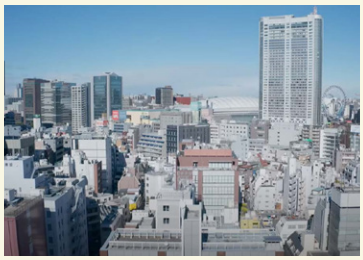
2026 Guide to the Nihon University Japanese Language and Japan Studies Program

【NU-JLSP】

Overview of Nihon University







Nihon University is one of Japan's largest private universities, comprising 12 colleges and 4 schools with 86 departments, 20 graduate schools, 24 attached and affiliated high schools, 16 attached and affiliated junior high schools, 3 elementary schools, 3 kindergartens a center for early childhood education and care.

The university's forerunner, Nihon Law School, was founded in 1889, and since then Nihon University has continued to lead education and research with a consistently global perspective and progressive spirit.

Offering a diverse range of disciplines, as a true university with appeal, Nihon University undertakes various activities such as medical care and lifelong education, in addition to its educational and research activities, with a view to contributing to the further development of society.

Overview of the Japanese Language and Japan Studies Program (JLSP)

Nihon University offers the Japanese Language and Japan Studies Program (JLSP) to exchange students from overseas universities with which Nihon University has established inter-university exchange agreements. Under the JLSP, international exchange program students undergo short-term intensive Japanese language and cultural／social education.

The program offers 3 subjects ; Japanese Language Subjects (Comprehensive Japanese／Elective Japanese), Japan Studies Subjects (taught in English), and Cultural Activities (in which Nihon University student volunteers also participate).



Features of the Japanese Language and Japan Studies Program (JLSP)

Short-term Intensive Japanese Language Course = 50 days



Approximately two-and-a-half-month period students study comprehensive Japanese language intensively for 150 hours (3 hours per day for 50 days); 150 hours is the basic number of study hours required to advance one level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

1st [Summer] Term	2nd [Fall] Term	3rd [Spring] Term
(mid-May to late-July)	(mid-September to early-December)	(mid-January to late-March)

*JLSP is a one-term program; the same program is offered three times in an academic year.

Japanese Language Course Level Placement = 5 Levels of Comprehensive Japanese Language; 5 Subjects of Elective Japanese Language

Students are placed in courses according to the level of their Japanese language proficiency to enable them to study the language efficiently in a short period of time. The 5 compulsory comprehensive Japanese levels (A-E)* are applicable to the study levels for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.
Elective compulsory subjects are designed to focus on "students' direct experience and output" and enhance their autonomous learning. Students must take at least one of the five elective courses.

*Levels are decided based on the results of a placement test conducted before start of courses.



Understanding of Japanese Society / Culture and Cultural Activities



To enable students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Japanese society and culture, and also to raise the awareness of intercultural literacy, the J LSP provides the Japan Studies Subject as well as the Cultural Activities. In the Japan Studies Subject, students study in English about Japanese economy, art, issues that modern society is facing, and behavioral patterns. In the Cultural Activities, students experience Japanese society and culture directly using Japanese words and expressions actually used by native speakers.

Collaboration with Volunteers

Japanese students from Nihon University participate as volunteers in the Cultural Activities in both inside and outside the classroom. Through these collaborative activities with volunteers, students deepen their exchange with Japanese people.



Japanese Language and Japan Studies Program (JLSP) Schedule

*The events and assignments might be changed or cancelled depending on the situation.

1 Before Start of Courses
JLSP Guidance／Placement Test by online

2 Before or first day of courses
Opening Ceremony／Welcoming party



3 Week 1-2



Visit to the Life Safety Learning Center (Cultural Activities Ⅰ)

