

COMMENTS FROM 2014 PARTICIPANTS

Bilal Khan

University of Virginia



The HIF program turned out to be exactly what I was hoping for in a study abroad program. Top-notch teachers and staff members, along with my host family and new friends I met, made this summer's stay one I will never forget. Although the workload can be tough at times, it will 100% improve your Japanese. If your goal is to improve all aspects of your Japanese while also having a great time in Japan, I highly recommend HIF.

Tanya Datta

University of Pennsylvania



My Japanese improved more in these past two months than it would have with one year of studying in a normal class. In terms of learning a language, it is indeed true that full immersion is by far the best method. I learned so much from my wonderful host family, not just about the Japanese language, but about the Japanese way of life, and there are definitely some lessons learned that I will be taking home with me. Hakodate is a beautiful and peaceful city, and I would not want to have spent my summer any other way.

Louisa Conwill

Brown University



HIF is the perfect program! My Japanese is miles beyond what it was before the program. Some might say the workload is too much or too fast-paced but I found it to be the perfect amount— enough so I really learned Japanese but not so much that I didn't have time to have fun. Because the rest of Japan is extremely hot and humid, Hokkaido, with its relatively mild summers, is by far the best place in Japan to spend a summer. Before HIF I was most nervous about the homestay but I had an amazing time with my host family and it seems like everyone else did too! I wouldn't change anything about HIF.



Hokkaido International Foundation The 30th Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Program

June 11 – August 8, 2015

<http://www.hif.or.jp/en>



★ Hakodate

えがお たっせいかん
笑顔と達成感

~Smile and a Sense of Achievement~

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CURRICULUM

The HIF Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Program is a university level intensive summer course that focuses on proficiency-oriented instruction. The program aims to help participants acquire or improve communication skills in all aspects of Japanese language through the integrated study process of the classroom, homestay, and local community environments in Hakodate. The total hours of Japanese class is 140 hours and equivalent to two semesters of Japanese study at most universities.

We offer an opportunity for all participants to take an unofficial Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) conducted by a certified tester at the beginning and the end of the program. Each student can take advantage of this opportunity to practice their speaking as well as to measure their progress over the summer.

CLASS LEVELS & MAIN TEXTBOOKS

Intermediate-Low or above (2 classes)
Nakama 2 An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese
Intermediate-Mid or above (2 classes)
An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese
Advanced-Low (1 class)
Authentic Japanese: Progressing from Intermediate to Advanced
Advanced-Mid or above (1 class)
Authentic Japanese: Progressing from Intermediate to Advanced

FACULTY

Program Advisor

Osamu Kamada (Nanzan University)

Program Consultant

Seiichi Makino (Princeton University)

Academic Coordinator/ Instructor

Yoshimi Sakakibara (University of Michigan)

Instructors

Highly experienced instructors from Japan and overseas

INDEPENDENT STUDY (IS)

IS is designed to enhance your Japanese proficiency by accomplishing your individual study objectives, in addition to the regular Japanese classes. The study objectives, method, timelines, and the tangible result should be discussed and defined by consulting with your instructor. You may choose a theme related to your interests provided that you can finalize and submit the outcome before the summer program is completed. You are required to report the progress of your IS to your instructor and peer group named "support group" at least once a week so that you can refine your work. Participants are strongly encouraged to choose a theme for their IS before the program begins. This will provide you with sufficient time for a full discussion of your project's objectives, methods, timelines, etc. with your instructor and support group members.

PREREQUISITS

Academic Background

Applicants should be enrolled at an institution of higher education in an undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate course. Professionals or graduates with at least a bachelor's degree are invited to apply.

Japanese Proficiency Level

Applicants should have studied at least the first half of the elementary level of Japanese at any appropriate institutions, and have attained a proficiency of higher than Novice-Mid as outlined in the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

Non-academic Requirements

Applicants should have willingness to abide by the program's regulations. Also they should be able or willing to adapt to new situations with social and cross-cultural sensitivity.

Commitment

Applicants should be able to participate in the program for the full duration and be committed to an intensive Japanese language and Japanese culture study program.

*Please note that the above conditions are negotiable only in exceptional cases.

HOMESTAY

The eight-week homestay provides you with full immersion in Japanese language and Japanese culture. Host families volunteer to participate in the program not merely to accommodate you but also to help you to practice your Japanese and deepen your understanding of Japanese. They are also willing to learn the language(s) and culture of your country. The homework and class topics are expected to reflect your homestay experience. Please note some host families accommodate more than one student and they provide each one with an individual room.

TUITION & FEES

Application Fees

Regular: \$75 (Nov. 1, 2014 – Feb. 6, 2015 JST)

Late: \$90 (On and after Feb. 7, 2015 JST)

Tuition (including homestay fee* & main teaching materials)
\$5,500

*Homestay fee, ¥70,000, includes: 1) accommodation, 2) breakfast and dinner during weekdays, and 3) three meals a day on weekends.

ACADEMIC CREDITS

Participants who satisfactorily complete the Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Program will receive certificates of completion and grade transcripts. Since HIF is not an affiliated institution, participants are responsible for consulting their academic dean to find out if it is possible to transfer credits to their home institutions. Most participants have received credits equivalent to one year's work from them.

FINANCIAL AID

HIF does not provide financial assistance or scholarships for tuition, homestay, travel costs or living expenses. Your home institution may provide financial assistance. Please contact your study-abroad program director for further information.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2015 (JST)

Visit our website for more information (<http://www.hif.or.jp/en>).