

University-wide
Liberal Arts Courses

Open to International students

Comprehensive Courses

taught in Foreign Languages



Join a diverse community
where local and international
students learn together.



Explore Japan through diverse
academic disciplines.

Discover Japan and
Asia with a global
perspective!



RIKKYO UNIVERSITY

Overview of Comprehensive Courses Taught in Foreign Languages



About Comprehensive Courses

- Rikkyo University's University-wide General Education (Comprehensive) Courses are undergraduate courses that foster interdisciplinary learning across diverse academic fields
- Selected courses are conducted in English and other foreign languages

Key Features of Comprehensive Courses Taught in English and Other Languages

- Learning together with international and other Rikkyo students in the same class
- Cultivating global communication skills beyond language proficiency
- Nurturing the knowledge and perspectives required in a global society

Course Category

- Study of Humankind
- Social Perspective
- Invitation to Arts and Cultures
- Focus on Mind and Body
- Understanding Nature
- Fields of Knowledge
- General Sports Studies (Practical Classes and Lectures)

Course Format & Language Proficiency

Lectures

- English-taught lectures on mind, body, and nature
- Topics include history, culture, society, and the economy
- For students with intermediate English proficiency
- Designed as an introduction to learning academic content in English



Seminars

- Exercise-based classes featuring discussions and group work
- Students from various faculties and year levels, including international students
- Conducted entirely in English or other languages
- For students with advanced proficiency in the language of instruction
- Opportunities for study-abroad returnees, international students, English-track students, and those planning to study abroad, to engage in academic discussion in English

Practical Classes / Fieldwork

- International and other students learn together through interaction beyond the classroom
- Hands-on, sports-related practical training conducted in a foreign-language environment
- Learning extends beyond the classroom through experiential, practice-based activities



*One Seminar is offered in a language other than English, while the others are in English.
*Offered in in-person and online formats.

Class Duration

- Half-year courses / 2 credits
- Quarterly courses / 1 credit

*Choose the option that fits your schedule

Course Highlights

Art



Exploring the development of Japanese art through tradition and transformation

Japanese Arts AN (Niiza) / Japanese Arts A (Ikebukuro)
Instructor: Yulia Kuleshova

Did you know that the term "Japanese painting" (*nihonga*) was coined only in the late nineteenth century? And was Japan ever truly isolated from global artistic exchange? This course traces Japanese art from prehistory to the twentieth century, examining how artistic trends were shaped by cultural interaction, political authority, religious practices, and shifting social values. By closely examining representative artworks in their historical and cultural contexts, we will explore their meanings, analyze their visual characteristics, and reflect on the lasting global significance of Japanese art.

Image source : ColBase (<https://colbase.nich.go.jp/>)

Ethnos



The Great Authors: A Journey from Origins to the Present Day

Japanese Ethnology N (Niiza)
Instructor: Alexandre Mangin

What characterizes Japanese culture, craftsmanship, and lifestyle? Great travelers, writers, and sometimes both, have long tried to unravel the mysteries of the 'Japanese way.' Through the study of original and modern ethnological and critical texts, this course will provide a historical and chronological overview of this enduring inquiry. It will begin with the traveling monks, cover the founding fathers of the discipline as well as influential foreign authors, and conclude with contemporary researchers.

Culture



Reading Japanese culture: signs, symbols, and ambiguity in Japan

Japanese Culture 1 N (Niiza)
Instructor: Mary Reisel

From the old myths of Amaterasu to today's idols, oshi, and manga, ancient Japan is strongly connected to modern habits, beliefs, and social practices. The course takes students on a fascinating journey into Japanese culture, where daily life is shaped as much by what is left unsaid as by what is openly expressed. It offers a critical and engaging journey into Japanese culture, inviting students to explore how meaning is produced, communicated, and often hidden through silence, everyday practices, and popular products like Hello Kitty and festivals. From Shinto to J-Pop, students will discover a new Japan and develop a deeper understanding of the forces that shape cultural behavior and social imagination.

Tokyo



Deciphering 21st-Century Tokyo in Rapid Transformation

Tokyo Studies N (Niiza)
Instructor: Yohei Miyauchi

This course offers students the opportunity to learn about the vibrant city of Tokyo, where tradition and modernity coexist. Tokyo has experienced rapid transformation, leading to gentrification and a reduction in public spaces. By utilizing the research in urban studies, students will engage in discussions about important issues and explore intriguing themes to envision a better future for Tokyo. As a result of this course, a booklet will be produced, compiling essays written by the students.

