



Kumamoto University

Japanese Studies Program

1. About Kumamoto University Japanese Studies Program

This program is intended for “MEXT students” who receive scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Its purposes are to improve students’ Japanese language proficiency, to provide 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 consists of two courses. For completion requirements and details of classes, please refer to 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 proficiency

Students will acquire the knowledge and skills required for research in Japanese studies, as well as improve their Japanese language proficiency. Students are required to earn 24 credits or more within one year. In addition, students must pass an oral examination and submit a course completion report.

(b) Japanese Language Intensive Course

-Main theme: Improving Japanese language proficiency

-Second theme: Studies related Japanese circumstances and culture

Focusing on Japanese language improvement, this course helps students acquire knowledge of the Japanese language and culture that is useful in society. Students are required to earn 24 credits or more within one year. In addition, students must submit a Japanese-language essay approved by their supervisor.

3. Maximum Number of Students to be Accepted

10 students

-Embassy recommendation...8 students

Students may apply for this program even if there is no student exchange agreement between Kumamoto University and their home university. For the details, please inquire the nearest Japanese embassy or the consulate general in your country.

-University recommendation...2 students

Full-time undergraduate students who are enrolled in a university abroad, which has a student exchange agreement with Kumamoto University may apply for this program through their home university. For application requirements and procedures, please refer to “7. Application Procedures for University Recommendation”.

4. Periods

-Period of program...Mid-September, 2026~August 31, 2027

-Period of enrollment...October 1, 2026~August 31, 2027

-Period of scholarship...October, 2026~August, 2027

5. Scholarship Benefits

- Monthly stipend...117,000yen

-Travel expenses...MEXT will provide round-trip flight tickets between an international airport in each recipient's home country/region and Japan. Please note that MEXT will designate the itinerary and travel dates. Also, students must cover domestic transportation expenses, airport taxes, travel insurance fees, and expenses for personal belongings, etc.

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 will newly visit Japan to receive educations for improving their Japanese language proficiency and understanding Japanese cultures

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

③In principle, applicants must have been born between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 2008.

④Applicants must be enrolled as full-time undergraduate at foreign (non-Japanese) universities at the time of both arrival in and departure from 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, 2026.

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

- ⑤Applicants must have Japanese proficiency level of JLPT N2 or higher
- ⑥Applicants must 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 the entire year.

(2) Required Documents

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

① Application form (MEXT format)

※Please be sure to see [Appendix] Instructions for Completing ①Application form.

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 etc.

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

Please be sure to apply through the person in charge.

- 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 @.

[Appendix] Instructions for Completing ①Application form (MEXT format)

Regarding Sections “17. Study Plan in Japan” and “18. Post-Graduation Plan (Further Study, Career, etc.)”

These sections are essential for assessing how applicants conceptualize their study in Japan and how they intend to apply the experience in the future. Please address the points below and complete each section in detail and with specificity.

17. Study Plan in Japan

Please include the following.

- **Reasons for choosing Kumamoto University as your study-abroad destination**

- **Study plan in Japan**

What you wish to study, how you intend to carry out your studies, and which courses you plan to take

- **Preparation and prior learning**

What academic preparation or relevant study you have undertaken so far

- **Plan for International exchange activities**

What kinds of exchange or community activities you intend to participate in to promote mutual understanding between Japan and your home country

18. Post-Graduation Plan (Further Study, Career, etc.)

Please include the following.

- **Future plans and goals**

How you plan to utilize your study experience in Japan and what career or academic path you hope to pursue afterward

- **Plan for international exchange activities plan after graduation**

What kinds of exchange or community activities you plan to engage in to serve as a bridge between Japan and your home country