

Summer Intensive Japanese Language



The JCMU Summer Intensive Japanese Language program runs every summer and offers beginner (first year) through advanced (fourth year) level Japanese in an intensive format. Students will complete an academic year's worth of college-level Japanese in just 9 weeks, while also immersing themselves in Japanese life and the local community!

Dates

Summer (9 weeks):
Early June - Early Aug.
Deadline: 2nd Friday in Feb.

Coursework

Intensive Japanese Language (10 Credits)
Level 1 (beginner) through
Level 4 (advanced)
Daily instruction addresses listening, speaking, reading,
and writing skills. Placement is based on exams held at the
beginning of the program.

Japanese
Cultural Lessons /
Experiences

Language
Exchange
Opportunities

Field
Trips to Historic
& Cultural Sites

Short
& Long-term
Homestays*

**Pending availability*

The JCMU Summer Intensive Japanese Language program offers far more than just rigorous language study—it's a full cultural immersion experience. Students can deepen their understanding of Japan through program-sponsored field trips to historic landmarks and serene landscapes, while also enjoying personal travel opportunities across the country. Cultural activities like ikebana, martial arts demonstrations, and traditional music workshops bring Japan's rich heritage to life, and language exchange events foster real friendships with local Japanese residents. For those seeking a deeper connection, long-term and weekend homestays with Japanese host families (pending availability) offer a unique chance to live the language and culture firsthand.



2026 Summer Short Programs



JCMU Summer Short Programs are faculty-led courses offered in May that explore a specific topic within the faculty leader's area of expertise. All programs are open to all students regardless of their major. Courses are taught in English and no previous Japanese language study is necessary.

The topics for JCMU Summer Short Program vary by year. Topics for summer 2026 include:



Religion and Society in Japan (4 cr.)

This immersive course challenges conventional ideas of “religion” by exploring Japan’s rich tapestry of ritual, self-cultivation, and social bonds—many of which defy traditional labels. Students will examine how spiritual and communal practices shape identity across diverse socio-economic and ethnic landscapes.

In-class lectures, readings, and discussions are enriched with reflection exercises and field trips to culturally significant sites across Shiga Prefecture and major cities like Osaka, Kobe, and Tokyo—bringing theory to life through direct engagement with Japan’s living traditions.



International Trade in Japan (3 cr.)

This dynamic course offers students a hands-on understanding of the evolving trade relationship between Japan and the U.S. Through the lens of history, policy, and logistics, students will explore how political movements and domestic agendas shape international commerce—and how goods actually move across borders.

Field excursions include visit to major international trade ports and key logistics hubs across Japan, including Tokyo and other major cities. Students will engage directly with the infrastructure and experts driving global trade, gaining firsthand insight into the supply chains, shipping systems, and policy frameworks that connect two of the world’s largest economies.






JCMU Website
Get the most up-to-date program details (dates, costs, etc.).



Advising
Schedule an appointment to ask questions.



Apply
Ready to apply? Use the JCMU Application Portal

 (517) 355-4654
 jcmu@msu.edu
 <https://jcmu.isp.msu.edu>

 JapanCenter
 JCMU_JapanCenter

Michigan Office
427 N. Shaw Lane, Rm. 5
East Lansing, MI 48824
U.S.A

Hikone Campus
1435-86 Matsubara-cho
Hikone, Shiga 522-0002
JAPAN