Characteristics of Okayama Prefecture

Okayama Prefecture is in the Chugoku region, which is located at the western part of the Japanese Islands, and faces the Seto Inland Sea. The Mizushima Industrial District and manufacturing industry are prosperous. It is also famous for farm products and marine products. Okayama city, where Okayama University is located, is one of the biggest national universities in Japan. It is very famous for 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.

Characteristics

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.

2) Number of Students (as of May 1, 2016)
Academic Staff 1,503
Undergraduate Students 10,148
Graduate Students 2,951
International Exchanges (as of May 1, 2016)
International Exchange Agreement (University Level) 131
International Exchange Agreement (Faculty Level) 140

International Students & Japanese Studies Students
2016: International Students 602, Japanese Studies Students 5
2015: International Students 520, Japanese Studies Students 5
2014: International Students 461, Japanese Studies Students 5

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 2017 to September 2018 (including self-study period)

Course Outlines:
There are four terms in a year: The 1st term (April 1 to June 2), the 2nd term (June 3 to July 31), the 3rd term (October 1 to December 1) and the 4th term (December 2 to February 10). 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:

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.
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. Japanese 7 and Advanced Japanese Courses offered in the Faculty of Letters are for those who have reached the level of JLPT N1.

**Intermediate Course (in the Language Education Center)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese 4 (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Integrated class for intermediate students</td>
<td>60 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese 5 (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Integrated class for upper-intermediate students</td>
<td>60 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese through Films 1 (The 1st - 2nd Term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese through dramas and movies</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese through News and Magazine Articles (The 3rd - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese through newspaper and magazine articles</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Grammar 1 (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Reinforce grammar</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Kana and Vocabulary (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Reinforce Kana and Vocabulary</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extensive Reading (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Training for extensive reading</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese through Films 2 (The 1st - 2nd Term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese through dramas and movies</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study of Okayama (The 3rd - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn about Okayama through project works</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Literacy (The 3rd - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn media literacy in Japanese</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Course (in the Faculty of Letters)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese 1a/b (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Advanced reading</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese 2a/b (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Advanced grammar</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Classes Other than the Japanese Language Classes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study of Japan 1/2 (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese culture through hands on experience such as the tea ceremony and Shinzen pottery</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestay (The 2nd - 3rd Term)</td>
<td>Learn Japanese customs and values through a homestay or homestay visit</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 A/BA (The 1st - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Study Japanese economic history after World War II</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Economic Affairs B/BE (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 3rd - 4th Term)</td>
<td>Introductory class on Japanese law and politics</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
</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 1 – February 10)
October: Orientation for New Students, Welcome Party, Classes begin
November: University Festival
February: Classes end
The 1st – 2nd Term (April 1 – July 31)
April: Classes begin
July: 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:
Miwa SUESHIGE (Language Education Center), Ryoichi TSUTSUMI (Faculty of Letters), Yoshitsugu HIRATA (Faculty of Education), Yoko HIROTA (Faculty of Economics), Mami AKAGI (Faculty of Law), Kazuyuki HARADA (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 three dormitories for International students (Kuwanoki Dormitory, Fukui Dormitory and International Student Shared 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.

Rent and Utility Bills:
International Student Shared House: Rent 23,000 yen per month
Kuwanoki Dormitory: North Wing 15,000 yen per month, South Wing 12,000 yen per month
Fukui Dormitory: Rent 18,000 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://ouic.okayama-u.ac.jp/english/index.html