

STEP-YU

Short-Term Exchange Programs at Yamagata University

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1. Yamagata University

Yamagata University has six departments with twelve majors and seven post-graduate courses. It has four campuses¹. The total number of students on all four campuses is about 9,000. As one of the leading universities in the Tohoku (northern Japan) area, it and its theme, Yamagata University is very active in developing human resources that will play a major role in the next generation. The university aims to pursue and develop knowledge and work towards the prosperity of the local communities.

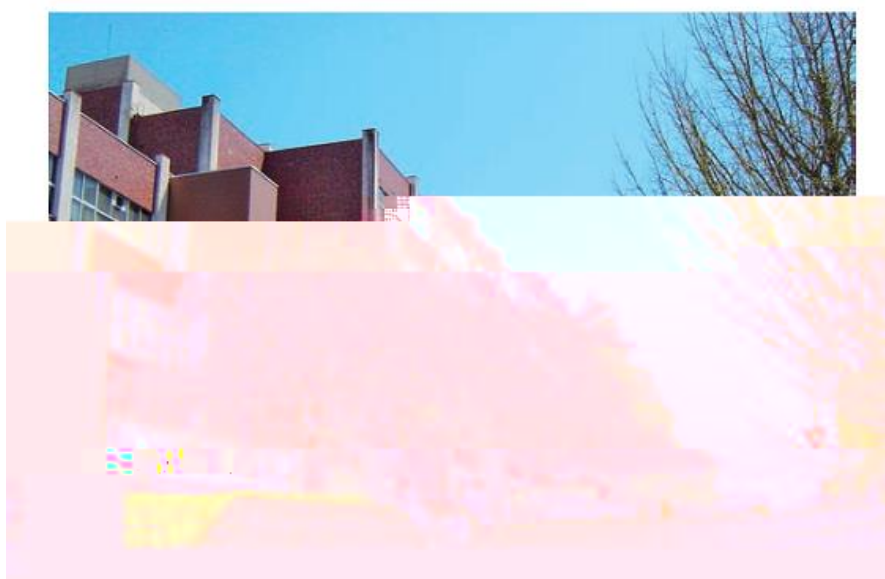
As of May 1, 2017, 226 students from 18 countries are studying at Yamagata University. We have exchange agreements with 146 universities in 40 countries, offering international educational experience for both students and faculties.

2. STEP-YU

Yamagata University offers two short-term programs for international students, giving students from universities on exchange agreement the opportunity to study here while being registered at their home schools. These programs are called STEP-YU (Short-Term Exchange Program at Yamagata University).

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---|
| General (<i>Ippan</i>) Exchange Program | 1 semester or 1 year | Students from universities on exchange agreement with Yamagata University |
| Yamagata University Japan Studies Program (JSP) | 1 semester or 1 year | |

The number of students exempted by the host university from paying tuition and the credit transfer are set in the agreement between Yamagata University and the partner universities. You can find a list of these partner universities on our website.



¹These are located in three cities of Yamagata Prefecture. Kojirakawa Campus has the Faculty of Literature and Social Sciences, Faculty of Education, Art and Science, Faculty of Science, and Institute of Arts and Sciences. Iida Campus has the Faculty of Medicine which is located within Yamagata City. The Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Agriculture are located in Yonezawa City and Tsuruoka City, respectively.

3. STEP-YU Program Features & Aims

(1) General (Ippan) Exchange Program

This program aims to give both undergraduate and graduate students of various countries an opportunity to improve their Japanese language ability and their understanding of Japan, as well as their special studies and research. It offers regular courses given in Japanese in our six faculties. Enrolment is possible in all faculties and post-graduate courses. Depending on the exchange agreement with the partner institution, enrolment may be limited to undergraduate students.

Undergraduate students and graduate students of Liberal Arts whose language level equals at least level N2 of the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), can take regular courses together with Japanese students, and will be expected to turn in adequate results during their short-term study.

Graduate students of science are expected to be fluent enough in Japanese to master everyday life even if they perform their research in English. Therefore, students with low proficiency in the Japanese language are strongly advised to participate in Japanese language training both prior to coming to Japan and while at Yamagata University. Students are sometimes advised to change programs after application. For the possibility of performing research in English, please ask the faculty directly in which you want to enroll.

