

# HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY (HOKKAIDO)



The objectives of this program are:

- (1) to improve students' Japanese language proficiency in order to enable them to interact with Japanese speakers and to conduct research in Japanese;
- (2) to acquire basic knowledge and methodology for Japanese studies – especially relating to Japanese general and applied linguistics;
- (3) to gain a deeper understanding of Japanese language and culture. In the second semester (April – September 2010), students are required to study a research topic in their field of specialty and to complete a final report under the guidance of their supervisor.

## ◇ University Overview

Hokkaido University began as Sapporo Agricultural College, which was founded in 1876 as the first educational institution for agricultural studies in Japan.

The College was also the first institution in Japan to grant Bachelor degrees.

On its establishment the College invited Dr. William S. Clark, then president of Massachusetts Agricultural College in the United States, to be its Vice President. From its inception the College offered an education stressing cultural richness as well as advanced knowledge and skills. The frontier spirit of the time, echoed in Dr. Clark's farewell words "Boys, be ambitious", has been inherited as the spirit of foundation of the University throughout its over 130 years' history.

In 1949 Hokkaido University was redesignated as a "new-system" university with seven faculties and one department of general education, and it has since developed into one of the most distinguished universities in Japan.

The University currently consists of 12 faculties, 16 graduate schools, and 26 research institutes and centers, and has 2,050 academic staff, 11,833 undergraduate and 6,389 graduate students.

Number of Overseas Students:

Total : 864 (from 82 countries)

Japanese Language and Culture Studies Students: 12 (2008–2009)

## ◇ Outline of courses

○ **Number of students accepted:** Total 20

○ **Period of program:**

October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010 (including winter and spring breaks and summer vacation)

No classes will be held on Saturdays, Sundays, or national holidays.

○ **Outline of courses:**

The program consists of three types of courses: courses in Japanese language; courses in Japanese linguistics, culture and society; and directed study in students' fields of specialty including a final report. Japanese language courses and directed study are compulsory, and courses in Japanese linguistics, culture and society are elective. Students take eight to twelve class hours of compulsory Japanese courses per week and additional elective courses in their own areas of interest. Directed study is offered only in the second semester. The number of class hours varies according to the level of the student and the semester.

(1) Names, types and class hours of courses

a. Compulsory courses

Type	Course name	Hours (1st semester)	Hours (2nd semester)
Compulsory	Directed Study		30
Language	A	Intermediate Grammar	30
		Advanced Grammar	30
	B	Intermediate Kanji and Vocabulary	60
		Advanced Kanji and Vocabulary	30
	C	Intermediate Reading	30
		Advanced Reading	30
	D	Intermediate Writing	30
		Advanced Writing	30
	E	Intermediate Oral Communication	60
		Advanced Oral Communication	60

b. Elective courses

Type	Course name	Hours (1st semester)	Hours (2nd semester)
Elective	Japanese Linguistics	30	
	Japanese Sound System	30	
	Japanese Grammar	30	
	Japanese Lexicology		30
	Japanese Writing System		30
	History of Japanese		30
	Studies in Japanese Language	Not offered every semester	
	Comparative Culture	30	
	Japanese History & Geography	30	
	Japanese Politics & Economy	30	
	Japanese Literature & Arts	30	
	Japanese Society & Culture	30	
Studies in Japanese Culture	Not offered every semester		
Special Lectures	Up to 60 hours		

Notes:

1. First semester is from October to March and second semester from April to September.
2. The compulsory course, Directed Study, must be taken by all students.
3. All students must take at least 300 hours of Japanese language courses during the year. In first semester, students must take one course from each of the groups A–E.
4. Students must take at least 540 hours of courses in total throughout the year.
5. Students may take approved subjects offered in the general education program or in the faculties at Hokkaido University in place of some elective courses.
6. The Director of the International Student Center may also give permission to students to take additional appropriate subjects in the general education program, in the faculties, or arts and science courses in English at Hokkaido University.

7. Courses taken under (6) will be counted as Special Lectures in elective courses up to a maximum of 60 hours.  
 8. Courses under (5) or (6) will be taken with the permission of the head of the general education program or the dean of the faculty concerned.

(2) Contents of courses :

a. Compulsory : Directed Study

This course is offered only in the second semester. Students acquire the basic concepts, techniques and methodology for doing research in their field of specialty under the guidance of their supervisor. The results of the research in this course are presented in a final report.

b. Language :

1) Intermediate / Advanced Grammar

Review of basic grammar and acquisition of further grammatical patterns and expressions through study and practical exercises.

2) Intermediate / Advanced Kanji and Vocabulary

Acquisition of kanji and control of meaning and use of vocabulary through reading and other practical exercises.

3) Intermediate / Advanced Reading

Acquisition of skills and techniques in reading authentic Japanese texts in various genres.

4) Intermediate / Advanced Writing

Study and practice in writing various types and styles of Japanese, from everyday letters and e-mails to academic reports.

5) Intermediate / Advanced Oral Communication

Practice and development of oral communication skills required in everyday and academic situations.

c. Electives:

Various elective courses will be offered according to students' interests in order to provide basic knowledge of Japanese linguistics and background knowledge of Japanese culture and society as well to enable students to acquire basic skills for Japanese studies through studying research methodology and techniques. In Japanese linguistics, courses on the sound system, writing system, lexicology, grammar and the history of Japanese will be offered. Courses on Japanese culture range over history and geography, politics and economy, literature and arts, society and culture, and comparative culture.

(3) Organization of courses and classes

a. Courses:

The courses comprise units offered throughout the year by the International Student Center at Hokkaido University.

b. Classes:

Only language courses are divided into intermediate and advanced levels. Placement will be decided by the placement test held after enrollment.

○Teaching and guidance:

(1) Teaching staff of International Student Center

Name	Title	Field of Speciality
YAMASHITA, Yoshitaka	Professor	Japanese Linguistics, Spanish Linguistics
YANAGIMACHI, Tomoharu	Professor	Japanese Language Teaching, Second Language Learning
NAKAMURA, Shigeho	Associate Professor	Japanese Language Teaching, Semantics
KOBAYASHI, Yoshiko	Associate Professor	Japanese Language Teaching, Cognitive Science
OGAWARA, Yoshiro	Associate Professor	Japanese Language Teaching

(2) Personal guidance

a. Academic advice:

In the first semester, the course coordinator advises students on academic issues as the need arises. In the second semester, supervisors advise individual students in the Directed Study course each week.

b. General advice:

Two overseas student advisors in the International Student Center advise students as the need arises throughout the year.

○ Conditions for completion of the course:

A certificate of completion of the program will be given to students who satisfactorily complete 540 hours or more of courses throughout the year.

○ Qualifications of applicants:

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

a. Status and field of specialty:

Applicants must be regular students in an undergraduate program at an overseas university. Applicants must be studying Japanese language or Japanese culture as their academic major. (First-year students are not eligible to apply.)

b. Competence in Japanese language

Applicants must have passed level 3 (or higher) of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test or have equal or higher proficiency.

c. Academic record:

Applicants must possess a good academic record at university level.

○Exchange of credits:

In principle, official units are not credited but a list of completed courses and grades will be given to each student. If a student's home university needs information on courses and grades, the International Student Center will provide an official certificate.

◇Accommodation

Soen International Students Residence (for single men and women, married couples and families)
Minami-Shinkawa International Students Residence (for single men and women)
Keiteki-Ryo (for single men)
Sosei-Ryo (for single women)

◇Contact

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