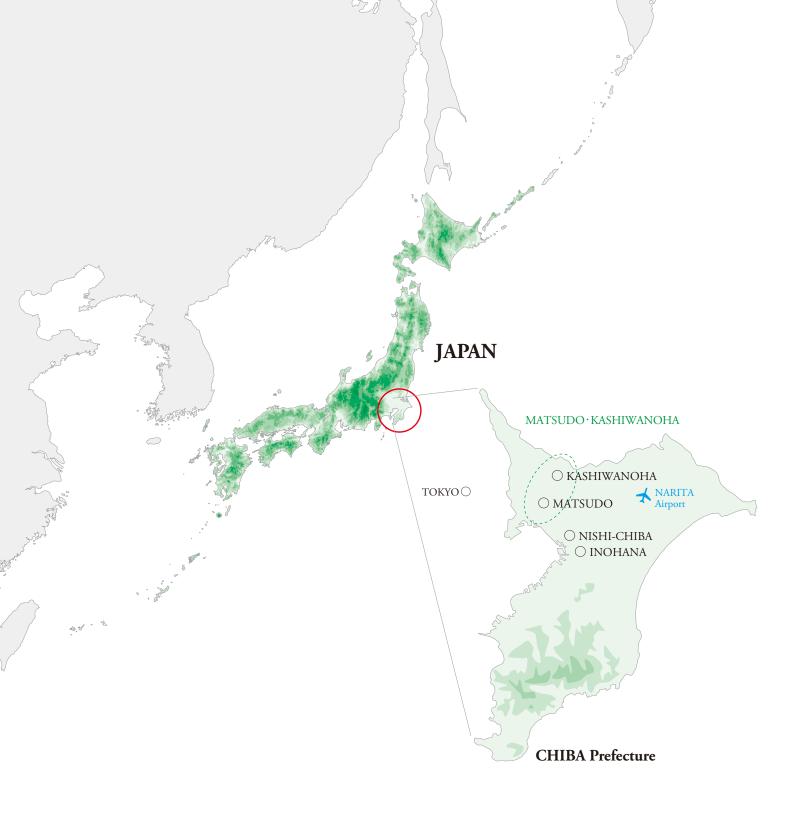
シスワン・マユリ

日本語・日本文化研修生 カセサート大学 タイ 私はJ-PAC生として千葉大学で1年間過ごしてきました。今考えてみると、日本に生活している間にいつの間にか自分の考えが変わったことに気づきます。はじめ私は、留学できたからには日本でたくさん日本について学びたいと思っていました。しかし、留学生活が始まると、周りには日本人だけではなく、様々な国からJ-PAC生として来た友達がたくさん集まっていました。そして初めて気づきました。「私は日本だけに接しているのではない」と。フランス、アメリカ、インドネシア、キルギスなど世界の様々なところから来ている仲間たちと交流していること、日本の文化だけでなく、他の国の人たちの文化や考えも学べることに、J-PACのほかの学生も気づいたと思います。一年間は短かったです。短かったからこそ毎日意味のある生活をすごせたと思います。私は千葉大学に留学したことを後悔していません。むしろ「国際的」である楽しさを味わえて本当に嬉しかったと思っています。

私は今、J-PAC生たちと一緒に楽しく授業を受けています。授業内容は、日本文化を探るグループワークです。日本文化というと源氏物語、四季の行事、日本食などを想像する人が多いと思います。もちろんそれらも、日本を理解するうえで大切な日本文化です。ですが「アニメキャラクターを用いた神社の広告」「お寺といえばお葬式の場所」「なにかと謝罪が多い」「おしゃれのための入れ墨には抵抗がある」などの事柄もまた、すべて日本文化です。私たち日本人学生も、当たり前すぎて気づかなかったことに目を向け、新鮮な気持ちでJ-PAC生たちと日本について学んでいます。

参加者全員が自分の経験や考えを自由に表現し、協力しながら授業を作ります。 様々なバックグラウンドを持つ学生たちの独特な観点が、何気ない会話の中でど んどん飛び出してくるのが魅力です。私はJ-PAC生との交流を通して、日本を多 角的に捉える視点を養うことができました。 熊田 真弓

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