YAMASA言語文化研究所
愛知日本語研究センター

Program Catalog

Learn Japanese in a full immersion environment.
Study Japanese with the leader in Japanese language education.
Introduction

The Hattori Foundation (established in 1919) founded the Yamasa Institute Aichi Center for Japanese Studies in the historic city of Okazaki to provide high quality Japanese language education. Already the leading center in the Mikawa region, the center aims without any reservations to be Japan’s leading provider of high quality Japanese language education and support services. As one of the few truly international institutes in Japan, it has been a great pleasure to see our relationships with our partner institutions both in Japan and abroad grow and offer new opportunities to students of Japanese.

The Yamasa Institute is the place where students from around the world begin to encounter the ‘real Japan’. Living with, studying with, and genuinely communicating with Japanese people is the key to understanding Japan and its people. No effort has been spared in building the Institute to the point where it is now recognized and accredited as one of the leaders in Japanese language education.

No other Institute offers the same high quality education, delivered by a professional and highly experienced faculty, at a low at-cost price. No other Institute offers more spacious, modern and technologically advanced facilities. No other Institute offers guaranteed housing within walking distance of your classroom door. Whether you are looking for an intensive preparation for a professional career or entry into a Japanese university or graduate school, a brush-up of skills or a first taste of the experience Japan has to offer, Yamasa has the program for you.

We hope that this catalog provides you with a taste of the programs and experiences of studying at Yamasa, and gives you an idea about the lives of our students. Here at Yamasa Japanese ceases to be a foreign language, and becomes one of your own.

Yoshio Hattori
President, Hattori Foundation
Location

Our students enjoy living in the historic castle town of Okazaki, just 30 minutes from the large city of Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture in central Japan. The 3 major international airports are all conveniently located within a few hours’ train journey. It is a safe and quiet city with high living standards. Tokyo has a daytime population of about 30 million people, Okazaki has only 330,000. The town is prosperous with high tech industries, yet it has retained its festivals and traditional crafts.

Many Japanese cities such as Tokyo and Osaka were almost entirely destroyed during WWII, but here our students can visit dozens of temples and shrines dating back hundreds of years, participate in the festivals and explore the castle and town by bicycle or on foot.

Okazaki’s location in Japan - central to the entire country and served by one of the country’s three international airports.

In short, Okazaki is safer, cheaper and quieter and more suited for study and a taste of the traditional Japan. It is also a low-cost city. Rents are less than half those of Tokyo, and prices in general are lower - from groceries and entertainment to our tuition fees. One look at our programs will quickly dispel any notion that studying in Japan has to be expensive.

Also, most students do not realize before they arrive that Japan has tremendous regional diversity. As well the advantage of avoiding high costs, Okazaki’s location makes it easier and cheaper to travel throughout Japan. While we recommend that every visitor to Japan should visit Tokyo and Osaka at least once, many students will quickly understand that visiting is more fun than enduring long daily commutes and high prices at a time when study is your main priority. If living in Tokyo is one of your objectives, then it is easier to learn the language in Okazaki.
first before moving to Tokyo for work or university study later. If seeing Osaka is one of your objectives, then it is easier to visit it. Since Yamasa’s programs finish early on Fridays, you can be in Tokyo or Osaka long before sunset for a weekend trip. By contrast, if you study in Tokyo, there is no way you could do the same trip to Osaka, Kobe, Nara, Kyoto or the Japanese Alps in the same time. A central location is an essential base if you want to see and enjoy as much of Japan as possible while you are here. Japan’s 3rd largest city is just 30 minutes away - you have everything you need from shopping to nightclubs to cultural attractions.

Within Okazaki as well, Yamasa’s location offers excellent advantages. Our campus is just a seven minute walk from the main JR (Japan Railways) Okazaki railway station (on the main line between Tokyo and Osaka) and the nearest shinkansen station is just a 15 minute train ride. Restaurants, banks, historic temples, peaceful parks, major shopping centers, Minami Hospital and all Student Accommodation are within walking distance. Bicycles are the best form of transportation, but you never have far to go to reach a bus stop. Success in learning Japanese will depend not only on classroom instruction and private study, but on the environment in which you live. In Okazaki your higher standard of living will make it easier to learn and more enjoyable while you do so.

Omikoshi: one of the oldest and most characteristic of all Japanese traditions, every town in Japan has a matsuri or festival each year.

