

## **Japanese for Beginners**

### **Overview**

This is an introductory course for international students who are learning Japanese for the first time. Students will learn the basics of reading and writing hiragana and katakana, while becoming familiar with how the Japanese language is used and the characteristics of its expressions. The course aims to help students engage in simple interactions such as greetings, self-introductions, and conversations about familiar topics. It also provides a supportive environment for beginning Japanese study and encourages the development of independent learning habits.

### **Course Objectives**

Read and write hiragana and katakana.

Understand and use common expressions frequently used in daily life, such as greetings and self-introductions.

Explore learning methods suited to oneself and develop an independent approach to language learning.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The pace and content of the course may be adjusted according to students' proficiency levels.*

Session 1: Orientation; Getting Started with Japanese — Japanese sounds, scripts, and greetings

Session 2: Nice to Meet You! — Self-introductions; Hiragana I

Session 3: About Me — Talking about yourself ; Hiragana II

Session 4: Campus Life — Identifying and locating places in the university; Hiragana III

Session 5: Let's Go Shopping! — Shopping conversations and prices; Hiragana IV

Session 6: Enjoy Your Meal — Ordering food and drinks at cafés/restaurants; Katakana I

Session 7: My Favorites — Talking about things you like; Katakana II

Session 8: My Weekly Plans — Talking about daily/weekly schedules; Katakana III

Session 9: Let's Do It Together — Making plans with others; Katakana IV

Session 10: Show & Tell — Student presentations

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

All necessary materials will be distributed during class via manaba.

## **Elementary Japanese for Daily Life**

### **Overview**

This course is designed for international students at the J1 and J2 levels. It aims to improve their Japanese language skills (vocabulary, grammar, and conversation) necessary for daily life. Through role-plays and presentation activities based on real-life situations, students will develop practical communication abilities.

### **Course Objectives**

Understand basic Japanese used in daily life situations on and off campus.

Conduct short exchanges using simple Japanese.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedule may be adjusted depending on students' Japanese proficiency and academic majors.*

Session 1: Orientation, self-introduction and basic expressions

Session 2: Interactions in class (explaining class schedules, locations, etc.)

Session 3: Using the cafeteria and café (ordering and menu-based conversations)

Session 4: Extracurricular activities (introducing events, inviting others)

Session 5: Shopping (asking about items in a store, making purchases)

Session 6: Student life consultations (discussing and asking about problems)

Session 7: Interactions at the hospital (talking about health conditions)

Session 8: Part-time jobs (reading job listings, practicing interview conversations)

Session 9: Comparing Japanese and home country cultures (introducing Japan, travel conversations)

Session 10: Final review and presentations (presentations and reflections)

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

All necessary materials will be distributed in class via manaba.

## **Academic Japanese Presentation for Intermediate Students**

### **Overview**

Students will deepen their understanding of vocabulary and expressions used in various specialized fields, taking the lead in their own learning.

### **Course Objectives**

To acquire Japanese expressions and techniques for academic presentations related to university studies and research, enabling students to effectively deliver presentations tailored to their field of specialization.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedule may be adjusted depending on students' Japanese proficiency and academic majors.*

Session 1: Orientation, assessment of language level and field of study

Session 2: Lesson 1 “What is a Presentation?”, Lesson 4 “Research Presentation (1): How to explain the introduction”

Session 3: Lesson 5 “Research Presentation (2): How to transition to the main body”

Session 4: Lesson 6 “Research Presentation (3): How to explain results and discussion (with one data set)”

Session 5: Lesson 7 “Research Presentation (4): How to explain results and discussion (with two data sets)”

Session 6: Lesson 8 “Research Presentation (5): How to present the conclusion and summarize overall content”

Session 7: Lesson 9 “Presentation Slides (1): Techniques for conciseness in Japanese”, Lesson 10 “Presentation Slides (2): Effective ways to present information”

Session 8: Lesson 15 “Pre-lecture on practice presentations and reflections”

Session 9: Individual Presentations (Part 1)

Session 10: Individual Presentations (Part 2)

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

Nishina, H. *Ryūgakusei no tame no kangae o tsutaeau purezen'tēshon*. Kurosio Shuppan.

