



# UNIVERSITY OF TOYAMA ( Toyama )



A curriculum tailored to the individual needs and level of each student, with specialized courses available for learning alongside Japanese peers

## ■ University of Toyama Overview

### ① Background

In October 2005, three universities located in Toyama Prefecture merged into the *University of Toyama*. By integrating the campuses of *Toyama University* (est. 1949), *Toyama Medical & Pharmaceutical University* (est. 1975), and *Takaoka National College* (est. 1983), a national university with a wide range of educational and research facilities was created. As of May 2019, 9,135 students were enrolled in various faculties and graduate schools. Academic exchange agreements have been drawn up with 135 universities and institutions in 30 countries, such as Australia, China, Egypt, Korea, Malaysia, Russia, Thailand, UK, and the USA. We are eager to welcome international students, and our *Organization for International Education and Exchange* department plays a key role in enabling us to do so.

#### Faculties

*Humanities, Human Development, Economics, Science, Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Engineering, Art and Design, Sustainable Design*

#### Graduate schools

*Humanities, Human Development, Economics, Art and Design, Innovative Life Science, Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences for Education, Science and Engineering for Education, Teacher Training Development*

### ② International Exchange (as of May 2019)

University Exchange Relationships :  
39 universities/institutions in 16 countries/regions

### ③ International student enrollment

2019: Total 314, Program Participants 4  
2018: Total 307, Program Participants 4  
2017: Total 313, Program Participants 4

### ④ About Toyama Prefecture

Located near the geographic heart of Japan, Toyama Prefecture is beautifully situated on the Japan Sea coast against the backdrop of the majestic Japan Alps. The prefecture has four distinct seasons, and the snow-covered Toyama winter landscape is particularly beautiful. Toyama contains interesting vestiges of old Japan. For example, Gokayama Village, with its steep thatched-roof houses, has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition, there are numerous traditional local festivals, such as the nationally famous *Etchu Owara Bushi*.

The university is located within the prefectural capital of Toyama City, a modern metropolis with a population of about 420,000 people. Since the *Hokuriku Shinkansen* bullet train started operating in March 2015, it takes only about two hours to reach Tokyo. Blessed with clean water and air, excellent seafood, and all manner of cultural amenities, Toyama is regarded as one of the most convenient, congenial, and safe places to live in the entire country.

## ■ Course Outline

### ① Available classes

a) A course intended mainly to study about Japan and Japanese culture

This course foregrounds basic information about Japan, its culture, and provides supplementary Japanese language practice. Final report is mandatory.

b) A course intended mainly to improve Japanese language proficiency

This course foregrounds Japanese language practice and provides supplementary information on Japan and its culture. Final report is optional.

### ② Additional options

In addition, international students can choose from the wide range of more specialized course offerings pertaining to Japanese language and culture offered through the faculties of *Humanities, Human Development, and Economics* according to individual interests and proficiency levels. The *Humanities* and *Human Development* faculties also provide guidance counseling to give students personalized support and tutoring for their final research reports.

### ③ Maximum number of students

The *Humanities* and *Human Development* faculties will accept up to five students each via embassy or university recommendation.

### ④ Admission requirements

Students wishing to enroll in this program must meet the following requirements:

- Applicants must currently be enrolled as an undergraduate at a non-Japanese university majoring in a field related to Japanese language or culture.
- Students possessing Japanese language proficiency equivalent to N3 of the *Japanese Language Proficiency Test* is preferable.

### ⑤ Achievement Objectives

- Conduct a research project on a personally designed curriculum, then complete a final report in Japanese (mandatory for students in the ①a), optional for those in the ①b)).
- Acquire language skills equivalent to N1 of the *Japanese Language Proficiency Test*.

### ⑥ Term

October 1st, 2020 to August 31, 2021  
A completion ceremony will be held at the end of August.

### ⑦Scholarship period

October 2020 to August 2021

### ⑧ Events Schedule

*Late September:* Arrival

*October to August*

Numerous field trips and events, which have been organized and arranged especially for the international students, are offered. These excursions, which have been sponsored by the relevant departments, provide opportunities to learn about Japanese culture. In addition, there are many support and exchange activities organized by the Japanese students, such as small individual study groups, get-togethers, and parties. Finally, there is an intercultural exchange gathering with researchers from around the globe.

Students also have numerous opportunities to meet and interact with local people through home-stay and home-visit programs and the many cultural and recreational activities that are offered. These include ski tours and attending the famous *Owara* folk festival, where students can wear a *yukata* and participate in the traditional dancing. Students can also experience a genuine tea ceremony, New Year's parties, cherry blossom viewing in the spring, barbecues, bowling, and many other activities.