Every year, a shrine is carried through the town from a temple, to bless the town and pray for a good harvest. Afterwards, everyone joins in dancing and feasting. Nowadays, it is more a celebration of community, but is a distinctive part of Japanese life.

Every summer Yamasa takes part in the local Omikoshi parade, students and staff building a float, joining the parade and then holding a party after the event for everyone.

(Nota: All of the photos and images of Okazaki in this catalog were taken in Okazaki by Yamasa staff and students. There is no clip art included)
Spring is one of the best times to enjoy Japan. With warm days and cool evenings, spring is the season of hana-mi: cherry-blossom viewing, enjoying the chance to be outside again after the cold of winter in the company of old and new friends. Spring is also the ideal time for hiking and experiencing the natural environment - into the mountains, following some of the many walks around the countryside of Aichi and Mikawa before the heat of summer. Spring runs from early April to late June, and is relatively dry with little rain or humidity.

Summer in Japan is a time of festivals and fireworks, of barbecues and trips to the beach or the river to cool off. The weather is generally hot, but in the center of Japan is milder and less humid than Osaka or Kyoto. It is also the time to enjoy outdoor sports, rafting down the Nagara River or climbing into the cool air to the top of Mount Fuji. Summer is also the ideal time to enjoy some indoor activities and escape the heat - visiting some of the many traditional cultural and historical sites around Okazaki and Mikawa, and the more modern ones too. With world heritage sites nearby, national treasures in the local museums, and traditional crafts as well as hi-tech industries all located in one of the most affluent and comfortable areas of Japan, Okazaki and Aichi have a lot to offer at any time of year, but can make for an unforgettable summertime in Japan.

The season to enjoy Japanese cuisine, autumn is when many of the traditional foods and fruits of Japan are at their best. Autumn is generally mild, with warm days and cool evenings; welcome respite after the heat of summer. Now is the time to go hiking in the hills, seeing the beauty of the forests of Japan as the entire landscape turns from green through bright yellows to vibrant red and deep gold. Many of the traditional sites of Japan - Kyoto, Nara, Asuke, Oku-mikawa - take on a whole new beauty at this time and all are easily reachable from Okazaki. Relax in the shade of a traditional tea-house and experience the true heart of Japan.

If you want to learn Japanese and also to fit in a few weekends or even a week on some of the world’s best ski slopes, then winter in Aichi will suit you perfectly. Located just a few hours’ drive from Nagano Prefecture, host of the 1998 Winter Olympics, Okazaki itself experiences mild winters but is ideally located to take full advantage of the Japanese Alps to the north. Join a Discovery tour for a few days of skiing, or just for the day if you are on a limited budget - there are plenty of options for making the best of the season. Little rain falls in winter, meaning that you can still enjoy the cultural life of Central Japan - day trips to museums and historical sites around Okazaki and Nagoya, weekends in Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo, while still having a full choice of quality language programs to choose from. Fully heated accommodation and classrooms mean that you won’t be distracted from your studies and will be able to concentrate in comfort.

Temperatures in Okazaki: winters are mild and summers are hot, but less so than other major centers of language study such as Kyoto and Tokyo.

Rainfall is mostly concentrated in the summer and early autumn, with dry winters. Weather forecasts in Japan are very accurate - making it easier to plan trips well in advance.
Teresa Algoso  
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Which course are you studying in?
I'm studying in the Academic Intensive Japanese Program.

What were you doing before you came to Yamasa?
I was an undergraduate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I was studying electrical engineering and Japanese.

Did you start as a beginner?
No I started at Intermediate level, in E class. I was at the lower end of the class as my kanji level and conversation level was below the class average at the beginning of the quarter, but I moved up towards the average over the next 2 months. Most of the students had been there longer than I so I had some catching up to do.

Where did you study Japanese before?
At MIT for 3 years. I did 4 hours a week for 2 years and then 3 hours a week last year. But there are only 30 weeks of classes per year. We studied using a book written in Romaji - the Jordan texts. It was useful for grammar but then I really struggled with reading when I came to Yamasa.

How long have you been at Yamasa now?
It's been 9 months since I started. I haven't left Japan during that time.

Is this the first time you have lived in Japan?
Yes - I had visited Tokyo for 3 days some 2 years ago. So this is the first long term stay.

Where are you living at the moment?
I'm in one of the Yamasa Villa Studio Apartments. A single room.

What is your accommodation like?
I was a bit cold in the winter as I'm used to central heating, but its very convenient, very comfortable and affordable. I brought my 2 cats with me - they are both house cats and everything worked out fine.

