

Graduate School of Letters / Faculty of Letters Exchange Program (FlexProgram) 2018-2019 Application Guidelines

1. Overview

FlexProgram is a program created especially for the undergraduate students of the Graduate School of Letters/Faculty of Letters' partner institutions. Students will have great flexibility in choosing the classes that best meet their needs and interests from the broad selection of Faculty of Letters classes (Japanese classes are included) as well as International classes. Japanese language classes will be offered in the Institute for International Collaboration, Hokkaido University so that students can gain a level of language proficiency during their stay.

Length of Study

- 1) Full academic year course (enrollment in April)
 - April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019
- 2) Full academic year course (enrollment in October)
 - October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019
- 3) Semester abroad course (enrollment in April)
 - April 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018
- 4) Semester abroad course (enrollment in October)
 - October 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Program Completion Requirements

All students are required to take a certain number of classes pertaining to their visa. Students must take a minimum of 7 classes or more (10 hours or more) per week to meet the visa requirement. They can take classes in the Faculty of Letters and/or from the Arts and Science courses.

Number of Students Accepted:

The number of students per university will be the same number as designated in the partner agreement.

Course Overview

	Full academic year course (April)	Full academic year course (October)	Semester abroad course (April)	Semester abroad course (October)
Classes in Faculty of Letters (in Japanese / English) ※ ¹	Yes (for credit)	Yes (for credit)	Yes (for credit)	Yes (for credit)
Arts and Science Courses (in English)	Yes (for credit)	Yes (for credit)	Yes (for credit)	Yes (for credit)
Japanese Language Classes ※ ²	Yes (optional) (no credit)	Yes (optional) (no credit)	Yes (optional) (no credit)	Yes (optional) (no credit)
Independent Study※ ³	Yes (optional) (for credit)	Yes (optional) (for credit)	No	No
Study Period	2018/4/1 ~ 2019/3/31	2018/10/1 ~ 2019/9/30	2018/4/1 ~ 2018/9/30	2018/10/1 ~ 2019/3/31
Application Deadline	November 17, 2017	May 18, 2018	November 17, 2017	May 18, 2018

※¹: Classes in the Faculty of Letters are mostly in Japanese.

※²: Japanese courses offered in the Institution for International Collaboration cannot be taken for credit. A certificate will be issued after finishing the Japanese Course.

※³ : If you choose Independent Study, you will be assigned an academic advisor in a related field and you will be able to do detailed research on a topic decided on by you and your advisor. This will count as a two-credit course for each semester. If you have questions, please contact the International Affairs Unit.

2. Information for Potential Applicants

Eligibility Requirements

- 1) Undergraduate students from the Graduate School of Letters/Faculty of Letters partner institutions (see list below*)
- 2) be enrolled and pay tuition fees at their home universities during study in Japan.
- 3) have completed at least two years of undergraduate study prior to arrival in Japan.
- 4) have GPA of 3.0 (B) or better on a 4.0 scale or equivalent
- 5) be proficient in English. Non-native English speakers must have a score of at least TOEFL iBT 79 or IELTS 6.5.

* University of Arizona (USA), University of Sussex (UK), SOAS (University of London, UK), University of Manchester (UK), University of Padova (Italy), University of Zagreb (Croatia), National University of Singapore (Singapore), University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), Paris Diderot University (France), University of Hong Kong (SAR), National University of Kaohsiung (Taiwan), National Yunlin University of Science and Technology (Taiwan)

3. Admission Process

Step 1: Consult with an academic advisor at their home institution and receive approval.

Step 2: Obtain the necessary forms from the office of international studies
(or its equivalent) at their home institution.

Step 3 Complete the forms, and submit them to the International Affairs Unit, Graduate School of Letters/Faculty of Letters, Hokkaido University through the home institution's office of international studies.

Application Deadline

Full academic year course and Semester Abroad Course (enrollment in April)

- November 17, 2017

Full academic year course and Semester Abroad Course (enrollment in October)

- May 18, 2018

Required Documents

- 1) Completed an application form
- 2) A recommendation letter from an academic supervisor
- 3) An official transcript of academic record
- 4) Certificate of health / Health check list
- 5) TOEFL or IELTS score record (non-native English speakers only)
- 6) Certificate of Japanese Proficiency
- 7) Photocopy of your passport
- 8) 3 photographs (4 x 3 cm, plain background) including all of the head, no hats or sunglasses)

Announcement of acceptance

Applicants will be informed of the selection results through their home institution in July for enrollment in October or in January for enrollment in April. (dates are tentative).

4. Information for Accepted Applicants

Immigration Procedures

Before coming to Japan, accepted students will need to obtain a student visa issued from the Japanese Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence. A certificate of eligibility and a letter of acceptance will be sent by the Graduate School of Letters, Hokkaido University to the home university of students who are officially admitted to this Program at least one month before the program starts.

This document will serve as proof of student status when applying at a Japanese Embassy or Consulate for a student visa. Applicants should follow the advice of the Japanese diplomatic office in their home country concerning the procedure for obtaining the visa.

NOTE:

Due to visa requirements, students are required to take at least 10 hours of classes 7 classes (10 hours of classes) per week. Further information about class registration will be provided at the arrival orientation.

Housing

For more information about student dormitories, please visit the website below.

<http://www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/prospective-students/accommodation/dormitories/>

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