

Academic Bulletin for Japan: Waseda University 2025-26

Introduction

The Academic Bulletin is the CSU International Programs (CSU IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the program at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. This bulletin supersedes any previous bulletin(s) published.¹

CSU IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants (also known as the “Academic Guide”). The Academic Guide contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants while abroad. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Minimum/Maximum Unit Load in a Semester, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option, Course Withdrawals, and other policies. The Academic Guide also contains information on academic planning, how courses get credited to your degree, and the academic reporting process including when to expect your academic report at the end of your year abroad.

To access the Academic Guide, go to our [website](#) and click on the year that pertains to your year abroad. For general information about the Japan programs, refer to the CSU IP website under “[Programs](#)”.

Academic Program Information

The CSU International Programs in Tokyo, Japan is affiliated with Waseda University, a private nonsectarian institution which is one of the largest and most renowned universities in Japan.

CSU IP participants select one of the Schools (Programs) below and take courses as one-year exchange students.

- A) School of International Liberal Studies (SILS): <https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/>
- B) School of Political Sciences and Economics (SPSE): <https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/>

CSU IP students regardless of their applied schools take a combination of several course types shown below.

1. Japanese Language Courses offered by Center for Japanese Language (CJL)
2. Academic Lecture Courses offered by the school/program in which they are enrolled.
3. University-wide Open Courses** offered by GEC (Global Education Center), CIE (Center for International Education) or Schools/Departments

A) SILS

The School of International Liberal Studies (SILS) is Waseda University’s flagship school for the globally minded. SILS was founded in 2004 in an ambitious attempt to break the mold. One third of SILS students are from outside Japan, and these international students represent around 50 countries and regions in Asia and in the West and Africa, etc. Likewise, SILS has a multinational and globally fluent faculty. In this way, SILS offers a multicultural and multilingual community that is a veritable microcosm of the world at large. In this community, you will encounter many different personalities, values, and ideas, allowing you to broaden your horizons.

At SILS, English is the common language of communication, and the language of instruction for nearly all its courses. The curriculum features programs designed to enhance English abilities and develop Japanese language skills while matching the needs of students who speak various different native languages. SILS students also have the opportunity to learn 22 other languages as they forge the linguistic skills that will prove indispensable in our global society.

¹ This bulletin has been updated to clarify guidance regarding the assignment of the CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized). This clarification does not constitute a change in policy.

The One-Year/Semester Study Abroad Program is known as “Study Plan 3 (SP3)” at SILS. CSU IP participants under SILS are considered SP3 students and required to take Japanese language courses and placed in small Japanese language classes according to their level and also expected to take SILS lecture courses in a variety of subjects in English. Refer to the paragraph below. Students also have numerous opportunities to interact with Japanese students through several university clubs and taking non-language courses which are open to all SILS students.

*Japanese Language Requirement: In the first semester, SILS students are required to enroll in six units of Japanese language each semester through the Center for Japanese Language (CJL). One of the Japanese language courses must be the comprehensive Japanese language course for either 3 or 5 units (depending on the language level of the course). Students will take 1-unit elective Japanese language courses (theme courses) to total six units. In the second semester, SILS students are required to enroll in six units of Japanese language courses with any combination of comprehensive Japanese and 1-unit theme courses.

General Information: <https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/>

Academic Information: <https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/registration/>

B) SPSE

SPSE started in 1882, as a pioneering department of the Tokyo Senmon Gakko, the school that went on to become Waseda University, founded by Shigenobu Okuma.

SPSE launched an English-based Degree Program called “EDP” in September 2010, welcoming students from around the world. The program offers students the opportunity to take global-standard courses of the highest quality, all conducted in English, and earn credit regardless of their level of Japanese-language proficiency.

CSU IP participants under SPSE take courses from the “EDP” and select their concentration from these three departments, 1) Department of Political Science, 2) Department of Economics, and 3) Department of Global Political Economy.

*Japanese Language Requirement: In the first semester, SPSE students are required to enroll in six units of Japanese language each semester through the Center for Japanese Language (CJL). One of the Japanese language courses must be the comprehensive Japanese language course for either 3 or 5 units (depending on the language level of the course). Students will take 1-unit elective Japanese language courses (theme courses) to total six units. In the second semester, SPSE students are required to enroll in three units of Japanese language courses with any combination of comprehensive Japanese and 1-unit theme courses.