How do you get to classes?
I walk each morning. It takes me about 12 minutes.

What is the biggest challenge or problem you've faced so far in Japan?
Just getting out and exploring, trying all the new things. Getting over my shyness.

Any surprises you would like to share?
Yes, on the one hand I've been surprised by the overwhelming friendliness many Japanese will show me. And the way they will go out of their way to assist friends. But at the same time I'm surprised by the xenophobia sometimes. It's something I haven't fully understood yet.

If a new student was entering your class today and asked for some advice, what would you say?
I think it's important to get out and try doing activities you normally wouldn't try. I don't travel much in the USA, but I went up to Iwate prefecture last week. I tried Shuji as well. I guess the most important thing is to make the most of friendships.

William Sjahrial  
Jakarta, Indonesia

Which course are you studying in?
I'm studying in the SILAC Program. It's given me a lot of chances to practise speaking Japanese. At Georgia Tech, I was only studying grammar and rarely used it outside the classroom, whereas here I'm forced to speak it all the time.

Did you start as a beginner?
No I studied Japanese for a year in Atlanta. But we used Romaji only, I think studying using the hiragana and katakana here at Yamasa is much better. It helps reading a lot more.

How long have you been at Yamasa?
I've been here for 10 weeks now.

Is this the first time you have lived in Japan?
Yes - I had visited Tokyo for 3 days some 2 years ago. So this is the first long term stay.

Where are you living at the moment?
I'm in a shared room in the student village.

What is your accommodation like?
Its great. Its not as small as I expected - I figured it would be very small and "Japanese". The LAN access is good. The caretaker is very friendly. What I really like is the 24 hour convenience store just outside the door. It’s like having a huge refrigerator all pre-stocked for you.

After school what activities did you get involved in?
I played badminton down at the city gym near Jusco. That was fun. I also went dancing. I went to the OIA latin dancing party and had a good time there. One of the teachers is also into salsa dancing so I practised dancing with her as well sometimes.

How do you get to classes?
I have a "mama-chariot" bicycle. It takes me about 3 minutes or so to ride down the hill to the Institute.

What is the biggest challenge or problem you've faced so far in Japan?
Going back is a problem. But no real problems as such. I got lost once but in its own way it was kind of fun.

Any surprises you would like to share?
The food in the restaurants is usually as big as in the pictures and is very good.

If a new student was entering your class today and asked for some advice, what would you say?
Its a different country and you shouldn't expect things to be the same as in your own. Enjoy the differences and make the most of it.
Yamasa and Yamasa staff are members of various international bodies related to language education. These include:

**APJLE**

*Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education*

The Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education was founded to support and encourage the development of Japanese Language Education in Japan, and ensure the maintenance of high standards among language teaching institutions. The Yamasa Institute was a founding member of the APJLE (membership number B302), and has since been active in promoting an agenda to ensure that guaranteed high quality programs are available to all who wish to study Japanese with the aim that students can choose their program with confidence.

**NAFSA**

*NAFSA - Association of International Educators*

NAFSA is located in Washington DC in the USA and provides a forum for providers of high-quality language programs to discuss and advance international study options. This association is the leading organization involved in setting and upholding standards of good practice in international education, and provides professional education and training that strengthens institutional programs and services related to international educational exchange.

**TOSA**

*Taiwan Overseas Study Association*

Established in 1994, the Taiwanese Overseas Study Association is a non-profit organisation grouping together Educational Consultants from Taiwan with the aim of promoting study abroad opportunities for students. Recognised by the Republic of China Ministry of Education and Ministry of Internal Affairs, TOSA is active in ensuring that students searching for overseas study programs are able to choose from among institutions offering quality language courses.

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**Key Features**

**Accredited:**

The Japanese Government has certified The Yamasa Institute as the only education provider in the Mikawa region with the appropriate programs, systems, curriculum and facilities required for quality Japanese language education. Yamasa has the highest level of accreditation currently available and so can offer faster visa processing, later application deadlines and longer periods of stay than many other institutions. Some institutions offer one student visa start date per year - Yamasa offers two. Some institutions can offer six-month visas only - we can offer up to two years from April or 18 months from October. Yamasa was a founding member of the regulating body - The Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education (APJLE). Since the founding meeting, Yamasa has been continuing to push for higher standards and greater responsiveness to students’ needs.