## **Academic Japanese Writing for Upper-Intermediate Students**

### **Overview**

This course is designed for upper-intermediate to advanced students. It focuses on the Japanese expressions and techniques required for academic work, particularly for writing reports and research papers. Students will also apply the techniques learned in class to produce an academic report of their own.

### **Course Objectives**

Understand the expressions and structural conventions used in academic Japanese.

Write accurate and clear texts in Japanese for academic purposes.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedule may be adjusted depending on students' Japanese proficiency and academic majors.*

Session 1: Introduction: What is academic Japanese?

Session 2: Critical thinking

Session 3: Paragraph writing

Session 4: Creating an outline

Session 5: Commonly used academic expressions

Session 6: Writing I and feedback

Session 7: Literature review and identifying research questions

Session 8: Presenting data

Session 9: Writing II and feedback

Session 10: Final report and peer review

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

Koda, N. (2025). *Daigaku de Manabu Akademikku Raitingu no Kyoukasho*. Hitsuji Shobo.

## **Keigo and Situational Communication for Intermediate Students**

### **Overview**

In this course, students will explore which Japanese expressions are appropriate in various situations in order to achieve smooth communication. Through discussions, they will consider how language choice changes depending on context and interpersonal relationships.

### **Course Objectives**

Select appropriate Japanese expressions according to the relationship with the interlocutor and the communicative situation.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedule may be adjusted depending on students' Japanese proficiency and academic majors.*

Session 1: Introduction: What is natural keigo (polite language)?

Session 2: Japanese expressions that reflect social distance (differences in speech toward teachers, seniors, and friends)

Session 3: Making requests and declining

Session 4: Asking questions and seeking advice

Session 5: Expressing gratitude and apologizing

Session 6: Aizuchi (backchanneling), agreement, and disagreement

Session 7: Softened expressions and vague expressions

Session 8: Distinguishing between written language and spoken language

Session 9: Presentation preparation and peer review

Session 10: Final presentations: Comparing perceptions of interpersonal distance in Japanese and in one's native language

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

All necessary materials will be distributed during class via manaba.

## **First Steps in Japanese for Job Hunting**

### **Overview**

This course is designed for international students at levels J3 and J4. Its aim is to help students acquire the Japanese vocabulary and expressions necessary for job hunting in Japan. In addition, students will gain a basic understanding of the job-hunting process and learn introductory skills such as writing entry sheets and preparing for interviews.

### **Course Objectives**

Understand the basic flow of job hunting in Japan and be able to create a schedule.

Write entry sheets using provided templates.

Respond to simple questions in interview situations.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedule may change depending on students' Japanese proficiency levels and fields of study.*

Session 1: Orientation, course introduction, self-introductions, future goals

Session 2: Job-hunting schedule in Japan

Session 3: Self-analysis I: strengths and weaknesses

Session 4: Self-analysis II: talking about one's experiences

Session 5: Company research and understanding industries

Session 6: Motivation for applying I: Why this job?

Session 7: Motivation for applying II: How to write an entry sheet

Session 8: Interview I: Understanding common questions

Session 9: Interview II: Etiquette and speaking style

Session 10: Presentations: My future plan; course review

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

All necessary materials will be distributed during class via manaba.

## **Basics of Job Hunting in Japan for International Students**

### **Overview**

This course aims to help international students acquire the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for job hunting in Japan. Students will gain an understanding of the characteristics of the Japanese job-hunting process and develop practical skills such as writing entry sheets and preparing for interviews. In addition, the course includes preparation for the BJT (Business Japanese Proficiency Test), helping students build the confidence needed to pursue employment opportunities in Japan.

### **Course Objectives**

Understand the structure and characteristics of job hunting in Japan and explain one's reasons for applying and self-promotion concisely in Japanese.

