



TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES
東京外国語大学

SCHOOL OF
JAPAN
STUDIES
国際日本学部



History

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) traces its origins back to the Institute for the Research of Barbarian Documents (*Bansho Shirabesho*), which was founded by the Edo Shogunate in 1857. Its initial mission was to absorb European knowledge through books written in Dutch, English, French, and German. The ancestor of TUFS as an educational institution was Tokyo Gaikokugo Gakko (Tokyo School of Foreign Languages), which was founded in 1873. TUFS became a university in 1949, and in 2023 celebrates 150 years as an institution specializing in the research and teaching of global languages and cultures.

The campus was initially in Kanda Nishikicho in central Tokyo. TUFS moved to its new, modern campus in Fuchu, Western Tokyo, in 2000. The School of Japan Studies (SJS) was established in 2019. It is the first undergraduate department (*gakubu*) at a national university specializing in Japan Studies. Today, TUFS is widely recognized as one of Japan's top universities specializing in the humanities and social sciences.



HAUKAMP, Iris
Institute of Japan Studies/
Associate Professor
Field: Film Studies



SHIBATA Momoko
Japan
Entered 2019



HÜRTER, Isabella
Germany-Mexico
Entered 2022



ICHIKAWA Naohisa
Japan
Entered 2020



XU Pakeenee
Thailand
Entered 2020

What is Special About SJS?

SHIBATA Momoko

So many students from everywhere!

Not only the international students, but even the Japanese students come from so many different backgrounds. It is so interesting and fun to talk with all the members of this faculty. The School of Japan Studies has given me so many unexpected chances to learn about and understand different countries, not just Japan. When the international students arrived they didn't know much about, say, Japanese history, but they expected me to know everything about Japan. So, even though I did not study Japanese history in high school, I studied it before the class so I could teach them. And in return, they helped me when reading and writing English papers. It's like exchanging our abilities to learn together.

HÜRTER, Isabella

The Multicultural Collaboration class focuses on mixing the international and Japanese students

I was surprised that this class lived up to its name and that we were actually supposed to collaborate with Japanese students during the first semester. At first, we were told to make our own ground rules, such as whether we should use Japanese or English to communicate. We said, "How about doing both?" If someone didn't understand the other person, we tried to translate. This is how we managed it. I'm still very good friends now with the people in this group. I think it's because at the beginning we were so open and clear about the way we wanted to communicate.

ICHIKAWA Naohisa

Gaigosai (University Festival)

I joined the Gaigosai organizing committee, but due to Covid-19 we were forced to hold the university festival online in 2021. Gaigosai is an event through which students can get to know each other well. Because the School of Japan Studies has both Japanese and international students, I needed to communicate with both to explain the changes caused by the pandemic and how they could participate in Gaigosai. Through discussing various things about the festival with them in English, I realized how international students view things and the commonalities and differences we have. In 2022, Gaigosai returned to its usual style with food stands and the plays performed in all the different languages. I was deeply moved when I heard our juniors mentioning Gaigosai as a unifying moment in their university life.



XU Pakeenee

It's kind of like a big community

At first, I was scared about coming to Japan because I was not familiar with Japanese culture. When I arrived, I met not only Japanese, but also students from many other countries. I knew I would need some time to adapt. But as time went by, I began to feel really good about being here. By spending time with people from different cultures, we step out of our comfort zones. I have learned about how both Japanese and non-Japanese people think or act. For example, during group work, we considered not only our own opinions but also how Japanese people would think, or what we could do to make it comfortable for everyone. In the School of Japan Studies, we stay together for four years. We keep learning about each other every day. Even back in Thailand, when I talk with people from other countries I feel like there is a wall between us. But here, I do not feel any boundaries or any walls because we kind of feel comfortable already.

HAUKAMP, Iris

Navigating different cultures and communication styles

Language is one thing. Then, we have got the other big thing called “culture.” And it is not only Japan and “外国 foreign countries”: diversity exists beyond and within every community. When we communicate with other people, we realize that something “あたりまえ”(obvious) for us is not the same for other people, and we start to think about the reason for this. I think this is such an important learning experience in life. Honestly, everybody should live abroad with people from other countries to learn this because it really opens your mind. At the School of Japan Studies, Japanese students can experience this here, in Japan. And for the international students, coming to a new country at the age of 18 takes courage. I think it's really nice that you all support each other so much.

Faculties at TUFS

In all three faculties at TUFS, students start by receiving an in-depth education in a major language as well as a broad range of liberal arts subjects. In the third and fourth years, students pursue specialized studies according to their interests.

- School of Language and Culture Studies
- School of International and Area Studies
- School of Japan Studies

Features of SJS

1 You will attain an advanced level of Japanese proficiency. Fundamental Japanese Classes for international students are organized by skill (reading, writing etc.) and proficiency level. Join the appropriate class for you by taking a placement test at the time of admission.

2 You study Japan from multiple interdisciplinary perspectives. Furthermore, Japan is placed firmly in an international context. You learn about Japanese politics, economics, society, history, literature, culture, and the Japanese language. You can also learn how to teach the Japanese language.

