



KANAZAWA UNIVERSITY (ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE)



ACQUISITION OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY THROUGH INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH, JOINT STUDIES AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES WITH JAPANESE SOCIETY AND CULTURE

◇University Overview

① Outline of Kanazawa University

1) History and Features

Kanazawa University was founded in 1949 as one of the new national universities, by uniting and reorganizing eight of the high education institutions then in operation, including Kanazawa Medical College, which dates back to 1862. The university has continued to expand since, and now has a total of 3 colleges and 17 schools on its two campuses (Kakuma and Takaramachi) : (1) College of Human and Social Sciences consisting of the School of Humanities, School of Law, School of Economics, School of Teacher Education, School of Regional Development Studies and School of International Studies, (2) College of Science and Engineering consisting of the School of Mathematics and Physics, School of Chemistry, School of Mechanical Engineering, School of Frontier Engineering, School of Electrical, Information and Communication Engineering, School of Geosciences and Civil Engineering and School of Biological Science and Technology. (3) College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Human Sciences consisting of the School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and School of Health Sciences. It also has 7 graduate schools offering degrees in Socio-Environmental Studies, Natural Science and Technology, Medical Science, Advanced Preventive Medical Science, Law, Professional Development in Teacher Education and Frontier Science Initiative.

2) Number of Academic Staff and Students (As of May 1, 2019)

Number of Academic Staff: 1,035
 Number of Students: 10,371
 (Undergraduate: 7,802, Graduate: 2,305, Other and Non-degree: 264)

② International Links (As of May 1, 2019)

Partner Institutions: 271 (46 countries, 1 region)
 University-Level: 193 (40 countries, 1 region)
 Department-Level: 78 (24 countries, 1 region)
 Number of international students: 666
 Total number of Japanese Language and Culture Program students accepted: 328 (including students of year 2019)

③ Total number of International students and Japanese Language and Culture Program students in the last three years

	International students	Japanese Language and culture program students
2019	666	10
2018	632	15
2017	585	13

④ Features of the city

Kanazawa is one of the largest cities on the Japan Sea coast, which still retains the calm atmosphere of an old castle town through its old architecture and rich traditional culture. It is well known for its traditional arts and crafts, classical performing arts and for the famous Japanese garden at Kenrokuen. The four seasons adorn Kanazawa, with the surrounding sea and mountains further emphasizing its natural beauty.

◇ Program Outline

① Purpose of the course

(a) A course intended mainly to study about Japan and Japanese culture

② Unique aspects of the course

This program aims to provide students from overseas with an opportunity to improve their proficiency in Japanese language and research skills as well as deepening their understanding of Japanese culture and society. It is a one year program conducted solely in Japanese.

③ Number of Students to be accepted: 15

(Embassy nominees: 5, University nominees: 10)

④ Qualifications and Requirements for Application

Applicants must satisfy the following conditions:

- 1) Applicants must have sufficient Japanese language ability to converse, read and write basic Japanese (a level equal to that of Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level N2).
- 2) Applicants should be majoring in a field relevant to Japanese language or culture in their home university.
- 3) Applicants must be a junior or a senior student at their home university.
- 4) Applicants should be prepared to devote themselves to studies of this program throughout the year. Enthusiasm regarding research work and class participation is a must.

⑤ Aim of the Course

Students should strive to master their field of research and have an aptitude in Japanese equivalent to N1 at the completion of their stay.

⑥ Course Duration

From late September 2020 to late August 2021

Period of enrollment

From October 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

⑦ Scholarship period

From October 2020 to August 2021

⑧ Events and Schedule

Semesters :

October - February (Autumn Semester)

April – August (Spring Semester)

Oral Presentation Practice and Report Writing

Period : August 1 - August 31

- Late September: Arrival in Japan (In 2019, the date of arrival was September 24.)
- Late September: Opening Ceremony
Program Orientation
- October: Meeting with Sato- oya
- November: Bus Trip with Sato- oya
- November or December: International Students Gathering
- December: Presentation of Research Plan
- April: Interim Presentation Camp
- Early August: Oral Presentation of Completion Research
- Mid August: Research paper must be completed
- Late August: Closing Ceremony
- Late August: Returning home

⑨ Conditions for Completion of the program, and Completion Certificates

In order to complete the program successfully, students must pass all compulsory courses, give a public oral presentation at the end of the program on their respective research topics, and submit a research paper on the same topic.

A completion certificate will be issued to those who have successfully fulfilled the aforementioned conditions. In addition to this certificate, students will be provided with an academic transcript in which their grades for Japanese Language classes and compulsory courses of the program and other courses taken will be recorded.

The program courses are outlined below. Every Compulsory Course consists of 15 lecture classes earning 2 credits per 90 minutes class.

