



Yamagata University (Yamagata Prefecture)



Explore the world of language, literary classics, everyday speech, and more!

■ Yamagata University

① About Yamagata University

Yamagata University came into being in 1949 but its origin goes back to the nineteenth century with the founding of Yamagata Normal School in 1878. Today the university consists of 6 faculties and 6 graduate schools, together with 1 institute. It plays a central role in education and research in Yamagata Prefecture as a major comprehensive national institution with some 850 academic staff and approximately 10,000 students. Its idea of education is to offer specialized programs of natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences closely connected to each other as well as a wide range of liberal arts programs, and to foster global citizens who will play leading roles both in home and around the world. The university's academics aim to pursue and achieve excellence in a wide range of research activities and scholarship, and to contribute to development in the global and local communities.

② International Exchange (Oct 1, 2016)

Number of academic exchange agreements:
175 (41 territories)

③ Number of international students and Japanese Studies Program students during the past three years:

2016: 221 (Nikkensei: 2)
2015: 214 (Nikkensei: 3)
2014: 202 (Nikkensei: 3)

④ Yamagata Prefecture

Yamagata Prefecture is blessed with four distinct seasons and an abundance of nature close at hand. Hot springs can be found throughout the prefecture and you will experience the warmth and genuine hospitality of the people in Yamagata.

■ Contents of the course

① Purpose of Study

A course conducted mainly about Japan and Japanese culture with supplementary study to improve Japanese language proficiency

② Language and culture courses

Yamagata University offers an excellent range of courses on Japanese language and culture. Japanese language courses are designed for students to develop a language competence, which lays the essential foundation for study. Multicultural studies courses and specialized courses cover a broad spectrum of Japanese culture, including such aspects as linguistics, literature, history, multicultural relations, sociology, geography, economics, politics, art and education. The program focuses on the Independent Studies Project, whose objective is to develop the ability to write an essay in Japanese and present it.

③ **Number of students to be accepted:** two each for both Embassy recommendation and University recommendation categories.

④ Qualifications and conditions of applicants

- 1) Applicants are expected to have majored or minored in Japanese language and/or Japanese studies.
- 2) Applicants are expected to have a good command of Japanese, an equivalent of Level 2 or N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. They are expected to have the ability to express their opinions and interact with Japanese people using Japanese.

⑤ The aim of the course

The aim of the course is to deepen understanding of the Japanese culture rooted in the local communities through exchanges with people in Yamagata. Students are also expected to develop one's intellect by taking specialized courses and to learn how to carry out a study project in Japanese.

⑥ **Period of the course:** from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. A certificate of completion will be awarded in September.

⑦ Outline of the courses

Courses run for 15 weeks each Spring and Fall Semester. They are divided into three categories: I, II, and III. Category I contains Japanese language courses for international students while courses in categories II and III are open to both Japanese and international students. To complete the program, students must take twelve or more courses, with six or more from categories I and II below.

- 1) Independent Study Project I & II in category I are compulsory.
- 2) II contains participatory courses in which students have lots of opportunities to meet local people.
- 3) All the courses except Independent Study Project are elective.

I Japanese Language Courses

※[Sp]: Spring Semester, [Fa & Sp]: Fall Semester
Japanese Language Courses for Undergraduates at the Institute of Arts and Sciences

The aim of Japanese courses is to help students acquire the knowledge, strategies and skills to read authentic materials, develop an argument, and effectively interact in Japanese with faculty, staff and other students in the academic environment.

INTERMEDIATE JAPANESE 1&2 [Fa & Sp] 210 credit hours per semester:

Integrated skills (grammar, speaking and listening), **Reading, Writing, and KANJI 4**

ADVANCED JAPANESE 1 [Fa & Sp] Lower advanced, 120 credit hours per semester

Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening

ADVANCED JAPANESE 2 [Fa & Sp] Upper advanced, 90 credit hours per semester:

Reading, Writing, & Speaking

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT I & II [Fa & Sp] : 30 credit hours per semester.

Compulsory to all students of this program. Students write an essay in Japanese on a topic agreed in conjunction with the advisor. They will present a paper on their topic at the end of the course.

b. Japanese language courses at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
30 credit hours.

