

Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC)

Advanced Japanese 7-week Summer Program

June 18, 2020 - Aug 5, 2020

General Information

1. The 2020 IUC Summer Program begins on June 18 and ends on August 5.
2. Morning classes are held 9:40–12:30 five days a week. Afternoon classes are held 1:30–2:20 four days a week. Five afternoon field trips are held, each equivalent to three class hours. There are 140 contact hours in total for the seven-week program.
3. Average class size is about eight students. Final size and number of classes depends on total enrollment and number of teachers. Placement depends on the results of a proficiency test given at the start of the program.
4. No scholarship or financial assistance is awarded by the IUC to students enrolling in the summer program, except for a \$600 tuition scholarship for students officially enrolled at an IUC member institution during the 2019–20 academic year. Questions concerning the applicability of outside sources of funding (FLAS, fellowships, etc.) should be directed to the funding agency.

The Inter-University Center does not issue grades or academic credit. However, upon request, the IUC can provide a written evaluation including contact hours, examination scores, and other information.

Who Will Benefit from the IUC Summer Program?

The IUC Summer Program is designed for people who desire to acquire professional-level proficiency in Japanese, primarily students who intend to focus on Japan as scholars or to specialize in fields such as law and business, as well as people who are currently employed in work related to Japan. We especially seek to address the needs of those who wish to raise the level of their overall language skills by engaging in cooperative communication with fellow students in class.

Course Objectives

The Inter-University Center's Summer Program class sessions are focused on advanced spoken Japanese. The objective is to acquire the ability to naturally, correctly, and appropriately express thoughts and opinions. Fifty years of instruction in our ten-month program and our summer courses have demonstrated convincingly that the best way to achieve improvement of one's Japanese is to work on *all* major skill areas (speaking, listening, writing, and reading, all of which reinforce each other), with emphasis on speaking.

The learning experience in the IUC summer program is enriched by having students from various fields in the same class. Most of the vocabulary one needs for reading and discussion is common to all academic and professional specializations. Students benefit from mutual stimulation and synergies that arise from the encounter of their distinctive backgrounds.

Field trips provide the opportunity to acquire greater understanding of Japanese culture and society, as well as chances to use Japanese outside the classroom.

To realize the maximum positive results in the seven weeks of our Summer Program, we place greatest

emphasis on two objectives:

1. Increasing students' ability to carry on oral discussions of complex or abstract matters. Students pursue improvement through oral practice of grammatical patterns, drafting and delivery of speeches, and expansion of vocabularies and repertoires of idiomatic and specialized expressions that emerge in discussions among themselves based on readings they do in common.
2. Training students in the style of speech that is regarded as acceptable in formal situations such as graduate school seminars and business presentations to guests or clients.

The IUC's Expectations of Students

1. Students are expected to participate actively in class. They should ask for the views of other class participants and join in constructive discussion and debate.
2. Students are expected to spend several hours a day preparing for the next day's classes, doing homework assignments, writing drafts of speeches, and doing other program-related tasks. For the seven weeks of this Summer Program, they should put aside their research projects and other work and devote themselves to IUC study.
3. In excursions and other extracurricular activities of the Center, students are expected to make active use of the skills they have acquired in class.
4. In addition to attending classroom work and excursions, students are expected to take a midterm and a final examination and to give a final presentation.

Qualifications for Admission

To qualify for admission, an applicant must (1) demonstrate a clear intent to pursue a professional or academic career requiring the use of Japanese; and (2) have successfully completed two or more years of college-level instruction. In terms of actual language proficiency, successful applicants are expected to have a solid foundation in the fundamental structures of Japanese, to have mastered both *kana* syllabaries, and to be able to read and write approximately 500 to 700 *kanji*. Admissions to the Inter-University Center are made without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, or marital status.

How to Apply

The 2020 application period will open November 1, 2019 and close on February 9, 2020. Applications will only be accepted via our [**Interfolio.com online application portal**](#). No e-mail or paper submissions will be accepted. Only completed applications including the application fee payment of \$80 will be considered.

Selection

Students are selected for admission by the IUC Summer Program Selection Committee based on the following considerations:

1. Whether the applicants meets the conditions for admission listed under Qualifications for Admission above.
2. The applicant's statement of purpose and objectives as described in the "Purpose" section under "General Information" in the Application for Admission form.
3. The applicant's Language Evaluation Form.
4. The applicant's transcripts.

5. When necessary, a Skype interview with the applicant.

Please note that enrollment in the IUC Summer Program is limited and it may not be possible to admit all qualified applicants.