3 Students from diverse backgrounds study together using both English and Japanese. All students, regardless of linguistic background, have access to comprehensive programs in the Japanese and English languages. You study Japan comprehensively while improving your language proficiency.

4 You engage in project-based learning to develop your teamwork and leadership skills. For example, in Multicultural Collaboration in the first year, you identify a local problem, decide a research project connected to it, and discuss in groups how to resolve the problem.

Curriculum

Very demanding
but definitely so rewarding

Improve your Japanese
through Japanese
language classes!

1 First
year 

In the Multicultural Collaboration class, you will learn how to work together effectively in a team. Learn about Japan from various perspectives in introductory lecture courses while enhancing your Japanese language ability in language classes. The Global Liberal Arts Program offers classes in a wide range of topics.

Japanese Language Courses, Project-based Courses, Global Liberal Arts Program.

Example Subjects

Multicultural Collaboration 1&2
Introduction to Japan Studies
Introduction to Japanese History
Introduction to Japanese Society
Introduction to Japanese Literature and Culture
Introduction to Japanese Linguistics

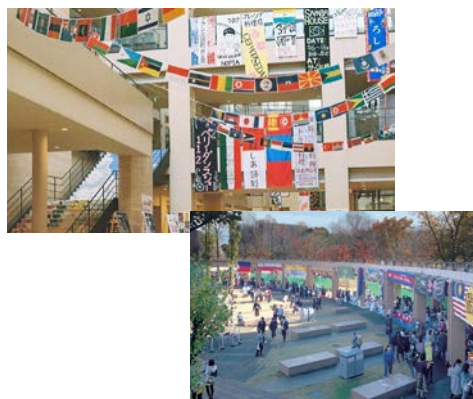
Student Voices



ICHIKAWA Naohisa
Japan
Entered 2020

My Favorite Event Gaigosai Festival

Gaigosai is the TUFS university festival. It has a long history and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022. There is a real buzz on campus and everyone enjoys its unusually long duration for a university festival (five days). One of Gaigosai's main features is the foreign language plays. In 2022, SJS students gave a performance of "The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter" in Japanese. There are many ways to learn about and enjoy Japanese culture with your classmates at TUFS.



Deepen your interest in a specific topic!



4 Fourth year

Join a Research Seminar in your fourth year. Deepen your research interests through small-scale seminar classes and individual tuition with your chosen supervisor. You can write your graduation thesis in either Japanese or English.

2 Second year

Continue improving your Japanese language skills in language classes while deepening your knowledge of Japan through the survey classes. Continue taking the Global Liberal Arts Program, and perhaps do a study tour or have a short-term study abroad experience.

3 Third year

Decide your area of specialization and take multiple lectures/seminar classes in preparation for your graduation research project. If you join one of SJS's dual degree programs, you can spend a year or more studying at one of our partner universities abroad and still graduate from TUFS in four years.

Major Courses (lectures and seminars), Graduation Thesis

Example Subjects

- Theories of Multicultural Society
- Japanese Politics and Economy
- Japanese Classical Literature
- Japanese Culture
- Japanese Linguistics
- Second Language Acquisition
- Teaching Japanese to Speakers of Other Languages
- Seminar In Japanese Society
- Seminar in Japanese Linguistics

Example Subjects

- Research Seminar Courses
- Graduation Project
- Theories of Multicultural Society
- Japanese Culture
- Classical Japanese Grammar
- Seminar in Japanese Literature and Culture
- Seminar in Japanese Society

Example Subjects

- Fieldwork in the Local Community
- Community Outreach Project
- Educational Assistance in the Community
- Survey of Analytical Approaches to Japanese Society
- Survey of Japanese Diplomacy and International Relations
- Survey of Japanese History and Society
- Survey of Japanese Literature and Culture
- Survey of Japanese Linguistics
- Survey of Teaching Japanese to Speakers of Other Languages



Course List 2023



Student Voices



LEE Sze Ping
Hong Kong SAR
Entered 2021 (3rd year transfer)

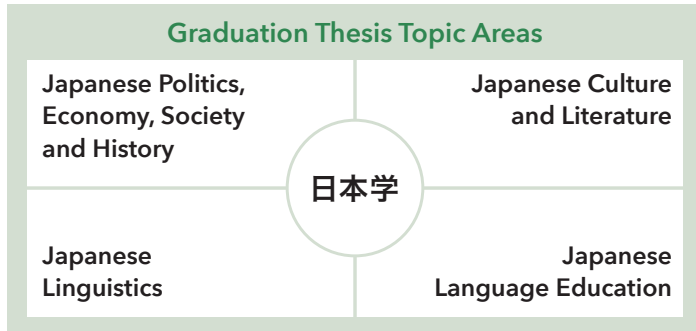
My Favorite Class Study Tour for Revitalization of Regions (Global Liberal Arts Program)

The aim of the class is to understand rural Japan and come up with proposals for how to revitalize Japan's regions. During the study tour, I stayed in Yamagata prefecture, tried different kinds of snow activities, and visited some tourist attractions. I deeply appreciated the kindness of the local people, and I hope the proposals in my presentation were meaningful suggestions for improving the promotion of this wonderful place.



