



Osaka Shoin Women's University (OSAKA)



A prestigious women's university with a 100 year tradition and schools for the diverse study of life and culture

■ University Introduction

① Features and Overview of the University:

Osaka Shoin Women's University is one of the country's leading higher education institutions for women and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2017.

Shoin Gakuen was founded in 1917, at a time when the Taisho democracy was flourishing, on the principle of "creating the ideal school for modern women."

The dark green hakama was the uniform at Shoin Girls' School. Hakama were adopted as women's uniforms from the Meiji period and women enthusiastically embraced wearing them during the Taisho period. At Shoin, the dark green hakama is still regarded as a symbol of the university, and many students still honor this tradition by wearing the hakama at events such as entrance and graduation ceremonies.

The campus was renovated in April 2015 and is equipped with state-of-the-art educational facilities and equipment, providing students with an ideal educational environment. The school is characterized by its detailed educational guidance and support system that makes the most of the small number of students. The number of full-time international students has been increasing in recent years, along with lively international exchange.

(as of 1 May 2024)

Number of teachers: 94

Number of students: 1,965



② Achievements in International Exchange:

The university has inter-university agreements with 12 universities in nine countries. Dispatch study programs have included short, medium, and long-term training at universities in the USA, short-term training at universities in Canada and Poland, medium-term training at universities in Australia, short and medium-term training at universities in New Zealand, and online training at universities in the Philippines and South Korea. Short-term training at Vietnamese universities and medium-term training at universities in Malta and South Korea are also being planned.

The program offers mainly short-term Japanese language training and a variety of Japanese cultural training, as well as programs to visit cultural heritage sites in Nara and Kyoto. Japanese language and culture training students have been accepted since 2012. In addition, since 2014, short-term students from California State University, Fresno, USA, have been accepted in the spring, and Japanese Language and Culture Training students (hereafter referred to as "Nikken students") and TUFs students work together to carry out exchange activities.

③ Number of international students and Japanese language and culture training (Nikken) students accepted in the past three years:

2024: 20 international students, 0 Nikken students

2023: 13 international students, 0 Nikken students

2022: 13 international students, 0 Nikken students

④ Features of the Area:

The university is located in a quiet area called Hishiyanishi in Higashi Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture. Higashi-Osaka is a central city, bordering Osaka City to the east, with good access to the Kansai area's cultural and economic centers; Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, and Kobe. The nearest station, Kawachi-Kosaka, is conveniently located within 20 minutes by train to Namba and Umeda, the centers of Osaka. Kyoto and Nara, famous for their history and sightseeing, can also be reached in less than an hour by train. Higashi-Osaka is also a hub of Japanese manufacturing, with a high concentration of small and medium-sized manufacturers of world-class quality, and is an educational city with four universities including our own.

■ Overview of Training/Course

① Purpose of Training/Course:

(b) Mainly to improve Japanese language skills.

② Features of Training/Course:

1) This program consists of special classes for Nikken students in Japanese language and affairs and a variety of designated classes shared with Japanese students.

2) The designated classes are comprised of classes in the fields of Japanese "Lifestyle Culture" and "Japanese Culture" ranging from traditional culture to subculture, which students can take according to their interests. When students take these designated classes which are unique to Shoin, they can consult with experts in each of these fields.

3) Classes in the "Lifestyle Culture" field include a variety of lessons on fashion and make-up culture, allowing students to study Japanese dress culture in its entirety. The classes approach not only clothing culture but make-up culture as well from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Shoin is the only university where students can study cosmetology systematically.

4) Classes in the "Japanese Culture" field, in addition to traditional Japanese culture, offer lessons in which students can study contemporary Japanese culture from both theoretical and practical perspectives.

③ Acceptance Limit.:

5 (By embassy recommendation only)

*A minimum of two students will be accepted.

④ **Qualifications, Conditions, etc. for Prospective Students:**

Students wishing to take part in this program must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Must be female students.
- 2) Must be majoring in a field related to Japanese language and culture.
- 3) Must have sufficient Japanese language proficiency to understand classes (N2 or above is recommended).

⑤ **Objectives:**

The objectives are to deepen students' understanding of the characteristics of Japanese life and culture from the early modern period to the present, and to enable them to present research and write reports on these topics in Japanese.

⑥ **Training Period (enrolment period):**

Mid-September 2025 to late September 2026

⑦ **Scholarship Period**

October 2025 - September 2026

⑧ **Training, Annual Schedule:**

Mid-September: Arrival date (19 September for 2017), Orientation
October: University festival
November: Autumn residential tour
December: Christmas party
January: Off-campus training
May: Spring residential field trip,
Exchange party with students from California State University, Fresno, USA
June: Off-campus training
July: Research presentations
September: Graduation ceremony
Late September: Return home (24/25 September for 2018)



⑨ **Course Completion Requirements:**

The program certifies completion, and a certificate of completion and a transcript will be issued, for those who have fulfilled the following requirements:

- 1) Complete a total of at least 20 credits from special Nikken classes and designated classes.
- 2) Make a research presentation (open to the public) on a topic of interest and submit a written report.