JAPANESE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS I & II (NAKAZAWA Nobuyuki, WATANABE Fumio)

Prep for JLPT N1 and speech training [Sp]
Advanced reading, listening and writing [Fa]

II Multicultural and Regional Studies
(General Education courses)

JAPANESE CULTURE I & II (YU Ming-Hwang) This course utilizes local resources in Yamagata for international students to experience aspects of the Japanese culture such as tea ceremony, flower arrangement, Zen meditation, and hot springs. [Sp & Fa]

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES I (YU Ming-Hwang) Life events in Japan: The purpose of this course is to understand Japanese culture and society through important life events such as pregnancy, giving birth, bringing up a child, and wedding ceremonies. [Sp]

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES II (UTSUMI Yumiko) Foreign residents in Japan and Japanese Language Education: The aim of this course is to promote understanding of the meaning of studying Japanese as a second language, appreciation of diverse cultures, and to develop critical consciousness through discussion. [Sp]

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES III: (YU Ming-Hwang) The Japanese perspective on life and death: The purpose of this course is to understand the Japanese perspective on life & death through the most important and traditional ceremony, the funeral. [Fa]

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES IV (GRINDA Reinhold) Europe and Japan: This course focuses on cultures of Europe and Japan [Fa]

FIELDWORK IN AREA CUMPUS MOGAMI (REGIONAL STUDY)* Learns from local experts such things as a way of life by woods, to make floats for a unique festival. [Sp & Fa]

III Courses in Humanities and Social Sciences

a. The following courses are taught by academic staff at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences .

* : Introductory courses offered as a part of general education for undergraduates

TOPICS IN JAPANESE LINGUISTICS (NAKAZAWA Nobuyuki) :Explicates philology of Japanese language. [Fa]
INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS (LINGUISTICS)*(WATANABE Fumio): Explicates basic knowledge of linguistics. [Sp]

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE HISTORICAL PHONOLOGY* (NAKAZAWA Nobuyuki) : Explicates history of Japanese phoneme. [Fa]

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LINGUISTICS AT AN ADVANCED LEVEL (NAKAZAWA Nobuyuki) Explicates Japanese linguistics and the education as a foreign language. [Sp]

TOPICS IN JAPANESE GRAMMAR (WATNABE Fumio) Explains the descriptive grammar of modern Japanese. [Fa]

TOPICS IN JAPANESE LINGUISTICS (WATNABE Fumio) Explains studies of pragmatics in modern Japanese. [Sp]

DIRECTED READING IN JAPANESE LINGUISTICS (NAKAZAWA Nobuyuki): A reading of literatures of historical Japanese linguistics. [Fa]

STUDIES OF VISUAL IMAGES (OKUBO Kiyooki): Analysis of Visual images (Movie, Video, Animation). Including some critical comments on Japanese Cinema. [Sp]

JAPANESE LITERATURE-CLASSICAL (MIYAKOSHI Naoto): A close reading of classical Japanese narrative works. [Fa]

JAPANESE LITERATURE-MODERN(MORIOKA Takashi): A close reading of modern Japanese novels, poems, and other narrative works. [Fa]



zazen

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM (CULTURE)* (MATSUO Kenji): An introduction to Buddhism, focusing on Japanese Buddhism. [Sp]

CITYSCAPE OF KAMAKURA IN THE MIDDLE AGES (HISTORY)* (MATSUO Kenji): Discusses the real state of Kamakura as the metropolis” of Japanese samurai in the middle ages. [Fa]

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN CHINESE LITERATURE AND CULTURE (FUKUYAMA Yasuo): A reading of classical Chinese literature according to Japanese grammar. [Sp]

REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY (YAMADA Hirohisa): This course aims to clarify the relationship between various phenomena in a specific region and its historical and natural environment. [Fa]

FUNDAMENTALS OF CULTURAL INTERPRETATION (Staff): This course will trace and teach fundamental concepts and methods of cultural studies, applying it to the analysis of literature, cinema, picture, photograph, cartoon and so forth, and also of such problems as nation, state, community, mutual relation between cultures and so on. [Fa]