4 Week 5
Study Tour (Cultural Activities Ⅱ)





Japanese Language and Japan Studies Program (JLSP) Curriculum

Comprehensive Japanese	※Compulsory Subject		Compulsory Subject (5 course levels) 10 classes per week (2 classes per day) are required. (1.5 hours _ 10 classes _ 10 weeks) (1.5 hours _ 2 classes _ 50 days)	The required number of hours of study in the Comprehensive Japanese classes: 150
Elementary	A			
Upper-Elementary	B			
Intermediate	C			
Upper-Intermediate	D			
Advanced	E			
Elective Japanese	※Compulsory Subject for JLSP (Nihon University Exchange Students)			The required number of hours of study in the Elective Japanese classes : 15~45 ※Students must take at least one of the five elective courses.
Communication in Practice	CO	Interacting with Japanese volunteers, project work, etc.		
Creation in Japanese	CR	Students collaborate in groups to create videos, through which they develop their Japanese language skills and deepen their understanding of Japanese culture.		
Inquiry into Japanese Culture	IN	Students explore Japanese society through Japanese business culture, and develop their Japanese language skills through interviews and presentations.		
Intercultural Experience	IE	Learn about traditional Japanese culture and other daily culture by direct experience. And present or write reports, etc.		
Autonomous Learning	AL	Determine a specific area to study, by yourself, create a plan, and learn autonomously while being supported by a teacher.		
Japan Studies	※Compulsory Subject for JLSP (Nihon University Exchange Students)			The required number of hours of study in the Japan studies classes: 27
Japanese Society Japanese Culture	JS1	Japan Studies 1 The topics on Japanese society and culture (organized in an amnibus fashion)	Compulsory Subject 	
	JS2	Japan Studies 2		
Cultural Activities	※Compulsory Subject for JLSP (Nihon University Exchange Students)			The required number of hours of study in the Cultural Activities : 20
Visit to the Life Safety Learning Center	Honjo or Ikebukuro Bōsaikan		3 hours	
Study Tour	We'll let you know the details once it's been decided		9 hours	
Seeing a Kabuki Performance	Kabukiza Theatre (Tokyo)		8 hours	

*Curriculum for 2023 is provided as a reference

- Total number of hours for studying compulsory subjects: 212~242 **(depends on the elective subjects you take)**
- Course content is the same for each term.
- Comprehensive Japanese and Elective Japanese courses are also attended by international students other than JLSP students.

5 Week 5-9

Preparation and submission of a manuscript for the semester's commemorative issue

6 Week 9



Seeing a Kabuki Performance (Cultural Activities Ⅲ)

7 Week 10

Final Tests／Course Evaluation Period

8 Final Day of Courses

Closing Ceremony／Farewell Party



Comprehensive Japanese／Elective Japanese

Comprehensive Japanese

This course comprises compulsory courses aimed at comprehensively raising students' Japanese language reading／writing／listening／speaking proficiency. Courses are placed in 5 levels (A-E) and students study Japanese intensively in small classes of their levels for 150 hours during the term. Up to the Intermediate level, courses are based on textbooks and students comprehensively improve their overall Japanese language proficiency. At the Advanced level, there are separate classes for each language skill (reading／writing／listening／speaking／grammar) and different textbooks and materials are used to enable students to acquire an even higher level of Japanese language proficiency.



Activities outside the classroom and discussions with Nihon University student volunteers are conducted to enable students to use and practice the Japanese language skills they have learned.



Elective Japanese

5 elective subjects (Communication in Practice, Creation in Japanese,Inquiry into Japanese Culture*, Intercultural Experience, Autonomous Learning) are placed for academic purposes.
Students are able to improve Japanese language proficiency by using Japanese language that you learned in Comprehensive Japanese courses.
Nihon University student volunteers join together.
Students are able to choose subjects freely in accordance with their needs and interests.
Students must take at least one of the five elective courses.

Comprehensive Japanese／Elective Japanese Course Level Settings

Comprehensive Japanese Course Level		Elective Japanese Course Level					JLPT*	CEFR**
A	Elementary	CO [Communication] in Practice	CR [Creation] in Japanese			AL1 [Autonomous Learning]	N5	A1
B	Upper-Elementary						N4	A2
C	Intermediate			IN [Inquiry into Japanese Culture]	IE [Intercultural Experience]	AL2 [Autonomous Learning]	N3	B1
D	Upper-Intermediate						N2	B2
E	Advanced						N1	C1

* Placement tests correspond to each level for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).
** CEF-R (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages): a common evaluation standard for the achievements of learners of foreign languages in the European Community.

Japan Studies



Japan Studies Courses are compulsory courses taught in English, aimed at helping students enhance their knowledge of Japanese society, culture and people, think introspectively about questions they may have regarding Japanese culture. Students attend lectures and participate in discussions on Japanese culture, economy and various other subjects.

Cultural Activities

*The events might be changed or cancelled depending on the situation.

The aim of this course is to encourage students to acquire the sense of intercultural literacy as well as global perspective by interacting with their surroundings of things and humans. The three Cultural Activities courses are aimed at raising the awareness of students' views on Japanese culture, and various friends' cultures. These three Cultural Activities courses give the students' new perspectives on by allowing them to actual experience of Japanese society and culture while fostering friendship with our volunteers.