Ecology



Exploring the planet's challenges to build a sustainable future

Ecology: Environment and Sustainability 1-2
Instructor: Jeffrey Mok

This course helps students understand today's main environmental challenges and how our choices affect the planet. Topics include biodiversity, climate change, renewable energy, circular economy, and sustainable lifestyles such as ethical eating, travelling, and fashion. Students will explore real-world problems through group projects, discussions, and media analysis. By the end, they will be able to explain key ecological issues, think critically about sustainability, and suggest practical solutions for a greener future.

Food



From Sushi to Sake: Japanese Food in Global Context

Food Cultures and the Acceptance of Japanese Food in the World
Instructor: Toru Iwanami

Why is sushi different in Tokyo, New York, and Paris? This course explores how Japanese food travels and takes on new meanings in global food cultures. Through case studies of rice, fruit, seafood, and sake, students will examine how Japanese food products adapt to local tastes and lifestyles—and what may be gained or lost in the process. Whether you are new to Japan or curious about seeing familiar foods from a global angle, this class offers a fresh way to understand Japanese food in the world.

■ AY2026 Course List of Comprehensive Courses taught in foreign languages for International students

Class Format	Group	Course Code	Campus	Course Title	Credits	Class Format	Group	Course Code	Campus	Course Title	Credits	
Lecture	Study of Humankind	FA505	Ikebukuro	Japanese Ethnology	2	Seminar	Introduction to Academic Studies	FH187	Ikebukuro	University Education in the World *	2	
		FA509	Ikebukuro	Peace and Human Rights 1	1			Study of Humankind	FA506	Ikebukuro	World History *	4
		FA510	Ikebukuro	Peace and Human Rights 2	1		FA508		Ikebukuro	World History *	4	
		FA511	Ikebukuro	International Humanities 1	2		FA507		Ikebukuro	Religions in Asia	2	
		FA512	Ikebukuro	International Humanities 2	2		FA513		Ikebukuro	Introduction to Gender Studies	2	
		FA404	Niiza	Japanese Ethnology N	2		FA521		Ikebukuro	Intercultural Communication in a Multicultural Society (taught in Korean in 2026)★	2	
	Social Perspective	FB531	Ikebukuro	Introduction to Tourism Studies	2		Social Perspective		FB371	Ikebukuro	Seminars for Senior Students of Rikkyo University 2 (Ecological economics and wellbeing)	2
		FB532	Ikebukuro	Learning and Teaching Today 1	1			FB511	Ikebukuro	Modern Japanese History1	2	
		FB533	Ikebukuro	Learning and Teaching Today 2	1			FB512	Ikebukuro	Modern Japanese History2	2	
		FB539	Ikebukuro	Japanese Society and Culture1	2			FB513	Ikebukuro	Japanese Politics & Economy1	2	
		FB540	Ikebukuro	The Dignity of Life and Welfare	2			FB514	Ikebukuro	Japanese Politics & Economy2	2	
		FB530	Online	Introduction to Tourism Studies	2			FB515	Ikebukuro	Japanese Relations in Asia1	2	
		FB534	Online	Global and Japanese Political Economy 1	2			FB516	Ikebukuro	Japanese Relations in Asia2	2	
		FB535	Online	Global and Japanese Political Economy 2	2			FB517	Ikebukuro	Japanese Society1	2	
		FB542	Online	Introduction to International Cooperation	2			FB518	Ikebukuro	Japanese Society2	2	
		FB411	Online	Japanese Society and Culture2	2			FB519	Ikebukuro	Tokyo Studies	2	
		FB146	On-Demand	Introduction to Statistics 1	2			FB520	Ikebukuro	Political Sociology	4	
		FB147	On-Demand	Introduction to Statistics 2	2			FB521	Ikebukuro	Economic Thought	4	
		FB148	On-Demand	Introduction to the Social Survey	2			FB522	Ikebukuro	University in Modern Society	2	
		FB149	On-Demand	Introduction to Multivariate Analysis	2			FB523	Ikebukuro	Career and University Education in the Global World	2	
	Invitation to Arts and Cultures	FC507	Ikebukuro	Japanese Arts B	2		FB524	Ikebukuro	Humans and Other Animals	2		
