

27 Jan, 2017 revised

Study in Japan 2017

June 24- July 15

Mukogawa Women's University
Nishinomiya, Japan



Small, intensive language class
Lectures on contemporary and traditional culture
Educational field trips
Homestays with Japanese host families
Scholarships available!



THE PROGRAM

Mukogawa Women's University (MWU) located in Nishinomiya, Japan will host its 22nd intensive Japanese Culture Studies Program for college and university women students.

MWU invites fifteen female full-time undergraduate or graduate students to participate in this intensive program. Students must be committed to learning Japanese language and culture, and be willing to participate fully in the program curriculum. *Study in Japan 2017* is best suited for students for whom this is their first experience in Japan.

To fully immerse students in Japanese language and culture, participants will not only take language and culture classes, but enjoy exciting field trips and a homestay with a Japanese host family. Through the *Study in Japan* Program, students are given the rare opportunity to experience daily facets of Japanese life, while working on their course of studies.

Qualifications

- Students are admitted based on their academic records, seriousness of purpose, and their sincere desire to participate in all aspects of the program.
- Must be a registered student at their home institute and planning to continue study through at least July 2017.
- All students must have a minimum ability of writing Hiragana, Katakana and simple sentences.

Student Selection

A successful overseas study program requires all of the same skills and attitudes needed to do well in any academic class or meaningful job - only under different, sometimes challenging, circumstances.

Living and studying in Japan is exciting! However, everyone experiences 'culture shock' to some degree. The first few days may be challenging as participants deal with jet lag, cultural and language fatigue, cultural differences, attitudes, life styles, food, teaching differences, and a sense of urgency to see and do it all! Each participant must accept these conditions and deal with them positively to gain the greatest benefit from this study abroad program.

HOMESTAY & EVERYDAY LIFE

Participants experience a homestay. Mukogawa Women's University students and their families volunteer to host participants during the whole program. Homestays provide a very personal learning experience and promote authentic cultural understanding,—observing everyday family life, preparing and eating meals, and planning activities together, using one's Japanese language skills,

Many host families consist of parents, siblings, and pets. Few host parents and grandparents speak English but this gives each *Study in Japan* participant ample opportunity to practice her Japanese.

Everyday Life

Host families live throughout the area, including Kobe, Nishinomiya and its suburbs, and Osaka. Participants commute daily to classes via bus, train or bicycle. Transportation costs are paid by Mukogawa Women's University.



Participants generally eat their breakfasts and dinners with their host families, and lunch at the MWU cafeteria. Participants are expected to be willing to taste a variety of Japanese foods.

During weekends, students will participate in the activities and meals offered by their host families. This valuable time offers students the opportunity to engage in the rhythms of Japanese family life and to get to know their host families better.

During free times, our *Study in Japan* participants often enjoy spending some time with one another, sightseeing and shopping.

FIELD TRIPS

(Comments from 2016 Students)

- *It has been amazing to watch and learn from areal Japanese family about how people in Japan live everyday life, and to me that is good lesson of all.*
- *Homestay will help us to develop a deeper understanding and gain an insight into what Japanese daily life is really like, not just what is seen in films.*

The *Study in Japan* program includes regional field trip, so students can experience the beauty of Japan, as well as its history.

This year's trip includes One-day trip to Nara



(Comments from 2016 Students)

- *Nara tour was most was most enjoyable and I finally got to the opportunity to see the deer and DAiBUTSU which I have wanted to see for a while.*

Exchanges & Friendships

Participants will have opportunities to meet and talk with Mukogawa Women's University students. Some of these students are interested in going abroad or learning about different cultures. Others have studied abroad in a various programs. They look forward to meeting *Study in Japan* students, and these conversations - in either English or Japanese - are a great opportunity to interact with Japanese peers about everyday university life in Japan.



THE CURRICULUM: JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

LANGUAGE COURSES

Students will take a full course load - two classes. Below is an explanation of the courses and the number of classroom hours.

I. Japanese Language

The goal of the language courses will be to improve each participant's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Japanese. While participants need to be realistic that they will not become fluent within their short stay, their fluency can improve substantially in these intensive daily classes.

Students will be divided into one of two levels, depending upon their individual level of proficiency. **The language classes will be appropriate for students who have completed first and second year Japanese language training.**

Level I

Students will focus on day-to-day conversation and reading. The readings will include articles about Japanese customs and related cultural aspects of the language. By the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- ***express** basic greetings in Japanese
- ***ask and answer** simple questions about their own hometown and family, and talk about their experiences while in Japan
- ***read and write words and phrases** in hiragana and katakana as well as a number of kanji

Level II

Students will practice reading and writing as well as audit a course on Japanese language. By the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- ***read short articles** in Japanese about language customs and related cultural nuances
- ***write short articles** using Japanese about their impressions of Japan
- ***converse** using daily expressions
- ***use more than 200 kanji**
- ***apply essential grammar** when writing and speaking



CULTURE COURSES

Two intensive culture courses will be taught, one focusing on Japan's traditions, the other on modern Japan. These multi-faceted courses will comprise of lectures, workshops, discussions, and field trips. Their purpose is to give students a broad but intensive look at the development of Japanese culture.



