

Univ. of the Ryukyus (Okinawa)



Characteristics of the course: Through the various courses you will be able to acquire high-level command of Japanese, reading skills and academic writing skills. Studying in Okinawa surely gives you a unique perspective on Japan and Japanese culture.

◇Introduction

1. University of the Ryukyus

The university of the Ryukyus was founded in 1950 under the U.S. Administration. The university acquired its present status as a national institution upon the reversion of Okinawa to Japan in 1972. The university is comprised of the Faculties of Law and Letters, Education, Science, Medicine, Engineering and Agriculture. In addition to the undergraduate programs, all the faculties have postgraduate programs. Locating in the tropical region enabled the various and fruitful studies on the surrounding ocean, nature, culture, and dialects.

Faculty members: 815
Undergraduate students: 7146
Graduate students: 956



International Student Center

2. Number of international students

a) From 45 countries, 288 students study on the campus (as of May 1, 2007)

(b) Japanese Studies program

From 24 countries, 51 students (1994~2007):

Thailand 8, South Korea 6, U. S. A. 5, Ukraine 4, Poland 3, Switzerland 3, Hungary 3, Russia 2, Turkey 2, Australia 1, Austria 1, Belgium 1, Brazil 1, China 1, Czech 1, Colombia 1, Egypt 1, France 1, India 1, Latvia 1, Peru 1, the Philippines 1, Slovakia 1, Spain 1

3.Characteristic of Nishihara-cho

Nishihara-cho ("town") is a local municipal corporation in the central part of Okinawa island where the university of the Ryukyus is located. It is about approximately 10 km northeast from Naha-shi, the prefectural seat of Okinawa. This town faces the middle southern district of the Nakagusuku gulf, which is famous for its excellent production center of the sugar cane. There are many coherent educational facilities from preschool education to university education in Nishihara-cho, so it is called "a town of the education". In the reclaimed land of the coastal line, an airport was built by the Japanese armed forces during the WWII, and it was used as an US base after the war. Now the base is demolished, and oil refining factories stand, and the industry is prosperous. In addition, the large scale complex beach park "Nishihara Marine Park" opened in July, 2007; people enjoy not only sea bathing, but various activities such

as marine sports and beach parties.



Nishiara Marine Park

◇Course description

This program is offered to achieve the following three points: a) to train students to have a higher-level command of Japanese, which enables them to study Japan, b) to educate them to acquire techniques and knowledge of Japan study, and c) to help them to gain a deep insight into Japanese culture in general and Okinawan local culture.

It can offer students to study with other international students with various background, which leads the students of this program to discover similarities and differences of Japan and other cultures. Besides, those courses such as Linguistics, Teaching Japanese as a second language, Japanese linguistics, Dialectology (Okinawan dialects), Japanese literature, Okinawan literature, History (Japanese and Okinawan), Cultural Anthropology, Folklore are offered. Students can take these courses with a permission from their supervisors.

Students are required to study their own field(s) of interest in Japan (or Okinawa); the results are presented orally and in written form. In the presentation Session, students of this program are to discuss their own topics with Japanese students. Their studies presented in written form are compiled in a book, named "Study Reports", and the copies are published and distributed to other universities.

1. Number of students accepted: Total 12

2. Period of the course:

Oct. 1. 2008 – Sep. 30. 2009

(Fall semester Oct. 1, 2008~Mar. 31, 2009)

Spring semester Apr. 1, 2009~Sep. 30, 2009)



3. Course outline:

There are compulsory courses and elective courses. These courses, Japanese language program of General Education and courses aimed at regular Japanese students of the department of Languages and Cultures in the Faculty of Law and Letters will also be available for international students. The elective courses are not limited to those listed below.

4. Subject outline

In principle, classes usually run for 15 weeks during both semesters. Each class has once a week.

1) Compulsory courses

Course name	Description
Basic Seminar I, II	Learning report writing and presentation.
Japanese culture I, II	Experiencing Okinawan and Japanese culture through pottery, dyeing, textile. Also visiting historical sites in Okinawa.
Japanese sentence structures and expressions (only 1 semester)	Development of composition writing, and sentence structure skills. Questionnaire, report compilation and presentation on a specific topic.

2) Elective courses

Course name	Description
Japanese grammar seminar I, II	This course will introduce a number of grammatical issues of Japanese. Students will be required to observe actual data and find regularities through integrating their previous knowledge on Japanese.

