INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF
RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

TOK1: Introduction to the Japanese Language

Hosted by the University of Tokyo
Course dates: 4 – 15 July, 2011

Course Description

The University of Tokyo provides an introductory course for those new to Japan which will both facilitate participation in Japanese society, and introduce characteristics of the Japanese language, such as the Japanese writing system, elementary grammar, and communication patterns. With the Japanese language learnt in these classes we hope our students will be able to experience a wider range of Japanese culture. To improve students' Japanese literacy, "practical" lessons, such as the use of dictionaries, will also be included in this course. This will enable students to continue their study of the language when they return to their home country.

The Center for Japanese Language Education at the University of Tokyo provides an e-learning website through which students should study how to read the *Hiragana* (a Japanese phonetic character system consisting of 46 characters) and numbers up to 100 before coming to Japan. Students will be provided with a password to access restricted e-learning materials for a limited period. Please note that students are only eligible for this course if they are enrolled in other GSP course(s) offered by the University of Tokyo.

Target Audience

This course is aimed at beginners of the Japanese language. When students apply for this course, they are not expected to have any previous knowledge of the Japanese language. However students are expected to be able to read the Hiragana before this course begins.

Delivery Method, Exams & Learning Outcomes

Lesson plan (2 credits/25 hours):
1) Grammar
   - Noun sentences (non-past)
   - Adjective sentences (non-past)
   - Verb sentences (non-past & past) with particles: o, ni, de, kara, no, to
   - Various question sentences (what, who, when, where, which, how, how much, how many, what time,)
2) Conversation
   - Greetings, Self introduction,
   - Shopping, eating, and making reservations
   - Talking about weekend
   - Inviting, asking, offering, requesting
   - Giving short comments on various things
   - Mini-interview
   - Making a short talk show
3) Reading & Writing
   - Japanese characters: Hiragana Katakana, and Kanji introduction
   - Mini-composition using Japanese word processor
   - Experiences of Kanji calligraphy
   - Looking up words in Japanese dictionary (Japanese-English dictionary and Kanji dictionary)

Method of evaluation:
Attendance rate: 30%
Class participation: 30%
End of course exam: 40%

Where you will stay

Students will be accommodated in Hotel Kizankan, located close to the University of Tokyo's Hongo Campus (Approximately 5 minutes walk). For further information about the Hotel Kizankan, visit: www4.ocn.ne.jp/~kizanweb/

Costs

Note: Costs may change closer to the course
Tuition fee: JPY 29,600
Accommodation: JPY 85,000 (does not included meals and other costs)
Estimated living expenses: approximately JPY 3,000 per day