



Oita University (Oita)



Make a Big Contribution to Japanese Studies in Oita Region!

■ UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW

① About Oita University

• Oita University's mission is to 'foster people rich in creativity and humanity, contribute to peace and development in the world, and promote human welfare and creating new culture.'

• Oita University (hereafter "the university") has Faculties: Education, Economics, Medicine, Science and Technology; and Welfare and Health Science and it also has five graduate schools: Education, Economics, Medicine, Engineering, and Social Service Administration. As of 2018, the University has 4957 undergraduate students, 639 graduate students; classes are conducted with a small number of students, so international students enjoy a close relationship with the faculty and staff and have many opportunities to develop friendships with Japanese students.

② An International Atmosphere at Oita University

• The University has concluded 75 agreements for student exchange with universities from 23 countries and regions. At present there are 165 international students studying at the University. The Japanese studies program began in 2004 and has accepted students to the program each year since. The University also has short-term exchange programs for students from our partner universities **from such places as the United States, Europe, Australia, China, and Korea.** **About 60 short-term exchange students participate in this program each semester.**

③ Numbers of international students and Japanese studies students accepted to the University

2018: 165 international students, and 5 Japanese Studies Program students
2017: 134 international students, and 2 Japanese Studies Program students
2016: 129 international students, and 1 Japanese Studies Program student

④ About Oita Prefecture

• Did you know that **Oita prefecture has the second highest ratio of international students to population in all Japan in 2017?** Oita prefecture is quite popular among international students.

• Oita prefecture is in eastern Kyushu. The prefectural capital is located in Oita city, whose population is 470,000. With a low cost of living for a city of this size, and with kind people, Oita city provides international students with a high quality of life. The prefecture is nationally famous for its hot springs, found in such places as Beppu and Yufuin. Oita enjoys a moderate climate with an average yearly temperature of 17 degrees Celsius.

• **Oita's history is also fascinating. The city of Oita was once one of the largest international cities in Japan during the reign of Otomo Sorin.** The history can further be traced back through the stone Buddha statues carved in Usuki (a designated National Treasure) carved from 11th to 12th centuries, and to Usa shrine constructed in the eighth century, and beyond.

■ PROGRAM DETAILS

① The Japanese Studies program is designed for international students. These students (Japanese research students) should have the following objectives.

1) A course intended mainly to improve Japanese language proficiency with supplementary study about Japan and Japanese culture

2) To attain a high level of knowledge about Japanese language and culture

3) To contribute to the advancement of research into Japanese language and culture, and the desire to contribute to promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the student's own country

② The most important task for Japanese research students is to produce a research paper over the course of a year of study. The student will select a theme related to Japanese language and/or culture, and will work under the guidance of

an advising professor while also learning how to conduct research and investigations. **The advising professor, and an individual tutor, will form a team with the student to provide guidance and support throughout the researching and writing process.** The student will also learn how to write research papers in Japanese. In addition, while working on their research papers, students will further advance their knowledge of Japanese by choosing and taking Japanese language Japanese studies courses appropriate to their level and objectives. Students with a high level of Japanese proficiency can take university general education and specialized subject courses with Japanese university students. In addition, students who are considering presenting research papers in English can take courses that are conducted in English. Finally, the Japanese studies program uniquely offers many opportunities to broaden your horizons by participating in regional festivals and field trips.

③ We accept up to 5 students to the Program. (Three students recommended by universities and two students recommended by embassies)

④ Qualifications for Admission

• You must be studying at a university outside of Japan, and be majoring in fields related to Japanese or Japanese culture or have a strong interest in Japanese or Japanese culture.

• You must have completed 300 hours of Japanese study at the time of your arrival in Japan.

Your native language must be other than Japanese.

• You must be able to speak Japanese at a level sufficient for ordinary conversation.

• You must have the ability to read articles in Japanese in your chosen area of research, with the use of a dictionary.

You must be able to write a short essay in Japanese of

about 400 characters in approximately 30 minutes, with the use of a dictionary.

•You must have the motivation to carry out independent research into your chosen research topics concerning Japanese language or culture.

⑤ Achievement Objectives

1) Scholarly Objectives

•To learn who to write research papers, and to be able to write research papers in ones chosen field of specialization

•To learn the following specific aspects of writing scholarly papers

- Understanding the logical connections between introduction, body, and conclusion

- How to balance a logical structure with data collection

- How to present reference materials

- The proper way of quoting text

2) Japanese Language Usage Objectives

•To be able to speak and understand standard adult Japanese that is appropriate to the situation and the relationships between people

•To enable you to acquire the Japanese ability required to take university level course work at a Japanese university. This ability would include being able to understand the contents of the course, to write reports, and to give presentations in class.

•To be able to speak and understand the Japanese necessary for interacting with the people of the region

⑥ Period of study

•October 1, 2019- August 31, 2020

•The completion ceremony is planned for August 20, 2020.

⑦ Course Content

Oita University offers you a variety of courses that allows you to explore Oita Prefecture. You must take a minimum of seven courses per week, to be selected from among the required and elective courses explained below. (You will thus have a **minimum of 315 face-to-face contact hours to learn Japanese language and culture** over the year.) Please note that the "Japanese studies" course described in category one is a requirement. All of these courses meet once a week for 90 minutes.

1) Required Subjects

• **Japanese Studies I & II:** "Japanese Studies I" (fall semester) and "Japanese Studies II" (spring semester) are both required courses. Under the guidance of a faculty member you will select a theme related to Japanese language or culture, and will carry out investigation and research concerning this chosen topic. You will submit a research paper with the results of your research in "Japanese Studies II" in the spring semester.