		FC512	Ikebukuro	Exploring Children's Literature	2		FB525	Ikebukuro	Food Cultures and the Acceptance of Japanese Food in the World	2		
		FC513	Ikebukuro	Techniques for reading and enjoying a picturebook in English	2		FB527	Ikebukuro	Political Sociology	4		
		FC514	Ikebukuro	International Humanities 3	2		FB529	Ikebukuro	Business Communication	2		
		FC515	Ikebukuro	Japanese Arts A	2		FB538	Ikebukuro	Introduction to Sociology	2		
		FC404	Niiza	Japanese Arts BN	2		FB543	Ikebukuro	Selected Topics in Intercultural Communication A	2		
		FC403	Online	Japanese Arts AN	2		FB544	Ikebukuro	Selected Topics in Intercultural Communication A	2		
		FC506	Online	Japanese Arts A	2		FB545	Ikebukuro	Selected Topics in Intercultural Communication B	2		
	Focus on Mind and Body	FD501	Ikebukuro	Japanese Mind	2		FB546	Ikebukuro	Selected Topics in Intercultural Communication B	2		
		FD508	Ikebukuro	Health Science	2		FB084	Ikebukuro	Local People's Perspectives in Social Development	2		
	Understanding Nature	FE501	Ikebukuro	Science Studies	2		FB407	Niiza	Japanese Society1N	2		
		FE503	Ikebukuro	Understanding of Agricultural Science	2		FB408	Niiza	Tokyo Studies N	2		
		FE504	Ikebukuro	Importance of Global Plant Health	2		Invitation to Arts and Cultures	FC505	Ikebukuro	Japanese Culture 2	2	
		FE505	Ikebukuro	Ecology: Environment and Sustainability 1	1			FC508	Ikebukuro	Literature and Society *	4	
	FE506	Ikebukuro	Ecology: Environment and Sustainability 2	1	FC509			Ikebukuro	Culture and Fine Arts *	4		
	practical classes / Fieldwork	FI271	Ikebukuro	Sports Study 1 (Recreational Sports)	2			FC516	Ikebukuro	Topics in Humanities and Arts *	2	
		FI272	Ikebukuro	Sports Study 1 (Recreational Sports)	2			FC405	Niiza	Japanese Culture 1 N	2	
		FI273	Ikebukuro	Sports Study 1 (Recreational Sports)	2			FC504	Online	Japanese Culture 1	2	
		FI274	Ikebukuro	Sports Study 1 (Recreational Sports)	2			Focus on Mind and Body	FD502	Ikebukuro	Health and Wellness *	4
		FI284	Ikebukuro	Sports Study 1 (Japanese Culture and Dance)	2				FD505	Ikebukuro	Understanding Speech Sounds 1	1
		FI285	Ikebukuro	Sports Study 1 (Japanese Culture and Dance)	2				FD506	Ikebukuro	Understanding Speech Sounds 2	1
		FI357	Ikebukuro	Sports Study 3 (Tennis)	2				FD071	Niiza	Seminars for Students of Rikkyo University 4 N(Seminar on Religion, Ritual, and Charismatic Guru Psychology)	2
		FI559	Niiza	Sports Study 1 N (Judo for Beginners)	2		Understanding Nature	FE502	Ikebukuro	Nature of the Earth *	4	
	FI654	Niiza	Sports Study 3 N (Tennis)	2	FE507			Ikebukuro	Topics in Environment *	2		
	FV131	Ikebukuro	GL111 (Introduction to Leadership)	2	FE508			Ikebukuro	Topics in Natural Science *	2		
	FV132	Ikebukuro	GL111 (Introduction to Leadership)	2								
	FV161	Ikebukuro	GL202 (Leadership through Inquiry)	2								
	FV162	Ikebukuro	GL202 (Leadership through Inquiry)	2								
	FV426	Fieldwork	Rikuzentakata Project	2								

Online: Live online courses (with specified day and time)
 On-Demand: On-demand online courses (without specified day or time)
 ★ In languages other than English (Korean in AY2026).

*Not open to Special International Students.

Notices |

- To enroll in these courses, please use the following scores as a guide for taking the course.
<Lectures> "F courses - Intermediate Level" for Rikkyo students
 For non-native speakers, a minimum English proficiency equivalent to a TOEIC L&R score of 550 or above is required. Although the intermediate-level course is conducted in English, Japanese may be used when necessary to support comprehension for non-native speakers.
- **<Seminars> "F courses - Advanced Level" for Rikkyo students**
 For non-native speakers, a minimum English proficiency equivalent to a TOEIC L&R score of 700 or above is required.
- Check the syllabus for more information on the courses.
<https://sy.rikkyo.ac.jp>



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