Study Japanese language and culture under faculty advisors and Japanese instructors.

**Program Outline**

**Training Objective**

The following two courses have been prepared in line with the goals of the students. (a) A course focusing on training about Japan and Japanese culture, with supplementary training in improving Japanese language ability.  
(b) A course focusing on the improvement of Japanese language ability, with supplementary education about Japanese affairs and culture.

**Course Feature**

There will be regular coordination between faculty advisors and Japanese instructors to provide careful guidance to select the appropriate course.

(a) Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Credits</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Language</td>
<td>6 or more credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Subject</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>① Japanese Language Research</td>
<td>8 or more credits</td>
<td>In total 24 credits or more in a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>② Japanese Culture Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>③ Japanese Literature Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>④ Japanese Society Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Subjects</td>
<td>10 or more credits*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A course completion report and oral examination are required.

(b) Japanese Language Intensive Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Credits</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Language</td>
<td>12 or more credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Subjects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>① Japanese Language Research</td>
<td>4 or more credits</td>
<td>In total 24 credits or more in a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>② Japanese Culture Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>③ Japanese Literature Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>④ Japanese Society Research</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Subjects</td>
<td>8 or more credits*</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*An essay in Japanese which is approved by a supervisor is required.

*Elective subjects may be chosen from Japanese Language, and Research Subject.

**Introduction**

**Characteristics and overview**

Kumamoto University is a national university established in May 1949 from several institutions, including the Fifth High School where Soseki Natsume had taught. Now, we have 7 undergraduate departments and 9 graduate schools with about 10,000 students and about 2,600 staff. In 2014, we were selected for the MEXT Top Global University Project.

**International Exchanges**

As of October 11, 2017, Kumamoto University has international exchange agreements with 223 countries, universities and institutions in 44 countries and 1 region.

**The Number of International Students and MEXT Japanese Studies Students**

In 2017: 507 International Students, 4 MEXT Japanese Studies Students (Thailand, Romania, India, Brazil)

In 2016: 527 International Students, 1 MEXT Japanese Studies Student (Indonesia)

In 2015: 532 International Students, 11 MEXT Japanese Studies Students (Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Brazil, Spain, France, Turkey, Poland, Indonesia)

**Kumamoto Overview**

Kumamoto city is located in the center of Kyushu island and its population is about seven hundred thousand people. You can study in clam surroundings. Big earthquakes happened in 2016, but we recovered from it quickly.

It takes one and half hours to Tokyo by plane and three hours to Osaka and Kyoto by Shinkansen.

**Program Goals**

- To improve one’s proficiency in Japanese language necessary for academic research as well as community life (equivalent to N1 of JLPT).  
- To acquire knowledge and methodologies necessary for various fields of Japanese studies.  
- To deepen understanding of various aspects of Japanese society and culture through various experiences in Japan.

**Duration of the Program**

October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019  
Closing ceremony will be held in the middle of September, 2019. (August 9 in 2017)
Program Outline

*Note that the classes are subject to change, and that classes not shown on this course guide may be able to be approved as a program completion requirement.

1) Japanese Language

Japanese Language

Japanese Language Intensive Program:
- 12 credits, 360 hours or more
Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program:
- 6 credits, 180 hours or more

The aim of the classes is to improve your Japanese language proficiency. Various types of classes to improve your skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing are offered. You will choose appropriate classes based on your interests and the result of the initial placement test in each semester.

[Subject example] Introduction to Academic Reading
Students will learn sentence structure and grammar for academic reading. Through paraphrase practice, students will acquire the basis of academic writing.

Advanced Oral Expression (Research Design)
Students will learn how to show the data, the structure of presentation and useful expressions to give convincing presentations at seminar in university.

Academic Writing
Students will learn how to write an academic paper step by step. They will write their papers and make an oral presentations.

*From fall semester in 2017, Japanese classes for business began. Students can learn useful Japanese to get a job in Japan.

Business Japanese Basic
Through practical training, students will learn necessary Japanese for business situation.

