



# Chiba University (Chiba Pref.)



Japanese Studies Program aims to broaden your view of Japan through collaborative learning with Japanese students. The expected achievement is to learn and understand various aspects of cultures and societies 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. There are currently ten undergraduate faculties at Chiba University: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Law, Politics and Economics, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Horticulture, Faculty of Science, 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 Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Graduate School of Nursing, Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Law School.

- Students in the undergraduate program: 9,827
- Students in master and doctoral programs: 3,008
- Faculty members: 1,275

Chiba University has been chosen to participate in the *Top Global University Project* by MEXT and has been receiving extra funding to promote the globalization of academic education in Japan.

International Support Desk takes care of international students studying at Chiba University and helps them adapt to life in Japan on and outside the university campus. Please refer to the following website for further details:

<http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/international/isd/english/>

Liberal arts education at Chiba University aims at broadening perspectives, developing critical thinking ability and enriching student personality. A wide range of academic subjects that incorporate active

and collaborative learning are offered to achieve this goal.

### 2. International student exchange

Chiba University has university-level student exchange agreements with 248 universities in 40 countries and hosts over 100 students from the partner institutions abroad (as of May 2019).

### 3. Number of international students

	International Students	Students in the Japanese Studies Program
2019	1013	8
2018	964	9
2017	830	8

### 4. Characteristics of the area

Courses 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 970,000 is the capital of Chiba Prefecture. 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. Please refer to the following website for further details on Chiba Prefecture and its environment:

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

## ■ Course summary

### 1. Aims

This is a course intended mainly to study about Japan and Japanese culture with supplementary study to improve Japanese language proficiency.

## 2. Features of the course

### (1) Purpose of the program

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. 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. It will make it possible for students to view Japan from global and critical perspectives.

We pair up a Japanese student as a tutor with each participant, and we also arrange a language exchange program which promotes building close relationships between international students and Japanese students.

### (2) Japanese culture and society courses

Students are expected not only to take Japanese culture and society courses but also to pursue their research projects in their specialized fields. They will attain a high level of competence in Japanese, particularly for academic purposes, to acquire specialized knowledge about Japan; and to master basic research skills to pursue future studies.

### (3) Japanese language courses

An array of Japanese language courses commensurate with the student's level of proficiency are offered. Students can improve their overall Japanese proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

### 3. Number of students to be accepted

- Six students by embassy recommendation
- Four 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 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:

- be able to speak on general topics of their interest,
- understand basic lectures and seminars in Japanese which are designed for international students,
- know approximately 1000 kanji and be able to read texts of general interest with dictionaries,
- be able to write a short essay (explanatory text or opinion on general topics) of about 1000 characters without using dictionaries.

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 cultures and societies in Japan, to see Japan from global perspectives. It is also expected that the students will gain basic academic Japanese proficiency for their future studies.

### 6. Course Period

Course period: From Sep. 2020 to Aug. 2021

Enrollment period: From Oct. 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2021

A closing ceremony will be held on early Aug. 2021

• Fall semester: Oct. 1, 2020 to early Feb. 2021

• Spring semester: early Apr. 2021 to early Aug. 2021

Note: Chiba University has introduced a term system. Because the academic year begins in April, the Fall Semester corresponds to Term 4 and Term 5, and the Spring Semester corresponds to Term 1 and Term 2. Each term lasts eight weeks.

### 7. Scholarship Period

From Oct. 2020 to Aug. 2021

### 8. Year in Japan

End of Sep. Coming to Japan, Orientation

Oct. Welcome Party

Nov. - Jan. Programs of Introduction to Japanese Culture: wearing a *yukata* and *origami*

Nov. Home visit

Dec. Field trip (*Boso-no-Mura* and *Naritasan*)

Jun. *Kabuki* demonstration and performance

Early Aug. Closing Ceremony, Returning home

International students may also have a chance 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 many on-campus events designed for international students.

### 9. Certificate of Completion

Chiba University issues Certificates of Completion to those who complete their courses accumulating at least eighteen credits from compulsory and elective courses and write a final research paper. Total tuition time exceeds 435 contact hours on 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 2021.