General Information: <https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/>

Academic Information: <https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/students/enrollment/>

Center for Japanese Language (CJL)

The Center for Japanese Language (CJL) is an internal organization that has central responsibility for all Japanese language education at Waseda University where courses at a wide range of levels from beginner to superior are offered. Japanese language studies offered by the CJL consist of mainly Comprehensive Courses and Japanese Theme Subjects.

CJL offers comprehensive Japanese language courses from beginner to pre-advanced (levels 1–6). Students in these courses study the four key skills according to a standardized syllabus and set of materials.

In addition to the comprehensive Japanese language course, students enroll in Japanese theme subject courses to meet the CSU IP Japanese language requirement as necessary. In Japanese Theme Subjects, teachers draw up materials and syllabuses utilizing their respective expertise to provide students from beginner to superior (levels 1–8) with unique, progressive lessons. Rather than focus on the language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, these subjects cover a wide range of topics to meet the diverse interests and needs of foreign students,

from creative subjects such as haiku poetry and theater to specialized Japanese language useful in job-hunting, further education, and so on.

General Information: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/en/>

Academic Information: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/en/students/registration/download/>

Unit Load

CSU IP requires that CSU IP students enroll in a minimum of 14 units each semester.

Japanese Language Course Requirement:

SILS students:

In Semester 1, SILS students are required to take six units of Japanese language courses in total and it must include five units or three units of Comprehensive Japanese 1-6 depending on their Japanese proficiency level to avoid enrollment issues and a challenging course schedule.

In Semester 2, SILS students are required to take six units of Japanese language courses with any combination of Comprehensive Japanese and 1-unit theme courses.

SPSE students:

In Semester 1, SPSE students are required to take six units of Japanese language courses in total and it must include five units or three units of Comprehensive Japanese 1-6 depending on their Japanese proficiency level to avoid enrollment issues and a challenging course schedule.

In Semester 2, SPSE students enroll in a minimum of three units of Japanese language courses.

Academic Lecture Course Requirement:

SILS students:

In both Semester 1 and 2, eight units* of SILS academic lecture courses are required.

*The eight units can NOT include university-wide open courses offered by other schools.

SPSE students:

In Semester 1, eight units of academic lecture courses* are required.

In Semester 2, eight to eleven units of academic lecture courses are required depending on the number of CJL Japanese language course units.

*Academic lecture courses can include both SPSE courses and university-wide open courses offered by other schools.

While students are permitted to take up to 19 units without requesting approval from CSU IP, students should be cautioned from taking excessive units particularly in their first semester of study.

Unit Requirements

At Waseda University, all CSU students are required to take courses in Japanese language and other academic areas of study (known as “lecture courses” in this document).

Information on courses for each course category, please refer to the links below.

1. Japanese Language Courses offered by Center for Japanese Language (CJL):

All CSU IP participants are required to take Japanese language courses offered by CJL. The following is the list of Japanese courses that were offered in recent years as an example of what may be offered next year. To view the most recent listing of Japanese language courses offered, refer to the links below. Courses are subject to change without notice.

Course Information

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/en/students/registration/download/>

Registration Guidebook

- AY 2025
<https://cjl-ebrochure.w.waseda.jp/guidebook/2025/index.html#page=1>

How to Search Japanese Language Courses

http://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/assets/uploads/2016/05/Japanese_Language_Courses.pdf

Notes for International Students who Register for CJL Courses

https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/assets/uploads/2018/08/notes_for_students.pdf

Course Lists

- Spring 2025
https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/assets/uploads/2025/02/courselist_2025spring.xlsx
Course offerings are confirmed three to four weeks before each semester begins.

Syllabi

To view online course syllabi for courses offered, go to <https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA101.php?pLng=en>

2. Academic Lecture Courses

Courses lists from previous years are provided below as samples of courses offered.

A) SILS

SILS Course Registration Information

<https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/registration/>

Unit Requirement for SILS - SP3 (One-year Study Abroad Program) students:

<https://waseda.app.box.com/v/SP3Curriculum-excl-GLFP>

SILS Academic Lecture Courses conducted in English (SP3 courses):

For most up-to-date course list, go to https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/registration/#anc_5

To view course syllabi for courses offered, go to <https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA101.php?pLng=en>

*Course offerings are confirmed three to four weeks before each semester begins.

