



# University of the Ryukyus (Okinawa)



**If you would like to have distinctive experiences, this is the right place for you!**

Studying in Okinawa surely gives you unique perspectives on Japan and Japanese culture.

## ■ Introduction

### 1. University of the Ryukyus

The University of the Ryukyus was founded in 1950 under the U.S. Administration. The university acquired a status as a national institution upon the reversion of Okinawa to Japan in 1972. The university is comprised of the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Global and Regional Studies, Education, Science, Medicine, Engineering and Agriculture. In addition to the undergraduate programs, all the faculties have postgraduate programs. Locating in the subtropical region enables the various and fruitful studies on the surrounding ocean, nature, culture, and languages. In the vast campus, there are a pond and farm field and students can enjoy natural atmosphere around the year.

Faculty members: 855  
Undergraduate students: 7,230  
Graduate students: 934

### 2. International Exchange (as of March 2018)

Number of inter-university agreement: 95  
(36 countries and area)

### 3. Number of international students and Japanese Studies Program students (as of May 2018)

2016: International Students 286 (44 country & area)  
Japanese Studies Students 3 (3 country)

2017: International Students 288 (46 country & area)  
Japanese Studies Students 7 (7 country)

2018: International Students 296 (48 country & area)  
Japanese Studies Students 4 (3 country)



### 4. Characteristics of Okinawa

Okinawa Prefecture is located in east of Asia, at the southwest terminus of the great arc of the Japanese archipelago. Japan's only island prefecture, Okinawa used to be the Ryukyu Kingdom, which cultivated relations and interactions with other countries. Geographically destined to be a corner-stone of international exchange, Okinawa has been and will continue to be a Prefecture open to the world.

## ■ Course description

### 1. Purpose of the course

Improve Japanese language proficiency with supplementary study about Japan and Japanese culture.

### 2. Characteristics of the course

This program is offered to achieve the following three goals: a) to train students to have a higher-level command of Japanese, which enables them to study Japan, b) to educate them to acquire techniques and knowledge of Japan study, and c) to help them to gain a deep insight into Japanese culture in general and Okinawan local culture.

We offer students to study with other international students with various background, which leads the

students of this program to discover similarities and differences of Japan and other cultures. Besides, those courses such as Linguistics, Teaching Japanese as a second language, Japanese linguistics, Dialectology (Okinawan dialects), Japanese literature, Okinawan literature, History (Japanese and Okinawan), Cultural Anthropology and Folklore are offered. Students can take these courses with a permission from their supervisors.

Students are required to study their own field(s) of interest in Japan (or Okinawa); the results are presented orally and in written form. In the presentation session, students of this program are to discuss their own topics with Japanese students. Their studies presented in written form are compiled in a book, named "Study Reports", and the copies are published and distributed to other universities.

### 3. Number of students accepted

Total: 14  
(Embassy Recommendation : 10,  
University Recommendation : 4)

### 4. Qualifications and conditions of applicants

Those wishing to enrol in this course must be 3rd year undergraduate students or above enrolled in a university outside of Japan and must meet the following criteria.

- (a) It is preferred that the applicant should have passed the Japanese Proficiency Test Level 2 or have equivalent ability.
- (b) The applicant should be majoring in Japanese Studies with a good academic standing.

### 5. Course outline

There are compulsory courses and elective courses. These courses, Japanese language program of General Education and courses aimed at regular Japanese students of the department of International

Languages and Cultures in the Faculty of Global and Regional Studies will also be available for international students. The elective courses are not limited to those listed below.



### 6. Period of the course:

Oct. 1, 2019 – Aug. 31, 2020

(The completion/closing ceremony is scheduled on August 28th)

Note: Students are required to arrive in Japan on the designated date.



### 7. Subject outline · feature

In principle, classes run for 16 weeks during both fall and spring semesters. For each semester, students have to study 168 hours (112 class periods). The class instructors use only Japanese and students are expected to develop Japanese language skills and broaden their perspective.

#### 1) Compulsory courses

Subject title	Description
Basic Seminar I, II	Learning report writing and presentation.
Specific Study I, II	Students are encouraged to study their own study topics related to Japan/Japanese culture.
Academic Writing	Development of composition writing and sentence structure skills including compilation and presentation on a specific topic.
Special study of Japanese Culture I, II	Through traditional culture, students are required to analyze various modern phenomena (research trip included).
Special study of Ryukyuan Culture I, II	To learn what Okinawan culture is by means of studying history from Ryukyuan Dynasty to the present days Okinawa (research trip included).

#### ※Elective courses (1)

Students are required to take at least one subject from 4 courses below in each semester.

Subject title	Description
International Affairs I, II	Reviewing the various events which occurred in the last fifty years of the 20th century and how these events are connected to the present states of the world.
Japanese Culture I, II	Learning Japanese cultural features through reading classic books such as “Book of Tea” and “Bushidoo.”

#### ※Elective courses (2)

Students are required to take at least one subject from 4 courses below in each semester.

Subject title	Description
Japanese grammar seminar I, II	This course introduces grammatical issues of Japanese. Students should observe real data and find regularities through integrating their previous knowledge on Japanese.
Introduction to Japanese Literature I, II	This course expands students' vocabulary used in literature and students are encouraged to understand the story lines referring to the social background.

