

Japanese Language and Cultural Immersion Program: Advanced (J-CIP: A)**@Akita International University**

Duration: January 7, 2026 – February 12, 2026

Credits: 6 (JPL472-1_W Advanced Japanese)

J-CIP: A is a six-week advanced Japanese and rural Japanese studies course. Based on the concept of Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), the course aims to help students learn about Japan and Akita by integrating the 4Cs – content, communication, cognition, and community/culture.

Four Elements of CLIL	
Content	Ex.) traditional arts, traditional crafts, culinary culture
Communication	Ex.) 1-minute speeches, discussions, interview, presentations, honorific language, conversations with AIU students
Cognition	Ex.) aging demographics, population decline, maintaining tradition
Community/Culture	Ex.) discussions, group work, project

Instructors

Ayana Hatsuda (Program Coordinator)

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Yumiko Kondo

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- Expand knowledge and insight about Japan and Akita as well as learn about classmates and their countries/cultures/values
- Improve overall Japanese language proficiency with a focus on communication/speaking
- Question things that are taken for granted or considered common sense, think about them in Japanese, and find new values or solutions
- Help and acknowledge each other, and work together toward the shared goal of improving Japanese language skills

Content

1. Akita Studies Class

Learn about topics such as traditional crafts, performing arts, and cuisine of Akita/Japan. Practice honorific language used when speaking with people outside the class.

2. Conversation Class

From the second to fifth weeks, there will be a 45-minute conversation session every Thursday afternoon. Students will have the opportunity to discuss various topics with university students, including class content, daily life, etc.

3. Extracurricular Activities

The following extracurricular activities are planned (subject to change):

Bus tours to Akita City, Gojome, Kakunodate/Tazawa Lake, Oga, Yokote/Yuzawa

Visit to Share Village (<https://sharevillage.jp/>)

Assisting with the Shiraiwa Fire Festival

Making kirintanpo nabe

Schedule

See a separate file.

Required Materials

None. All materials will be provided in class.

Evaluation

Attendance and participation*	25%
Conversation class attendance and participation	15%
Homework and class preparation**	20%
Final project	40%

* Participation is vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all class sessions and extracurricular activities. Absences may affect your final course grade. If you miss more than third of the total class time, you will automatically fail the course. Being late for or absent from class will affect your course grade negatively.

** All homework is to be completed by the beginning of class on the due date. Late, incomplete, or sloppily done assignments will receive no credit.