

Global Challenge of Gunma: its nature, tradition and contemporary society

Online Summer Programme 2022 at Gunma University, Japan

Application Information

1. Purpose

This online summer programme will be opened to both undergraduate and postgraduate students who are currently enrolled at Gunma University's overseas partner universities. The programme aims to provide students with an opportunity to develop their understandings in Japanese local society under the circumstance of Coronavirus, science, culture, language and Gunma University by participating in the intensive language and culture courses.

2. Concept and Course

Gunma Prefecture, which has rich beautiful natural environment and specific industries, is located in the center of Japan. However, as well as in other regions in the country, Gunma is confronting many social problems and challenges, such as natural disasters, lifestyle-related diseases, multicultural coexistence and the succession of traditional culture. Therefore, in this programme, participants will be invited to discuss those social issues affecting Japan and think about possible solutions by learning about Gunma's society, people, natural environment, culture and experiencing new projects related to regional revitalization.

English Course: *Study of Japan* in Gunma

This course consists of lectures in *Study of Japan*, project work, group discussion and presentation. Additionally, there will also be an opportunity for the participants to have interaction with Japanese students. Finally, students are required to present their research projects in a final presentation.

For those who have attended all the lectures, project works, final presentation and student's interactions, a Certificate of Participation will be awarded to all participants at the end of the programme.

3. Method

Lectures and project works will be delivered via Zoom. Skype also will be used when you have special questions about this programme.

4. Requirements

- Undergraduate and postgraduate students from Gunma University's international partner universities and other institutions designated by Gunma University (a certificate to prove Japanese language proficiency is not required).
- Students who are interested in Japanese society, science, and *Study of Japan*.

- Students who understand English well and have sufficient English language proficiency to carry out project work.
- Students who are available to attend all the lectures, project works, final presentation and student's interactions during the period of July 5 to July 13, 2022.

5. Programme Outline

Period: Tuesday, 5 July 2022 - Wednesday, 13 July 2022 (Not include Saturday and Sunday)

Course size: Maximum number of students in the course is 30

Minimum number of students in the course is 5

Important Notice: As a general rule, up to five applicants from one university are able to be accepted. If the number of applicants exceeds the maximum, the number of participants will be determined by lottery after application. Also, if the number of applicants is less than the capacity, we will accept more than 6 applicants per university. Universities that wish to have six or more applicants must prioritize those applicants.

NO Participation fee

6. Course schedule

(Japanese Time. Temporary. The fixed course schedule will be announced in May)

Online Preorientation: 24 June 2021 (Friday), 14:20-15:50 (Japanese Time)

	12:40-14:10	14:20-15:50	16:00-17:30	17:40-19:10
5 July (Tuesday)		Welcome(The Director of International Centre, Professor Tanaka), Virtual Campus Tour	Course Orientation	Icebreaking (Free talk and conversation)
6 July(Wednesday)	Study of Japan 1: Diabetes Mellitus-Why so many cases in Gunma? (Professor Noriyuki Koibuchi, Faculty of Medicine)	Study of Japan 2: Silkworm: past history and future plans in Gunma and Japan(Professor Shigeki Takeda, School of Science and Technology)	Interaction with Gunma Students(English Café) Break 10 minutes	
7 July(Thursday)	Study of Japan3: The Nakanojyo Biennale 2021-An effort of promote regional revitalization (Artist Hiroshi Miyazaki)	Study of Japan4: Traditional Japanese Theatres in Gunma and Beyond Professor Michiko Suemastu (Faculty of Informatics)	Project work 1: Break 10 minutes	
8 July(Friday)	Study of Japan 5: Japan's Hot Spring Towns and architectures (Dr. Yunlian Chen, International Centre)	Study of Japan 6: Gunma's Hot Spring Towns and architectures (Dr. Yunlian Chen, International Centre)	Project work 2: Break 10 minutes	
9 July(Saturday)	holiday			
10 July(Sunday)	holiday			
11 July(Monday)	Study of Japan 7: Gunma's nature and society: The relationship between Mountain Akagi and people's way of life (Dr. Yunlian Chen, International Centre)	Conclude the course (Yunlian Chen)	Project work 3 :Break 10 minutes	
12 July(Tuesday)	Project work 4: Prepare for the final presentation Break 10 minutes		Interaction with Summer Students(Global Café) Break 10 Minutes	
13 July(Wednesday)	Project work 5: Prepare for the inal presentation	Break	Final Presentation& Closing Message (Vice Director Professor Noda)	

- 1) For the project work, students are required to discuss the issues brought up in the lectures and summarize the knowledge you have gained about the characteristic of Gunma's regional society through group discussion.
- 2) For the final presentation, students are required to conclude this one-week-programme and present the new way of observing and analyzing the global challenge in Gunma. The presentation shall be the group presentation on basis of your group's discussion and journal.

