

Japanese Culture Program

No.13

The Center for International Education has conducted Japanese culture classes since 2003 to offer international students the chance to experience traditional Japanese culture and to deepen their understanding of Japan. These programs are also open to Japanese students, and so it is our hope that both Japanese and international students will benefit from this mutual exchange and acquire a global perspective through experiencing traditional Japanese culture together.

Koto Class



Kimono Class



Kodo Class



Ikebana Class



Nerikiri Class



In this globalized world, it is essential for us to live together with people all over the world beyond the differences of language and culture. We, the Center for International Education, are here to help both international students and Japanese students communicate with each other and understand the others culture and language.

This program is designed not only for obtaining the knowledge of Japanese culture but also learning it through personal experience. Student clubs of Ochanomizu University also join the program so that international students and Japanese students are able to have an opportunity for cultural exchange. We hope it helps students to understand cultural differences and provides an opportunity to work together over the differences of language and culture.

This booklet introduces activities that we have held in this program. Every-one is welcome. We look forward to seeing you in the class.

Ikebana Class

Ikebana, also known as *kado* (the way of flowers), is the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging. Ikebana started to flourish in the sixteenth century, and the fundamental concept is to express the three elements of heaven, earth, and humankind in a balanced composition using natural flowers. The way of arranging flowers differs depending on the school of ikebana.

The Ikebana Class has been held at the Center for International Education since 2004. The class is very popular among students, who can learn basic arranging with seasonal flowers and enjoy seeing advanced arrangements designed by the instructor.



Ikebana Instructor Ms. Fusako Akaike

First class grand master of Ikebana, Ryuka style
Ohara School of Ikebana

Ms. Akaike started learning ikebana forty-five years ago from her mother-in-law, a grand master of ikebana. She has taught ikebana for many years, including at the Ikebana Club of Ochanomizu University. In her free time she enjoys traveling, reading, and doing *chigirie* (torn paper collage art).

★Interview with the Instructor

Q: What do you find fascinating about ikebana?

A: Ikebana can express the beauty of harmony and contrast of different colors. It can also create space using seasonal flowers and your imagination.

Q: From your point of view, what is the importance of introducing Japanese culture to international students?

A: Through this class, I hope the students can learn some things about ikebana that they can talk about when they return to their home countries.

Q: What do you think of the students' flower arrangements?

A: When I first saw the students' arrangements, I felt that they had a sense for flower arranging. They arranged the flowers very nicely even though it was probably the first time for most of them.

Q: What is the impression of the students?

A: They seem to enjoy arranging flowers very much. I am very happy to see that.

Q: What do you find difficult about teaching ikebana?

A: It is not easy to help them understand the spirit of ikebana in only one lesson. But I hope that students will learn not only arranging skills but also feel something about the spirit.

Q: What do you find interesting about teaching ikebana?

A: I'm impressed with the uniqueness of the students' arrangements.

Q: What is most appealing thing about this class?

A: Talking with people from different cultural backgrounds.

Q: Do you have any new ideas for the Ikebana Class in the future?

A: It would be interesting to prepare various flower arrangement materials and let students arrange them anyway they like. Also, giving comments on arrangement to each other in class would be a good inspiration.

Q: Please let us know if you have any recommendations on publications and Web sites.

A: Publications

- *Umeno Ikebana Ohara-ryu Ikebana Soshō 4* : Ohara-ryu Publications
- *Ohara-ryu Ikebana Kihon Manual* : Ohara-ryu Publications
- *Soka* (monthly publication)
- *Kikyo* (bimonthly publication)

Web sites

- Ohara School of Ikebana : <http://www.ohararyu.or.jp/>

A Look at the Class

A Look at the Class

1



The instructor gives a brief explanation about ikebana.

2



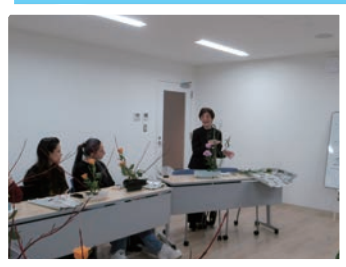
Let's start to arrange flowers with the instructor.

3



The instructor helps students to arrange flowers.

6



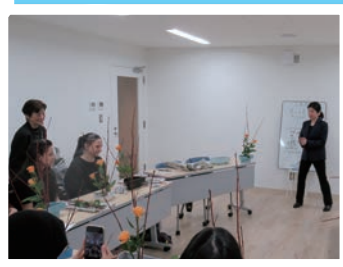
The teacher puts theory into practice at the end.