The program runs from

April 1, 2018 to either September 30, 2018, or March 31, 2019

October 1, 2018 to either March 31, 2019, or September 30, 2019

Undergraduate or graduate students should be enrolled in a university. The student must be at least in his/her second year of undergraduate study at the time of application. Japanese or English ability must be sufficient for smooth participation in university life. We will not be able to take any students who have graduated from their home university or who will graduate from their home university during the period of their study at Yamagata.

Notes Those who wish to take specialized subject classes or do research in a specialized field at the Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Engineering (Engineering) or Graduate School of Organic Materials Science, please apply according to the conditions of the STEP-YUFE application program which is the corresponding program of the Faculty of Engineering. In that case, please use the STEP-YUFE program application form. Please download the application guidelines for STEP-YUFE from the [Information for international students] link on the Yamagata University Faculty of Engineering IEC website (<http://yu-eng-iec.sakura.ne.jp/en/>).

(2) Yamagata University Japan Studies Program (JSP)

This program aims to give undergraduate and graduate students of various countries an opportunity to further their understanding of Japan. In order to advance not only language ability, but also the understanding of Japan, the lectures are offered in English. The students will be assigned to one of the faculties on Kojirakawa campus.

The program runs from

April 1, 2018 to either September 30, 2018, or March 31, 2019

October 1, 2018 to either March 31, 2019, or September 30, 2019

Undergraduate or graduate students should be enrolled in a university. The student must be at least in his/her second year of undergraduate study at the time of application. In principle, students are expected to have participated in at least 150 hours (one year) of Japanese language study at a teaching institution. Nonnative English speakers are asked to submit their official results from TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS or other English Language Tests taken (CET is also acceptable). We will not be able to take any students who have graduated from their home university or who will graduate from their home university during the period of their study at Yamagata.

4. Content of Classes

(1) General (Ippan) Exchange Program

Japanese Language Course (Yamagata City Area):

All students will participate in Japanese Language class at his/her level depending on the Placement Test. The following courses are for Spring Semester 2017. One lesson lasts for 90 minutes.

| <i>Level</i> | <i>Course</i> | <i>Subject(lessons per week/credits)</i> |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Lower Elementary | Elementary Japanese 1 | Integrated Skills (4/3), Reading (1/1), Writing (1/1) |
| Upper Elementary | Elementary Japanese 2 | Integrated Skills (4/3), Reading (1/1), Writing (1/1) |
| Lower Intermediate | Intermediate Japanese1 (Spring Semester) | Integrated Skills (4/4), Reading (1/1), Writing (1/1) |
| Upper Intermediate | Intermediate Japanese2 (Spring Semester) | Integrated Skills (4/4), Reading (1/1), Writing (1/1) |
| Common Subjects | | Kanji 1 (1/1), Kanji 2 (1/1), Kanji 3 (Spring Semester) (1/1), Kanji 4 (Spring Semester) (1/1) |
| Lower Advanced | Advanced Japanese 1 (Spring Semester) | Reading (1/1), Writing (1/1), Speaking (1/1) Listening(1/1) |
| Upper Advanced | Advanced Japanese 2 (Spring Semester) | Reading (1/1), Writing (1/1), Speaking (1/1) |
| Research Instruction | Independent Study Project | Independent Study Project (1/2) |

Supplementary Courses in Japanese Language (Yonezawa Area) (no credits):

The following courses are for Spring Semester 2017. One lesson lasts 90 minutes.

| <i>Level</i> | <i>Subject</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Beginner | Introduction, General Japanese 1 |
| Lower Intermediate | General Japanese 2, Japanese Skills 2 |
| Upper Intermediate | General Japanese 3, Japanese Skills 3 |
| Advanced | General Japanese 4, Japanese Skills 4 |

Supplementary Courses in Japanese Language (Tsuruoka Area) (no credits):

The following courses are for Spring Semester 2017. One lesson lasts for 90 minutes.

Introductory Course

For regular courses taught in Japanese, see the websites of each faculty and graduate school course.

(2) Yamagata University Japan Studies Program (JSP)

Students have to take at least two subjects from each course (Japanese Language Courses and Japanese Culture Courses) per semester.

Japanese Language Course: see above.

