

Academic Bulletin for Tsukuba, Japan: 2016-17

Introduction

The Academic Bulletin is the International Programs (IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the program in Tsukuba, Japan.

IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the two listed below.

- [Academic Planning, Crediting and Reporting](#). This publication 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.
- [Academic Policies](#). This publication contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants. 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 and Course Withdrawals.

To access the above publications, go to our website [here](#) and click on the year that pertains to your year abroad. For general information about the Tsukuba Program, refer to the IP website under [“Programs”](#).

Academic Program Information

The International Programs in Tsukuba, Japan is affiliated with Tsukuba University which is a public institution, ranked in the top 10 universities in Japan.

CSU students who are selected to study at the University of Tsukuba attend as exchange students and are “Junior Year at Tsukuba Program” (JTP) participants although students can be either juniors or seniors during their year at Tsukuba.

JTP courses consist of three categories: JTP academic courses, Japan-related courses, and Japanese language courses. More than 260 JTP academic courses are offered in English in such diverse disciplines as international studies, social sciences, humanities, biological sciences, and engineering.

The students who are selected to study at the University of Tsukuba focus their studies on Japanese language and culture courses, supplemented by at least two courses taught in English during the year which can be in any subject area based on availability and prerequisites.

Information on the University of Tsukuba can be found on the websites below.

[The University of Tsukuba Exchange Program Website]

<http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/isc/academic-life/exchange-program>

[JTP Program Information]

<http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/application/files/9914/5679/7528/JTP-2015-2016.pdf>

Course Load

CSU IP students are required to enroll in a minimum equivalent of 15 units each semester.

The University of Tsukuba calculates 1 class period (75 minute long) as 1.5 hours.

Course Type	Course Hours
Lectures and Seminar	15 hours (1.5 hours per week × 10 weeks)
Foreign Languages	22.5 hours (1.5 hours per week × 15 weeks)

Note: One (1) unit of credit at the University of Tsukuba requires 45 hours of academic workload in the context of the course structure, academic outcomes, and self-directed learning other than course work.

Japanese Language Courses

Japanese language courses are provided at the International Student Center. Students are placed at an appropriate level based on their performance on a placement or level assessment test. This level is not based on the amount of students' knowledge of Japanese, but on the student's ability to perform in Japanese, and their communication skills. It does not, therefore, necessarily correspond to the number of hours or years students may have studied prior to coming to Japan.

The Japanese language courses are organized as follows:

1. Intensive and semi-intensive Japanese courses,
2. Fifteen week Japanese courses for beginners
3. Fifteen week Skill-based classes in listening, speaking, reading and writing for intermediate and advanced levels,
4. Special purpose classes

Japanese language courses are generally 15 week courses and therefore considered a "three module course" which spans across the entire semester. Lower level courses will meet four or five times per week while more advanced courses may meet less per week.

Courses on Japan-Related Subjects

Courses on Japan-related subjects are established for international students or returnee students who have attended secondary education in a foreign country for a considerable period of time. The lectures are given in Japanese. In order to enroll in these lectures, you need to possess a Japanese proficiency level of J800 or above in the courses offered at the University's International Student Center.

JTP Academic Courses - Courses Taught in English

CSU students are required to enroll in at least two courses taught in English during the year which can be in any subject area based on availability and prerequisites. Student may select courses for JTP students or courses offered through the "Global 30" Programs.

Course Information

For information on all courses available to exchange students or JTP students including Japanese language courses, courses on Japan-related subjects, and JTP academic courses, access the "JTP Course Guide 2016-17 (Undergraduate Course Offerings for Exchange Students 2016-17)" at <http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/sites/default/files/JTP%20Course%20List%202016-2017.pdf>

If most up-to-date JTP Course Guide is not yet available online, click on the JTP Course Guide for the previous year to get an idea of the courses offered and keep checking the university website periodically for updates.

For information about the Japanese language courses, go to <http://www.intersc.tsukuba.ac.jp/nihongo/>.

