



Saitama University (Saitama Prefecture)



“We offer a wide variety of subjects to choose from.”

■ University Overview

1. Summary

Located in the Tokyo metropolitan area, Saitama University fulfills its mission as a medium-sized national university. The current academic term marks the 68th year since the university's founding in 1949 as a mother school for Urawa High School, Saitama Teachers College and other affiliated institutions under Japan's former educational system. The university is steadily expanding its facilities for education and research, as it continues to grow at the heart of the scientific exchange in the region. As host to over 580 international students during the prior fiscal year, the university also helps further stimulate international exchange. The number of researchers from other countries, as well as participation by the university's instructors in international research activities are also increasing. In addition to five faculties, Saitama University has established three master's programs to further promote advanced education and research, including master's programs and courses leading to a Ph.D., where candidates for advanced degrees can engage in advanced graduate school education and research. The university has also organized a post-doctorate program, through cooperation between the Graduate School of Science and Engineering and RIKEN (Institute of Physical and Chemical Research) and is leading the way for other universities in developing new forms of graduate school education.

The Center for Japanese Language Education provides support to education, guidance and advice for international students and also gives opportunities with diverse cultural backgrounds to study Japanese, Japanese culture and heighten their understanding of Japan.

The Faculty of Liberal Arts, which includes diverse specialized fields in the humanities and social sciences, is characterized by an emphasis on interdisciplinary studies that probe and expand the boundaries between various fields of knowledge while simultaneously encouraging integrated research that is organically related to each field and providing the foundations for research in each respective field. The fundamental policy of the Faculty of Liberal Arts is to educate individuals who will be prepared with the education, flexible thinking and integrated decision-making capabilities suited to today's world, by balancing special expertise with a comprehensive, interdisciplinary outlook.

The Faculty of Economics offers 4 major courses (Economic Analysis, Global Business and Social Development, Business Innovation, and Law and Public Policy), each of which teaches some core subjects in English, as well as a study focus of 'Japanese Studies' within Social Science.

Our degrees are designed to equip students with the skills to identify, analyse and solve problems, in a unique learning environment with student diversity and low student-to-teacher ratio.



The Faculty of Education aims at fostering the individuals who will be responsible for the education leading to the next-generation society while being able to understand global developments. Students can learn the specialized education, theory and techniques needed to utilize superior educational practices as school educators and life-long learning instructors.

Although “solving problems through education” may seem to be a roundabout method, it is the most certain, productive approach. Being involved in education is also one way to address the myriad issues confronting Japan and the world.

2. International exchange program

Saitama University has international exchange agreements with more than 150 universities overseas.

3. Number of International students and Japanese Language and Culture Studies students accepted for the past 3 fiscal years

2017: International students: 580
Japanese Language and Culture

Studies: 6

2016: International students: 549
Japanese Language and Culture
Studies: 7

2015: International students: 527
Japanese Language and Culture
Studies: 5

4. Characteristics of Saitama Prefecture and Saitama City

With a population of about 7.3 million, Saitama Prefecture is an inland prefecture located at the center of the Kanto Plain bordering Tokyo, which can be reached in one hour by train. As a strategic transportation hub of eastern Japan, Saitama has experienced expansive progress as a prefecture supplying many of the key functions for Japan's capital.

The prefecture capital is Saitama City, located 20km north of Tokyo. With a population of about 1.29 million, Saitama has developed as a city of education and culture of inheriting the tradition from the Edo era and is frequently noted as an urban residential center offering convenient, comfortable living, with a well maintained transportation system, a lush green environment and active promotion of sports activities.

■ Outline of the Course

1. Purpose of the Course

(a) A course conducted mainly about Japan and Japanese culture with supplementary study to improve Japanese language proficiency.

2. Characteristics of the Course

This course seeks to study mostly Japanese language between October and March as the first semester. And the students continue to study Japanese between April and August as the second semester, and expand knowledge of Japanese culture which is their specialized field. The course emphasizes fostering advanced specialists such as internationally-minded people who become a bridge between Japan and their home countries.

3. Number of students to be accepted: 9

(Embassy recommendation 6, University recommendation 3)

4. Applicant qualifications and conditions

Applicants who wish to attend courses must fulfill the following requirements (1) and (2).

(1) Japanese language proficiency

Applicants must be able to discuss, read and write about general topics, and must be able to comprehend the content of the courses in which they will major while listening to class subject material in Japanese.

