



Kumamoto University (Kumamoto)



Kumamoto is rich in natural beauty and historical heritage.

Study with Japanese students and acquire fundamental knowledge for your research.

■ Introduction

① Characteristics and overview

Kumamoto University is a national university established in May 1949 from several institutions, including the Fifth High School where Lafcadio Hearn and Soseki Natsume had taught. Now, we have 7 undergraduate departments and 8 graduate schools with about 10,000 students and about 2,600 staff. In 2014, we were selected for the MEXT Top Global University Project.

② International Exchanges

As of November 10, 2015, Kumamoto University has international exchange agreements with 189 colleges, universities and institutions in 38 countries and 1 region.

③ The Number of International Students and MEXT Japanese Studies Students

In 2015: 532 International Students,

11 MEXT Japanese Studies Students
(Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Brazil, Spain, France, Turkey, Poland, Indonesia)

In 2014: 470 International Students,

8 MEXT Japanese Studies Students
(Indonesia, Singapore, Laos, Brazil, Austria, Poland, Thailand)

In 2013: 445 International Students

8 MEXT Japanese Studies Students
(Netherlands, Croatia, Poland, Brazil, Thailand, Laos, Indonesia)

and 1 privately funded student from China

④ Kumamoto Overview

Kumamoto has Mt. Aso in the east which was selected as a global geo park in 2014. Kumamoto Castle is located in Kumamoto City. In the west, there is a beautiful national park of Amakusa Islands.

* From website of National Diet Library



■ Program Outline

① The two programs:

(1) Japanese Language Intensive Program

Subjects	Number of Credits	Note
Japanese Language	12 or more credits	In total 26 credits or more in a year
Japanese Studies	2 or more credits	
Research Subjects	4 or more credits from ① to ④	
①Japanese Language Research		
②Japanese Culture Research		
③Japanese Literature Research		
④Japanese Society Research		
Elective Subjects	8 or more credits*	
An essay in Japanese which is approved by a supervisor is required.		

(2) Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program

Subjects	Number of Credits	Note
Japanese Language	6 or more credits	In total 26 credits or more in a year
Japanese Studies	2 or more credits	
Research Subjects	8 or more credits from ① to ④	
① Japanese Language Research		
② Japanese Culture Research		
③ Japanese Literature Research		
④ Japanese Society Research		
Elective Subjects	10 or more credits*	
A course completion report and an oral examination are required.		

* Elective subjects may be chosen from Japanese Language, Japanese Studies, and Research Subjects.

② The Number of Students to be Accepted: 15

- By Embassy Recommendation: 10
- By University Recommendation: 5

③ Qualifications and Requirements

- The students must be majoring in Japanese language or Japanese culture and have completed at least two years of Japanese language studies at their home university.
- 450 or more hours of Japanese language study or JLPT N3-N2 or above is preferred.

④ Program Goals

- To improve one's proficiency in Japanese language necessary for academic research as well as community life (equivalent to N1 of JLPT).
- To acquire knowledge and methodologies necessary for various fields of Japanese studies.
- To deepen understanding of various aspects of Japanese society and culture through various experiences in Japan.

⑤ Duration of the Program

October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017
Closing ceremony will be held in September, 2017.



⑥ Program Outline

Each program consists of Japanese Language, Japanese Studies and Research Subjects (Japanese Language, Japanese Literature, Japanese Culture and Japanese Society).

*Note that the classes are subject to change, and that classes not shown on this course guide may be able to be approved as a program completion requirement.

1) Required Subjects

<Japanese Language>

- Japanese Language Intensive Program:
12 credits, 360 hours or more
- Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program :
6 credits, 180 hours or more

The aim of the classes is to improve your Japanese language proficiency. Various types of classes to improve your skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing are offered. You will choose appropriate classes based on your interests and the result of the initial placement test in each semester.

[Subject example]

Intermediate Conversation

Through role playing, students will learn useful expressions in various situations such as requesting and apologizing.