Understand the structure of the BJT Business Japanese Proficiency Test and be able to respond to basic questions.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedule may be adjusted depending on students' Japanese proficiency and academic majors.*

Session 1: Orientation, characteristics of job hunting in Japan

Session 2: Introduction to job-hunting manners (case studies)

Session 3: Self-analysis ①: Verbalizing strengths and experiences (worksheet and short writing)

Session 4: Self-analysis ②: Structure and expression of self-introduction (self-intro and peer evaluation)

Session 5: Motivation for application and company research (writing motivation statements and information gathering)

Session 6: Self-promotion and Entry Sheet writing ① (ES writing and peer review)

Session 7: Entry Sheet writing ② and revision (peer comments and editing)

Session 8: Interview basics and common questions (mock interviews in pairs and reflection)

Session 9: Introduction to BJT preparation (understanding BJT structure)

Session 10: Final review (BJT mini test and reflection)

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

All necessary materials will be distributed during class via manaba.

## **Advanced Seminar on Japanese Society and Culture for International Students**

### **Overview**

This course is designed for international students at levels J5 to J8. It aims to deepen their understanding of Japanese society and culture while enhancing their Japanese language proficiency. Students will examine various topics using provided materials and engage in discussions with their peers. The course also focuses on acquiring expressions found in the materials and those used in discussions, helping students develop advanced Japanese knowledge and interactive communication skills.

### **Course Objectives**

Accurately understand the background and current situation of topics related to Japanese society and culture.

Express one's thoughts logically using appropriate expressions.

Respect others' opinions and actively engage in dialogue with a cooperative attitude.

### **Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedule may be adjusted depending on students' Japanese proficiency and academic majors.*

Session 1: Orientation, Topic 1: Dialects (reading materials and discussion)

Session 2: Topic 2: Pop Culture (reading materials and discussion)

Session 3: Topic 3: Education (reading materials and discussion)

Session 4: Topic 4: Careers (reading materials and discussion)

Session 5: Topic 5: Diversity (reading materials and discussion)

Session 6: Topic 6: Health (reading materials and discussion)

Session 7: Topic 7: Disasters (reading materials and discussion)

Session 8: Topic 8: Environmental Issues (reading materials and discussion)

Session 9: Topic 9: Traditional Culture (reading materials and discussion)

Session 10: Presentations and overall summary

### **Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials**

All necessary materials will be distributed in class via manaba.



## Advanced Seminar on Exploring Japanese Language for International Students

### Overview

This course is designed for students at levels J5 to J8. Students will deepen their understanding of Japanese by analyzing the Japanese they use in daily life.

### Course Objectives

Consider and understand how Japanese expressions are used and what they mean in context.

Reflect on one's own Japanese usage and choose expressions appropriately.

Identify questions related to familiar aspects of the language and analyze them.

### Course Schedule

*Note: The schedule may be adjusted depending on students' Japanese proficiency and academic majors.*

Session 1: “If you want, you can take this. It’s a little heavy.” “*Daijōbu desu*”—Does it mean yes or no? — Meaning in context

Session 2: What do *ryo*, *kyodori*, and *itsumen* mean? — Youth language

Session 3: Are *yado*, *ryokan*, and *hoteru* the same? — Native words, Sino-Japanese words, and loanwords

Session 4: Why is “I’m going abroad, so let’s get married” problematic? — Failures in conversation

Session 5: うなずく or うなづく? — Sound and writing

Session 6: When is “hito” written in katakana? — Katakana usage

Session 7: How do you pronounce “えゝ”? — Language in manga

Session 8: What do *namara*, *dera*, and *buchi* mean? — Dialects

Session 9: Which is easier to use, *masen* or *nai desu*? — Polite and plain forms

Session 10: Final presentations: Students’ own research questions and analyses

### Textbooks, References, and Supplementary Materials

Materials will be distributed during class via manaba.

**Reference:** Noda, H., & Noda, H. (2017). <Akutibu Rāningu Taiō> *Nihongo o Bunseki suru Resson*. Taishukan Shoten.