Class Mobility Category after COVID pandemic

https://www.waseda.jp/navi/doc/class_modality_categories.pdf

For important notes for SP3 students, go to:

<https://waseda.app.box.com/v/Important-Notes-for-SP3>

Course Categories for SILS English Conducted Lecture Courses for SP3 (Year-Long) Students

SILS offers seven thematic clusters (groups of courses).

1. Life, Environment, Matter, and Information
2. Philosophy, Religion and History
3. Economy and Business
4. Governance, Peace, Human Rights, and International Relations
5. Communication
6. Expression
7. Culture, Mind and Body, Community

Note that One-Year Program students (SP3) can only take lecture courses at the intermediate (300 level) and/ or advanced (400 level) level.

Unless otherwise stated in the course descriptions, all courses are conducted in English. Course offerings change each year and are subject to change without notice.

Students normally earn two or four units of credit for most courses. Credit values are listed in the SILS Study Plan. Most courses are intermediate or upper division with some exceptions, depending on course content.

Course Coding

CO Communication	GE General Education	MI Matter and Information
CM Community	GO Governance	MB Mind and Body
CU Culture	HI History	PH Peace and Human Rights
EB Economy and Business	IR International Relations	PR Philosophy and Religion
EX Expression	LE Life and Environment	

B) SPSE

SPSE Academic Lecture Courses conducted in English:

- AY 2025: EDP (English-Based Degree Program) Course List (Refer to Page 49 and after)
<https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/assets/uploads/2025/03/7b76feb564626cc257e4405422688c96.pdf>
https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/students/lectures/#anc_3

Course Registration Information Site for SPSE students:

<https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/en/students/enrollment/>

Course Registration Guide for SPSE students:

Spring 2025:

https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/assets/uploads/2025/04/20250418_CourseRegistrationGuide_EN_EXDD.pdf

To view course syllabi for courses offered, go to <https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA101.php?pLng=en>

3. University-wide Open Courses

University-wide Open Courses are offered by various schools and departments at Waseda University and are open to all students. Students can take University-wide open courses regardless of your applied school.

There are mainly three categories of University-wide open courses:

- University-wide open courses offered by Global Education Center (GEC)
https://www.waseda.jp/inst/gec/en/undergraduate/registration/#anc_5
- University-wide open courses offered by Center of Global Education (CIE)
https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/course/class#anc_1
- University-wide open courses offered by Other Departments/Schools
 *Check each school website

Registration of University-wide Open Courses:

https://www.waseda.jp/inst/gec/assets/uploads/2025/02/Registration-Overview_Eng.pdf

To search for university-wide open courses, go to the online syllabus, then check “Open Courses” and click on “Search”: <https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA101.php?pLng=en>

4. Other Foreign Language Courses

Students can take language courses in Chinese, French, German, Korean, Russian and Spanish from beginning to

advanced levels. Note that exchange students can register for foreign language courses only after regular degree-seeking students have done their registration and if seats are still available.

To search for foreign language courses, go to the online syllabus, then search by key word.

<https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA101.php?pLng=en>

Academic Calendar

The academic year in Japan is divided into two semesters which takes place during the following months: early April to late July (spring semester) and September to early February (fall semester). Each semester has 14-week long classes. CSU IP students start in the fall semester (Semester 1) and continue to the spring semester (Semester 2) in the following year. AY 25-26 students will be enrolled in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

Semester	Start Date	End Date
Semester 1: Fall	Late September	Early February
Semester 2: Spring	Early April	Late July

Click on the link to view the most up to date [academic calendar](#). Note that dates for the academic year 2026-27 including Spring 2026 and Fall 2027 will not be released until January 2026.

Academic Culture

Class size at Waseda University varies, with the largest ones having nearly one hundred students, and small ones around 10 in Japanese language classes. There are also many seminars, and various language classes, with usually fewer than 20 students.

Traditionally, there is not much interaction between professors and undergraduate students at Japanese universities, either inside or outside the classroom, until their senior year, at which point they start taking senior thesis seminar with their thesis advisor. At SILS, however, since most faculty members and students have had study abroad experience, classroom interactions between professors and students in the form of presentations, questions and answers, and discussions are frequent. It is also not uncommon for professors to have coffee with their seminar students after class.