Lecture Summaries: *Study of Japan*

Title and Instructor	Summary
<p>Study of Japan 1 Diabetes Mellitus-Why so many cases in Gunma?</p> <p>Professor Noriyuki Koibuchi Gunma University, Faculty of Medicine</p>	<p>Diabetes mellitus is one of the most common lifestyle-related diseases in the world. Although Gunma has very rich nature and healthy environment, the population of diabetes patients is much higher than that in other regions. We usually consider that clean air, water and nature make people healthy. However, the result is opposite in Gunma. In my talk, I briefly discuss the mechanisms causing diabetes and disclose the secret why we have so many diabetes patients in Gunma.</p>
<p>Study of Japan 2 Silkworm: past history and future plans in Gunma and Japan</p> <p>Professor Shigeki Takeda Gunma University, School of Science and Technology</p>	<p>The silkworm is one of the insects and makes cocoons at the puppy stage. Silk is made from silkworm cocoons. Japan was the world's largest silk producer in the early 1900s. In the 21st century, several types of silk with new features and various useful proteins are produced in silkworms using genetic engineering techniques. This lecture will introduce the characteristics of silkworms, the history of silk production in Gunma, and the application of transgenic technology to silkworms.</p>
<p>Study of Japan 3</p> <p>The Nakanojo Biennale 2021- An effort of promote regional revitalization</p> <p>Artist Hiroshi Miyazaki</p>	<p>Local cities in Japan are facing a declining birthrate, an aging population and a depopulation of local communities. In order to change this situation, various regions in Japan have invited artists from all over the world to hold contemporary art festivals in order to promote regional revitalization. The Nakanojo Biennale in Gunma Prefecture is one of such efforts. In this lecture, the artist will explain their support for the operation of the Nakanojo Biennale, the production environment and process of the exhibits, and the actual patterns and effects of the art festival on the community.</p>
<p>Study of Japan 4</p> <p>Traditional Japanese Theatres in Gunma and Beyond</p> <p>Professor Michiko Suemastu Gunma University (Faculty of Informatics)</p>	<p>In the Edo period (1603-1868), traditional theatres such as <i>bunraku</i> and <i>kabuki</i> constituted an important part of popular culture in Gunma. This lecture will focus on <i>kabuki</i>, reviewing its development from popular village entertainment to lavish star-studded spectacle in the city of Edo, early modern capital of Japan. We will also see how <i>kabuki</i> today is embracing cutting-edge technology to stage its updated versions, 'Super Kabuki' and 'Cho Kabuki'.</p>
<p>Study of Japan 5</p> <p>Japan's Hot Spring Towns and architectures (Dr. Yunlian Chen, International Centre)</p>	<p>Regarding to the hot springs in Japan, the ingredients and efficacy of the source or the culture of <i>toji</i> have received many attentions. From ancient times, however, the Japanese have focused on designing hot spring cities, hot spring hotels, and different types of bathing facilities. It includes the big theme of "water environment, cities, architecture and people.". In this class, from the viewpoint of "hot spring city and architecture," we would like to explore the hot spring culture of Japan, which has many hot spring resources, using Dogo, Beppu and Atami as examples.</p>

<p>Study of Japan 6</p> <p>Gunma's hot spring towns and their architectures</p> <p>Dr. Yunlian Chen Gunma University, International Center</p>	<p>Gunma Prefecture have very rich hot spring resources and is one of the best hot spring prefectures in Japan. Among them, Ikaho, Kusatsu and Shima are famous hot spring resorts. These hot spring resorts are located in the mountains at high elevations and have been popular hot spring resorts and sightseeing spots since ancient times. In this lesson, we will explain the unique history of hot spring resorts in Gunma Prefecture, folktales, the natural environment, and the changes in the style of using hot springs in accordance with the changes in inn architecture.</p>
<p>Study of Japan 7</p> <p>Gunma's nature and society: The relationship between Mountain Akagi and people's way of life</p> <p>Dr. Yunlian Chen Gunma University, International Center Diabetes Mellitus-Why so many cases in Gunma?</p>	<p>The Mountain Akagi is located in the center of Gunma prefecture, which could be viewed from different angles in the city of Maebashi. Mountain Akagi is famous as an iconic urban scenery and a popular place for leisure today, however, back to the few decades ago, the faith of Akagi had shaped Gunma people's daily life and their seasonal activities during the year. Though, the faith of Akagi is gradually being forgotten, its memories are still remaining in the heart and daily habits of Gunma's people. This lecture will explore the relationship between the natural environment and people's way of life in the contemporary society of Gunma through the case study of Mountain Akagi.</p>

7. Application process

- Application: Please apply via your own university officers, who are responsible for international exchange. They will apply on your behalf via email.
- Application deadline: 31 March 2022 (Thursday).
- If the number of participants reaches to 31 March 2022 (Thursday), the application for this online summer programme will be closed following the outcome of applications.
- Announcement of selection results: Gunma University will send the results to your universities by 15 April 2022 (Friday).

8. About Gunma University

Gunma University is located about 100 km north-west of Tokyo and consists of Faculty of Cooperative Education, Faculty of Informatics (Faculty of Social and Information Studies), Faculty of Medicine, School of Science and Technology. Currently, Gunma university have about 6,500 students, of which approximately 250 are international students. There are 30 exchange students from our overseas partner universities have so far studied for half a year or one year in the academic year 2019.

9. For inquires

Officer of International Centre, Gunma University

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