Upper Intermediate Reading

The class will help students to gain reading strategies so that they can read authentic texts on their own.

Academic Writing

Students will learn how to write an academic paper step by step. They will write their papers and make an oral presentations.

<Japanese Studies>

- In both programs more than 2 credits / 30 hours of classes are designed to acquire fundamental knowledge of Japanese history, education, language, folklore, politics, law, leading-edge technology, architecture, machine technology and environmental issues in Japan.

[Subject example]

Japanese Society and Culture*

Students will learn Japanese education, modernization, law, politics, Kumamoto folklore and Japanese dialects.

Science and Technology in Japan*

Students will learn Japan's leading-edge technology, architecture, machine technology and environmental issues.

*A field trip is included.

2) Elective Subjects, and Other subjects

- Japanese Language Intensive Program: 4 credits, 60hours or more
- Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program:
8 credits, 120 hours or more

<Japanese Language Research>

Synchronic and diachronic analysis of various characteristics such as phonemes, grammar, meaning and vocabulary of the Japanese language from a linguistic point of view.

[Subject example]

Introduction to the Japanese Language I

Students will learn the fundamentals needed for studying modern Japanese language; discussing it from phonological, grammatical and lexical viewpoints.

Introduction to the Japanese Language II

Students will learn the theory of Japanese grammar.

Other subjects: Composition in Japanese, etc.

<Japanese Literature Research>

Through studies of several topics in Japanese literature, students will acquire points of view and methodologies necessary for literature.

[Subject example]

Introduction to Japanese Literature II

Lectures will be given on the nature of Japanese literature, based on its history. They will help students learn basic knowledge and advanced academic approaches for studying Japanese literature.

Introduction to Japanese Language and Literature

Lectures will focus on the significance and methodology of studying Japanese language and literature. They will deal with standard Japanese and dialects, written and spoken languages, storytelling, literature and 'waka'-poems.

Other subjects: Reading of essays, novels, article ,etc.

<Japanese Culture Research>

Students will acquire fundamental points of view and methodologies necessary to gain further knowledge about Japanese history and culture.

[Subject example]

Introduction to the History of Japan II

Students will learn the fundamentals of early modern Japan, up to the present day, through exploring the social and political movements of the times.

Introduction to Japanese Folklore I

You will see the change of various customs by way of the formation of modern society. Also you will learn how to interrelate those traditional customs with the modern society.

Introduction to the History of Culture I

Students will learn the history of modern Japanese from the Meiji Restoration to the end of World War II to criticize commonly accepted theory.

Japanese Culture and Society

Students will learn the basics of Japanese society, culture and history. The subjects and materials for discussion will be decided by the students.

Other subjects : Introduction to Japanese History, Sociology, etc.



<Japanese Society Research>

Classes are designed to analyze current social issues of politics and education in Japan.

[Subject example]

Introduction to Regional Sociology I

Lectures will be given on the structure and function of families and regional societies – the basic structural factors of society in Japan, and further on the 'prototype' of regional society.

Introduction to Regional Sociology II

Lectures will be given on the problems in Japanese regional societies after World War II and their solutions. Case studies will be used for discussions.

Constitution I (Fundamental Human Rights)

Lectures will be given on the history of Japanese Democracy.

Constitution II (Government Mechanism)

Lectures will be given on the Japanese Government system.

Selected Topics in Human Geography

Students will study the geography of Kumamoto through city excursions.

Other subjects: Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Education, Introduction to the Civil Law, Introduction to Education, History of Education, etc.