**Lower Expenses:**

The Institute is non-profit and all of our high quality courses are delivered at cost. The fact is that there is no need whatsoever to pay Tokyo rents or Osaka prices in order to study in Japan. Located conveniently in the historic central region of Japan, Yamasa and Okazaki offer not only quality but also affordability. Although our classrooms are larger and facilities more modern, the lower price of land and other fixed costs means that tuition fees are very competitive compared to programs offered in the cramped conditions available in the larger cities. Prices are generally lower and housing is significantly cheaper and more spacious. Yamasa has by far the highest quality student accommodation available in Japan - and students living in Yamasa’s student housing have no transport fares to budget for because all of the accommodation is within walking distance of the campus. (In Tokyo - commuting to classes usually costs 16000/30000 yen per month) The average cost of living, including food and other expenses, is reported by our students to be approximately 50,000 yen per month. Some report substantially less. Furthermore, Yamasa offers more classes per week than most institutions allowing you to concentrate more on your studies and less on commuting on crowded subways or trains. Yamasa isn’t just cheaper; you can save more of your time for studying or experiencing the real Japan.

**University Placement:**

Each year an increasing number of international students choose Yamasa not only as their springboard to fluency and literacy in the Japanese language, but also as a reliable starting point for extended studies in Japan in their chosen field. An unusual aspect of our programs is that every student has an academic advisor to assist them not only with their studies, but also with gathering information, preparation for entrance exams, interviews and essays as well as selection of suitable programs. It is a key reason why every year, Yamasa’s graduates have been consistently successful in obtaining undergraduate and graduate places at leading private and publicly funded Japanese Universities including Tokyo University, Waseda University, Nanzan University, Nagoya University, Shizuoka University, Kyoto University, Aichi University, Chubu University, Teikyo University, Nihon University, Aichi University of Education and many others. In addition, many Universities and Colleges in the central region of Japan have become ‘suisen daigaku’ - institutions that accept our graduates on our recommendation. Every year, all of our students seeking University or College positions are successful.

**Work Opportunities:**

In addition to International students choosing Yamasa as their entry point into Japanese universities, many students use Yamasa’s work placement service as a reliable entry point into Japanese companies. One of the main distinguishing features of Yamasa is that a large number of the students enrolling in the Academic Programs is that a large number of the students enrolling in the Academic Programs is that a large number of the students enrolling in the Academic Programs}
programs have already completed their degrees (undergraduate or postgraduate). For professionals interested in learning Japanese quickly before seeking employment in Japan, Yamasa offers one of the best routes available. Yamasa maintains very close links with local industry and helps students find quality jobs in fields such as manufacturing, information technology, financial services and international trade. The region is the home of Japan’s automobile industry (Toyota Motor Corporation is a major client of The Yamasa Institute’s Continuing Education Programs for their overseas employees) and many major Japanese corporations have their headquarters and research centers nearby. The Mikawa region has taken great advantage of its central location, is economically prosperous and offers a wider range of opportunities for professionals with Japanese language skills than is generally known. Through our links to various Japanese companies and free job placement service for student visa holders, we can offer more career opportunities than other schools for our students.

**Homestay Program:**
The lower price of land in Okazaki results in larger houses than in Tokyo or Osaka. Not only are higher quality homestays easier to obtain but also Yamasa invests a lot of energy into the Homestay program. Yamasa students have consistently returned positive feedback about the Homestay program. The exposure to ‘natural’ Japanese in a relaxed and intimate atmosphere has been considered by many of the students to be a key reason for their success in obtaining proficiency in Japanese. Plus the homestays give the students not only the opportunity to practice their language skills and personally experience the culture of ‘real’ Japan, it also provides a priceless chance to communicate across cultures and make long lasting friendships.

**Student Accommodation:**
Students (especially with families) who come to Japan generally find obtaining good convenient housing a real headache. Perhaps more than any other factor, the quality of your housing will determine what kind of lifestyle you will experience as a student in Japan and whether or not you are successful in your studies. Most students in bigger cities cannot afford high rents and end up living in substandard housing with long train or subway commutes. Many universities, institutes and schools rely heavily on private vendors for accommodation and unfortunately many institutions do not inform students of the real facts until after they enroll. By comparison every student who enrolls in The Yamasa Institute is personally guaranteed:

- Safe, modern accommodation (with more space than is usual in Japan) already furnished and ready for you on arrival. Many options available.
- Affordable student housing at competitive rents including apartments, dormitories and homestays - all coordinated by full time professional staff in Yamasa’s Student Housing Office. There is no “reikin” or “shikikin”.
- Accommodation within walking distance of your classroom door. In short - no train or bus fares and no marathon commutes.

