

IP Academic Bulletin for Tsukuba, Japan: 2015-16

Introduction

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

The Bulletin must read in conjunction with the two publications 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, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option and Course Withdrawals.

To access the above publications, refer to the IP website under “Study Abroad”, and “Academic Program Information” or click on either of the document names above which are linked to our website.

To access general information about your program and study center, refer to the IP website under “[Programs](#)” and click on the specific program to which you have been accepted.

Academic Program

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.

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 web at <http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/>.

Courseload

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

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.

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 based 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. Kanji courses for beginners, elementary, and intermediate levels, and
3. Skill-based classes in listening, speaking, reading and writing for intermediate and advanced levels.

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.

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 about the Japanese language courses, go to:

<http://www.intersc.tsukuba.ac.jp/nihongo/> or

<http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/isc/academic-life/classes-offered-through-isc/introductory-japanese-and-skill-based>.

For information on all courses available to exchange students or JTP students including Japanese language, courses, courses on Japan-related subjects, and G30 courses, access the "JTP Course Guide 2015-16" at http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/sites/default/files/jtp_course_list_2015-2016_e.pdf.

If the JTP Course Guide for 2015-16 is not yet available, click on the JTP Course Guide for 2014-15 (PDF document) to get an idea of the courses offered and keep checking the university website periodically for updates.

For questions about courses, contact the Division of International Students at:

isc-short-term@un.tsukuba.ac.jp.

Academic Calendar

The semester dates for 2015-16 are as follows:

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Semester 1: Fall	October 1	February 12
Semester 2: Spring	April 7	August 4

Each semester is further subdivided into three 5-week sessions called "modules" which run sequentially:

<u>Semester 1</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Module A	October 1	November 6
Module B	November 7	December 11
Module C	December 12	February 12
 <u>Semester 2</u>	 <u>Start Date</u>	 <u>End Date</u>
Module A	April 7	May 19
Module B	May 20	June 23
Module C	June 24	August 4

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/isc/academic-life/exchange-program>.

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 and Grading

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.

Student's 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.