



Kumamoto University

Japanese Studies Program

1. About Kumamoto University Japanese Studies Program

This program targets “MEXT students” who receive scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The purposes are to improve students’ Japanese language ability, to impart the knowledge and skills required to conduct Japanese studies, and to help students acquire a practical knowledge of the Japanese language and culture for use in society.

2. About Courses

This program is divided into two courses. For completion requirements and details of classes, please check the Course Guideline on our website or MEXT website.

(a) Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Course

-Main theme: Studies related Japanese circumstances and culture

-Second theme: Improving Japanese language ability

Students will acquire the knowledge and skills required for Japanese studies research, as well as improve their Japanese language ability. It is required to earn a total of 24 credits or more in a year. Also, students need to pass an oral examination and submit a course completion report.

(b) Japanese Language Intensive Course

-Main theme: Improving Japanese language ability

-Second theme: Studies related Japanese circumstances and culture

With a focus on improving Japanese language ability, this course helps students to acquire knowledge of the Japanese language and culture that will be useful in society. It is required to earn a total of 24 credits or more in a year. Also, an essay in Japanese which is approved by a supervisor is required.

3. Maximum Number of Students to be Accepted

10 students

-Embassy recommendation・・・9 students

Students can apply for this program without an exchange agreement between Kumamoto University and applicant’s university. For the details, please inquire the nearest Japanese embassy or the consulate general in your country.

-University recommendation...1 student

Full-time undergraduate students who are enrolled in a university abroad, which has a student exchange agreement with Kumamoto University can apply for this program through applicant's university. For application requirements and procedures, please refer to "7. Application Procedures for University Recommendation".

4. Periods

-Period of program...Mid-September, 2025~August 31, 2026

-Period of enrollment...October 1, 2025~August 31, 2026

-Period of scholarship...October, 2025~August, 2026

5. Scholarship Benefits

- Monthly stipend...117,000yen

-Travel expenses...MEXT will provide MEXT students flight tickets between an international airport of each recipient's home country/region and Japan. Please note that MEXT will specify the itinerary and date. Also, students must pay for domestic transportation expenses, airport taxes, travel insurance fees and expenses for personal belongings etc. by themselves.

6. Supporters

-Supervisor...1 per student

-Tutor student...1 per student ※For 6 months from an arrival in Japan

7. Application Procedures for University Recommendation

Applicants for embassy recommendation are NOT eligible to apply.

(1) Eligibility

①Foreign students who newly visit Japan to receive educations for improving their Japanese language ability and understanding Japanese cultures

②Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. ※Those who have Japanese nationality at the time of application are not eligible.

③In principle, applicants must be born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2007.

④Those who are enrolled as undergraduates at foreign (non-Japanese) universities at the time of arriving in and leaving Japan. Also, applicants must major in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture and study the Japanese Studies at a university for a total period of two years or more as of September 1, 2025.

※Those who graduate foreign universities during the program are not eligible.

⑤Those who have Japanese proficiency level of JLPT N2 or higher

- ⑥Those who have no physical or mental conditions hindering study in Japan
- ⑦Applicants must be enthusiastic about Japanese studies and devote themselves to studies of this program throughout a year.

(2) Required documents

Please fill in/issue all documents in Japanese or English.

- ①Application form (MEXT format)
- ②Copy of the photo page of applicant's passport or Certificate of citizenship issued by applicant's home country
- ③Certificate of enrollment from current university
- ④Academic record from current university (For all academic years until now)
- ※Please mark Japanese language and Japanese culture courses/classes.
- ⑤Recommendation letter from current University to the President of Kumamoto University
- ※Recommendation letter which is not addressed to the President is not accepted.
- ⑥Certificate of Japanese language ability (JLPT score certificate etc.)
- ⑦ID photo image (45mm×35mm)
- ⑧Health Certificate (Kumamoto University format)
- ⑨Application form for Kumamoto University International House (Student dormitory)
- ⑩Questionnaire about preferred faculty
- ⑪Application Form for COE ※Only applicant who will apply for student visa in a country other than applicant's nationality is required to submit.

(3) Submission and Deadline

- Submission Deadline...We will inform the person in charge of each partner university.
- Where to Submit...Kumamoto University International Student Office
(E-mail: gji-ryugaku[a]jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp) ※Please replace [a] with @.