**Quality Faculty:**
The Yamasa Institute is dedicated to excellence in teaching and scholarship. Only the best teachers and instructors join our faculty. All of our academic staff are highly experienced and fully qualified teachers of Japanese as a second language. Also, virtually all of the Institute’s teachers and administrative staff have spent a considerable amount of time studying and working outside their home countries. Team teaching is used at all times - you will always have a dedicated team of teachers offering both quality and variety. In addition to team teaching, the faculty members are always available beyond the classroom to advise and assist students. Furthermore at Yamasa, a personal academic advisor is assigned to each student to enhance language acquisition and ensure you have an excellent chance of success.
in obtaining credits, admission to Japanese universities or graduate schools, or in your chosen profession. All Yamasa courses and programs are delivered exclusively by Yamasa’s professional faculty. Supporting the students and academic staff is a multi-lingual and highly experienced administration to make your life easier from enrolment right through to graduation.

**Genuinely International Student Body:**

Many Japanese educational institutions aim to be, many claim to be, however very few are. At most language training facilities - whether those on university campuses or at language schools - more than half of the students share one common native language. In most cases they are also young and without a college education background. This usually just reflects the fact that more than half the international students in Japan originate from the People’s Republic of China. However, by contrast, Yamasa students come from all over the world with strong representation from Europe and North America as well as East Asia. Yamasa applies stricter enrolment and selection procedures than many universities in Japan and ensures that the student body is highly diverse, well educated and usually of a higher age than the national averages. At Yamasa, the advantage of this diversity is that Japanese is usually the only medium in which students can communicate to each other. Japanese is more than just the language of instruction, it rapidly becomes the language of communication. The result is a dynamic group of people from many different cultural backgrounds, with very different experiences and outlooks. But all seeking to discover both Japan and themselves in a stimulating academic environment.

**Modern Facilities:**

Very few Japanese language teaching facilities can match The Yamasa Institute’s modern Okazaki campus. The campus is located just a 7-minute walk from the main Japan Railways (JR) Okazaki railway station. The heart of the Campus is the 5-floor Yamasa II building and the 2-floor Aoi Hall. Completely modern, the fully air-conditioned facilities contain a library and 2 computer laboratories with a variety of resources including audio-visual and online learning aids, copying machines for students, western style amenities and easy access to staff. The classrooms are significantly larger than the standards required by the APJLE - the space means that none of our students spend their classes sitting in rows. Instead all classrooms are laid out in a U-shape to maximize interaction not only between the students and the teaching team but also among the students themselves. Instead of the ‘Tokyo style’ writing palettes attached to the arm of a chair, all Yamasa students have desks with plenty of room to spread out dictionaries and other learning aids. When you study at Yamasa, you enjoy the advantage of space. Yamasa is also one of the most wired campuses in Japan. Students who have their own laptop computer can plug directly into the high-speed network or the 100Mbit network in Aoi Hall. Even if you don’t bring your own computer, modern computing facilities are also...
provided for students in the laboratories and internet access is both free and untimed - even on weekends. The computer access even extends to the student housing - the newest accommodation - Yamasa Student Village (page 48) - has 24 hour free internet access in every room.

Scholarships and Financial Aid:
Yamasa is very conscious that the relatively high cost of living in Japan can deter many gifted but financially disadvantaged students from taking what would be a vital step towards a fulfilling and successful career. Yamasa makes every attempt to keep tuition, accommodation and other fees as low as possible. However, despite our determined efforts to ensure that Yamasa provides not only high quality but also the most affordable programs available in Japan, the fact remains that some students are unable to find sufficient financial resources to cover their desired period of study. Yamasa is able to extend opportunities to students usually ignored by other Japanese institutions. Put simply we take our aim more seriously. Yamasa has a scholarship, fellowship, exchange and financial aid program that reaches around the world. For more details see page 57, Scholarships and Financial Aid.

“Student Friendly”
It’s not a slogan, just a fact. Our non-profit Institute’s prime consideration is the education and welfare of our students. In addition to quality education we provide the little things such as free untimed access to email and the Internet as well as free airport pickup services. In addition to having an academic advisor to assist you with your studies, Yamasa has multilingual administrative staff members who are always available specifically to assist you with everything from housing to health care, visas to finances. It is this attention to detail that makes studying abroad in Japan a lot easier at Yamasa. For the same reason, it is why our students have described us as ‘student friendly’.