For questions about courses, contact the Global Commons: isc-short-term@un.tsukuba.ac.jp.

Academic Calendar

The semester dates for 2016-17 are as follows:

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Semester 1: Fall 2015	October 1	February 16
Semester 2: Spring 2016	April 13	August 10
Semester 1: Fall 2016	October 3	February 16

Academic Calendar for 2016-17

https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/campuslife/pdf/2016_undergrad_en.pdf

Semester and Module at the University of Tsukuba

Each semester is further subdivided into three 5-week sessions called "modules" which run sequentially (Module A, B and C). One semester goes over for 15 weeks and 16th week serves as an exam week.

There are three major types of course period:

- Type 1: Module A, B & C (5 weeks each, 15 weeks in total plus final exam week)
- Type 2: Module A & B (5 weeks each, 10 weeks in total plus final exam week)

- Type 3: Module A or B or C (5 weeks in total plus final exam week)

Month	Apr - May	Jun - Jul	Aug - Sep	Oct - Nov	Dec - Jan	Feb - Mar		
Semester	Spring Semester				Fall Semester			
Module (5-week units)	Spring Module A	Spring Module B	Spring Module C	Break (Summer)	Fall Module A	Fall Module B	Fall Module C	Break (Spring)
Examples of Class Implementation Type 1: 15 weeks + exam	→				→			
Examples of Class Implementation Type 2: 10 weeks + exam	→		→		→		→	
Others: 5 weeks classes or 5 weeks plus 10 weeks + exam	→	→	→		→	→	→	
	→	→			→	→		

Spring Semester 2016 (Module A&B / Module A, B & C) - April 1 to September 30

Classes Begin (All Modules)	April 13
Classes End (Module A&B)	June 27
Final Exams (Module A&B)	June 28 to July 4
Class End (Module A,B&C)	August 2
Final Exams (Module A,B&C)	August 3 to August 9
Supplementary Date for Final Exams	August 10
Summer Vacation	August 11 to September 30

Fall Semester 2016 (Module A & B / Module A,B & C) - October 1 to March 31

Classes Begin (All Modules)	October 3
Classes End (Module A&B)	December 15
Final Exams (Module A&B)	December 16, December 22 to December 28
Winter Break	December 29 to January 9
Class End (Module A,B&C)	February 8
Final Exams (Module A,B&C)	February 9 to February 15
Supplementary Date for Final Exams	February 16
Spring Break	February 17 to March 31

Academic Culture

The International Student Center offers advice and counseling to international students to make their studies at the University and their stay in Japan productive and enjoyable. Upon arrival at the University of Tsukuba, all exchange students must attend an orientation program organized by the International Student Center. It is designed to help students settle into life on campus and in Japan as smoothly as possible.

The University of Tsukuba will assign a faculty member to each JTP student as his/her academic advisor. Advisors will provide students with advice regarding their major fields. In addition, a tutor will also be appointed to each JTP student. The tutors can assist with various administrative procedures, language

study, and course work. For information on international student support, please refer to the International Student Center site at: <<http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/support>>

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. The faculty member and the seminar students usually form close relationship. However, at the University of Tsukuba, which was re-established in 1973 on a new concept of "Open University" to meet the needs of the next generation in a brand new City of Science, professors are inspiring and nurturing, and fellow students are friendly and supportive.

Assessment, Grading and Units

The grading at the University of Tsukuba is based on the following system, which directly converts the result of student's accomplishments in the course to a letter grade. Tsukuba does not grant an academic credit for the D grade, which is the equivalent of an F grade at CSU.

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

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

Class attendance is mandatory, and absences and tardiness are considered in determining grades. The attendance policy is very rigid and too many absences may result in a failing grade.

Unit Conversion Guidelines

For every credit earned at the University of Tsukuba, an IP student earns one CSU semester unit. To convert the value of CSU semester units into CSU quarter units, multiply the CSU semester units by 1.5.