5



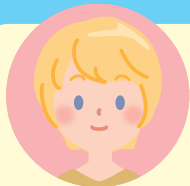
Students also tried the 'inclining form'.

4



'Rising form' arrangements completed.

Comments from participants



I arranged flowers by myself in class and enjoyed it very much. The time was too short. The instructor was kind and explained the details in easy Japanese, so I could understand them well. I want to practice more.



I was very happy to have the opportunity to actually experience ikebana by myself. The teachers and staff were kind and I learned a lot. I have come to like ikebana after trying it!



I enjoyed today's activity very much, trying it myself and getting advice from experienced people.



Kimono Class

The kimono's form has not changed for several hundred years, and it has lost almost all of its use as daily wear. However, the traditional beauty of kimonos has recently been re-evaluated in Japan, and kimonos have become popular among young people.

The Kimono Class has been held at the Center for International Education since 2005. By learning how to wear a Nagoya-obi (a simple type of sash) and a yukata in the spring semester, and a Nagoya-obi and a kimono in the autumn semester, students were able to experience Japanese traditional culture. Although kimono dressing may seem difficult, with the careful guidance of the instructor and assistants, everyone is satisfied with the results. Participants also have a great time taking photos each time.



Kimono Instructor Ms. Keiko Gabe

In junior high school, she began learning the tea ceremony and fell in love with kimonos. She learned to wear kimonos at a Kimono Institute. She run a kimono class, with over 40 years of experience in kimono-related activities, including dressing for weddings, photo studios, and commercial filming. Graduated from Ochanomizu University. Instructor at the Ochanomizu University Kimono Dressing Club. Author of 'The Season's Record of Clothing' (published by Shiki Publishing, Tokyo).

Her hobbies include writing haiku and singing songs.

★Interview with the instructor

Q: Why did you start learning to dress yourself in kimono?

A: I enjoyed the classes at the kimono institute so much that I wanted to wear one myself and let others wear it.

Q: What attracted you to kimonos?

A: The kimono is the culmination of the subtle aesthetic sensibilities of Japanese culture. The charm of the kimonos lies in its advanced techniques of dyeing, weaving, and embroidery techniques, as well as in how the seasons can be experienced through the coordination of the obi (belt) and accessories.

Q: What makes you happy when you teach international students how to dress in kimono?

A: I like the moment when students' smiles broke out after they finished wearing the kimono beautifully after struggling to wear one for the first time.

Q: Please tell us the best part of kimono and yukata for international students.

A: Kimonos are Japan's national costume, but they are also suitable for people from any country. The kimono shapes are the same, but the variations in patterns and colors are infinite. If you have a chance, please find your favorite one and enjoy wearing it.

Q: Do you have a final message for us?

A: Kimonos have been on the decline in Japan, but due to the appreciation of kimonos by people from other countries, they have become the new trend.

I believe that new values are being created by the appreciation of kimonos by people in other countries. Cultural exchange is really important, and I hope that all international students will return to their countries and tell others about kimonos. Also, please introduce to us the ethnic costumes of your home country.

A Look at the Class

1



First, students learn about the history of kimonos.

2



Under the guidance of the instructor, the obi is tied one by one.

3



The instructor helps to fit the difficult parts.

6



The dressing is complete.

5



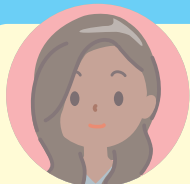
At the end, the instructor will neatly adjust everything.

4



A finished obi.

Comments from participants



It was very enjoyable! I was happy to wear a cute yukata.



The instructor and the assistants were very kind and taught us carefully, and I learned a lot about kimonos. The process of wearing a kimono was arduous. Still, I am thrilled that I was able to wear it beautifully.



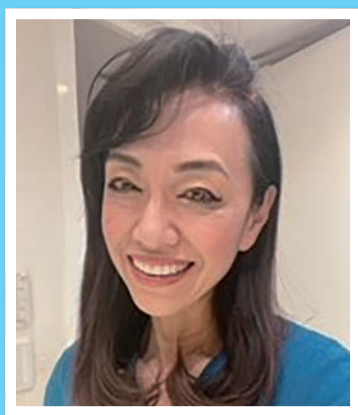
I learned a lot in the class! The kimonos they prepared for us were very beautiful, and the instructor explained everything carefully. I am glad I was able to take so many pictures!



