



Location

JCMU is located in Hikone, a city of approximately 100,000 people in Shiga Prefecture situated on the eastern shore of Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan.

As a castle town located off the beaten tourist track, Hikone preserves much of its charm and heritage. At the same time, Hikone is only a 45-90 minute local train ride from the large cosmopolitan cities of Kyoto, Nagoya, and Osaka.

Visit our website for more information:



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JCMU Programs

Japanese Language & Culture Programs (year round)

JCMU offers beginning (first-year) through advanced (fourth-year) Japanese. One semester of Japanese language study at JCMU is equivalent to one full year of collegiate Japanese coursework at most U.S. universities. Students on JCMU's language and culture programs also participate in a range of engaging activities, such as field trips, cultural demonstrations, conversation partners, and homestays. No prior Japanese language study is required.

Offered during fall (September - December), spring (January - April), the academic year (September - April), and during the summer (June - August).

Our Story

In 1988, Michigan and Shiga signed an agreement to create the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU). JCMU is operated by a consortium of Michigan's 15 public universities, while the buildings and grounds are provided by Shiga Prefecture. Over the last 30 years, JCMU has expanded its programming to offer a diverse array of study abroad options throughout the year. JCMU's on-site staff works closely with prefectural officials and local partners, including the University of Shiga Prefecture and Shiga University, to design and implement cultural exchange activities and engaging academic experiences.

The JCMU Experience

JCMU is strongly rooted in the surrounding community and works closely with all of its partners to facilitate cross-cultural exchange. JCMU students are regularly included in local events, volunteer opportunities, field trips, and unique partnerships that foster lasting friendships. Many JCMU programs also include homestays with local Japanese families or the opportunity to become roommates with Japanese students. Regularly scheduled activities on JCMU campus provide an additional level of exposure to Japanese culture.

Faculty engagement is another critical aspect of the JCMU experience. Along with on-site faculty, JCMU welcomes local scholars from its partner universities and academics from around the world. Visiting scholars serve as leaders for our summer JCMU Culture/Career Hybrid Programs.

Career / Culture Hybrid Programs (CCHPs) (summer)

Students participate in a 3-credit keystone course in a specific area of study based on the instructor's area of expertise, in addition to completing a 3-credit Japanese Culture & Society course. All courses are taught in English, so no prior Japanese study is required. Programs vary by year.

Teaching English in Japan (TEJ) (typically every year) - TESOL / Education

Additional Programs by Proposal:

JCMU accepts visiting scholar proposals for possible keystone courses based on the scholar's area of expertise. Past programs have covered Japanese history, religions, politics, public health, criminal justice, and business communication.



Our Mission

JCMU is committed to providing affordable programs that uphold the highest academic standards while remaining accessible to students from all areas of Michigan, Shiga Prefecture, and beyond. JCMU welcomes participants from colleges and universities worldwide, including undergraduate, graduate, and non-traditional students.