



Gunma University



Promoting the Understanding of Local Japanese Society through Education and Social & Information Studies

■ Overview of Gunma University

① Outline

(1) Outline and History

Gunma University was established in 1949 and is located roughly 100 km northwest of Tokyo. It consists of Cooperative Faculty of Education, Faculty of Social and Information Studies, Faculty of Medicine, School of Science and Technology, Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation, University Library, University Hospital, Gunma University International Center, and so on.

Cooperative Faculty of Education aims to educate students who can think globally and develop the society in the future. In order to realize that, it advances both theoretical and practical education/research on objectives, methodology, and contents of education concerning human growth and development. Cooperative Faculty of Education provides teacher training courses, and its students are divided into four fields and 13 majors and attain professional knowledge and technique as school teachers.

The Faculty of Social and Information Studies promotes the interdisciplinary field of social and information studies, which looks at an individual and society as a whole from the perspective of "information". The goal of the studies is to analyze the social system surrounding the human communication and to clarify the future issues of the information society. In order to do this, the Faculty has advanced cross-disciplinary, international education and research, striving for the integration of humanities, social sciences and information sciences.

Gunma University International Center (GUIC) provides international students with Japanese language, Japanology and advises them about their studies. In addition, students are able to understand more about Japan through the study of the martial arts, Japanese painting, and traditional Japanese music.

(2) Number of faculties members and students

(as of May 1, 2019) Faculty members 901
Undergraduate students 5,111 Graduate students 1,284

② International Exchange Data (as of May 1, 2019)

International students: 257 (23 countries and 1 region)
Academic Exchange agreements: 133 (32 countries and 1 region)

③ The number of students attended this program

International students / Japanese Studies students
19 yr. 257 / 5 18 yr. 280 / 4 17 yr. 247 / 5

④ Feature of Maebashi City

Surrounded on three sides by majestic mountain ranges, Maebashi City is located in the northeast corner of the Kanto Plain. Within a beautiful landscape, there are many hot springs and beautiful natural scenery throughout the four seasons. It takes two hours by train from Tokyo. The population of foreign residents has been increasing rapidly in the last ten years and Gunma University plays an important role in promoting activities involving these multicultural societies.

■ Contents of the "J Program"

① Aim of the "J Program"

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

② Feature of the "J Program"

Gunma University offers the "J Program" for Japanese Studies students. The aim of this program is to provide

students with the knowledge needed to learn about Japan while also raising their level of Japanese language proficiency. By attending various classes and events, the students are presented with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language, culture, and society. The students are enrolled at either the Faculty of Education, or the Faculty of Social and Information Studies, where they can also pursue and advance their own specialized fields of study.

There are many exchange students (16 students from 6 partner universities in 2019). Some of them possess level N1 of the JLPT while others are Graduate school level students. Gunma University provides, Japanese painting, and traditional Japanese music (Koto & Shamisen) led by specialists in those areas.

③ Enrollment quota: 7 students

(3 students from the Japanese Embassy,
4 from Gunma University)

④ Qualifications and Conditions of Applicants

(1) Students who have the Japanese language ability to understand lectures in their fields of specialization. Students are expected to have the ability to pass the JLPT at Level N2 or Level N1.

(2) Students who have majors related to Japanese Language and/or Japanese Culture.

⑤ Goal of students

At the final stage, students are expected to be able to make a research report in Japanese and make a presentation and debate regarding their own research.

Traditional Japanese instruments



⑥ Training Period (Enrollment Period)

Early October 2020 – Late September 2021

⑦ Scholarship Period

October 2020 – September 2021

⑧ Annual events

Late Sep. Arrival in Japan

Oct. Opening ceremony, Orientations,
Special health check for international students
Excursion for international students

Dec. Exchange party for international students

Jan. Japanese traditional music concert

Mar. Japanese traditional culture: Experiencing the
tea ceremony, calligraphy, flower arrangement

Apr. Health check

Aug. Presentation of the J Program
Japanese traditional music concert

Sep. Submission of the thesis

Late Sep. Leaving Japan

⑨ Requirements for Completing the Course

A Certificate of Completion will be issued after completing 420 hours of required classes, more than 60 hours of selected classes, making an excellent final presentation, and by maintaining a perfect attendance record. At the end of the course, a committee chaired by GUIC professors and administrators evaluate, judge and render the final decision regarding the students' completion of the course and overall performance.

