

JAPAN

HOST UNIVERSITY

Waseda University

WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.waseda.ac.jp/>

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

Students focus their studies on Japanese language and Japanese and Asian studies courses.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Students take courses offered by the School of International Liberal Studies (SILS) of the International College of Waseda University. Lecture courses are in English. Japanese language instruction is a major part of the program and is taken throughout the year. All coursework is at the undergraduate level. SILS is a new division of Waseda and it is expected that many changes will occur.

CSU students go for the entire year and therefore attend the fall and spring semesters and not the "autumn term" (which ends before Christmas).

Note that the 3.0 GPA requirement for this program is absolute. No student will be admitted who does not possess a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of application. This is a requirement of Waseda University and IP cannot grant exceptions.

All students are required to carry a minimum academic courseload of 30 semester/45 quarter units for the academic year.

While no graduate-level credit can be given, the program might be appropriate for graduate students whose goal is to learn Japanese.

Japanese citizens may not participate in this program unless they can show proof that they graduated from junior high school outside of Japan.

Applicants must have one semester at the CSU at the time of application and one year by the time of enrollment (not counting summer). In other words, students transferring from the community college are not eligible for the program in Japan.

ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

Students will be met at the Narita Airport by the IP Resident Director and Program Assistant and transported by bus into downtown Tokyo. Arrangements are made ahead of time for all students to stay together during the four-day orientation at a residence hall or hotel near Waseda University. The orientation usually includes a welcome party, a walking tour of Waseda University, discussions about living with a host family, as well as a few opportunities to interact with some of the local students. The Resident Director and the Program Assistant will provide students with information about living in Japan, transportation, banking, and other matters of importance.

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Students should have a serious interest in the Far East and in making the personal adjustments necessary to fit in with a Japanese host family. Living with a host family can be a challenge at first, but many students say it is the highlight of their year abroad. Students are encouraged to talk to alumni of the IP program to learn all that they can about life in Japan before going abroad.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Waseda University will only consider students who have completed the Waseda University application. Therefore, all IP applicants will be required to complete the Waseda Application PRIOR to IP selection. Applicants will be contacted by OIP with instructions in February. Japan students must write a thorough Statement of Purpose as part of their IP application. Short essays have resulted in students being denied admission in the past. Ensure students write a full and meaningful Statement of Purpose.

There is a CSU Resident Director in Japan. In addition, there is a Program Assistant who works exclusively with the CSU Resident Director and IP students at Waseda University. She is a local Japanese woman and is responsible for managing the daily routine in the office. She also assists with orientation, interviews host families, arranges field trips, etc.

International students are currently allowed to work 20 hours per week while studying in Japan, and teaching English is by far the most common type of job.

The “Renewal” option (request to stay a second year) is not available for Japan.

The main mode of transportation in and around Tokyo is the incredibly efficient subway and train network.

Waseda prohibits its students from driving motorized vehicles. Therefore, an international driver's license is not necessary. Students' commutes are about one hour each way using public transportation.

All applicants should apply for a passport at the same time they apply to the IP Program.

HOUSING

Most of the IP participants live in dormitories. Dormitory life provides students with the opportunity to interact more with their Japanese counterparts, as well as with other international students. CSU students who enjoy the independence of living on their own in California will likely prefer life in the dormitories.

A few participants are housed with Japanese families. This requires students to assume a social and moral responsibility toward their families. This arrangement provides a unique opportunity for students to become involved in the family culture of Japan, but it also requires adaptation to a more restricted way of life, particularly for women.

CALENDAR (APPROXIMATE DATES)

Application deadline	February 1
Notification of acceptance	Early April
Program Start	Mid September
Program End	Mid July