IUC SUMMER PROGRAM CURRICULUM 2016

All Classes, throughout the Program

・ 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 language that is appropriate in formal situations, in every class, some time is devoted to a presentation by one of the students, followed by a discussion. Having prepared an oral presentation on a topic of his or her choice, the student delivers it to the class, speaking for several minutes. The expected length varies from class to class, depending on the level of the students, and may be fewer or more than ten minutes. After the short presentation, the speaker and her or his classmates engage in a discussion.

・ Formal Expressions for Japanese Interaction
Using the IUC textbook Taigū hyōgen (Formal Expressions for Japanese Interaction) and other text materials from commercial publishers, students learn how to write letters and e-mail, and how to converse in different social settings in which different levels of formality are expected, without being discourteous.

・ Discussion and Conversation
In addition to the discussions following short speeches, discussions are a regular and important feature of IUC summer classes. A discussion leader (appointed in advance) selects a topic—again he or she may choose freely—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. On some occasions, classes may be asked to conduct a discussion without having an appointed leader, with students being asked to practice using either a casual style of speaking or a formal style.

・ Kanji and Vocabulary
In each class some time is given to review of kanji and vocabulary words that have previously been studied and/or to introduction of new vocabulary and expressions that occur in writing and speaking about such themes as problems of the environment, or that occur 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 chances to use Japanese outside the classroom.
Graduation Presentation Assembly
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 her or his group and responds to questions afterward. Students choose their own topics, and each has approximately fifteen minutes, inclusive of questions and answers. Preparation of a manuscript for this final presentation is to be done in consultation with an IUC faculty member, and it takes several days.

Higher Level Classes
Every day throughout the Summer Program, for students who record relatively high scores on the proficiency test given the first day, classes include the following:

• Reports on Current Events
Students make reports on news programs that they have seen on television or at a website and found interesting. This exercise provides an occasion to become familiar with current events, and students learn the expressions that are necessary for understanding the news in Japanese.

• Japanese Language Distinctive of Certain Themes
Classes take up certain themes such as “pop culture” or “furītā (part-time, non-regular employees, typically young people)” and for several days spend a portion of class time reading and talking about articles from newspapers and magazines and selections from commercially published books. This exposes them to “authentic” writing for contemporary Japanese audiences. This exercise is designed to improve their reading comprehension and expand their vocabulary and mastery of sentence patterns, and in addition, as a product of class discussions of the substance of the readings, it improves their oral proficiency.

Lower Level Classes
Every day throughout the Summer Program, for students who record relatively low scores on the proficiency test given the first day, classes include the following:

• Elementary Grammar Review
Using textbooks developed originally by and for the IUC, lower level classes in the Summer Program drill students on correct usage of verb forms and particles and other basic grammar.

• Reading Comprehension
Articles from both Japanese textbooks and general Japanese publications are utilized as reading materials. Japanese textbooks are carefully chosen to familiarize students with strategies needed to understand Japanese writings in an efficient manner. Selections from novels and other commercially published materials are “authentic” written materials in their original form, unaltered for learners of Japanese as a second language. With the help of these materials, IUC
classes raise the level of students’ reading comprehension skill and expand their vocabularies and repertoires of idiomatic expressions.

- Listening Comprehension
Using television programs, webcasts, and other commercially available materials, classes provide practice in listening to the news and other oral presentations.

Optional Offerings

- SKIP
The IUC’s originally developed program for teaching all of the everyday use kanji, SKIP (Special Kanji Intensive Program), is available for students who wish to use it on a self-study basis. A computerized version of the program is installed on the computers in the IUC computer room. Textbooks (Kanji in Context, published by the Japan Times) are also available.

- 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.