⑩ **Overview and Features of Training/Course Classes:**

- (1) Features of the training program classes
The Japanese language classes for Nikken students are Nikken-specific, so they can be customized to suit the student's level. Electives are studied together with Japanese students.
- (2) Classes offered in the training program

(I) Required classes: Special Nikken classes

	Fall	Spring
Japanese A, B	30hrs	30hrs
Japanese C, D	30hrs	30hrs
Japanese • Japanese Culture Research A, B	30hrs	30hrs
Japanese Affairs A, B	30hrs	30hrs

Japanese A and B: Japanese (listening and speaking centered)
Japanese C, D: Japanese (reading and writing-centered)
Japanese Language and Cultural Studies A, B: Research presentations and reports
Japanese Affairs A • B • • Japanese life and culture, social conditions (including off-campus classes)



II) Electives: Shared with undergraduate students

- a. Main classes in the “Lifestyle Culture” field (30 hours each)
 - ◎**“History of Cosmetics”** (30 hours)
Overview: Students learn about the history of cosmetics in Japan. Through looking at changes in make-up, students can understand the relationship between society and human beings.
 - ◎**Other classes:** “Theory of Clothing Culture,” “Theory of Make-up Culture,” “Globalization and Food,” “Food Business Theory,” “Modern Business Theory,” “Life Cycle of Women,” “Considering Gender,” etc.
- b. Main classes in the “Japanese Culture” field (30 hours each)
 - ◎**“Japanese Food and Culture”** (30 hours)
Overview: Through lectures on Japanese food culture and conditions, students learn about various issues related to food in contemporary Japan, along with the changes, development and diversity of Japanese food culture.
 - ◎**Other classes:** “Japanese Culture Theory,” “Shoin Window,” “Introduction to Japanese Literature,” “History of Japanese Calligraphy,” “Japanese Culture in English,” “Japanese Language Studie,s” “Introduction to Japanese Language Education,” “Subcultures,” “Japanese Culture Practice,” etc. Japanese language teacher training classes can also be selected.

(3) Participatory classes such as field trips and regional exchanges
Students can participate in various off-campus classes. In addition to traditional Japanese cultural assets and institutions such as temples, shrines, Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki and Bunraku, students can also experience contemporary Japanese culture at facilities such as the Kobe Fashion Museum and the Kyoto Manga Museum. They can also take part in local events and interact with local residents.

(4) Opportunities to study with Japanese students
All electives are studied together with Japanese students.

⑪ Guidance System:

- Students belong to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Guidance on how to complete this program is provided by specialists in Japanese language education.
- According to the field of interest, research advice is provided by teachers specializing in that field.
- Specialists in Japanese language education are responsible for providing support for Japanese language study. Supplementary classes to prepare for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test are also offered. (In 2018, one student passed N1 and one passed N2).
- Student tutors provide support for Japanese language study and daily life. They will also help students to expand their circle of friends on campus. Staff at the Shoin International Learning Center as well as other international students provide support for general student life.



■ Accommodation:

We do not have a dormitory for international students, but we can assist students in finding a suitable apartment in the range of 40,000 to 60,000 yen per month. Upon request, students can apply for a short-term homestay with a Japanese family. The International Exchange Programs Desk will introduce students to a suitable and warm family.

■ Other:

Part-time work is available at the Shoin International Learning Centre on campus.

- Duties: English conversation teacher
- English level check and interview will be conducted beforehand.
- Hours: up to 10 hours per week. An application for permission to engage in activities other than permitted under the status of residence is required.



■ Follow-up support:

A system is in place for Nikken students to continue their research on Japan even after they return to their home universities, so that they can continue consulting with us after completing the program. They can also freely contact past graduates by e-mail. If necessary, we can always communicate with the Shoin International Learning Center via email.

Voice of Alumna

I studied at Osaka Shoin Women's University as a Nikken student in 2012 and was able to return as a staff member after graduating from university in my home country. I worked at the Shoin International Learning Center until September 2023. If you have any problems, you can talk about anything with the Shoin International Learning Center.



■ Inquiries:

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Osaka Shoin Women's University homepage

[http://www.osaka-shoin.ac.jp/univ/\(Japanese\)](http://www.osaka-shoin.ac.jp/univ/(Japanese))

<http://www.osaka-shoin.ac.jp/univ/english/>

(English)

NIKKEN student homepage

<https://www.osaka-shoin.ac.jp/univ/international/accept/nikkensei/>