• **Japanese Language & Japanese Studies (JLJS) Courses:** Your Japanese language ability will be assessed in a placement test. Based on the results of this test, you will be placed in Japanese courses

at an appropriate level. There are four levels of Japanese courses, including advanced level special courses. In principle Japanese studies students must take at least three JLJS courses each semester.

2) Courses based on experiential learning and fieldwork in the local area

•Students can participate in volunteer activities in Oita Prefecture through "Introduction to Volunteer Learning". "The Waters of Oita I, II" gives students the opportunity to learn through experiential learning about the circumstances of the environment surrounding the Oono river basin and the role that the river and the water it provides plays in regional development. (These courses are general education courses.) In "Social Networks and Introduction of Oita to the World 2," you will visit a rural area in Oita, find out what a rural life is like in Oita, and explore solutions to the problems of environmental protection and rural depopulation. In "Project Planning, Volunteering and Internship 2, 3" you will visit the historical Kunisaki Peninsula and compose and edit a magazine to show the beauty and history of this peninsula to the world.

3) Regarding Your Research

You carry out investigation and research as explained in 1) and submit a research paper, which will be published in *The GAIA Bulletin*.

4) Opportunities to study with Japanese Students

Global Courses (See list 1): These courses aim to educate global leaders, providing you opportunities to work with Japanese students. They include "Social Networks and the Introduction of Oita to the World II", "Project Planning, Volunteering and Internship 2, 3", "Learning Oita through Kyogen", "Presentation Skills", "Business Japanese Seminars", and "Japanese Linguistics".

5) Elective and Other Courses

You can also take Liberal Arts Courses and Specialized Courses under the guidance of a faculty member.

List 1. Some of the Global Courses

Courses	Content	OPI Level
Studies on Oita	Learning Characteristics of Oita	Advanced
Sustainability Oita	Finding out what Sustainable Lifestyles are Like in Oita.	Advanced
Learning Oita through Kyogen	Getting to Know Oita through Performing a Kyogen Play	Advanced
Social Networks and Introduction of Oita to the World 2	Environmental Protection, Rural Depopulation, and Social Media	Advanced
Project Planning, Internship, and Volunteering 2, 3	Exploring the Historical Kunisaki Peninsula	Advanced

List 2. Some of the Intermediate and Advanced Japanese Language & Japanese Studies Courses

Courses	JLPT Level
Japanese 4 Grammar I	N2
Japanese 4 Grammar II	N2
Japanese 4 Speaking	N2
Japanese 4 Reading I	N2
Japanese 4 Reading II	N2
Japanese 4 Writing I	N2
Japanese 4 Writing II	N2
Japanese 4 Contextual	N2
Japanese 5 Grammar I	N1
Japanese 5 Grammar II	N1
Japanese 5 Speaking	N1
Japanese 5 Reading & Writing I	N1
Japanese 5 Reading & Writing II	N1
Japanese 6 Reading & Writing II	N1
Japanese 6 Speaking	N1

⑧ Yearly Schedule of Events

October	Opening ceremony, orientation, and placement test; Welcome ceremony for new exchange students; Field trip with tutors;
November	University festival; Japanese speech contest; Exchange student forum; Cultural experience—Discovering the taste of the <i>shiojokjiseasoning</i> and Japanese foods
December	International culture festival; Meeting and party with host families. GAIA Seminar
February-March	Spring break.
April	Field trip with tutors; Health examination.
May	Fire prevention drill.
June	Kyogen workshop.
July	Oita University Tanabata festival; Nanase homura festival; Exchange student farewell party.
August	Oita City Tanabata Festival; Closing Ceremony.

⑨ Advising System

Keizo Nanri and Mieko Sakai from GAIA are in charge of the program. Other Center faculty also serve as academic advisors. In addition, Oita University undergraduate students are available to act as individual tutors, under the guidance of the academic advisor, and provide further academic support. The Center is available to advise you in the following specialized areas: Japanese language education theory of foreign language education, applied linguistics, Oita studies (history, language), gender studies, inter-language pragmatics, Japanese culture studies (primarily current and modern), popular culture research,

comparative culture and literary studies, Internet and discourse construction studies, systemic linguistics and so forth.

⑩ Requirements for the Issuance of a Certificate

- You must complete 14 courses over the two semesters.
- You will then receive a certificate of completion of the program and a certification of grades for the courses that you have taken. You will also receive credit for the courses that you have completed and passed.

■ HOUSING

- Students will reside in a dormitory on campus together with Japanese students, so they **will be able to immerse themselves in a Japanese-speaking environment**. See List 3 for details.

List 3. Student Dormitory Room and Facilities Charges

Room Charge	27,000 or 22,000 yen /month (All rooms are single rooms.)
Facilities	desk, chair, bed (bedding not provided), closet, unit bath/toilet, mini kitchen (refrigerator, IH burner), heater/air conditioner
Additional Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance fee one-time charge of 30,000 yen (due upon moving in); but 20,500 yen if you stay in the dormitory for less than 6 months; • Water bill 2000 yen/month; • Electricity bill depends on how much you use electricity. You need to sign a contract with an electricity company; • Internet 2,000 yen/month (required of all residents).

■ Program Post-Completion Follow Up

Students who complete the Japan studies program will continue to receive advice about their research and further pursuing their academic careers through email and social media such as blogs, Facebook, and Skype. In addition, students can continue to exchange information with other students who have completed the program through Facebook, and stay up to date about Oita University and the Oita region.

■ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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- E-mail: ryugaku@oita-u.ac.jp
- Global Education and Intercultural Advancement Center
- www.gaia.oita-u.ac.jp
- Oita University's Homepage:
- www.oita-u.ac.jp
- Japanese Studies Students Homepage:
- www.gaia.oita-u.ac.jp/academic/kokuh.html



Learning Oita through Kyogen



Project Planning, Volunteering and Internship 3