Shodo Class

Shodo (calligraphy) is a form of artistic writing involving the use of a brush and India ink. Originally from China, this aspect of culture developed in Japan to incorporate a combination of *kanji* (Chinese characters) and *kana* (Japanese syllabic characters). Although writing brushes are not used in daily life, people in Japan become familiar with calligraphy from classes in elementary school, culture clubs and the like.

Calligraphy classes have been held at the Center for International Education since the autumn semester of 2003. In addition to the basic practice, in the first semester we wrote on shikishi (fancy square boards used for calligraphy) and in the second semester we are also trying our hand at writing *kakizome* (the first calligraphy of the year) on long paper.



Shodo Instructor Ms. Mika Akagi

Ms. Akagi was 5 years old when she was inspired by her aunt – a Shodo teacher – to start calligraphy. She is a qualified Shodo master and teaches at the Center for International Education. She enjoys both playing and listening to classical music as a hobby, and is a keen food enthusiast.

★Interview with the instructor

Q: What's the most fascinating thing about Shodo?

A: It's the act of focusing on and writing characters with great attention to detail.

Q: Why do you think it's important to introduce Japanese culture to students from other countries?

A: Experiencing Japanese culture through Shodo gives students perspective and depth to understand both Japanese culture and their own culture.

Q: What do you think of the students' calligraphy?

A: They all follow the basic points, and their work has a very relaxed air.

Q: What's your impression of the students?

A: They write in the same way as they do their research. They first come to understand the meanings of the characters, and then they start writing. I think Shodo and academic research are similar in a way.

Q: What do you find difficult about teaching calligraphy?

A: It's really hard to maintain the right posture and breathe properly when you write to create beautiful work.

Q: What's the most interesting thing about calligraphy?

A: I like the fact that the way Chinese characters are received differs by country, and the choice of themes is very novel and fresh.

Q: What's the most appealing thing about this class?

A: Students can talk about characters with others on an international platform based on their own work.

Q: Do you have any ideas for Shodo class development in the future?

A: I want to try Rinsho, which involves following well-known classic writings. Writing characters on T-shirts might also be an interesting direction to take.

A Look at the Class

1



The teacher demonstrates how to use a calligraphy brush.

2



Students practice basic strokes on Japanese writing paper.

3



Write characters or words you like in line with the teacher's advice.

6



This is our work!

5



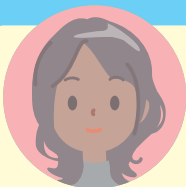
We practiced a lot.

4



Students work so seriously!

Comments from participants



I think it was a lot of fun. I like calligraphy and I am happy to learn more about it! Thank you very much for today! (*^^*)



I enjoyed it very much! I love the instructor Ms. Akagi.



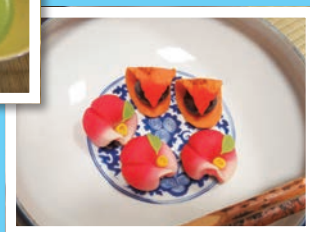
I think the way Ms. Akagi taught was easy to understand and that everyone could write well right away. I also think the assistant is lovely. And about the calligraphy, I found that balancing the letters was difficult, but it was a fun class!



This calligraphy class was an enjoyable and interesting experience. I am interested in Chinese characters, so I took up the challenge. The calligraphy was actually more difficult than I expected, but the teacher taught very kindly and helped me a lot with everything. I hope I can have such a good experience again sometime soon.

Sado Class

Sado (Japanese tea ceremony) is a path to mastering etiquette through the serving of tea. Often described as a “composite art form,” tea ceremony is a profound world that combines architecture, crafts, *ikebana*, and cooking. There are 42 tea ceremony schools including the Omotesenke school, but the school with the most number of students is the Urasenke school. Sado class was started at the Center for International Education in 2011, with cooperation from the Urasenke Tea Ceremony Department of Ochanomizu University. The class is held in a traditional teahouse in a Japanese garden, and has received high praise for providing students with the opportunity to experience authentic tea ceremony.



Sado Instructor

Ms. Keiko Yoshida

Head Instructor of Urasenke style

Influenced by her grandmother and mother, Ms. Yoshida got interested in the depth of Sado and started learning it almost sixteen years ago. She enjoys reading and watching movies as her hobbies.

★Interview with the instructor

Q: What do you find fascinating about sado?

A: Sado is a Japanese composite art. Through learning sado, we also learn the better way of living.

Q: What is most appealing thing about this class?

A: It is valuable to learn sado, but it is not easy in a short time to understand meanings of every movement in sado. I hope we will have another opportunity to learn depths of sado.

Q: What is your memorable story from teaching sado?