#### 2) Field trips and exchange with the local community

Not only in classroom study, but research trips are planned in above mentioned courses: “Special study of Japanese Culture I, II” and “Special study of Ryukyuan Culture I, II.”

Study tours: Nakagusuku castle, Peace Memorial Park & Museum, Newspaper company, Okinawa Prefectural Assembly building, Makishi Public Market, Awamori Company, Television Broadcasting Company, Okinawa Archaeological Center, Okinawa Prefectural Museum, etc.

Students can participate in local field trips, other than that of course works, with other international students and Japanese students.

#### 【Experience · Visit】

*Kumiodori* (Okinawan traditional performing arts), tea ceremony, homestay in a Japanese family on a weekend, home visit, and etc.

#### 【Internship】

Those who wish to apply for internship, with a coordinator's assistance, could get an opportunity to work at companies located in Okinawa during breaks.

#### 【Exchange with locals】

Students can get international exchange experiences participating in the university global festival and local/national international speech contests in Japanese or visiting local elementary schools.

#### 3) Special study

An advisor gives instructions to students once a week in classes such as “Basic Seminar I, II” and “Specific Study I, II” in each semester. Students are required to do oral presentations regularly in classes to show their progress and give the final oral presentation in July-August and turn it in as a report.

#### 4) Study with Japanese students

Besides courses mentioned 1), students can take undergraduate courses that are offered for Japanese students depending on their Japanese skills, major fields and a report theme.

#### 5) Other elective subjects

There are some Japanese courses or courses distinctive of Okinawa available for students to study with other international students.

#### 【Japanese courses】 \*International students only

Subject title	Description
Listening C1F, C1S	To understand Japanese culture through TV programs
Reading C1F, C1S	To develop reading skills
Business Japanese C2F, C2S	To learn Japanese and communication skills in business situation

【Special subjects of Okinawa】 \*Study with Japanese students.

Subject Title	Description
Karate	Learn Karate, the martial arts originated in Okinawa, students will develop physical functions.
Introduction of Okinawan language	Learn basic knowledge about Okinawan language and practice basic sentence patterns through conversation.
Nature and people in Ryukyu	Through the key words such as “tropical,” “coral reef,” and “islands,” discussion will be held focusing on nature and people.

### 8. Annual schedule

Late Sep. Arrive in Okinawa

Oct. Orientation,

Field trip to *market in Naha*

Nov. Party for international students in Okinawa

Appreciation of *Kumiodori*, visiting a newspaper company

Dec. Global festival, Tea ceremony

Jan. Visit a *awamori* company, Wearing kimono

Feb. Okinawa prefectural speech contest

Mar. Museum tour

Apr. Mid-term presentation

May Study tour of broadcasting company

Jun. Peace study field trip to old battlefields & Peace Memorial Park

Aug. Paper submission, Final presentation, Closing ceremony

Late Aug. Return to home country



### 9. System of instruction

Students belong to Faculty of Global and Regional Studies under the supervisors below and an instructor in the Global Education Center can be the students' advisors. If needed, individual instruction will be given over and above regular classes. Additionally research plans, surveys and research will

be conducted under the supervision of the instructor. Individual studies should be presented orally and in written form.

#### 【Program Coordinators】

Naomi Kinjo

Professor of Faculty of Global and Regional Studies

Major: Teaching Japanese as a second language

Katsuya Kinjo

Professor of Faculty of Global and Regional Studies

Major: Linguistics

Seiko Tomari

Assistant Professor of Global Education Center

Major: Japanese Linguistics, Teaching Japanese

### 10. Guidance system

An academic transcript and a certificate of completion will be issued for those who write a academic report or equivalent level report(s) after the completion of the designated classes (336 hours or more throughout the year).

#### 【Credit acknowledgement and transfer】

Acknowledgement of credits is at the discretion of the students' home university.



### ■ Housing

Students of this program are usually assigned rooms in the dormitory with Japanese students. A bed, a desk, a chair, and a locker are installed in each room.



Students share a shower room, a laundry, a lounge and vending machines.

#### 【Cost of accommodation (per month)】

	Type of accommodations	Room rent	Water&Gas Charges	Electric Charges
dormitory	“Ippan-to”	¥4,300	¥4,400	According to quantity Consumed
	“Konju-to”	¥4,700	¥8,400	
	“Shin konju-to”	¥15,000	¥4,000	
Private apartment house		Approx. ¥35,000		

※There will be a new revised rent table in the 2020 academic year.

### ■ Follow-up for graduates

1. Those who finished our program are now...

Working at Japanese corporations (within Japan and abroad), running a trade company, graduate students at University of the Ryukyus or other Japanese universities, employed as a member of JET program, working as translators

2. Follow-up activities:

1) Each of the students keep in touch with each other via SNS (e.g. Facebook)

2) The web site and Facebook page of the Japanese Studies Reunion, *Nikkensei Dousoukai*, has the record of the past students' activities.

### ■ Contact

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○University of the Ryukyus web site: <http://www.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/>

○Global Education Center web site: <http://isu.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/?lang=en> (available both in Japanese and English)

○Nikkensei page: <http://isu.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/future-students/nikkensei/>