



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 9 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 October 3, 2016, Kumamoto University has international exchange agreements with 209 colleges, universities and institutions in 43 countries and 1 region.

③ The Number of International Students and MEXT Japanese Studies Students

In 2016: 527 International Students,
1 MEXT Japanese Studies Student (Indonesia)

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)

④ Kumamoto Overview

Kumamoto has Mt. Aso which was selected as a global geo park in 2014 and there is a beautiful national park of Amakusa Islands.



■ Program Outline

① Training Objective

The following two courses have been prepared in line with the goals of the students. (a) A course focusing on training about Japan and Japanese culture, with supplementary training in improving Japanese language ability. (b) A course focusing on the improvement of Japanese language ability, with supplementary education about Japanese affairs and culture.

② Course Feature

There will be regular coordination between faculty advisors and Japanese instructors to provide careful guidance to select the appropriate course.

(a) Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program

(2) Japanese Studies and Japanese Language Program		
Subjects	Number of Credits	Note
Japanese Language	6 or more credits	In total 24 credits or more in a year
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.

(b) Japanese Language Intensive Program

Subjects	Number of Credits	Note
Japanese Language	12 or more credits	In total 24 credits or more in a year
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.

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

③ The Number of Students to be Accepted: 12

- By Embassy Recommendation: 8
- By University Recommendation: 4

④ 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.

⑤ 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.

⑥ Duration of the Program

October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018
Closing ceremony will be held in September, 2018.



⑦ Program Outline

Each program consists of Japanese Language 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) Japanese Language

<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.



Introduction to Japanese Folklore I offered by Faculty of Letters

2) Research 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.

Reading of Writings in Japanese

Develop your reading ability by means of Japanese novels, essays, and articles, paying attention to the vocabulary used and the style. Students are expected to present what they learn from their readings.

Other subjects: Introduction to Japanese Literature I

<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.

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

⑧ Annual Events

<Fall Term Oct.– Mar.>

End of Sep.	Opening Ceremony
Oct.	Welcome Party Kumamoto City Cultural Excursion
Dec.	Watch <i>Bunraku</i> 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 <i>Noh</i> in Suizenji
Sep.	Closing Ceremony



<<SOSEKI and Kumamoto >>

*“Going up a mountain track,
I fell to thinking.*

*Approach everything rationally, and you become
harsh. Pole along in the stream of emotions, and
you will be swept away by the current. Give free
rein to your desires, and you become
uncomfortably confined. It is not a very agreeable
place to live, this world of ours.”*

“THE THREE-CORNERED WORLD”

Soseki Natsume, Translated by Alan Turney

“Kusa Makura” (The Three-Cornered World) is a novel written by Natsume Soseki, with Kumamoto set as the stage. There are many locations associated with Soseki in Kumamoto, and you can touch the world of his novel by following in his footsteps.

⑨ Support

Students will be assigned to a faculty (Literature, etc).

A faculty teacher and a Japanese language instructor will co-teach and act as your supervisors.

OTitles of the Supervised Report and their Supervisors in 2015–2016

Supervised Report Title	Name (Field of Study)
Cross-Cultural Adaptation and Identity Transformation in Short Term Exchange Students in Friendship Cultivation	MIZUMOTO, T. (Media Communication, Truism Information and Media Ethics)
Refusing Expressions – Japanese and Turkish	BAUER, T. (Japanese Religion and Philosophy, Comparative History of Ideas) (MEXT student of 1998–1999)
Comparative Research of Reading Culture – Cambodia and Japan	SUZUKI, H. (Folklore Studies)
Comparative Research of Consciousness for Eldery Care – Thailand and Japan	HIRANO, J. (Rhetoric, Communication Theory, Communication Ethics)
Japan’s Younger Generation’s Image of Kumamoto’s Local Dish, Basashi	SAKAMOTO, M. (Japanese Modern Literature)
Water Supply Situation in Kumamoto and San Paulo	MISAWA, J. (Japanese Modern History, Contemporary History)
Refugee System in Japan Since 1975	MATSUURA, Y. (Sociology)
Comparative Research of <i>LA PESTE</i> (Albert Camus) and <i>SHIKI</i> (ONO, Mayumi)	TAKEUCHI, Y. (Ethics of the Hebrew Bible)
Research on the Popularity of KUMAMON	MOGI, T. Japanese (Linguistics, Modern Japanese Grammar)
Image of <i>ABENO SEIMEI</i> in Japanese Culture	YAMASHITA, Y. (Folklore Studies)
Culture of Drinking Alcohol Among Young People in Japan	KINOSHITA, N. Archaeology

○ Program Committee

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

⑩ Certificate of Program Completion

Students who have earned 24 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@jimu.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)