Applicants preferably will have passed at least the N2 level of Japanese Language Proficiency Test conducted by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and The Japan Foundation.

(2) Individuals who will major in Japanese Studies, or individuals who will study in fields related to Japanese Studies while pursuing a major in another field.

5. Course aims

Students expand their specialized knowledge and skills related to Japanese language and culture. Moreover, they will be able to gather information in Japanese and get more advanced writing and presentation skills in Japanese.

Students seek to lay a strong foundation as a Japan-related expert in their home countries in the future.

Students learn a local character and culture of the town of SAITAMA.

6. Course term

-Term 3: October 2018 to November 2018

-Term 4: November 2018 to March 2019

-Term 1: April 2019 to June 2019

-Term 2: June 2019 to August 2019

We issue diplomas on August 2019.

7. Outline of Course subjects

(1) Students are able to take subjects which match their Japanese language skills, specialized fields and interests.

(2) Students are to take more than 7 subjects in a week and 14 subjects in a year offered by each faculties, Japanese Education Center, Education and Student Services Bureau.

(3) A supervisor who belongs to a faculty related to student's specialized field or academic interests will give advice for your registration and course selections.

○ Required subjects

There are no particular required subjects because students can freely take subjects that match their Japanese level and interests.

○ The subjects containing educational field trips
in the region

Students are given an opportunity of a field trip to study Japanese culture if they take a major subject offered by the faculty of Liberal Arts. For instance, visit to Edo-Tokyo Museum, Yoshiwara (Asakusa) and Kabuki-za theatre (Ginza, former Kobiki cho quarters), etc.

○ Other subjects

The followings are the subjects which most Japanese Language and Culture Studies Students take as an example.

a) Course subjects students can attend

① Intensive Japanese Course

Japanese Education Center provides comprehensive courses on the Japanese language. Level of your proficiency will be determined based on the result of the placement test which you take during the orientation period.

② Humanities, and Social Science Subjects as General Education

(Examples) Japanese History, Japanese Language, Japanese Literature, Culture and Education, Introduction to Modern Economics

③ Subjects related to Japanese/Japanese culture offered by the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Economics

Students must attend at least 7 subjects each term (at least 14 subjects in a year) mainly from the courses in ①, ② and ③.

b) Total course hours

1 subject is composed of 15 classes during each term (16 classes including the exam).
※ Each class is 90 minutes.

c) Guidance

Japanese Language and Culture Studies Students will be required to take a placement test administered by the university, and be advised based on that results.

The students will complete courses offered at Saitama University under the guidance of their supervisors.

8. The annual events

- Saitama University Festival “Mutsume sai” in November
- Students introduce their home country and culture as a lecturer at Saitama University Junior High School.
- Home stay and Home visit (the time depends on the academic year)
- Students can attend any exchange events offered by International Student Society of Saitama University (ISSSU) after enrollment.

9. Faculty advisor system and concerned professors

- Responsible Professor: Supervisor
- Cooperating Professors: Professors in charge of international students in the faculties, professors in the Japanese Education Center, and professors in charge of subjects offered.
- Administration: Office of each Faculty and the Office of International Affairs

10. Course completion requirements, issue of Certificate of Completion and course credits

- Saitama University will award course credits for subjects attended when students have satisfied all course requirements, including number of classes attended and examination results.
- The university will also confer a Certificate of Completion to students who complete 14 or more subjects.

■ Accommodations

Saitama University's International House includes 98 rooms for single students, 55 rooms for married couples and 19 rooms for families, and can accommodate about 170 individuals.

Japanese Studies Students are given priority to live at International House.

The date of leaving will be in late August.

Room rent of single room of International House (As of April 1, 2017)

Rent(monthly) : 5,900JPY
Administration Expenses(monthly) : 7,940JPY
Guarantee Deposit(monthly) :
12,000JPY × 5months

Room Cleaning Cost : 20,000~25,000JPY
Rental bedclothes(monthly) : 3,600JPY

※Rent and other charges are subject to change from April 2018.

■ A follow-up to the students who completed the program

The Alumni association of Saitama University was organized in 2010.

The university will adjust a follow-up as well as Japanese Language and Culture Studies Program students who completed and returned their home countries.

Inquiries

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<http://www.saitama-u.ac.jp>

International webpage of University in Japanese :

<http://www.saitama-u.ac.jp/international/index.html>

University webpage in English :

<http://en.saitama-u.ac.jp/>