Special study of Ryukyuan Culture I, II	This course will introduce various (controversial) issues on Okinawa, such as culture and people in Okinawa through an experience of Ryukyu dancing and lectures about Ryukyu dialect.
Japanese Literature I, II	Reading of modern Japanese literature (poetry and novels).
Contrastive study of Japanese and other languages	This course aims to develop a conceptual framework for analyzing the linguistic features of Japanese and other languages.
International Relations I, II	This course will address the "contemporary" period of Japan and its relation to other countries with historical perspective.

3) Field trips and events

Local research trips to museums, historical sites, and old battlefields will also be taken, and once each year students will participate in a study trip farther afield (expenses inclusive). Additionally, an international students get together, festival, the university festival, and social exchanges within Okinawa will also be held. For those who would like to stay with/ visit a Japanese family, we will help to find a host family.

Visits:

Shirijo Castle & Tamaudun
 Abuchiragama (An old battlefield)
 Peace Memorial Park & Museum
 The Ryukyu Shimpo
 Okinawa prefectural Police HQ
 Makishi Public Market
 Okinawa Prefectural Archaeological Center
 Okinawa Television Broadcasting Co.,Ltd.



4) Other subjects (Optional)

Course name	Description
The World of Dyeing	Study of Okinawan and East-Asian dyeing techniques with historical and cultural perspective.
Sanshin and Shimauta	Learning how to play the Okinawan traditional musical instrument (sanshin) and sing songs

Introduction to Okinawan Traditional Performing Arts	Learning Okinawan Traditional dance.
Perspective on Local Culture	Lectures on the role of culture to establish local community(form a view point of Okinawa).
The bases and the old battlefields in Okinawa	Learn what peace is, on the basis of the war on Okinawa.

Japanese Circumstances

【Number of classes】(one class is for 90 minutes)

Subjects		Number of classes		
		Fall sem	Spr. sem	Total
Japanese III・IV	Listening & Vocabulary	30	30	60
	Reading & Grammar	30	30	60
	Writing & Presentation	30	30	60
Japanese Culture I・II	Okinawan Society & Culture	15	15	30
	Japanese Society & Culture	15	15	30

Japanese language program



5. System of instruction

(a) Program Coordinators

Naomi Kinjo

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Katsuya Kinjo

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Major: Linguistics kinkats@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

*Besides the above three instructors, two instructors of International Student Center (Japanese language and language education major) and other instructors of Faculty of Law and Letters can be the students' advisors.

(b) Guidance system

If needed, individual instruction will be given over and above regular classes. Additionally research plans, surveys, and research will be conducted under the supervision of an instructor. Individual studies should be presented orally and in written form.



Library

6. Study tour, events and so on

Oct. Field trip to Shuri Castle & Tamaudun

Nov. Party with international students in Okinawa
Appreciation of Kumiodori

Dec. Calligraphy experience

Jan. Visit to a TV station & a newspaper company

Feb. Speech contest

Mar. Tea ceremony

Apr. Mid-term presentation

May Pottery

Jun. Peace study

Field trip to old battlefields & Peacs Memorial Park

Jul. International Student Festival

Drama playing with Japanese language

Aug. Final presentation

Closing ceremony

Sep. Paper submission



7. Course completion requirements, issuance of completion certificates

For courses passed with an examination (540 hours or more throughout the year), students will be issued with an academic transcript and a certificate of completion.

8. Credit acknowledgement and transfer

Acknowledgement of credits is at the discretion of the students' home university.

9. Qualifications and conditions of applicants

Those wishing to enrol in this course must be 3rd year students or above enrolled in a university outside of Japan and must meet the following criteria.

- It is preferred that the applicant should have passed level one of the Japanese Proficiency Test or have the ability in which to do so.
- The applicant should be majoring in Japanese Studies with a good academic standing.

◇Housing

The students of this program are usually assigned rooms in the dormitory with Japanese students. A bed, a desk, a chair, a locker in each room. A shower room, a laundry, a lounge, a dormitory shop, a vending machine for common use.

•Situation for Students of the Japanese Language and Culture Program for the last three years (as of October, each year):

	International House	Dormitory	Apartment	Total
2004	2	6	0	8
2005	0	5	0	5
2006	0	5	1	6



Dormitory

◇ Contact

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