



# Oita University(Oita)



Attain a High Level of Knowledge about Japanese Language and Culture, and Make a Academic Contribution to the Advancement of Japanese Studies, in the Historic 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, Welfare and Health Science and it also has five graduate schools: Education, Economics, Medicine, Engineering, and Social Service Administration. As of 2016, the University has 5009 undergraduate students, 684 graduate students, and 605 friendly faculty members; 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 67 agreements for student exchange with universities from 19 countries and regions. At present there are 152 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 exchange students and Japanese studies students accepted to the University during the last three years

2016: 129 exchange students, and 1 Japanese Studies Program student (1 by university recommendation)

2015: 144 exchange students, and 5 Japanese Studies Program student (2 by embassy recommendation, 3 by university recommendations)

2014: 152 exchange students, and 4 Japanese Studies Program student (1 by embassy recommendation, 3 by university recommendation)

### ④ About Oita Prefecture

Did you know that Oita prefecture has the second highest ratio of international students to population in all Japan in 2015? 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, designed for international students, is a course to primarily brush up Japanese language proficiency and supplementarily acquire some knowledge about Japanese culture and society. These students (Japanese research students) should have the following objectives.

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

2) To contribute to the advancement of research into Japanese language and culture

3) The desire to contribute to promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the student's own country

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 courses and Education for International Understanding courses (Techniques of Expression) 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 IPOU 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.

② We accept up to 5 students to the Program. (Three students recommended by universities and two students recommended by embassies)

### ③ Qualifications for Admission

• You must be studying at a university outside of Japan, and be majoring or minoring in fields related to 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 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.

**④ 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

**⑤ Period of study**

October 1, 2017–August 31, 2018  
 The completion ceremony is planned for August. (The 2016 ceremony was held in August.)

**⑥ Course Content:**

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:** “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 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 courses Japanese language 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. For more details, see the following references.)

**List 1. Advanced Level Special Courses and Education for International Understanding Courses**

Classes	Content	OPI Level
Special Japanese 4	Contemporary Society and Popular Culture	Advanced
Special Japanese 5	Writing Academic Papers	Advanced
Discover Oita (Oita Jijo)	What Oita Prefecture is like	Advanced
Learning Oita through <i>kyogen</i>	Understand Local Culture in Oita through performing a <i>kyogen</i>	Advanced
Oral Presentation Skills	Effective ways of communication	Advanced
Japanese Linguistics I	An introduction to Japanese linguistics	Advanced
Analysis of Japanese Grammar	Analyzing Japanese language from a point of view of cognitive linguistics	Advanced
Social Networks and Introduction of Oita to the World I, II	Getting to know the nature and streets in Oita Prefecture	Advanced

3) Elective and Other Courses

•**Education for International Understanding “Oral Presentation Skills”:** “Oral presentation skills” is a class where you will learn how to make oral presentations. Regular university students are also able to take this course. (See list 1.)

•**General Education and Specialized Courses offered by Each University Department:** You can take general education and specialized courses throughout the university, in accordance with the advice of your supervisor.

**List 2. Japanese Language Courses**

Classes	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

•**IPOU Courses:** With the approval of the IPOU coordinator, you can take IPOU courses in Japanese society and culture taught in English. These courses are discussion-centered, will improve your discussion skills in English.

⑦ **Yearly Schedule of Events**

October	Opening ceremony, orientation, and placement test Welcome ceremony for new exchange students Field trip with tutors CIER seminar
November	University festival Japanese speech contest Exchange student forum
December	International Culture Festival Meeting and party with host families
January	Homestay Field trip (visit self-defense force)
February–March	Spring break
April	Field trip with tutors Health examination
May	Fire prevention drill
July	Oita University Tanabata festival Nanase homura festival Exchange student farewell party
August	Oita City Tanabata Festival Closing Ceremony

⑧ **Advising System**

Associate Professors Keizo Nanri and Mieko Sakai from the Center for International Education and Research 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, sociolinguistics (speech acts, politeness), 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.

⑨ **Recognition of Units**

You will 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

**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	maintenance fee one-time charge of 40,000 yen (due upon moving in); utilities approximately 9,000 yen/month; Internet 2,000 yen/month (required of all residents).

students, so they **will be able to immerse themselves in a Japanese-speaking environment.** See List 3 for details.

◇ **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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Japanese Studies Students Homepage:  
<http://www.cier.oita-u.ac.jp/j/academic/kokuh.html>



Karuta game at Oita junior High School