Japanese Reading Proficiency
Students will develop their reading proficiency to pass N1 which is often required to get a job in Japan.

2) Research Subjects, and Other subjects

Japanese Language Intensive Program:
- 4 credits, 60 hours or more
Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Program:
- 8 credits, 120 hours or more

Japanese Language Research
Synchronic and diachronic analysis of various characteristics such as phonemes, grammar, meaning and vocabulary of the Japanese language from a linguistic point of view.

[Subject example] Introduction to the Japanese Language I
Students will learn the fundamentals needed for studying modern Japanese language; discussing it from phonological, grammatical and lexical viewpoints.

Introduction to the Japanese Language II
Students will learn the theory of Japanese grammar.
Other subjects: Composition in Japanese, etc.

Japanese Literature Research
Through studies of several topics in Japanese literature, students will acquire points of view and methodologies necessary for literature.

[Subject example] Introduction to Japanese Literature I
Lectures will be given on the nature of Japanese literature, based on its history. They will help students learn basic knowledge and advanced academic approaches for studying Japanese literature.

Introduction to Japanese Language and Literature
Lectures will focus on the significance and methodology of studying Japanese language and literature. They will deal with standard Japanese and dialects, written and spoken languages, storytelling, literature and 'waka'-poems.
Other subjects: Reading of essays, novels, article, etc.

Reading of Writings in Japanese
Develop your reading ability by means of Japanese novels, essays, and articles, paying attention to the vocabulary used and the style. Students are expected to present what they learn from their readings.
Other subjects: Introduction to Japanese Literature I

Japanese Culture Research
Students will acquire fundamental points of view and methodologies necessary to gain further knowledge about Japanese history and culture.

[Subject example] Introduction to the History of Japan I
Students will learn the fundamentals of early modern Japan, up to the present day, through exploring the social and political movements of the times.

Introduction to the History of Culture I
Students will learn the history of modern Japanese from the Meiji Restoration to the end of World War II to criticize commonly accepted theory.

Japanese Culture and Society
Students will learn the basics of Japanese society, culture and history. The subjects and materials for discussion will be decided by the students.

Other subjects: Introduction to Japanese History, Sociology, etc.

Japanese Society Research
Classes are designed to analyze current social issues of politics and education in Japan.

[Subject example] Introduction to Regional Sociology I
Lectures will be given on the structure and function of families and regional societies - the basic structural factors of society in Japan, and further on the 'prototype' of regional society.

Introduction to Regional Sociology II
Lectures will be given on the problems in Japanese regional societies after World War II and their solutions. Case studies will be used for discussions.

Other subjects: Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Education, Introduction to the Civil Law, Introduction to Education, History of Education, etc.
"Going up a mountain track, I fell to thinking.
Approach everything rationally, and you become harsh. Pole along in the stream of emotions, and you will be swept away by the current. Give free rein to your desires, and you become uncomfortably confined. It is not a very agreeable place to live, this world of ours."

"THE THREE-CORNERED WORLD"
Soseki Natsume, Translated by Alan Turney
"Kusa Makura" (The Three-Cornered World) is a novel written by Natsume Soseki, with Kumamoto set as the stage. There are many locations associated with Soseki in Kumamoto, and you can touch the world of his novel by following in his footsteps.

Support
Students will be assigned to a faculty (Literature, etc.). A faculty teacher and a Japanese language instructor will co-teach and act as your supervisors.

Certificate of Program Completion
Students who have earned 24 credits during the academic year, have submitted an essay in Japanese which is approved by a supervisor is required or a program completion report and have passed an oral examination will receive a certificate.

Accommodation (International House)
The dormitories for 200 international students are located about 1.5 km east of the main campus.

Follow-Up (Career Path)
We continue to interact with former students through the internet.

For Further Information
International Student Office, Kumamoto University 2-40-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-city 860-8555 Japan
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Kumamoto University URL
http://www.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/
Japanese Studies Program URL
http://www.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/kokusaioukyouyuu/gaikokujinryugakusei/kyoukuprogram/japanese_studies_program