HISTORY OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE (ITO Yutaka): This is a course on the cultural exchange between America and Japan, focusing on Earnest F. Fenollosa and Tenshin Okakura. [Sp]



snow monsters in Zao

JAPAN'S DIPLOMATIC HISTORY (MATSUMOTO

Kunihiko): This course will survey the diplomatic history after the Meiji period through visual and documentary materials and helps students to acquire the knowledge necessary to consider Japan's foreign policy in the future. [Sp & Fa]

JAPANESE ECONOMIC HISTORY (IWATA

Koutaro): This course will trace the Japanese economic history from the 13th to 19th century, clarifying the characteristics of Japanese society. [Fa]

b.The Faculty of Education, Art and Science

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LINGUISTICS A

(SONODA Hirofumi): An Introduction to Japanese linguistics, focusing on phonology, the writing system, lexicon, and dialects. [Sp]

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LINGUISTICS B

(SONODA Hirofumi): An Introduction to Japanese linguistics, focusing on grammar, the honorific system, and history. [Fa]

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LINGUISTICS

(SONODA Hirofumi): An overview of Japanese linguistics. [Fa]

SEMINAR IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE

PEDAGOGY (SONODA Hirofumi): A case study on Japanese language pedagogy. [Sp]

c. The Institute of Arts and Sciences

AN INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LANGUAGE TEACHING*

(KUROSAWA Akiko): This course analyzes the Japanese language by exploring learners' problems in grammar. [Fa]



kimono

⑧ Annual Events

Students will have the opportunity to meet locals by staying with or visiting a family in Yamagata, through day trips, a field trip, and local festivals (e.g. Hanagasa Matsuri). They can also participate in activities such as a tea ceremony, flower arrangement, kokeshi doll painting, Zen meditation, and kimono wearing.

Oct	Day Trip
Nov	A course for training 'Meisters' of <i>Oku no Hosomichi</i> or <i>Backroads To Far Towns</i> by Matsuo Basho
Nov-Dec	Departmental round table meetings for international students
Dec	Multicultural Concert: Yamagata to the World
Feb	Yamagata Japanese Speech Contest for International Students
July	Field Trip
Aug	International students' meeting for the presentation in Hanagasa Festival (Yamagata City)

⑨ Academic advisors

- 1) Program coordinator (Institute of Arts and Sciences)
KUROSAWA Akiko (Professor in Linguistics)
- 2) Supporting academic staff (Institute of Arts and Sciences)
UTSUMI Yumiko (Professor in Japanese Language Teaching)
YU Ming Fang (Professor in Sociology)
- 3) Academic advisor: Each student is assigned to an academic advisor from the Faculty of Literature and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Education, Art and Science, or the Institute of Arts and Sciences, to be supervised in completion of the essay project in weekly tutorial sessions. Students will belong to the faculty/institute of his/her advisor.

⑩ Certificate

The students who fulfill the necessary requirements in ⑦ *Outline of the courses* can obtain a certificate of completion at the end of the program.



speech contest

■ Accommodation

Yamagata University International Houses are located within biking distance from the main campus and available to up to 90 students.

- 1) Monthly rent with communal services fee, Security deposit (for Kasumi-cho)
 - Studio apartment: ¥5,900 + ¥4,000, ¥30,000
 - One bedroom apartment: ¥11,900 + ¥4,000, ¥36,000
 - Two bedroom apartment: ¥14,200 + ¥4,000, ¥45,000

2) Facilities (Studio apartment)

a bed, desk, chair, air conditioner, gas FF heater, refrigerator, kitchenette, kitchen shelf, bookshelf, wardrobe, shower and toilet.

For private accommodation near the campus, the monthly rent for a furnished room with half board comes to ¥50,000 to ¥65,000; for an unfurnished room with bath and toilet ¥30,000 to ¥50,000; and for an unfurnished room with shared bath and toilet ¥15,000 to ¥30,000. On moving in, a deposit equivalent to one to two month's rent will have to be paid as guarantee money.

■ Alumni

Students who had completed the program in the past ten years keep in touch with us. Most of them have gone on to graduate schools, pursuing their career either in their home countries or Japan. One of them joined Yamagata University as an administrative staff after her master's degree, and now working for Toyota Motor Corporation in China. Another student has started a translation company while doing his master's degree in Finland. He came back to Yamagata for a talk on Finland in 2012. Another one who had started working for JT in Tokyo came to talk to current international students at Yamagata in 2014.

■ Contacts

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