(Comments from 2016 Students)
• I enjoyed the range of activities have done inside and outside the Japanese lessons and it has been a wonderful and challenging experiences that has been thrilling every second.

II. Traditional Japanese Culture & Art

Students have the opportunity to attend lectures and participate in workshops on such traditional Japanese arts as:

- *Shodo (calligraphy)
- *Japanese Dance
- *Mochi Pounding

Students will also visit Nara, Todaiji Temple, one of the UNESCO's World Heritages, a breath-taking example of ancient Japanese architecture and art.



(Comments from 2016 Students)
• Shodo was enjoyable because I like traditional things, and it gave me a chance to try ancient tradition and learn a bit about the history of Kanji and Horagana

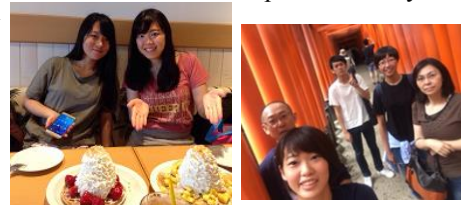


III. Contemporary Japanese Society

This course will explore the complex facets of a strong, traditional culture in the modern world. Topics include:

- *Japanese Society
- *Cross-Cultural Communication

Students will examine a wide range of topics, including family relationships and the structure of Japanese society.



Attendance at all classes, lectures, workshops, field trips, exchanges and program activities is required. All language classes are conducted in Japanese.

Professors

More than a dozen MWU professors will participate in teaching this program.

Academic Hours

<u>Japanese Language</u>	36.0 hours
<u>Japanese Culture</u>	18.0 hours
<u>Japanese Society</u>	9.0 hours

Include Exchanging with MWU students

Orientations 5.5 hours

Total Classroom Hours: 68.5 hours

BASIC INFORMATION

Application Information

The **COMPLETE** application packet, including a current transcript, a passport photo and two recommendations should be sent to MWU by March 24, 2016 (Japan time).

Applicants are solely responsible for returning their completed application packets. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Passport & Visa

Applicants must hold a current passport or be able to obtain one *before April 28, 2017*. **Any applicant without a valid passport should apply for one immediately.** A visa is not required for short-term study.

Travel Arrangements

Participants will fly as a group to and from Japan on the airlines and flights selected by the travel agent of the University the students belong to. **Students must arrive on June 24.**

During the program, Participants are only allowed to travel within Kansai region.

We ask that you respect the guidelines in this program as we have outlined above. However, if you stay in Japan after the program is completed, then all travel arrangements and accommodations are your sole responsibility.



Undergraduate or Graduate Credit

Mukogawa Women's University will issue a certificate of completion for the *Study in Japan* Program.

Each institution will make its own decision for granting credits and grades for participants. Please see your school's international program studies director or department chair or advisor.

MWU Scholarship & Funding

This program is funded by Mukogawa Women's University. Each participant is awarded "scholarship" which includes:

- **tuition & all workshop fees** (except for a small program fee)
- **costs of meals with host families** (except weekday lunches)
- **lodging** (including homestays)
- **program-sponsored field trips**
- **daily transportation** to & from MWU campus and host family's home
- **transportation** between the airport & home of host family



Student/Participant Expenses

As participants receive a generous scholarship for the tuition, homestay, and study-related expenses, participants should not anticipate any other funding from Mukogawa Women's University.

(Comments from 2016 students)

• I found it was difficult with the pace of the language classes and activities being a bit too fast at times. So I felt I couldn't study to the best of my abilities. However, the opportunity that was given to me through this program has made me overcome many obstacles such as with my speaking and culture differences. This made me grow into a more confident person by seeing what I need to improve on in the future. The program has created many lifelong friends and memories.



Costs & Cancellation

Each participant is responsible for the following:

Program Fee — ¥70,000 must be paid by April 28, 2017 to MWU (Japan time). Information on payment methods will be given by MWU upon acceptance.

- **passport & passport photo fees**
- **round-trip airfare +flight** cancellation or insurance
- **individual transportation** (bus or train) for personal shopping and additional sight-seeing trips
- **personal incidental expenses** for three weeks, approx. \$250-350
- **tuition or fees for credit** at the participant's home college or university
- **proof of personal health insurance** (minimum 22 days policy)

APPLICATION PACKETS

Call or write for your packet:

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