Attendance Fees

Tuition for the 2020 summer program is \$5,000 (US). A student officially enrolled at an IUC member institution during the 2019–20 academic year will receive a tuition scholarship of \$600 (US) to attend the 2020 summer program. Fees include all textbooks, other instructional materials. Attendance fees do not include living or housing expenses, transportation costs, or travel to Japan.

NOTE:

Please be aware that housing arrangements are the personal responsibility of each student. Information about how to locate and reserve housing, including a short list of recommended accommodations is provided to all successful applicants in mid-April.

IUC Summer Program participants who are not nationals and citizens of a country or region that has a “Reciprocal Visa Exemption Arrangement with Japan” are required to apply for and to obtain visas to enter Japan. To find out if you need to apply for a short-term visa, visit the MoFA website:

https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html

The IUC retains the right to cancel or modify the program at any time, for reasons that may include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, emergencies, or health and safety considerations. I also understand that my participation in the program may be subject to early termination if I violate the IUC student code of conduct. Program modifications or cancellations shall not alter the student's obligation to pay tuition, nor require the IUC to issue any tuition refunds.

IUC SUMMER PROGRAM CURRICULUM 2020

June 18, 2020–Aug 5, 2020

All Classes

All classes in the IUC Summer Program feature:

- **Short Prepared Speeches followed by Class Discussion**

Emphasis is placed on spoken Japanese throughout the Summer Program. To provide training in the style of Japanese appropriate to formal situations, each class session devotes some time to a short (approximately 10-minute) speech by one of the students on a topic of his/her choice, followed by discussion.

- **Formal Expressions for Japanese Interaction**

Using the IUC textbook *Taigū hyōgen* (Formal Expressions for Japanese Interaction) and other materials, students learn how to compose letters and e-mail and how to converse courteously in different social settings in which different levels of formality are expected.

- **Discussion and Conversation**

Class discussions are a regular and important feature of all IUC summer classes, not just the speech classes. In most cases, a discussion leader (appointed in advance) selects a topic and moderates a discussion in which all class members take part. This exercise trains students how to express opinions and how to advance arguments against others' opinions in a polite manner. Occasionally, classes may be asked to conduct a discussion without an appointed leader, with students being asked to practice using either a casual style of speaking or a formal style.

- **Vocabulary Study**

In each class some time is devoted to review of vocabulary words that have previously been studied and/or to introduction of new vocabulary and expressions that occur in writing and speaking about themes that appear frequently in the media.

- **Excursions**

Once a week, students are taken on field trips outside the Center. Through activities such as attending a kabuki performance, visiting museums, and experiencing zazen at a Zen temple, they have opportunities to acquire greater understanding of Japanese culture and society as well as opportunities to use Japanese outside the classroom.

- **Graduation Presentations**

In the final week of the Summer Program, all students are assigned to one of two or three groups (irrespective of which class they have been in), and each delivers an oral

presentation to the other members of the group and responds to questions afterward. Students choose their own topics, and each presentation is allotted approximately fifteen minutes, inclusive of questions and answers. Preparation of a text for this final presentation is done in consultation with an IUC faculty member over a period of several days.

Higher-Level Classes

Classes for students who achieve relatively high scores on the proficiency test also include:

- **Reports**
Students write reports on news items or things of interest. This exercise provides an occasion to learn vocabulary, expressions, and presentation skills regarding current events and contemporary Japan.
- **Reading**
Readings on various themes are taken up in class. Students first learn to read the passages accurately and then discuss their content. The aim is to improve reading comprehension and to acquire a wide range of vocabulary and expressions. In addition, we aim to improve oral and communication skills by discussing the content of the readings.
- **Grammar**
Students review advanced grammar and practice using it without mistakes in discussing their academic specializations.

Lower-Level Classes

Classes for students who receive relatively low scores on the proficiency test include:

- **Grammar**
Students review the use of basic grammar through the intermediate level and learn to manage their grammatical knowledge.
- **Reading**
This class makes use of intermediate and upper intermediate materials. The goal is to gain a precise understanding of what is written in the passages, to acquire vocabulary and expressions, and to become familiar with Japanese sentences.

Optional Offerings

In addition, the following options are available:

- **Learning Jōyō Kanji with Kanji in Context**

The IUC's original textbook for learning all of the *jōyō kanji*, *Kanji in Context*, is available for students who wish to use it on a self-study basis. You may also make use of a computerized version of the textbook.

- **Conversation Practice Partners**

After regular class hours have ended, students who desire extra speaking practice, or students for whom instructors have identified a need for extra practice, can arrange for free conversation practice in a relaxed atmosphere with an IUC program assistant or intern as a partner.