A: The main act of sado is boiling water and making tea, though it's all based on rationality and insight in a scientific way. There is a story Einstein was impressed by the wisdom of sado. I felt proud of it.

Q: Please let us know if you have any recommendations of publications, Web sites and classes.

A: Web sites Urasenke Konichian
<http://www.urasenke.or.jp/index2.html>

★Interview with an assistant, Japanese student who is a vice president of Sado club.

Q: What do you find difficult about teaching sado?

A: How to tell the meanings of words and movement which are unfamiliar even to Japanese.

Q: What do you find interesting about teaching Sado?

A: I was glad to see everyone enjoying making tea.

Q: What did you think of the class?

A: We believe participants could learn the beauty of sado in this class.

A Look at the Class

1



The instructor gives an explanation about the history of the tea ceremony.

2



The teacher will explain about procedures of the tea ceremony.

4



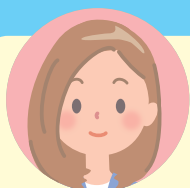
Making tea by themselves.

3



Enjoying tea with manners.

Comments from participants



It was a great experience!



It was interesting!



It was interesting! The tea ceremony club students also talked a lot and it was a lot of fun.



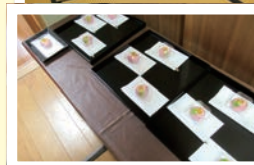
I was a little tired, but I learned a lot about the tea ceremony! Everyone in the tea ceremony club was very kind. Thank you very much.



I really enjoyed the experience of actually participating in the tea ceremony and making tea.



It was a great experience! The members of the tea ceremony club were very kind, and the tea and sweets were delicious. I think it is a great activity to see an authentic tea ceremony in such proximity and have the opportunity to do it myself.



Ochas Food Culture Class

In the Ochas Food Culture Class, participants learn about Japanese culture by cooking Japanese food in collaboration with Ochas, an official student volunteer organization at Ochanomizu University that focuses on food-related activities. By interacting with Ochas Japanese students and making friends through food, international students can experience Japanese culture more closely.



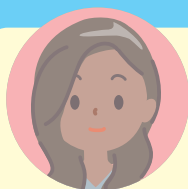
Comments from participants



I enjoyed making dumplings and talking with Japanese students. Thank you very much! – International student



I had a lot of fun! The students from Ochanomizu University were very kind and talked to me a lot, and it was a wonderful dumpling-making event! Today was my first time trying Zunda (*edamame* flavor bean *paste*) dumplings, and they were delicious. I learned how to make dumplings and would like to try making them myself next time! If there is another activity like this, I would love to participate! – International student



I really enjoyed today's event! Thanks for organizing it! – International student



I had a great time talking with international students, who I don't usually have opportunities to talk to! – Japanese student



Manga Class

Japan is a country with a very developed and advanced manga and animation industry. Many international students begin to develop an interest in Japan through Japanese manga and animation.

At the Center for International Education, we started a new manga class in the first semester of the 2018 academic year. We had a great time with members of the manga research club, drawing our favorite characters.



Comments from participants



I was happy to be able to interact with people who like manga!
– International student



I enjoyed it very much because I usually don't have a chance to talk with international students!
– Japanese student



It is a great pleasure to draw pictures while discussing our favorite anime and games together!
– International student

Kabuki Appreciation Class

Traditional Japanese Dance-Drama

Kabuki is one of the main traditional Japanese theater forms. It is said to have begun around 1603 when Okuni, a shrine maiden of the Grand Shrine of Izumo, performed *Nenbutsu odori* (Buddhist folk dances) in Kyoto.

Ochanomizu University offers international students an opportunity to go on a field trip to see a Kabuki performance at the National Theater of Japan every year in June. In order to better prepare students for the Kabuki performance, the Center for International Education offers a special class. The Kabuki Class is an introductory seminar on the history of Kabuki and ways to enjoy the performances. In the class students gain a deeper understanding of the program, characters, and story.

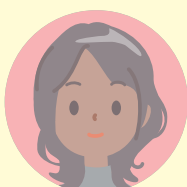
The Kabuki Class is always popular since it is open to all students. Even if students miss the field trip to the National Theater, the seminar is still a great chance to learn about Kabuki.