⑦ Annual Events

<Fall Term Oct.– Mar.>

End of Sep. Opening Ceremony
 Oct. Welcome Party
 Kumamoto City Cultural Excursion
 Dec. Watch *Bunraku* in Seiya
 International Student Party
 Winter Vacation
 Jan.–Feb. Final Examinations
 Feb. Field Trip
 Mar. Spring Vacation

<Spring Term Apr. – Sep.>

Jul.–Aug. Final Examinations
 Aug. Submission of an Essay in Japanese/
 Submission of a Program Completion
 Report & Oral Examination
 Watch *Noh* in Suizenji
 Sep. Closing Ceremony



<<KU TREASURE >>



translated Chirimen books (crape book)

These are picture-book of the fairy tales called “Chirimen book” published in the Meiji Era. It was translated into English, German, French, or Spanish to explain Japanese culture. Kumamoto University Library has the collection of these *Chirimen* books, some of were translated by Koizumi Yakumo, J.C. Hepburn, the founder of a Hepburn system Roman alphabet, and B.H. Chamberlain, a Japanese classical literature researcher.

⑧ Support

Students will be assigned to a faculty (Literature, Law, Education, etc.). A faculty teacher and a Japanese language instructor will co-teach and act as your supervisors.

○Academic Advisors from Faculties

Name	Position	Major
HORIHATA, M.	Professor	Japanese Linguistics (Japanese Kango Research)
ITO, H.	Professor	Japanese Political Thought
FUKUZAWA, K.	Professor	Contrastive Linguistics, Comparative Cultural Studies on Lafcadio Hearn & Natsume Soseki
SAKAGUCHI, I.	Professor	Japanese Language History, Kyusyu area Dialect word
KODAMA, N.	Professor	Linguistics, Phonetics
MATSUURA, Y.	Professor	Sociology
INABA, T.	Professor	Japanese Medieval & Early Modern History
KINOSHITA, N.	Professor	Archaeology
MISAWA, J.	Associate Professor	Japanese Modern History, Contemporary History
SAKAMOTO, M.	Associate Professor	Japanese Modern Literature
BAUER, T. *MEXT student of 1998–1999	Associate Professor	Japanese Religion and Philosophy, Comparative History of Ideas
MOGI, T.	Associate Professor	Japanese Linguistics (Modern Japanese Grammar)
SUZUKI, H.	Associate Professor	Folklore–Studies

* Other teachers will support students according to their specialized fields.

○ Program Committee

Committee members are selected from professors of various faculties. They are in charge of accepting Japanese Studies students, evaluating students’ achievement and certificating their completion.

⑨ Certificate of Program Completion

Students who have earned 26 credits during the academic year, have submitted an essay in Japanese which is approved by a supervisor is required or a program completion report and have passed an oral examination will receive a certificate.

■Accommodation (International House)

The dormitories for 200 international students are located about 1.5 km east of the main campus.

<Room Type> Single Room

<Facilities and Equipment>

Kitchen, shower and toilet, closet, air conditioner, bed, refrigerator, IH cooking heater, desk, chair etc.

<Rent> ¥17,000/month (excluding utilities)*

*The rent will be subject to change.

Other Expenses: Move-in deposit, room cleaning and key change fee (moving-out), *Futon* Lease (about 10,000yen/year) and internet (optional)



International House

■Follow-Up (Career Path)

We continue to interact with former students through the internet.

After graduation:

- Going to graduate school in Japan
- Working in Japanese company
- Japanese translators
- University teachers

■For Further Information

International Student Office, Kumamoto University
 2–40–1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-city
 860–8555 Japan

TEL: +81–96–342–2103/2133; FAX: +81–96–342–2130

E-mail: gji-ryugaku@jim.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

College of Cross-Cultural and Multidisciplinary Studies URL

<http://www.c3.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/en/>

Kumamoto University URL

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

Japanese Studies Program URL

[http://www.kumamoto-](http://www.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/kokusaiouryu/gaikokujinryuugakusei/kyouikuprogram/japanese_studies_program)

[u.ac.jp/kokusaiouryu/gaikokujinryuugakusei/kyouikuprogram/japanese_studies_program](http://www.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/kokusaiouryu/gaikokujinryuugakusei/kyouikuprogram/japanese_studies_program)