



Kumamoto University (Kumamoto)



Study Japanese language and culture under faculty advisors and Japanese instructors.

■ Introduction

① Characteristics and overview

Kumamoto University is a national university established in May 1949 from several institutions, including the Fifth High School where 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.



※from National Diet Library

② International Exchanges

As of October 11, 2018, Kumamoto University has international exchange agreements with 247 colleges, universities and institutions in 52 countries and 1 region.

③ The Number of International Students and MEXT Japanese Studies Students

In 2018: 522 International Students,
5 MEXT Japanese Studies Students
(Cambodia, Vietnam, Czech, France)

In 2017: 507 International Students,
4 MEXT Japanese Studies Students
(Thailand, Romania, India, Brazil)

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

④ Kumamoto Overview

Kumamoto city is located in the center of Kyushu island and its population is about seven hundred thousand people. You can study in clam surroundings.

It takes one and half hours to Tokyo by plane and three hours to Osaka and Kyoto by Shinkansen.

■ 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

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	
①Japanese Language Research		
②Japanese Culture Research		
③Japanese Literature Research		
④Japanese Society Research		
Elective Subjects	10 or more credits*	
A course completion report and 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 Subject.

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, 2019 – August 31, 2020

Closing ceremony will be held in the middle of August, 2020. (September 7 in 2018))



With a statue of Soseki Natsume on campus

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) Required Courses (Students are required to take a number of credits specified by their respective program from the subject lists 1 and 2 below.)

1 : Japanese Language

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

<Japanese Language>

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]

Introduction to Academic Reading

Students will learn sentence structure and grammar for academic reading. Through paraphrase practice, students will acquire the basis of academic writing.

Advanced Oral Expression (Research Design)

Students will learn how to show the data, the structure of presentation and useful expressions to give convincing presentations at seminar in university.

Academic Writing

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

※Students can learn useful Japanese to get a job in Japan.

Business Japanese Basic

Through practical training, students will learn necessary Japanese for business situation.

Japanese Reading Proficiency

Students will develop their reading proficiency to pass N1 which is often required to get a job in Japan.

2 : Research Subjects, and Other subjects

- Japanese Language Intensive Program:
4 credits, 60 hours 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 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, 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, etc.

2) Participation Type Courses (These courses are included in Research Subjects.)

Artistic Culture

This course will provide lectures and practicum by people in Kumamoto prefecture who are involved in artistic culture.

Selected Topics in Human Geography

Field research of the change in one year after the Kumamoto earthquake in the downtown.

3) Content of Completion Research

By the end of March 2020, students decide the subject of their essay or completion report after consulting with supervisors. Then, students will complete the essay or report under the guidance of supervisors.

In August, Japanese Language Intensive Program students have a presentation about their essays and Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program students have an oral examination.

4) Opportunities to study with Japanese Students

Most of Research Subjects are offered by the Faculties of Letters, Education, Law and General Education. In these classes, students can study with Japanese students. Also in extracurricular activities, there are many opportunities to interact with Japanese students.

⑧ Annual Events

<Fall Term Oct.- Mar. >

End of Sep. Arrival, Opening Ceremony

Oct. Welcome Party

Kumamoto City Cultural Excursion

Dec. Field Trip

Meeting with former Japanese Studies

Program students, Winter Vacation

Jan.-Feb. Final Examinations

Feb.-Mar. Spring Vacation

<Spring Term Apr. – Aug. >

Jul.-Aug. Final Examinations

Aug. Submission of an Essay in Japanese/

Submission of a Program Completion

Report & Oral Examination

Closing Ceremony, Departure

Kumamoto City Map



From University, it takes 10 to 15 minutes to downtown area where Kumamoto Castle is located by bike.

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.

○ 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)



The outside of 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

Now, three former Japanese Studies Program students are working in Kumamoto. We invite them and hold meetings about study abroad life and work in Japan.



Paulina-san is a former Japanese Studies Program student. She is working in Kumamoto now.

■ For Further Information

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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-u.ac.jp/kokusaikouryu/gaikokujinryuugakusei/kyouikuprogram/japanese_studies_program