Comments from participants



I didn't know anything about Kabuki, but it was good to get an overview in an easy-to-understand way! It was exciting, and I looked forward to seeing Kabuki in the theater! – Japanese student



I am interested in traditional Japanese performing arts, so in the past, I did my research on Kabuki on the internet. Still, even after reading the materials, I didn't understand it properly. However, the materials at the Kabuki seminar helped me understand Kabuki well, and we could also learn Kabuki through videos so that I could understand it well. I think I will be able to enjoy Kabuki even more in the future. – International student

Kodo Class

Kodo is one of the three major art forms in Japan, along with tea ceremony and flower arrangement. In the Kodo class held by the Center for International Education, you can learn about the history of Kodo in Japanese culture, experience the actual aroma, create an aroma bag, and learn about its appealing points.



Kado Instructor Ms. Hanako Shimada

Hanako Shimada-Sensei graduated from Ochanomizu University and received her master's degree from the University of Tokyo. She has worked to popularize the Oie school of Kodo through culture classes and hands-on lessons in the traditional culture at schools. As an art historian, she has planned and organized exhibitions at art museums in Japan and abroad, appeared on TV, and written numerous articles for magazines and newspapers.

HP: www.haginosono.com

★Interview with the instructor

Q: How did you get started in Kodo?

A: My great-grandfather was Sanjonishi Gyozan, the head of the Oie School of Kodo, and I used to help my grandmother prepare for her kodo classes during my teenage years. When I became a university student, I began attending the current Soke practice. For my graduation thesis, I chose the theme of the relationship between the Upper and Middle Ages Incense and Clothing Culture.

Q: In one word, what is the appeal of kodo?

A: The attraction is that listening to a wonderful fragrance restores the body and mind, and at the same time sharpens our senses because it focuses the mind on the sense of smell. Not only does it improve my mental health, but I also enjoy being able to touch the old-fashioned incense tools and increase my vocabulary of beautiful Japanese words, such as waka poems and inscriptions, which are the theme of the day's Kumiko.

Q: What do you enjoy about teaching?

A: I am elated when people who experience incense for the first time tell me how interesting it is. I also enjoy that members of different ages and backgrounds can share a rich time around the same incense burner.

Q: Do you have a message for Ochanomizu University students?

A: I hope you enjoy spending time on our green campus! At other universities, many buildings are like office buildings, and you have fewer opportunities to experience the changing seasons when swamped, so the abundant nature at Ochanomizu University is very precious. I still fondly remember the large ginkgo trees and tansy in the kindergarten, the golden Osmanthus in front of Hui Ondo, the Itadori square in front of the Student Affairs Division, which has been overhauled, and the vivid mulberry seeds that fell on my way home.

A Look at the Class

1



Learn about the history and tradition of Kodo.

3



Making an aroma bag.

2



Actually listen to the fragrance. In Kōdō, the act of smelling a fragrance is expressed as “listening” to it.

Comments from participants



I learned a lot from the teacher, who taught us a lot about incense. The hands-on part of the workshop was also very interesting, as we smelled different kinds of incense and created our favorite scents.



We learned about the history of Kodo. And I actually made an incense packet. It was very interesting and a great experience.



It was an excellent experience. I am glad to learn about Kōdō for the first time and study a part of Japanese culture I had never heard of before. The teacher's explanations about traditional culture, scents, and history were easy to understand, and it was fun to create my own unique fragrance.

Nerikiri Class

Nerikiri is a traditional Japanese confection made from a dough that combines white bean paste (shiro-an) and a binding agent such as gyuhi (sweet rice dough). One of the key features of nerikiri is its beautiful design that expresses the seasons, and it is often referred to as “edible art.” In spring, motifs such as cherry blossoms and plums are chosen while in autumn designs featuring autumn leaves and chrysanthemums are chosen. The designs also reflect seasonal festivals or celebratory events, incorporating symbols of good fortune like cranes and turtles. Highly regarded in the world of tea ceremony, nerikiri continues to be loved by many people today.



Nerikiri Instructor Ms. Chie Hidaka

Certified Instructor of Nerikiri Specialty Class HALE and Certified Instructor of Art Wagashi Riwa Hana

Since childhood, I have enjoyed creating things, and after graduating from university, I was in the housing industry. This experience led me to develop an interest in interior design, accessories, and tableware, which eventually led me to take up pottery. One day, I saw a beautiful nerikiri made by an acquaintance and instantly fell in love with it. After trying to make it myself, I was completely captivated by its charm, and now I offer my own classes. Through nerikiri, I hope to share the beauty of Japanese culture and the joy of making traditional sweets with many people.

★Interview with the instructor

Q: What attracted you to nerikiri?

A: The beauty of its appearance, especially the design and colors that evoke the traditional Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi (the beauty of imperfection), as well as its deliciousness and the joy it brings to others when given as a gift.