POINT

Visit to the Life Safety Learning Center

With a view to better understanding Japan's geographical characteristics, students learn about the prevalence of earthquakes, fires, and typhoons in Japan and experience simulations of how to respond in case any of these events occurs.



POINT

StudyTrip

The aim of this trip is to enable students to come in contact with Japanese society and culture. Students can enjoy various aspects of Japanese traditional and modern cultures.
On study tours, student volunteers of Nihon University accompany international students and form mixed groups to deepen cultural exchange.



POINT

Seeing a Kabuki Performance

To understand more about traditional Japanese culture, students attend a performance of Kabuki. Through this experience, students can deepen their understanding of the "sophistication" of traditional Japanese culture and how Japanese people enjoy their culture.



Class Timetable 2025 ☆

	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	9:00-10:30	Comprehensive Japanese				
2	10:40-12:10	Comprehensive Japanese				
3	13:00-14:30	Japan Studies 1* Japan Studies 2**	Elective Japanese		Elective Japanese	Cultural Activities***
4	14:40-16:10	Japan Studies 1*	Elective Japanese	Japan Studies 1*	Japan Studies 2**	

* Japan Studies 1 has one class per week on a day that varies depending on the teacher.
** Japan Studies 2 has one class per week on a day that varies depending on the term.
*** Cultural Activities may also be held on Saturday.

☆ The timetable may change from year to year. Detailed timetable information will be provided at the orientation of the beginning of each term.

Messages from Students / Volunteers



MORSE Phobe Sakura
(Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, UK)

The JLSP Programme is not only helpful for those wanting to learn Japanese but provides an opportunity to immerse yourself into Japanese culture. Not only is this facilitated through living and going to classes in Tokyo, but also through talking with the volunteers who provide their own perspectives and opinions through which you can learn more about Japan than you would through research or media. You can take this further with elective classes which offer creative or stimulating ways of thinking about Japan. This is alongside your regular language learning classes which are sure to help you along your Japanese language learning journey as you combine regular formal learning with daily immersion. While there are times you may find the experience challenging, the staff are always there to support you as well as the friends you make within and outside your classes. I found the location of the programme to be a particularly positive aspect, being in the heart of Tokyo in the unique neighbourhood of Jimbocho; just a short train ride away from Harajuku or Ueno and a few minutes walk from Tokyo Dome. With my new friends or solo, I would explore Tokyo's unique café scene, unforgettable fashion, varying and delicious food, and tranquil parks. Whatever your interest, you are sure to be able to explore it through this programme.



HAYASHI Aoto
(Department of Public Policy and Affairs, College of Law, Nihon University)

In the JLSP program, exchange students and volunteers can learn and grow together. Through this program, students can study Japanese language and culture. Additionally, there are many activities that encourage interactions between exchange students and volunteers.
Take for example our JLSP Exchange Cafe, where students and volunteers plan and organize activities together. As we all know, cooperating as a team helps us to build strong relationships. The JLSP program also gives students the opportunity to take study trips, in which the exchange students can experience Japanese culture with volunteers amongst Japanese society. Through this we are also able to share the culture and cuisine of Japan with citizens of various countries.
In addition, I often find myself spending time with exchange students outside of campus, playing sports, going to karaoke and sometimes even travelling to various destinations together. I believe that exchange students may sometimes feel anxiety or confusion while beginning their new life in Japan. If I were to offer you advice to help you adjust to life here, I would strongly encourage you to connect with other exchange students and JLSP volunteers. I guarantee you will create wonderful memories and long-lasting friendships.
On a brief side note, even after returning to their home countries, many of the exchange students have remained close friends of mine. I even visited Germany for a small reunion!
In summary, if you truly want to learn Japanese and take part in Japanese culture, and create meaningful memories and friendships, this program is a great opportunity. Why not join us and learn together?

Communication and Networking

Language Exchange Partner

This system is opened for all students and Nihon University student volunteers to exchange their language out of the class. Students can improve their language skills. What is more, they will find a lifelong friend through this system.

Exchange Café *This event might be changed or cancelled depending on the situation.

The Exchange Café is open when no classes are held.
All members will be in all together students enjoy with snacks and drinks using different languages at this event.

