



University of the Ryukyus (Okinawa)



Learning environment surrounded with blue sky, blue sea and colorful nature.

■ Introduction

① Feature and outline

1) Feature and history

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. Locating in the subtropical region enables the various and fruitful studies on the surrounding ocean, nature, culture, and languages. The university is comprised of 7 faculties and 8 graduate schools.

Faculties	Graduate Schools
Humanities and Social Sciences	Humanities and Social Sciences
Global and Regional Studies	Tourism Sciences
Education	Education
Science	Engineering and Science
Engineering	
Agriculture	Agriculture
Medicine	Medicine
	Health Sciences
	Law

2) Number of Staff • Students (as of May 2019)

Faculty members: 826

Undergraduate students: 7,140

Graduate students: 860



② International Exchange (as of May 2019)

Number of academic exchange agreements:
115 university (40 country/area)

③ Number of international students and students of Japanese Studies Program in the past 3 years (as of October 2019)

2019: International Students 292 (45 country/area)

JSS Students 4 (4 country/area)

2018: International Students 296 (48 country/area)

JSS Students 4 (3 country/area)

2017: International Student 288 (46 country/area)

JSS Students 7 (7 country/area)

④ Characteristics of Okinawa

Okinawa is the southernmost prefecture of Japan, and for about 450 years, from 1429 to 1879, Okinawa was one nation called Ryukyus Kingdom. And until 1972, Okinawa had been under the U.S. military administration right after the World War II. Because of different historic background from the mainland Japan, Okinawa is a unique cultural region with own music, dance style, entertainment, language, food and etc.. Okinawa is also famous for warm temperature and beautiful nature which provide foremost resorts in Japan. In addition to those, it is famous for the birthplace of Karate. If you study in Okinawa, you

could surely experience different perspective of Japan, not "Japan" as the whole stereotypical cultural area. Let's get a hand on experience of Okinawa.

■ Course description

① Purpose of the course

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

② Characteristics of the course

1) Students can not only deepen their knowledge of Japanese society and culture in general but also Okinawan society and culture by focusing on on comparison between society and culture.

2) Students are educated to acquire a higher-level command of Japanese, reading comprehension, composition skill, Japanese linguistics and society, technique of cultural study, which are all required for their research.

3) Students receive guidance from professionals, which enables them to gain a deep insight into their field of interests. Students can study simultaneously as many related subjects as possible.

4) Through various approaches such as visiting rural educational institutes, cultural facilities, or participating in cultural events, students can learn about Japan and Okinawa.

5) In addition to studying Japan in classes, students can learn about Japan through campus life by interacting with Japanese students.

③ Number of students accepted

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



④ Qualifications and conditions of applicants

Those wishing to enroll in this course must be 3rd year undergraduate students or above enrolled in a university outside of Japan. An applicant should be majoring in Japanese Studies with a good academic standing. It is preferred that an applicant should have passed the Japanese Proficiency Test Level N2 or have equivalent ability.

⑤ Achievement target

- 1) To be able to write and give a presentation in Japanese like Japanese native university students.
- 2) To be able to acquire skills with which they study Japan and Japanese culture.

⑥ Period of the course

Oct. 1, 2020 - Aug. 31, 2021

Completion/closing ceremony is scheduled on August 28 (2019 ceremony was held on Aug. 16)
Note: The students are required to arrive in Japan in the last week of September (designated date).

⑦ Scholarship period

October 2020 to August 2021



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

Dec. Global festival, Tea ceremony

Jan. Visit an 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 Peace Memorial Park, Japanese sweets making experience

Aug. Paper submission, Final presentation, Closing ceremony

Late Aug. Return to home country



⑨ Course Requirement

To complete the course, students are required to take designated classes (448 hours or more/year, Required subjects 20 credits, Electives 8 credits). Also, submitting an academic report, which must be approved by the member of the course committee and the academic advisor, is required for completion of the course.

[Course Completion]

Students will take classes "Basic Seminar I or II" and "Specific Study I or II" in a week with instructions from advisors. Students will give oral reports regularly during class hours to show their progress. Students are also required to give a final oral presentation, which will be submitted in a written report, to present their academic achievement in July or August.

[Credit Approval]

Students are credited for the taken classes. Academic transcript will be issued for the completed classes with course description and syllabi.