Q: How would you describe the charm of nerikiri in one word?

A: There are various techniques involved in its creation, and the more you practice, the deeper you feel its intricacies. Additionally, being able to engage with an ancient aspect of Japanese culture is also one of its attractions.

Q: What is your impression of the participants?

A: I was pleased to see that everyone was serious, sincere, and worked hard. They not only listened but also asked questions about points they didn't understand, showing a desire to improve their skills.

Q: How were the participants' creations?

A: The creations of rabbits and persimmons went smoothly, but the use of the pressing tool was a bit challenging for some participants when making

chrysanthemums, resulting in some patterns not turning out well. I think a little more practice time was necessary. However, their works were impressive considering it was their first time, and the group photo of the nerikiri was stunning.

Q: What do you find difficult about teaching?

A: Explaining detailed tasks in simple and easy words was challenging.

Q: What do you find interesting about teaching?

A: Everyone is sincere and hardworking, so it was both interesting and rewarding to see how quickly they improved with just a little advice.

Q: Is there anything you would like to try in this cultural classroom or do you have any message for international students?

A: When we think of nerikiri, we think of tea ceremony... I would love to collaborate with the tea ceremony! I want participants to experience the harmony of flavors between the matcha they brew themselves and the nerikiri they create. I hope they can deepen their knowledge of both the tea ceremony and nerikiri.

A Look at the Class



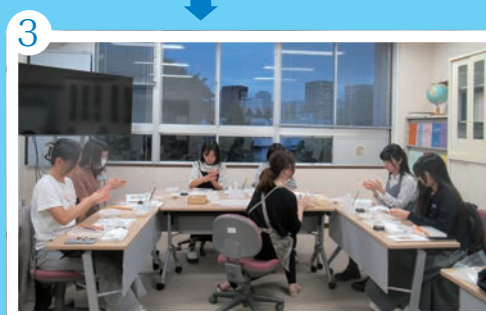
The instructor will briefly introduce the origin and characteristics of nerikiri.



Knead the dough well and expand the outer filling.



Once wrapped, refine the shape and create patterns or decorations using your fingers or a stick.



Wrap the filling with the outer dough.

Comments from participants



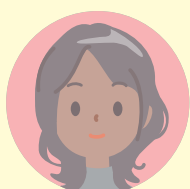
It was so much fun! I want to do it more.



I'm very happy. The instructor is kind, and the sweets are so cute.



I was really anxious about whether I could do it well before we started, but the instructor's teaching was excellent, and I'm so happy with the great results!



This was my first experience with nerikiri, but the instructor was so kind and made it very easy to follow! The materials and tools were prepared in advance, so it was really easy for me. I've always liked cooking and handcrafts, so I hope more classes like this will be available in the future! It was fun.

Koto Class

The koto is a traditional Japanese musical instrument that came to Japan more than 1,000 years ago from China. It was adapted and developed into something uniquely Japanese. It is mentioned in *The Tale of Genji* and other ancient literary works. The styles of koto playing are divided into the Ikuta-ryu school and the Yamada-ryu school, and the shape of the pick and way of playing are different.

The koto class began at the Center for International Education in the second semester of the 2015 school year. The members of the koto music club performed “Hiyaku,” “Sandan no shirabe,” and other tunes and everyone played “Sakura” together.



A Look at the Class



Members of the koto club are teaching the participants how to play the koto.



The participants are playing the koto together with members of the koto club.

Comments from participants



It was a great activity for me to see a real koto for the first time and to have a chance to play it. The members of the club kindly taught me how to play the koto, and I was very happy to be able to play it in a short time. The sound of the koto was beautiful, and playing it was an enjoyable experience!

Public Lecture

We invite various professors from both domestic and overseas to give lectures on topics such as Japanese language education, understanding of Japanese culture, and cross-cultural understanding.

For the 2024 academic year, we invited Professor Eva Obaya (a full-time lecturer at Keio University) to give a lecture on the theme “Global Perspectives and Personal Transformation: The Power of Studying Abroad.”



