



新潟大学
NIIGATA UNIVERSITY

GUIDANCE for Japanese Language Learning Subjects



International Exchange Center, Niigata University

Learning Japanese at Niigata University

You can study Japanese independently using online learning materials and other resources.

However, it is not easy to develop the ability to communicate your ideas and feelings to others in Japanese through self-study alone.

At Niigata University, we place particular emphasis on developing the Japanese ability needed to express and communicate your own ideas.

To communicate your ideas accurately in Japanese in a range of situations, you need to be able to use appropriate expressions when needed.

To achieve this, it is important to move beyond learning that relies only on grammatical knowledge.

Many learners may feel that they still cannot communicate effectively despite studying hard. Understanding grammar is important, but grammar alone does not readily lead to the ability to use Japanese in practice.

To use Japanese effectively, you need practical training in actually using the language.

This is similar to improving at a sport.

Simply practicing without a clear method will not lead to improvement. First, it is important to learn the basic forms and practice them repeatedly. Once you have a solid foundation, you can gradually develop your own way of using the language and apply what you have learned.

To help students acquire these basic forms, Niigata University offers speaking, interaction, and writing courses under the category of Learning Japanese.

For students who already have a foundation, we also offer reading and specialized courses that help them develop their own ways of using Japanese.

In courses categorized as Learning in Japanese, students can take reading courses covering a variety of Japanese texts, courses for students seeking employment in Japan, and collaborative courses with Japanese students. Opportunities are also available to learn about Japanese society and culture.

Choose courses that match your level and goals and develop your ability to learn and communicate in Japanese step by step.

I .Learning Japanese Subjects

—Lessons for Output in Japanese—

【Introduction】

Japanese Proficiency Levels

- Beginner: JLPT N5-N4
- Intermediate: JLPT N3
- Advanced: JLPT N2 or above

JLPT N1-N5 Level Guide

<https://www.jlpt.jp/about/levelsummary.html>

CEFR Reference Levels

- CEFR A1 : approximately JLPT N5
- CEFR A2 : approximately JLPT N4
- CEFR B1 : approximately JLPT N3

【Course Duration】

- Term-long courses (8 weeks)
Intensive study over a short period
- Semester-long courses (15 weeks)
Continuous study over two terms

【Courses Offered】

- Writing
(Semester-long)

Course Title	Target Level	Description
Academic Writing in Japanese I	JLPT N3	Target levels are JLPT based so that Learners should be able to become better users of Japanese through various writing exercises.
Academic Writing in Japanese II	JLPT N2	
Academic Writing in Japanese III	JLPT N1	
Academic Writing in Japanese IV	JLPT N1 or above	

• Speaking/Oral Communication
(Term-long)

Course Title	Target Level	Description
Learning Japanese I	CEFR A I	Learning Japanese (I ~Ⅶ) Target levels are CEFR based so that learners should be able to communicate in Japanese in various situations.
Learning Japanese II	CEFR A I	
Learning Japanese III	CEFR A2	
Learning Japanese IV	CEFR A2	

(Semester-long)

Course Title	Target Level	Description
Learning Japanese V	CEFR A2~B I	Introduction to Japanese Language Based on the recitation of selected sample monologues so that learners actually will be able to present their own information in Japanese.
Learning Japanese VI	CEFR B I	
Learning Japanese VII	CEFR B I	
Introduction to Japanese Language	CEFR A I	
Introduction to Communicative Japanese	CEFR A I	

—Lessons for acquiring further knowledge of Japanese language—

(Semester-long)

Course Title	Description	
Japanese Reading Comprehension I	I : News articles, etc.	Students read a variety of Japanese texts, understand their content, and develop the ability to express their own ideas in Japanese.
Japanese Reading Comprehension II	II : Academic essays, etc.	
Japanese Reading Comprehension III	III : Newspaper editorial, etc.	Content differs among courses I ~ VI * JLPT N2 or above is recommended.
Japanese Reading Comprehension IV	IV : Literature: Poetry, etc.	
Japanese Reading Comprehension V	V : Literature: Novels, etc.	
Japanese Reading Comprehension VI	VI : Literature: Waka, etc.	

(Term-long)

- Lecture on Japanese Grammar in English
- Lecture on Japanese Grammar in Chinese

Lecture-style courses explaining Japanese grammar.

Both courses use an intermediate-level textbook equivalent to JLPT N2.

—Lessons for acquiring knowledge for working in Japan—
(Semester-long)

- Business Japanese
- Working in Japan

To acquire practical Japanese language skills and knowledge for job hunting and working in Japan, and to develop the ability to communicate effectively in professional and job-hunting situations.

* JLPT N2 or above is recommended.

2. Learning in Japanese Subjects

(Term-long)

- Cross Cultural Learning A/B/C/D
- Active Learning B/C

(Semester-long)

- Intercultural Collaborative Learning A/B

Japanese and international students learn together through group work, discussions, and collaborative projects to develop intercultural understanding, communication skills, and problem-solving abilities.

* Cross-Cultural Learning A is taught in both Japanese and English. Active Learning B is taught in both Japanese and English, while active Learning C is taught mainly in Japanese.

3. Learning in English Subjects

(Term-long)

- Active Learning A
- What is Japan A/B/C/D

Japanese and international students participate in group work and discussions in English to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and society.

- Studies in Japanese Culture I / II

Students learn about Japanese culture, society, and everyday customs, and deepen their understanding of Japan through group work and discussions.

4. Registration/Important Notes

■ Check the Syllabus

Course content, timing, and availability may vary by academic year, semester, or term. Be sure to check the latest syllabus before registering.

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/campus/life/class/course/>

- * For online classes held via Zoom, check the Course Information Notice for access details.
- * For in-person classes, go to the classroom listed in the syllabus.

■ Course Registration

- Register through the Student Web System.
- Registration is available from your enrollment date, Sunday, September 20.

■ Registration Deadlines

- Term 1 and Term 3 courses (including term-long and semester-long courses.)
→By the day before the first class
- Term 2 and Term 4 courses (including term-long courses)
→By the registration deadline for the relevant term
 - * Deadlines vary by academic year. Check the Student Web System.
 - * Classes for the second semester of academic year 2026, Term 3, begin on Friday, October 2.

■ Class Format

- Courses may be offered in person or online.
- A computer or tablet is required for online classes.
- Some courses cannot be taken if you are unable to use Zoom or

Teams.

■ Eligibility

- Priority is given to undergraduate students and undergraduate exchange students from partner universities.
- Graduate students and research students may enroll if space is available.
- Students' family members, researchers, and international faculty members are not eligible to enroll.