Facebook & Instagram

Our Japanese Language Program has a Facebook page. We will be regularly uploading about our classes and events.
https://www.facebook.com/NichidaiJLP/ https://www.instagram.com/jlp_nu/ (Account Name: jlp_nu)

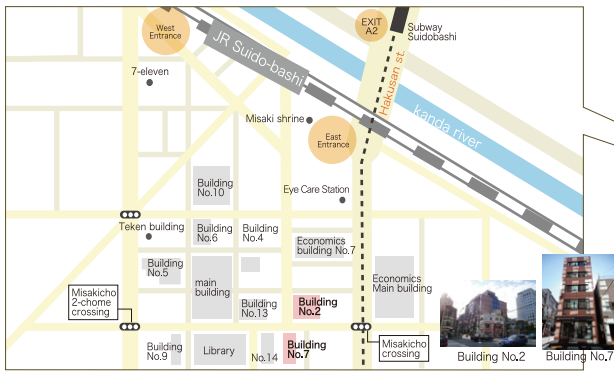
Campus and Accommodations

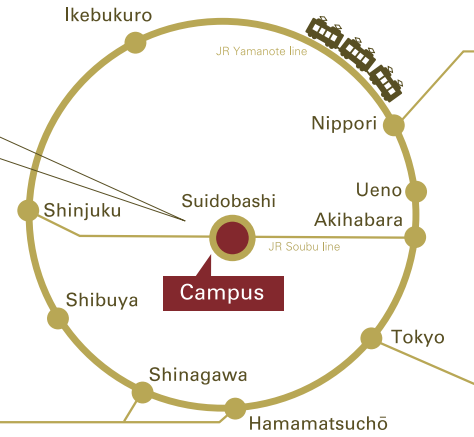
Campus (College of Law, Nihon University)

The Nihon University campus where JLSP is located in Suidobashi (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), a central area for Japanese business and commerce. Tokyo Dome, Korakuen amusement park and other well-known sites are located nearby. Moreover, the campus is optimally located for accessing the main area of Tokyo, with Akihabara's electronics quarter, and Shinjuku-Fukutoshin sub-center located about 15 minutes away by train.

Accommodations

JLSP students are provided with 2 meals and accommodations (approximately 30 minutes by train from campus) equipped with furniture, bath, shower, telephone, and an Internet connection.
Living expenses in Japan, while differing from person to person, are approximately 60,000~100,000 yen per month.








▲ Akihabara


▲ Suidobashi


▲ Shinjuku

Data

International Academic Partnerships: 131 Institutions in 33 Nations and one area (as of 2025 academic year.)

Number of Students	
Graduate**	3,161
Undergraduate**	74,655
Junior College	462
Special Training Schools	316
High Schools	29,783
Junior High Schools	7,297
Primary School	718
Kindergarten	533
Center for early childhood education and care	189
Total	117,114

*As of May 1, 2025
**Including Distance Learning Division

Number of International Students	Male	Female	Total
Undergraduate	1208	561	1,769
Graduate	217	248	465
Grand total	1,425	809	2,234

As of 2025 academic year
Including Distance Learning Division

Participants of the Japanese Language Program	2025 Summer term	2025 Fall term	2025 Spring term
JLSP*	8	12	6
JLP**	15	15	8
Total	23	27	14

*Nihon University Exchange Students
**Department Exchange Students

Main Partner Universities of JLSP students
University of Cambridge(GBR)*
LUT University(FIN)
Stockholm University(SWE)
Free University of Berlin(DEU)
Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz(DEU)
L' Université d'Avignon(FRA)
The University of Toronto(CAN)
Western Michigan University(USA)
The University of Alabama at Birmingham(USA)
The University of Newcastle(AUS)
Nanyang Technological University(SGP)

(and many others)
*Pembroke College



■Admissions (Inquire about application and procedures)

Office of Global Initiatives, Nihon University
4-8-24 Kudan-Minami, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, Japan 102-8275
Phone: +81-3-5275-8116 Fax: +81-3-5275-8315 E-mail: int@nihon-u.ac.jp

■Campus (Inquire about course contents)

Japanese Language and Japan Studies Program, Nihon University
2-3-1 Kanda-Misakicho, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, Japan 101-8375
Phone: +81-3-5275-8716 E-mail: jlp.office@nihon-u.ac.jp

■Japanese Language Program Website

http://www.nihon-u.ac.jp/ (in Japanese)
http://www.nihon-u.ac.jp/en/ (in English)

nu-jlsp Search

【cover design】 *Blooming Cherry Blossoms* by Miki Kudo; Department of Design, College of Art, Nihon University

The design was made on the motif of "sakura," a cherry blossom inscribed in the school badge of Nihon University.
The work is meant to give an impression of walking a new path under full-blown cherry blossoms, feeling a gentle breeze in spring.