### 10. Overview and features of courses

#### 1) Features of courses

Research Work (Humanities) A and B are conducted by five teachers with different areas of expertise in a seminar format. Students will carry out their research in nine months, and there is a session at which students present their research papers in July, which are later collected and published.

#### Examples of previous research paper topics:

- Usage of an expression of apologizing in Japanese
- Attitude to religion among young people in Japan
- Image of *Oda Nobunaga* in the modern media
- Daily life of prostitutes in Edo-period and Modern Europe
- Homeless in Japan: their situations and measures to support them

Since Chiba University offers a sub major, "International Japanese studies" which also offers international students various opportunities to learn about Japan with Japanese students.

#### 2) Compulsory subjects

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

Students will learn how to design and conduct research projects through this course and write a research paper in Japanese (at least 6,000 characters) on any topic related to Japan.

Note: Numbers in square brackets [ ] show the total number of tuition hours per course.

### 3) Elective subjects

Students should select courses from categories (1) and (2) listed below based on their major field of study and Japanese language proficiency level. Elective courses other than Japanese language courses are offered as regular courses for Japanese students.

#### (1) Japanese language courses

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

Japanese 500 Intermediate	Integrated Course [60], 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], Grammar [30]
	Reading Comprehension [30], Listening Comprehension [30], Grammar [30], Report Writing [30], Oral Expression [30]
Japanese 800 Advanced	Oral Expression 1 [30], Oral Expression [30], Report Writing [30], Preparing presentation handouts [30], Grammar [30]
	Reading Comprehension [30], Oral Expression [30], Report Writing1 [30], Report Writing 2 [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. Please refer to the following web page: <https://jicr.chiba-u.jp/top.php>

## **(2) Japanese Studies: Humanities and Social Sciences**

Japanese Traditional Culture: The Spirit of Japan A/B [16/16] : The focus is on Japanese culture, society and religion, with frequent discussions.

Images of Japan A/B [16/16]: Images of Japan held will be discussed based on a variety of subjects and points of view.

History of Cultural Relations between Japan and Asia A/B [16/16]: The relationship between Japan and Asian countries and with their historical background and their future implications for cultural links and exchange will be discussed.

Selected Aspects of the Japanese Language [16]: Various characteristics of Japanese language focusing on grammar will be examined in comparison with native languages of the participants.

The Japanese Language in Its Diversity [16]: The Japanese language will be viewed from different angles in its geographical diversity, historical background and its relationship to the Asian languages.

Japan Seen through Current Events A/B [16/16]: Every week an article from a newspaper or weekly magazine and its relevance to daily life will be discussed.

### **4) 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. Students will design a museum exhibition guide in the Japanese language and their own languages.

Practice of sustainable contribution to community I/II [30/30]: Working with undergraduate students, you will identify issues facing rural communities engaged in agriculture, forestry or fishing, visit the locations concerned to get first-hand experience, and consider how to enhance regional economy and social activity.

### **5) Collaborative learning with Japanese students**

The following courses at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will welcome *Nikkensei*.

Japanese Food Culture [16]: This course provides an overview of the role of food culture in Japanese society, focusing on foodstuffs and types of cuisine that have made their appearance from the postwar period.

Language and society in contemporary Japan [16]: This course seeks to deepen understanding of various phenomena related to language and society from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Studies of multicultural communication [16]: This course provides an introduction to phenomena occurring in contact situations between people of differing cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and examines how they attempt to manage and adjust their behavior.

Education for Multicultural Societies [16]: This course will examine the increasingly multicultural situation of Japanese society, and encourage discussion of the educational issues in promoting coexistence of majority and minority groups.

Please refer to the following web page for details of the courses other than Japanese :  
<http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/e/course-program/>  
Students can also attend courses offered under regular curricula subject with the relevant teacher's approval.

### **11. 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.

### **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 for admission fee. By the end of October, 34,000 yen for October will be paid in cash, and after November, 19,000 yen will be withdrawn from your bank account every month.

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 for students who have completed this course. Many course participants continue their study and research at graduate school in Japan including graduate schools at Chiba University, teach Japanese at universities or work as a translator or interpreter in a Japanese company in their countries.

### **Chiba University address**

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Chiba University:

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

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

Center for International Education:

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

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

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

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