2024年度国際教育センター日本語教育コース2月
学内限定

**グローバルな視点、個の変革：
留学がもたらす力**

日時 **2024年11月22日(金)**
13:20~14:50
参加無料

場所 **共通講義棟2号館201**

講演要旨
この講演では、20年前にエジプトから日本へ留学し、その後のキャリアと生活にどのような影響を与えたかについてお話しします。留学という経験が、いかんして個人の視点を広げ、内面的な変革をもたらしたのか、さらには国際的なキャリアを開く力となるかを具体的なエピソードを交えて紹介します。留学は単なる学びの場を超え、個人の内面的な成長や視野の拡大を促す力を持っています。私の経験を通じて、異文化交流の重要性と、それがもたらす無限の可能性について考える機会となることを伝えたいと思います。

講師 **大塚エヴァ(慶應義塾大学専任講師)**
かた大学卒業。1997年、エジプトから日本の女子大学に1年間の留学。東京大学大学院修士課程・博士課程修了（国際言語学）。東京外国語大学非常勤講師、国際言語学専攻非常勤講師として勤務。2012年から2020年までNHKエデュテイメント・アカデミーにて講師として活躍。2021年の慶應義塾大学専任講師としてアカデミーとアカデミーを兼ねる。著書に『留学でアカデミー』（2019年）、『アカデミー留学から教える』（2021年）、『グローバルアカデミー』（2023年）。慶應義塾大学アカデミー講師（兼任）も担当。

お問合せ先 global-kyoumu@cc.ocha.ac.jp

Comments from participants



When I hear about studying abroad, I sometimes wonder if I'll be able to communicate, or if the cultural and environmental differences will be too difficult to overcome. But after listening to the lecture, I learned that studying abroad has many positive aspects that may influence us. The phrase ‘Differences are not walls, but wings’ was very inspiring. – Japanese student



It was a very valuable experience, and I enjoyed listening to the former exchange student from a country and culture completely different from mine. The content was very enriching, and I could relate to many emotional aspects of studying abroad. Some of the lecturer's experiences left a deep impression in my mind, and I can take advantage her experience when I am making some decisions in the future. Thank you very much. – International student

Foreign language classes taught by native speakers

There are about 200 international students enrolled at Ochanomizu University. Foreign language classes taught by native speakers have been held at the Center for International Education in the first and second halves of the academic year since 2002 with the aims of (1) fostering international human resources, (2) promoting exchange between international students and Japanese people, and (3) providing opportunities for international students to contribute to Japanese society. At these classes held during the lunch break, students learn pronunciation, greetings, and simple everyday conversation. For the participants, they provide opportunities not only to study foreign languages, but also to deepen their understanding of different languages, cultures, ways of thinking and values. For the international students serving as teachers, these classes provide them with a valuable experience in Japan.

“Thai language” was offered in the first semester of 2024.



Comments from participants



I learned a lot about Thai culture from a native speaker, and it was very interesting. I was amazed at how difficult Thai pronunciation and characters are. I also found the traditional Thai dance fascinating. It was the first time I learned that each movement in the dance is connected to a word. The Thai sweets I occasionally received had a mysterious taste and texture, which was fresh but delicious. I was grateful for the lecturer for teaching kindly all the way through. – Japanese student



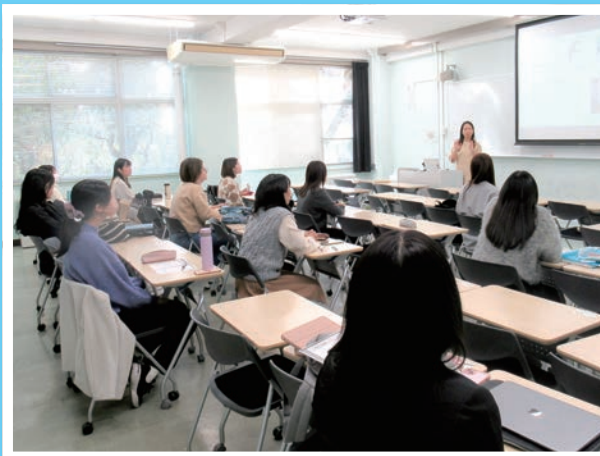
I always wanted to learn Thai, but I never had the chance. I was really happy to be able to participate in the Thai language course this time. Through this course, I was able to learn how to converse in Thai. When I went to Thailand at the end of September, I tried speaking the Thai I had learned, and I was able to have simple conversations with Thai people. I hope there will be another Thai language courses in the future! – International student

Comments from the instructor



I wanted to teach Thai language and culture to bridge Japan and Thailand even before studying at Ochanomizu University. I am very glad that I had the opportunity to teach “Thai Language Seminar”. At first, I was very nervous when I stood on the podium because it was the first time to teach Thai to Japanese participants. However, nervousness gradually disappeared as the participants seriously engaged in class contents through conversation and pair works. I want to thank all the participants for their cooperation. I am also very happy to have been able to spread a little bit of Thai culture such as food and dance to Japanese students of Ochanomizu University. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

“Vietnam language” was offered in the second semester of 2024.