COMPULSORY COURSES	Credits	
	Autumn	Spring
Japanese	20	
Japanese Culture Seminar I	2	2
Japanese Culture Seminar II	2	2
Program for the Studies on Japanese Culture and Society	2	Elective
Survey and Training Seminar	2	Elective
Completion Research Seminar	2	2
Completion Research Paper and Presentation	-	4
Total	40	

⑩ Outline of curriculum

1) Major component of curriculum

Out of the entire curriculum, the Completion of a Research Paper is the most important component. Students are expected to have acquired the research capabilities required to advance to graduate school when completing this program.

2) Courses of curriculum

I) Compulsory Courses

Japanese Language Course

(Autumn and Spring: 150 classes in total)

Level-based classes; Kanji classes; skill-type-specific classes

Japanese Culture Seminar I

(Autumn and Spring: 15 classes each)

Lectures given by specialists from in and outside the university on various topics relating to Japanese language and culture

Japanese Culture Seminar II

(Autumn and Spring: 15 classes each)

Presentations and discussions by participating students

Program for the Studies on Japanese Culture and Society (Autumn: 15 classes, Spring: Elective)

Experience-based programs to learn about Kanazawa's rich traditional culture; study on contemporary Japanese society

Survey and Training Seminar

(Autumn: 15 classes, Spring: Elective)

Guidance on research methodology and on improving presentation skills in Japanese

Completion Research Seminar

(Autumn and Spring: 15 classes each)

Instructions on research methods and approaches

Completion Research Paper and Presentation

(Spring: 30 classes)

Research project involving an oral presentation and submission of a paper

II) Elective Courses

Courses offered by other faculties (Autumn and Spring)

Students are eligible for some of the courses offered within the regular curriculum of the faculty.

3) Programs providing an opportunity to visit local sites and interact with the local people

Traditional Arts & Crafts and their Techniques

Learn about the Hokuriku region's distinctive craftsmanship represented by local specialty lacquerware and traditional Japanese paper products, and engage in hands-on crafting activities.

Contemporary Art and Design

Deepen understanding about the contemporary art and design situation of Kanazawa City, mainly through participating in workshops, engaging in dialogue with artists, and visiting the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

Japanese Society and Traditional Culture

Gain cultural experience from contact with traditional arts and crafts creation activities in Kanazawa, looking to obtain a glimpse of precious artisanship that has been handed down by great masters over the generations, thereby diversifying viewpoints on Japanese culture.

UNESCO Geo-parks and Biosphere Reserves

Conduct field research in areas at the foot of Mt. Hakusan, looking into local traditional lifestyles through experience and learning about regional issues and revitalization efforts.

The “Omotenashi” Spirit in The Service Industry of Japan

Visit traditional Japanese-style restaurants, nursery schools, care homes for the elderly, and other facilities operating in Kanazawa, and obtain workplace experience to learn about the respective services.

Architecture and the City in Japan: from the Past to the Future

Study relationships among architecture, town planning and lifestyles that are specific to Japan including Kanazawa, thereby deepening understanding of interrelationships between architecture, town development, culture, economy and history.

4) Common curriculum to Japanese and international students

Survey and Training Seminar

Conduct cross-cultural surveys and research on Japanese society and culture in mixed groups with Japanese students.

Japanese Culture Seminar II

Deliver presentations and engage in discussions jointly with Japanese students on themes introduced in Japanese Culture Seminar I.

⑪ Advisory System

Hiroshi Yamamoto

(Associate Professor, School of International Education, Organization of Global Affairs, specialty : History, literature)

Masashi Mine

(Professor, School of International Education, Organization of Global Affairs, specialty : Linguistics)

Supporting Academic Staff: 30 (Japanese teaching staff and members of other faculties giving lectures in Culture Seminars)

The chief coordinator of the program serves as the academic supervisor and provides the students with guidance and academic advice on carrying out their respective research, preparing for presentations and writing their reports, both individually and at class.

Assistance of faculty members from the College of Human and Social Sciences might be obtained in giving academic advice on certain research topics. Individual guidance is also provided on selecting elective courses each semester.

The chief coordinator of the program can provide the students with advice on student life. Furthermore, they are able to use the counseling system available to all international students.

◇ Accommodation

Students will stay in one of the three accommodation facilities given below.

1) Kanazawa University International House

Located within the campus, accommodating international students and researchers studying at Kanazawa University (only single rooms are available).
Rent and Utility fees : Approx. ¥30,000

2) Kanazawa University Student/International Student Dormitory “SAKIGAKE”

Located within the campus, accommodating international students and researchers studying at Kanazawa University (only single rooms are available).
Rent and Utility fees : Approx. ¥30,000

3) Kanazawa University Student/International Student Dormitory “HOKUMEI”

Located within the campus, accommodating international students and researchers studying at Kanazawa University (only single rooms are available).
Rent and Utility fees : Approx. ¥38,000

◇ Follow-up

Every year, after obtaining a degree at their home universities, about half of the students who have completed this program come back to Japan and enroll in a graduate school of Kanazawa University or other universities. Also, most of the other students find a job as a translator or as an employee in a Japanese company.

◇ Contacts

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Kanazawa University School of International education Homepage
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NIKKEN Homepage
http://kuglobal.w3.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/eg/sie/program/language_culture/

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