Title		Fall Semester (Oct.–Mar.)	Spring Semester (Apr.–Sep.)
Japanese	Selective Classes	4 classes / 4 credits (120 hours)	4 classes / 4 credits (120 hours)
General Education and Undergraduate Faculty		6 classes / 6–12 credits (180 hours)	
Special Lecture Japanology *1	Required Classes	1 class / 2 credits (30 hours)	
Research Work *2 (Individual guidance)			1 class (30 hours)

Required Classes (2 classes, 60 hours)

*1: 14 professors have a special lecture from the perspective of their major and Japanese Studies.

*2: Students have to present their research and submit a final paper at the end of the 2nd term.

⑩ Outline and Characteristics of Classes

1) Characteristics of classes

In J program, international students can improve their Japanese language skills. They will acquire knowledge necessary for conducting research related to Japan and various knowledge of Japanese language and Japanese culture that is useful in the real world. They will also participate in various activities and deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and society. At the end of the program, they should make an oral presentation and write a paper in Japanese on their research topic.

2) Classes

I) Required Classes

Classes are conducted for 15 weeks in both a 1st and 2nd term time frame. Students attend the classes relating to Japanology, Traditional Culture, General Education and Undergraduate Faculty courses. The required classes, which amount to 510 hours are listed as follows:

II) Selective Classes (14 classes, 420 hours)

II -1) General Education “Japanese and Japanology”

Title	Semester	Number of hours	Outline
Japanese A	fall / spring	60	Listening, Communication, Presentation Practice
Japanese B	spring	30	Reading, Writing
Japanese D	spring	30	Reading, Writing
Japanese E	fall	30	Reading
Japanese F	fall / spring	60	Academic Japanese Reading
Japanese G	fall / spring	60	Academic Japanese Writing
Japanese H	spring	30	Academic Writing
Japanese I	spring	30	Listening, Communication, Presentation Practice
Japanology A	spring	30	Japanese Culture and Society
Japanology B	fall	30	Japanese Politics and Society
Practical Study	fall / spring	60	Traditional Japanese instruments
Practical Study	fall / spring	60	Japanese Painting

II -2) Students must attend their specialized subject classes in the Faculty of Education and/or Faculty of Social and Information Studies, or General Education classes.

3) Visits and Exchange with local citizens

-Visits-

We will have an Excursion for International and Japanese students in the Gunma region, which runs for two days with an overnight stay. As part of Practical Study of Japanese Painting, we also have a day trip to museums in Tokyo, Chiba and within Gunma.



Tokyo study tour

-Exchange with local citizens-

J program students can attend lectures conducted in the local Gunma region as part of the "Japanese B" class, where students will learn effective presentation methods. Students can also join a Hosting program and international events conducted by the Maebashi International Association.

4) Co-study with Japanese Students

We prepare some "NIHON JIJO (Japanology/ Japanese Society and Culture)" classes in a liberal arts education.



International Camp



They are open to both international and Japanese students, so both lots of students can discuss Japanese culture and current situation, and deepen their international and cross-cultural understanding.

① Instruction System

- (1) Coordinator: Prof. Takehito NODA
- (2) Supervisors: Students can receive academic advice and individual guidance regarding their research conducted by lecture and seminar. In cooperation with related faculties, students organize a plan of their research work. In addition, teaching staff and tutors of the Faculty, Japanese language and Japanese Studies, cooperate together in the program and assist students.

■ Accommodation

It may be possible to make a reservation for a single room at Gunma University's International House, which is located approximately 4km from the main campus. As the rooms are often fully occupied by undergraduate and graduate students, a reasonably priced rental apartment near campus will be made available to students. Single room cost is 30,000 yen per month. Students will also need to also consider paying an additional 10,000-20,000 yen per month for service charges such as electricity, gas, water, Internet, and mobile phone.

■ Follow-up

We will make a database of alumni graduates. We will offer support for graduates who wish to continue their studies and apply for graduate school in Japan.



Presentation J Program Students



2019-2020 year J Program Students

■ Inquiries

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