Okayama University (Okayama Prefecture)

This program aims at deepening your comprehension of Japanese language, culture, economy, law, and education. The program offers the following classes:
(1) Japanese language classes with various levels and topics, (2) Special courses on Japanese culture, economy, law, and education, (3) Courses at the Faculties of Letters, Law, Economics and Education

University Overview
Characteristics and Overview of Okayama University
1) Characteristics and History
Okayama University was founded in 1949 on the basis of its predecessors Okayama Medical College and Sixth High School, which were founded in 1922 and 1900 respectively. Now, it has 11 faculties and 7 graduate schools and is one of the biggest national universities in Japan.
One of its characteristics lies in its emphasis on international exchanges.
The Language Education Center provides Japanese language courses to international students and the Center for Global Partnerships and Education supports their living in Japan.

2) Number of Students (as of May 1, 2017)
Academic Staff 1,520
Undergraduate Students 10,167
Graduate Students 2,969

International Exchanges (as of May 1, 2017)
International Exchange Agreement
University Level : 150 Faculty Level : 144

Number of International Students & Japanese Studies Students
2017: International Students 685,
Japanese Studies Students 2
2016: International Students 602,
Japanese Studies Students 5
2015: International Students 520,
Japanese Studies Students 5

Overview of the Courses
Course Objectives:
The courses focus mainly on improving Japanese language skills.
They also offer opportunities to learn about Japanese society and culture.

Characteristics
Students will belong to the Faculty of Letters, Education, Economics, or Law, and will be supervised by academic advisors. They can attend classes offered for Japanese students in their faculty if their language proficiency is sufficient. They also can attend the seminars related to their research interest.

Number of Students to be Accepted: 5
(4 recommended by Embassy and 1 recommended by University)

Qualifications and Requirements:
Candidates are expected to have Japanese language ability equivalent to the N2 Level or above of the Japanese Proficiency Test (6,000 words, 1,000 kanji).

Purpose of the Course:
The aims of the courses are to aid students in improving their academic Japanese language skills as well as to deepen their specialized knowledge of Japan.

Period of the Course:
From October 2018 to September 2019 (including self-study period)

Course Outlines:
There are four terms in a year:
Each Term consists of 8 weeks.
Students can take classes that suit their interests and Japanese language levels upon the consultation with their academic advisors. There are no required classes. The classes offered are as follows;
◆ Japanese Language Classes
Students will be assigned to Japanese language classes based on the result of the placement test. Japanese 5 is designed for students aiming for level N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), and Japanese 6 is for those aiming for level N1. Applied Japanese and Advanced Japanese Courses offered in the Faculty of Letters are for those who have reached the level of JLPT N1.

◇ Intermediate / Advanced Course (in the Language Education Center)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese 5 (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Integrated class for upper-intermediate students</td>
<td>60 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extensive Reading 2 (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Training for extensive reading</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese through Films 2 (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese through dramas and movies</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Kanji and Vocabulary (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Reinforce Kanji and Vocabulary</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Grammar 2 (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Reinforce grammar</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Culture and Society (The 1st – 2nd Term)</td>
<td>Learn about Japanese culture and society</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study of Okayama (The 3rd – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn about Okayama through project works</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Literacy (The 3rd – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn media literacy in Japanese</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese Economic Affairs (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Study Japanese economic affairs</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Guidance on Japanese Law and Politics (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Introductory class on Japanese law and politics</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<td>Advanced Course (in the Faculty of Letters, Law and Economics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese 1a/b (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Advanced novel–reading class</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese 2 a/b (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Advanced grammar and listening</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Studies a/b (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Discuss topics concerning the Japanese culture</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Economic Affairs (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Study Japanese economic affairs</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Japanese (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Skill-specific course focusing on reading, writing, listening and speaking for advanced learners.</td>
<td>15 hrs each</td>
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</tbody>
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◆ Classes Other than the Japanese Language Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study of Japan (The 1st – 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese culture such as education, food and local community through hands–on experience.</td>
<td>8 hrs each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homestay (The 2 or 3 term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese values and customs through a homestay.</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Others
Hours listed above represent the total hours one would receive upon completion of each course. Students can attend classes offered for Japanese students in their faculty if their language proficiency is sufficient.

Academic Calendar and Events:
The 3rd – 4th Term
October: Orientation for New Students, Welcome Party, Classes begin
November: University Festival
February: Classes end
The 1st – 2nd Term
April: Classes begin
August: Classes end
September: Submission of Research Paper, Farewell Party

Academic Guidance:
Academic advisors will be assigned to each student. They will provide an academic guidance and an everyday life support.

Coordinators:
Masami HONDA (Language Education Center), Ryoichi TSUTSUMI (Faculty of Letters), Yoshitsugu HIRATA (Faculty of Education), Yoko HIROTA (Faculty of Economics), Mami AKAGI (Faculty of Law)

Requirements for Completion of the Course and Certificate:
Students must take 10 classes or more per week each term and submit a final research paper.
A certificate of completion will be given upon the completion of the course.
An academic transcript will be also issued.

Accommodations
Okayama University has four dormitories for International students (Kuwanoki Dormitory, Fukui Dormitory, International Student Shared House and International House). They are conveniently located within a five or ten minute walk from Tsushima Campus, the main campus of the University.

Students enrolled in the Japanese studies course have priority in residing in one of these dormitories during their studies.

Dormitory Admission fee, Rent and Utility Bills
Dormitory Admission Fee 30,000 yen
Rent:
- International Student Shared House:
  - Rent 23,000 yen per month
- Kuwanoki Dormitory:
  - North Wing: 16,000 yen per month
  - South Wing: 14,000 yen per month
- Fukui Dormitory:
  - Rent 28,000 yen per month
- International House:
  - Rent 27,000 yen per month

Electricity, water and gas will be charged.
Rent is subject to change.

Follow-up
Okayama University organized the Okayama University International Alumni Association in 2011 and the general meeting is held once a year. The Okayama University International Alumni Association will serve as a way to disseminate information between alumni association members and students of Japanese Studies at Okayama University in addition to providing alumni who do not belong to the association a way to stay connected with Okayama University.

After studying Japanese Studies at Okayama University, some students have returned to continue their research.

Contact
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Center for Global Partnerships and Education:
http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/ouic/