Grade and Unit Conversion

Grades for individual subjects are determined on the basis of the results of classroom examinations, reports and her/his performance in class. A grade of 60 or over is a pass. A student who, without due cause, fails to take an examination as instructed, or who fails to submit an examination report will, in principle, receive a Fail grade for that subject. Moreover, class attendance is mandatory, and a student who attends less than two-thirds of the total class hours in a subject will receive a Fail grade, regardless of her/his examination results. Note that all courses attempted by the student will be reported to the student's home campus including failed courses.

Raw Score in the Course	Waseda Grade Issued	CSU Grade Equivalent
90-100%	A+	A
80-89%	A	A
70-79%	B	B
60-69%	C	C
59% and below	G (No credits granted)	F

Note that the highest grade that is reported to CSU campus is an A.

The CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized) may be given in some circumstances. Refer to the Academic Guide for additional grade information.

For more grading information for each school, please refer to the links below.

- SILS: <https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/grades/>
- SPSE: https://www.waseda.jp/fpse/pse/assets/uploads/2014/05/20060830_hyouki.pdf (available in Japanese only)
- CJL: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/en/students/grade/>

Unit Conversion

Below are the guidelines which are used to convert Waseda credits to CSU units.

Waseda Credit	CSU Semester Unit	CSU Quarter Unit
1 credit	1 unit	1.5 units

Language Instruction

The Japanese Language Program is designed to assure that international students can live comfortably in Japan without experiencing problems with the language. Instruction is provided at eight levels to accommodate whatever degree of Japanese proficiency an entering student brings to the program, with individuals assigned to the appropriate level based on the result of the placement test administered prior to the beginning of the semester.

CSU IP participants take a web-based Japanese Placement Test called J-CAT before their arrival in Japan and will be ranked into 8 different levels of proficiency. The results of the test do not always exactly correspond to the number of years students had studied Japanese at CSU or elsewhere prior to coming to Japan. Placements vary for each individual depending on the intensity of their studies and the number of years of Japanese language study that the student has had. (Refer to the following table.)

Years of Japanese Language Study	Placement Level at Waseda	Level Designation and Description at Waseda University	CSU Level
0.5 to 1 year	1	Lower Beginner	Lower Division
1 to 2 years	2	Upper Beginner	Lower Division
1 to 2 years	3	Lower Intermediate (Pre-Intermediate)	Upper Division
2.5 years or above	4	Intermediate	Upper Division
	5	Upper Intermediate (Pre-Advanced)	Upper Division
	6	Lower Advanced - Students may enroll in normal college courses conducted in the Japanese language. They may also aim for the highest level of certification (Level 1) on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.	Upper Division
	7	Upper Advanced - Can handle university-level discourse	Upper Division
	8	Super Advanced	Upper Division

Levels 1 and 2 are geared to students with little or no experience studying Japanese, and focus on the fundamentals of the language, using actual communication situations to develop the student's capability for simple conversation. Level 3 seeks to develop reading and writing skills - students learn 500 kanji characters - while raising the level of spoken language mastery to enable communication in the everyday conversations a student may encounter. At Levels 4 and 5, students develop sufficient Japanese language proficiency to talk about and comprehend subjects beyond their immediate circumstances, engaging in relatively sophisticated communication across a wide range of topics. By Level 6, the student's Japanese capabilities have risen sufficiently to enable enrollment in normal college courses conducted in the Japanese language. In the upper-level classes - Levels 7 and 8 - students overcome whatever weak points remain in their Japanese so that they can handle university-level discourse.

More than 500 Japanese language volunteers are available to help students increase their proficiency. In general, if students pass the courses in the first semester, they move onto classes one level higher in the second semester. The program aims to promote the average student to two levels within one year.

SILS students: Students select courses at their own level from over 300 courses offered in categories of Intensive Japanese, Theme-based subjects, and skill-based subjects such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking. During the first week of the semester, students can attend the orientation for Intensive Japanese class to make sure that they are taking the appropriate level of courses.

Japanese Course Categories and Credit (Unit) Values

Category	Level	Outline	Credit(s)
Comprehensive Japanese	1-6	Based on textbooks. The subject to study overall Japanese intensively.	3 or 5
Japanese Theme Subject	1-8	Subjects to study Japanese language, culture and society.	1

For questions about CSU IP academic policies and program requirements, contact ipacademics@calstate.edu
For questions about Waseda registration or courses, contact Ms. Hiroko Tanaka at csuip@calstate.edu