Japanese Culture Course:

Spring Semester: An Introduction to Japanese Culture I (1, 2)

History of the Japanese Language I (1, 2)

Japanese Culinary Culture (1, 2)

Japanese Popular History: Various Ages in Postwar Film (1, 2)

Shodō Japanese Calligraphy (1, 2)

Showa Japan: The Years before the War in Stories and Films (1, 2)

Fall Semester: An Introduction to Japanese Culture II (1, 2)

Japanese Popular Heroes: from the Age of Wars to Pre-modern Days (1, 2)

History of the Japanese Language II (1, 2)

Japanese Culinary Culture (1, 2)

Japanese pastimes History and their effect on society (1, 2)

Showa Japan II: Post-War Life, Films, and Stories (1, 2)

Opportunities for Japan Experience

The Japanese Culture classes offered by Yamagata University include such activities as tea ceremony, wooden doll (*kokeshi*) making, wearing traditional clothes (*Kimono*), Buddhist meditation, *kendama*, buckwheat noodle (*soba*) making, hot spring visits, making *origami*, traditional flower arrangement (*ikebana*), making Japanese confectionery, rolled sushi, and pottery. Through participation in visits to Japanese families and schools, as well as traditional festivals such as the *hanagasa* and lion dance, students can make Japanese friends and experience Japanese culture. In addition, the YU International Friendship Circle (IF) and various international exchange groups organize other valuable opportunities, such as boat trips on Mogami River. Yamagata Prefecture is an area full of nature and beautiful sites to enjoy throughout the year. There are hot springs (*onsen*) in every city, town, and village, and it's also a good environment for making friends. In such area, we guarantee that the exchange students will have the great opportunity to fully enjoy their stay.



5. Life in Japan

Spring and Fall Semesters

Spring Semester starts in early April and ends in early August. The summer vacation continues until September 30. Fall Semester starts on October 1. There are approximately 15 days of New Year's vacation from the end of December to early January. After the end of the semester, there is another vacation from late February through March.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Spring Semester | April | Spring Semester begins, orientation, Japanese placement test, class registration |
| | late July/early Aug. | final exams |
| | late Aug./Sep. | summer break |
| Fall Semester | mid-Sept | orientation, Japanese placement test |
| | Oct. | Fall Semester begins, class registration |
| | late Dec./early Jan. | winter break |
| | early Feb. | final exams |
| | late Feb./early April | spring break |

After Arriving in Japan

After arriving in Yamagata, students will be lodged at the International Houses. Within two or three days, students will be required to register their addresses, open bank accounts, and take their Japanese Placement Test as well as to participate in campus tours and orientation. Students will also have to register for classes during the first week of term. A Yamagata University student will be assigned as a *bu* (we call them a *tutor*) to help you get used to life in the Yamagata area.

Housing and Cost of Living (in Yamagata City)

For the short-term international students at Yamagata University (in Yamagata City), students can be accommodated at one of the two International Houses (Kasumicho or Hirashimizu), or Seimeiryō. Please be aware that there might be a possibility to live in an apartment off-campus if the number of applicants is over the capacity. The residents for each dorm are determined by the Kojirakawa International Center.

The International House of _____ a twenty-minute walk from the campus, and it's close to Yamagata Station with good shopping opportunities. In the single rooms, there will be a bed, desk, chair, air conditioner, gas heater, cooler, kitchenette, kitchen shelf, bookshelf, shower and toilet.

The International House of Hirashimizu and Seimeiryō are about a thirty-minute walk from the campus. There is a shuttle bus service from the campus. The International House of Hirashimizu and Seimeiryō are surrounded by mountains, so the residents can feel the four seasons of Japan and enjoy taking a walk across the mountains.

Please see the box below about the expenses regarding housing. Other than the expenses below, electricity, gas, and water will have to be paid. Internet is available as well. For the International House of Hirashimizu, an individual contract is necessary to use the Internet.

Since the number of single rooms is limited, some of you might have to share a two-bedroom flat.

Security money deposit will be used for cleaning and other expenses upon moving out. The remaining sum will be returned unless there are no extra damages or loss.

| Type of dormitory | Type of room | Boarding fee per month | Communal services fee per month | Security deposit on your move-in | Bedding fee per person |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|

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6. How to Apply: Deadlines

The selection of candidates for STEP-YU is carried out on the basis of the student's grade point average, his/her plan for study and research, and two letters of recommendation issued by his/her teachers. The application forms for STEP-YU can be downloaded from our website. Students applying for the program are asked to send their complete application materials to the address given on the back of this pamphlet by registered mail, through their home university's International Studies Office or any other international office, by the following deadlines: