

2025

A Guide to Foreign Language Learning and Cross-Cultural Understanding 《Foreign Languages for Beginners》

“Freedom is always the freedom of those who think differently.”

— These words, left behind by a German individual, offer us an important insight as we navigate an increasingly globalized world.

To truly understand the world, we must adopt a “free” perspective—one that embraces “different ways of thinking” and, furthermore, “different cultures.”

Such a perspective is opened not only through English, the global lingua franca, but also through the study of other foreign languages.

Let us take on the challenge of learning “English plus one more language”!



岡山大学

OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

Foreign Language Courses for Beginners at Okayama University

● Okayama University's introductory foreign language education aims to foster students with the following skills and attitudes:

- ① Knowledge of and basic proficiency in a new language other than Japanese or English.
- ② An attitude of respect for and willingness to understand the diverse cultures of countries and regions different from Japan.
- ③ A commitment to engaging in communication and working collaboratively to achieve goals, regardless of the language or cultural background of others.



● At Okayama University, students can study a total of seven foreign languages—German, French, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Russian, and Italian—as part of the university-wide general education curriculum.

These seven languages are divided into two groups, Group A and Group B, based on differences in how the courses are offered.

Through learning a new language, we invite you to experience the joy of “broadening your own world”!

A Group : German, French, Chinese, and Korean

- Introductory Courses for First-Year Students
(One 100-minute class per week; one credit per Quarter)
- Held during faculty-designated time slots on Mondays or Thursdays
(Multiple classes are available for each language)
- Class assignments are determined by lottery based on students' course preferences submitted prior to the start of the first Quarter

B Group : Russian, Spanish, and Italian

- “Basic” Courses for Beginners
One 100-minute class per week; one credit per Quarter
- Offered to students from all faculties during designated time slots specific to each language (One class is available for each language)
- No lottery-based class assignment is conducted in advance



Curriculum for Introductory Foreign Languages

● Group A Introductory Foreign Languages (German, French, Chinese, and Korean)

For first-year students, Group A languages offer a variety of courses designed to support gradual learning of each language's basic structure and usage over the course of one academic year. These include:

- Introductory I & II, which provide a step-by-step foundation in the language;
- Introductory (Conversation), an optional course that complements the content of Introductory I & II.

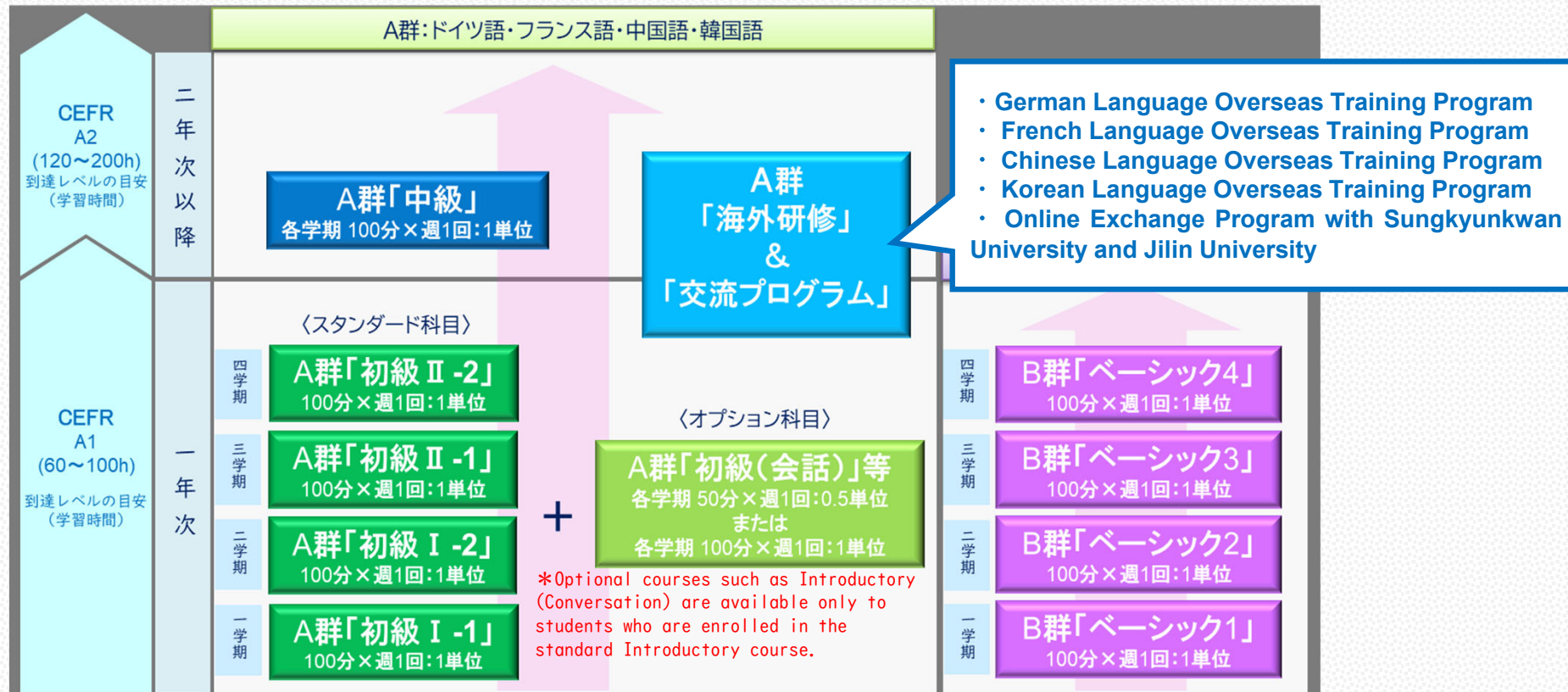
In addition, a wide range of advanced learning opportunities are available, such as:

- Intermediate courses, aimed at refining the knowledge and skills acquired in the introductory level;
- Short-term overseas training programs (2–3 weeks), where students can apply the language in real-life settings while experiencing daily life abroad;
- Online exchange programs, in which students collaborate on projects with Chinese and Korean students who are studying Japanese.

● Group B Introductory Foreign Languages (Russian, Spanish, and Italian)

For beginners—including second-year students and above—Group B languages offer Basic courses that focus on learning the fundamental structure and usage of each language.

These courses can be taken in parallel with Group A's Introductory I & II courses, allowing students to explore multiple languages simultaneously.



Introduction to Introductory Foreign Language Courses

German (Deutsch) 【Introductory I & II / Introductory (Conversation) / Intermediate】

German is a Germanic language, just like English. In fact, it can be considered a sibling to English, sharing linguistic roots. As your studies progress, you will come to appreciate not only the close relationship between German and English, but also the unique depth of the German language—its precise and intricate sentence structures, and the fascinating mechanisms behind them. Begin by enjoying the distinctive, resonant sound of German, and let that lead you into the rich cultural world of the German-speaking regions!

French (Français) 【Introductory I & II / Introductory (Conversation) / Intermediate】

Throughout the Middle Ages, a significant number of French words entered the English language, resulting in many shared vocabulary items between the two. However, in terms of linguistic classification, French belongs to the Romance language group, along with Italian and Spanish. Languages in this group not only share remarkably similar grammatical structures, but are also known for their beautiful and appealing sounds. We invite you to explore French—a Romance language rich in elegance and charm.

Chinese (汉语) 【Introductory I & II / Introductory (Conversation) / Intermediate】

Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world, characterized by simplified Chinese characters (known as Simplified Characters) and its unique pronunciation system. Although the character forms differ somewhat from Japanese, the ability to infer meaning from the characters gives Japanese learners a significant advantage when studying Chinese. One of the most fascinating aspects of Chinese pronunciation is the use of four tones, which change the meaning of a word depending on pitch. These tones add a musical quality to the language—almost as if you are singing. Let's enjoy the beautiful sound of Chinese and explore the rich cultural world of the Chinese-speaking regions, shaped by thousands of years of history and tradition!

Korean (한국어) 【Introductory I & II / Intermediate】

Korean is typologically the closest language to Japanese. Because the word order and grammatical structure are similar, Japanese learners often find Korean approachable once they have mastered the basics—such as reading Hangul and learning essential vocabulary. We hope you will enjoy discovering the familiarity and charm of the Korean language!

Russian (Русский язык) • Italian (Italiano) • Spanish (Español) 【Basic】

In Russian, the letter “H” is pronounced as “N,” and “P” as “L”—a curious feature of the Cyrillic alphabet. Yet the sounds conveyed by these seemingly strange letters evoke the vast landscapes of Russia. Italian, with its cheerful and melodic tones, speaks to the soul of song. Even among other Latin-based languages, Spanish, with its subtle shadows and emotional depth, seems perfectly suited to the rhythms of flamenco and tango.

An Invitation to Cross-Cultural Learning

- Group A Introductory Foreign Languages (German, French, Chinese, and Korean) offer a wide variety of cross-cultural learning programs. Take the opportunity to use the language you've learned in the classroom and engage with people from different countries and cultures!

German Language Study Abroad

Summer Intensive

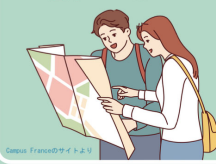
Course Location: Ruhr University Bochum (Bochum, Germany)
Duration: 3 weeks
Target: 2nd-year students and above



At Ruhr University Bochum, students can participate in a German language course that includes excursions to nearby cities and art museums, as well as cultural exchange with German students studying Japanese. Through everyday life in Germany, this program offers a direct experience of the culture and society of the German-speaking world. Why not spend three enriching weeks that offer something deeper than ordinary travel?

フランスで 体験する!

美術館見学や
近郊の町への半日遠足など
魅力がいっぱい!



French Language Study Abroad

Spring Intensive

Course Location: Language Schools Affiliated with Universities in Grenoble, Saint-Étienne, and Lyon
Duration: Approximately 4 weeks
Target: 1st-year students and above

This is a language training program organized by the French government agency Campus France. Over approximately 4 weeks, you will learn French on-site. You will visit museums, enjoy local cuisine, and more...Experience French culture firsthand while living in France. Why not immerse yourself in the atmosphere of France?

Chinese Language Study Abroad

Summer Intensive

Course Location: Jilin University (Changchun, China)
Duration: 2 weeks
Target: 1st-year students and above

Spring Intensive

Course Location: East China Normal University (Shanghai, China)
Duration: 2 weeks
Target: 1st-year students and above



The program is offered at universities in two cities, Changchun and Shanghai. Experience the living Chinese language, which you can't learn in a classroom at Okayama University. Feel its beauty and power firsthand. You'll definitely find yourself falling even more in love with the Chinese language.

初修外国語 「海外研修」 プログラム

Korean Language Study Abroad

Summer Intensive

Course Location: Sungkyunkwan University (Seoul, South Korea)
Duration: 2 weeks
Target: 1st-year students and above



This is a Korean language training program at Sungkyunkwan University in South Korea (Please note that it may be held online. For more details, please contact the instructor in charge).



Sungkyunkwan University & Jilin University Exchange Program Online

Online Cultural Exchange Program Connecting Japan, South Korea, and China

This program brings together students from three universities: Sungkyunkwan University (South Korea), Jilin University (China), and Okayama University (Japan). Using Japanese as the main language of communication, the program aims to deepen participants' understanding of each other's cultures through discussions. The goal is to enhance intercultural cooperation and communication skills. The program is conducted online. Experience international exchange from Okayama! You'll also have the chance to practice Chinese and Korean that you've learned.



Would you like to check out the Beginner's Foreign Language Café?

● In German, French, Chinese, and Korean, we hold a weekly "Beginner's Foreign Language Café" as a space for interaction between Okayama University students and international students. Why not relax and enjoy cultural exchange during your after-school hours? If you're interested, feel free to drop by!



Deutsch-Café
岡山大学ドイツ語カフェ
Stammisch

Stammisch [シュタムティッシュ]とは、馴染みのお店のいつもの「テーブル」のこと。ドイツ語カフェは、ドイツ語やドイツ語圏の文化に興味・関心のある岡大生、ドイツからの留学生がふらりと立ち寄って、思い思いの時間を過ごす、そんな交流スペースです。放課後のひととき、息抜きがてらにちょっと立ち寄ってみませんか？

2025年度は4月15日（火）から営業開始
営業時間：毎週火曜日 16:00～18:00
場所：一般教育棟C棟4F 教員ラウンジ



フランス語カフェ
LE CAFÉ FRANÇAIS

À jeudi !

2025年4月（毎週木曜日開催）
16時～17時30分
le jeudi 2025, à partir de 16h
L-caféにて Au L-café

plus d'info : <https://yasedo.wixsite.com/cafefrançais>
<https://www.facebook.com/OkayamaUniversiteCafeFrancais>



欢迎你们来 **中文茶房**

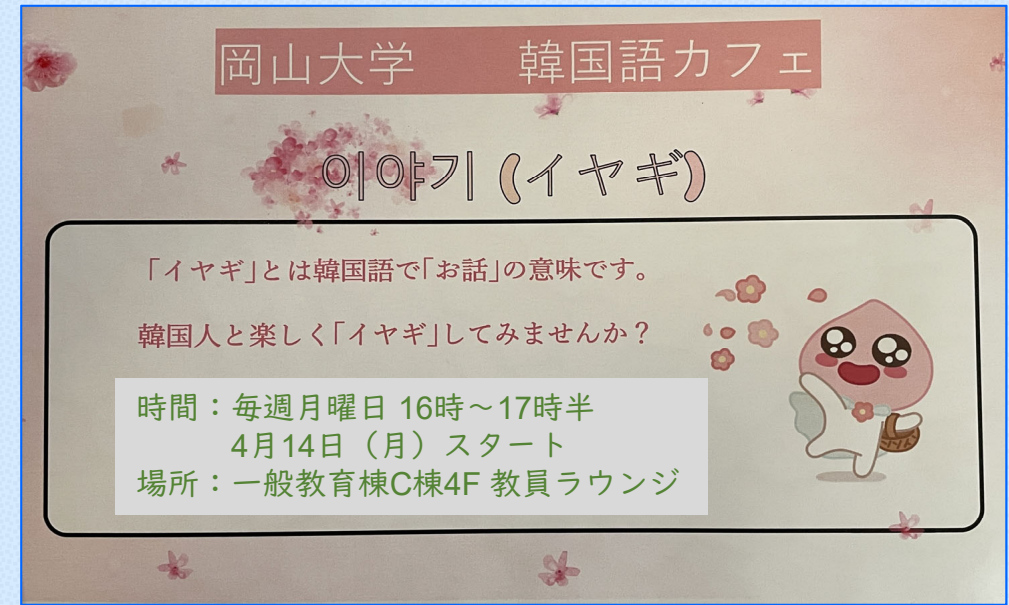
中文茶房とは？
中国語を履修している岡大生と、中国や台湾など中国語圏からの留学生が主な参加者の語学カフェです。授業とは違ったリラックスした雰囲気の中で、おいしい中国茶を味わいながら、おしゃべりと異文化交流を楽しみましょう！

開催日時と場所
毎週火曜日 16:30～18:00
一般教育棟A棟別館 L-café

お問い合わせ
藤原祐子 Yuko FUJIWARA
yueya1222@okayama-u.ac.jp

25年度は4月22日から!!

Facebookもあります！
「中文茶房」で検索してね！



岡山大学 韓国語カフェ

이야기 (イヤギ)

「イヤギ」とは韓国語で「お話」の意味です。
韓国人と楽しく「イヤギ」してみませんか？

時間：毎週月曜日 16時～17時半
4月14日（月）スタート
場所：一般教育棟C棟4F 教員ラウンジ