Graduation and Beyond

By the fourth year, you have attained a high level of Japanese-language proficiency, you have learned many practical skills in Project-Based Courses, and you have deepened your specialized knowledge about Japan via the many Major Subjects on offer. In your final year, you conduct a year-long graduation thesis project under the supervision of a professor of your choice. And you think of the next step ...



Global Career Center

What do you want to do after graduation? You probably have not thought about this much, but the Global Career Center will give you comprehensive advice about career options in Japan. Or, you could continue your studies at the postgraduate level at TUFS, within Japan, or beyond.



Graduate Voices

My Graduation Thesis

VALPANIT Chawanrat | Thailand
Graduated 2023

My graduation thesis was titled "The Impact of the COVID-Induced Growth of Video Streaming Platforms on the Japanese Animation Industry" and I wrote it under the supervision of Professor Iris Haukamp. In the Japanese Film Studies Research Seminar I received much useful advice on the research process and the construction of my thesis arguments from Professor Haukamp and my fellow students in the seminar.



Chawanrat (right) and classmates

Starting Work

PERMATASARI, Pegy | Indonesia
Graduated 2023

I graduated from SJS in March 2023 and am now working for a Japanese manufacturing company in Jakarta. The four years I spent in SJS helped me to learn about open-mindedness and how to connect with people from diverse backgrounds. I hope that I can continue utilizing my Japanese and other things I learned in SJS in the future as well.



Pegy with her supervisor Prof. Seaton

Student Voices

My Favorite Class

Postwar Japan, with a focus on politics and foreign relations



EFIMOVA, Taisiia
Russia
Entered 2021 (3rd year transfer)

This course traces the evolution of Japanese society chronologically since 1945 with a focus on politics and foreign relations. Being interested in international relations and politics, I was happy to not just blindly memorize the material, but to multiply my knowledge of Japan's political system by participating in the discussions in these classes.





A Day at TUFS

8:15 Leave your room

There are 3 dormitories on campus. Each room comes furnished with a single bed, desk, and a small kitchen area with a stove, refrigerator, etc. (a room at the dorm is not guaranteed)



Dormitory

Shall we go for lunch together after class?



Research and Lecture Building



Small quizzes, presentations, many things to prepare!



8:30 Language classes in the morning

Most language classes are held in the morning, while specialized subjects are scheduled in the afternoon.



There are also books in my language!



Library

11:50 Lunch at the cafeteria

Freely choose from a wide variety of menu items, from rice bowls and noodles to larger menus.



On a nice sunny day, having lunch outside is also refreshing.



16:00 Studying at the library

Our library has over 880,000 books in more than 286 languages. TUFS-Learning Commons has a group work area and consultation desk.

Circle activities



There are over 100 clubs and circles to choose from!

Student Voices

My Favorite Activities Piano Circle and Gardening Circle



KATSUMATA Kaito
Japan
Entered 2020

I belong to the Piano Circle and Gardening Circle. In the Piano Circle both Japanese and international students enjoy performing together. Now the Covid-19 regulations have been eased, we have started to have more international students again. It's nice to have this atmosphere back! The Gardening Circle was established two years ago. I am the founding member of this circle and we work to make campus just that little bit more beautiful.



Finances

■ Fees






Admission Fee	¥282,000
Tuition Fees (per year)	¥535,800

As of March 2023 (subject to change)

■ Living Costs

Current average living costs total about ¥100,000 per month for rent, utilities, food, health insurance, etc.

Entrance Examination

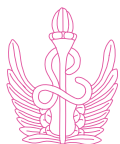
Type of Entrance Examination	Admission Date	Application Period	Japanese Proficiency	English Proficiency	Exam
 日本留学試験利用選抜	April	Mid October	Submission of EJU Examination Voucher (no minimum score requirement)	Submission of official English test score (no minimum score requirement)	Interview only
 Entrance Examination by High School Recommendation for the School of Japan Studies	April	Late August - early September	Not required	CEFR B2 or above	Interview only
 Entrance Examination for Transfer Students in the Third Year for the School of Japan Studies	October	March - early May	JLPT N2 or above	CEFR B2 or above	Interview only

Important: Check the details of each examination by downloading the admission information.

https://www.tufs.ac.jp/english/admission/degree/undergraduate_program/



国際日本学部で
待っています!



国立大学法人 **東京外国語大学**
TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES (TUFS)



TUFS (Japanese)
<https://www.tufs.ac.jp/>



TUFS (English)
<https://www.tufs.ac.jp/english/>



School of Japan Studies
(Japanese)
<https://www.tufs.ac.jp/education/js/>



School of Japan Studies
(English)
<https://www.tufs.ac.jp/english/education/js/>

Contact: Global Admissions Office (GAO)

3-11-1, Asahi-cho, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183-8534, Japan



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