Comments from participants



In this class, I learned for the first time that the Vietnamese language is derived from Chinese characters, has tones, and uses the alphabet. I also learned about shopping and sightseeing spots, which made me want to visit Vietnam. I also found it interesting that the first and second person pronouns change depending on the age of the addressees. – Japanese student



I am interested in Vietnamese sweets. I was able to learn basic grammar and frequently used expressions. I thought it would have been easier to understand if you had taught me how to read the alphabet and greetings each time. Thank you very much for teaching me Vietnamese. – Japanese student

Comments from the instructor



One of the most memorable events of the second semester of the 2024 school year was the Vietnamese language course!

This course provided me with an important opportunity not only to develop my teaching skills, but also to promote cultural exchange. Thanks to the active participation of the students in the class, the class went smoothly and I was able to feel a sense of fulfillment as an instructor.

The students' enthusiasm was a great encouragement to me and made each class more fulfilling.

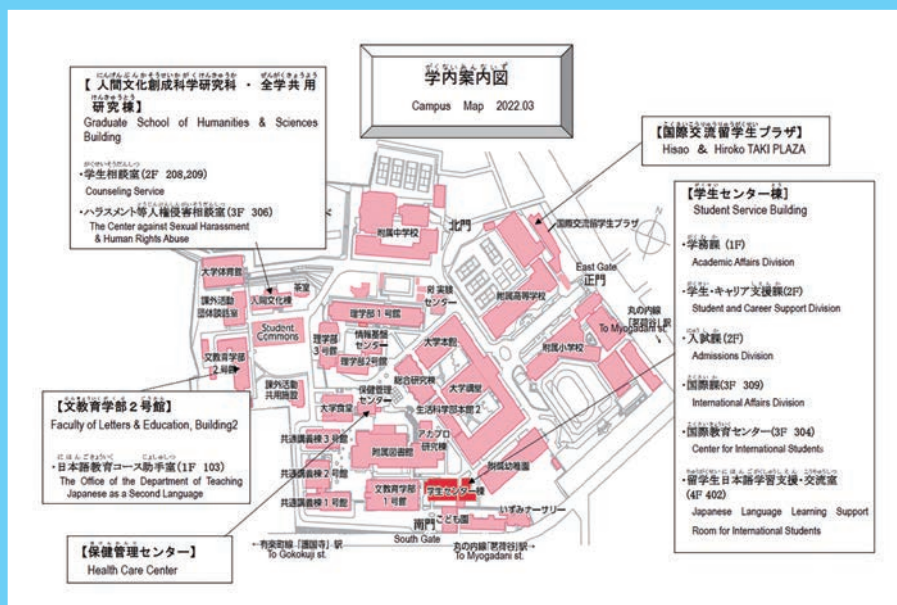
This experience was also very meaningful for my future career path. I am currently studying Japanese language education, and through this course, I realized not only the possibility of language education, but also cross-cultural exchange, and the significance of being a bridge between the two. I will use this experience to strive for further growth.

Annual schedule

	Culture program	Foreign language class	Public lectures
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manga class • Kimono class • Shodo class 		
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ikebana class • Kabuki appreciation class • Yukata class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign language class 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sado class 		
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nerikiri class 		
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kodo class • Kimono class • Ochas food culture class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign language class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Lecture
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ikebana class • Koto class • Sado class 		
January			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Student Forum
February			

*The schedule of events varies from year to year.

The Center for International Education



The Center for International Education (CIE) was established in April 2001 as an education and research facility. The International Student Division offers the following programs and services:

- Courses in Japanese language and culture for undergraduate and graduate international students
- Guidance and counseling on academic research, continuing education, and campus and social life in Japan
- Creating a system and environment to promote cultural interaction between Japanese and international students

The Center for International Education home page:

<https://www.cf.ocha.ac.jp/gec-in/>

Japanese Culture Program home page:

https://www.cf.ocha.ac.jp/gec-in/j/menu/events/cul_school.html

Foreign language classes taught by native speakers:

https://www.cf.ocha.ac.jp/gec-in/j/menu/cul_exchange/native.html

Public lectures:

https://www.cf.ocha.ac.jp/gec-in/j/menu/cul_exchange/l_meeting.html

Editor's Note

After compiling this booklet, we realized once again that Japanese culture classes have been sustained by the cooperation of many people. We would like to thank the teachers at the center who have always supported us from the time we started the cultural classes, the teachers of the cultural classes who always teach us with their heart and soul, and the assistants who have always been there to help us.

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