⑩ Subject Outline • Feature

1) Features of subjects

All classes are given only in Japanese, and students are expected to develop Japanese language skills and broaden their perspective. In principal, classes run for 16 weeks in both fall and spring semesters. For each semester, students must study 224 hours (112 class periods).

2) Subjects

I) Required courses (Each semester 80 class periods, 160 hr) · content

Subject Title	Description
Basic Seminar I, II	Learning report writing, ways to use the library, and presentation.
Specific Study I, II	Students are encouraged to study their own study topics related to Japan/Japanese culture.
Academic Writing I, II	Intensive learning of academic writing.
Special Study of Japanese Culture I, II	Through traditional culture, students are required to analyze various modern phenomena. Research trip included.

Subject Title	Description
Special Study of Ryukyuan Culture I, II	To learn what Okinawan culture is by means of studying history from Ryukyuan Dynasty to the present day of Okinawa. Research trip included.

II) Elective courses (Each semester 8 class periods or more, 12 hr) · content

※Elective courses (1)

Students are required to take at least one subject

Subject Title	Description
International Affairs I, II	Reviewing the various events which occurred in the last fifty years of the 20th century, we will consider 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 "Bushido."

※Elective courses (2)

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

Subject Title	Description
Japanese Grammar Seminar I, II	To observe and find regularities in Japanese and to deepen students' knowledge of Japanese linguistics.
Introduction to Japanese Literature I, II	To learn expression of vocabulary used in literature and encourage students to understand the story lines referring to the social background.

※Note: Other courses

Students can take not only Japanese classes in which they study with other international students but also subjects about Okinawa. (Refer to 4) below)

3) Research 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.

[Experience] *Kumiodori* (Okinawan traditional performing arts), Traditional tea ceremony, Okinawan tea ceremony, Japanese sweets making, Wearing kimono & yukata, etc.

[Internship] Those who wish to apply for an 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, junior high, or high schools.

4) Study with Japanese students

Students can take undergraduate courses that are offered for Japanese students depending on their Japanese skills, major fields and a report theme. Taking these courses will enable to study with Japanese students.



[Subjects about Okinawa]

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.

Subject Title	Description
Nature of Ryukyu	Through the key words such as "tropical," "coral reefs" and "islands," discussion will be held focusing on nature and people.

① System of Instruction

Students will belong to Faculty of Global and Regional Studies under the below supervisors, who would guide students in both their studies and daily life. As for technical fields, other faculty members from Faculty of Global and Regional Studies and Global Education Center could supervise students.

Also, a tutor, Japanese student, will support each student in study and campus life.

[Program Coordinators]

Naomi Kinjo Faculty of Global and Regional Studies Professor (Teaching Japanese as a second language)

Katsuya Kinjo Faculty of Global and Regional Studies Professor (Linguistics, Teaching Japanese)

Seiko Tomari Global Education Center Assistant Professor (Japanese Linguistics, Teaching Japanese)

■ Housing

[Room Equipment] Desk, Chair, Shelf

[Sharing Equipment] Shower room, Laundry, Wi-Fi, Lounge

※ Mattress, sheets, pillow and other beddings are not provided.

○Students of this program are assigned rooms in university dormitory with Japanese students.

○Okinawa is livable place because of low cost of living.



(Photo: Shinkonju-to)

[Cost of Accommodation (per month)]

		Rent	Maint. Fee	Electric Charge
Dormitory	Ippan-to	¥4,300	¥4,400	Charged according to amount used
	Konju-to	¥4,700	¥8,400	
	Shinkonju-to	¥15,000	¥4,000	
Apartment (private housing)		Approx. ¥35,000		

*The rent will be changed in the 2020 academic year.

■ Follow-up for Graduates

① Career Course

1) Employment: Japanese corporations (Japan/abroad), Running a trade company, Interpreter/guide, Translator, Member of JET program, Foreign language teacher, Faculty member/researcher of university, Japanese TV personality

2) Higher Education: Post-graduate students at the University of the Ryukyus or other graduate schools (as MEXT students)

② Follow-up Activities

Connected with alumni at the web site and Facebook page of Global Education Center.

■ Contact

<Section>

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Global Education Center, Nikkensei page:
<http://isu.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/future-students/nikkensei/?lang=en>
University of the Ryukyus:
<http://www.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/>