Late August: Completion ceremony & departure

### ⑨Certificate of Completion

- To receive a *Certificate of Completion*, students must:
- Satisfy attendance, testing, and other requirements of the 480 hours of instruction (240 hours each semester)
  - Submit a final report in Japanese

#### Notes

- Students in the *Humanities* or *Human Development* faculties may receive personal guidance and support on completing their final reports.
- The titles of previously submitted reports can be perused online at the University of Toyama website: (*Faculty of Humanities > International Exchange > Journals of Study by Short-term International Students*)

### ⑩ The curriculum

#### Goals

The aim is to guide and allow students to take courses according to their interests and abilities based on an individually designed curriculum and research plan, with a final report to be submitted in Japanese.

#### Courses

There are no compulsory subjects because students are free take courses according to their interests. Students are free to choose classes relating to Japanese language and culture that have been designed especially for them. In addition, for more specialized instruction, students can also attend regular classes held in various faculties, as follows:

<Faculty of Humanities>

Courses pertaining to Japanese language and culture include: *Human Sciences, Linguistics, Japanese as a Foreign Language, Japanese History, Cultural Anthropology, International Relations, International Cultural Studies, Japanese Language, and Japanese Literature*.

<Faculty of Human Development>

Courses pertaining to Japanese language and culture include: *Pedagogy, Welfare, Sports, Japanese Language, Japanese History, Japanese Literature, Japanese geography, Arts*

<Courses in other faculties>

In addition, international students may take classes pertaining to Japanese language and culture offered through the Faculty of Economics (*Economics, Business Administration, and Business Law*), and other liberal arts education subjects taught at the university.

Subject	Hours	
	Fall	Spring
Japanese	90	90
Japanese Affairs	30	30
Cross-cultural Communication	-	30

General Japanese Language Course (Advanced)		
Subject	Hours	
	Fall	Spring
Reading C	60	30
Grammar C	30	60
Composition C	30	30
Listening C	30	30
Conversation C	30	30
Kanji C	30	30
Expression Skills C	30	30
Japanese Culture C	30	30

## General Japanese Language Course (Intermediate)

Subject	Hours	
	Fall	Spring
Grammar and Expression Ba	60	60
Grammar and Expression Bb	60	60
Grammar and Reading Ba	60	60
Grammar and Reading Bb	60	60
Grammar B	30	30
Writing B	30	30
Listening and Conversation B	30	30
Kanji B	30	60

### Notes:

- For more information on specialized courses, navigate to the relevant faculty page from the main University of Toyama website.
- The syllabi for the specialized courses for international students can be found here (Japanese only): *University of Toyama website > International Students > Web syllabus*
- The syllabus for the *General Japanese Language Course* is available here: *University of Toyama website > International Admissions > Organization for International Education and Exchange*
- Regarding Japanese language and culture, international students will have an opportunity to collaboratively study with their Japanese counterparts when they reach a higher level of proficiency.

### ⑪ Counseling support system

Guidance counselors from various faculties, in conjunction with the *Organization for International Education and Exchange*, provide students with personalized support regarding both academic and non-academic concerns.

### ■ Housing

International students can live on the Gofuku campus at the *International House*. This facility contains 34 individual units. Each one has a bathroom, small kitchen, electric cooker, refrigerator, heater/air-conditioner, bed, table, and chair. An internet connection is also available for a monthly fee. Lodgings cost ¥5,900 per month.

If rooms at the *International House* are unavailable, the *University Coop* will provide a list of local real estate agents where apartments can be found. In such cases, university staff will assist students in finding suitable accommodations.

### ■ Benefits

Upon successful completion of the *Japanese Studies Program*, graduates have gone on to:

- Teach Japanese in their country
- Work as a coordinator for the *JET Program*
- Apply for graduate studies at the *University of Toyama* or other academic institutions in Japan
- Work at Japanese companies
- Maintain a network of relationships with classmates and other friends via social media

### ■ For further information: Study-abroad Support Division

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### Websites

Organization for International Education and Exchange  
[www.ier.u-toyama.ac.jp](http://www.ier.u-toyama.ac.jp)

University of Toyama  
[www.u-toyama.ac.jp](http://www.u-toyama.ac.jp)

Japan Studies Program  
[www.ier.u-toyama.ac.jp/JSS/JSSjp.html](http://www.ier.u-toyama.ac.jp/JSS/JSSjp.html)

Program's Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/972163439509496](https://www.facebook.com/972163439509496)



Scenes from various study trips