Student Comments:
“I lived in Tokyo for a year, and it was great to have reasonably-sized accommodation again! Okazaki has most things that you need, and if you want the bright lights, Nagoya is around the corner, and Tokyo or Osaka are really nearby.” Han Song-Pil, AIJP, Korea.

“It’s good knowing that if you have any problems at all, there are always staff ready to help you - with accommodation, with medical problems, with anything at all.” Daniel Ebeling, AIJP, Germany.

“The weekend trips are a good idea - when you’re not sure what to do, or how to get around a strange country, it’s good to have some help when you’re learning the ropes.” David Lee, AIJP, Taiwan.

“The teachers are excellent - they’re always ready to give you help after class, to answer questions, correct your mistakes - and the course is really good - I learnt loads in the three months I was at Yamasa.” Josh Wilbur, Acceleration, USA.

“I’m really glad I chose the program - I think it’s the best thing I did after finishing teaching.” Colin Tyner, Acceleration, Canada.

“We use all kinds of materials - newspapers, TV dramas, anime, once in a while manga too. The language that we use is modern Japanese as it is spoken by Japanese everywhere, and we learn a lot about the Japanese culture and way of thinking - if you don’t understand how Japanese people think, you cannot really understand the language.” Oh Sae-Jung, AJSP, Korea.
Teaching at Yamasa

The Method
Classes are taught via the direct method - Japanese is the only language of instruction. However the textbooks at elementary level also have translations available in different languages in addition to other multi-lingual aids. In class students use Japanese only and in a short period of time are using Japanese as their lingua franca. This is one of the key advantages of studying at Yamasa and reflects the genuinely multinational character of the student body.

At Yamasa all students are able to start at their own level. Extensive placement testing on arrival includes not only examinations testing literacy, writing ability, vocabulary and listening skills, but also a one-on-one interview with faculty to ensure that when you are placed in a class you are placed in the right level. It is also possible to change classes later if the initial placement proves to be either too challenging or alternatively not challenging enough. You will be tested before every course module or quarter so you are always in the right learning environment.

Common Features of all courses:

- Language of Instruction: Japanese (supporting translation texts available in many languages at lower levels)
- For improved pronunciation, the roman alphabet is not used in instruction (you need to learn hiragana and katakana, and kanji on academic programs)
- All the teaching faculty are native Japanese speakers
- Placement testing involves speaking, writing, listening and reading tests
- Placement testing before every course module/quarter.
- In all courses, students are placed in the correct class for their level
- Maximum class size 15 students
- Flexible: students can change course or class after consultation with their class teachers
- Minimum age 18 years old for all courses, but please contact us for exceptions in some cases (no exceptions possible in the case of the student visa)
The Yamasa Faculty

All of the teaching faculty are fully qualified and highly experienced professional teachers of Japanese as a foreign language. Before assuming positions in the Yamasa teaching team, all of the faculty members are required to have considerable experience in teaching Japanese as a second language both in Japan and abroad.

At Yamasa, we believe that just as each student has different requirements, so each course requires a different style of teaching. For this reason the faculty is divided into five departments, one for each of the major programs: Acceleration, AIJP, AJSP, SILAC and OCJS. We retain full-time teachers for private and semi-private lessons as well. This is so that your teachers will be experienced not just in teaching Japanese as a foreign language, but specialists in teaching the particular Japanese language course that you are studying.

Yamasa’s faculty members use team teaching on all our courses. By working as a team the faculty bring considerable variety to lessons, and one faculty member in your teaching team will be designated as your academic advisor. Team teaching ensures that you are exposed to not just one but four different people’s Japanese, meaning that you will be able to communicate more easily with other people outside the classroom. You also have the benefit of four different teaching styles, so that lessons are never the same.

It is this experience and diversity that will enable you to maximize your Japanese language learning in the time that you are at Yamasa.

The Yamasa difference - Academic Advisors

Learning Japanese, like learning any language, takes time. Not everyone has the chance to study intensively until they have achieved fluency, so often students return to Yamasa one or more times every year to improve their language skills. To make the most effective use of the time that you have in Japan, Yamasa believes that it is important to maintain an ongoing relationship with students as part of a learning community. For this reason, one faculty member in your teaching team is designated your academic advisor, to support and guide your studies while at Yamasa and to provide continuity when you return.

It is the academic advisor system that sets Yamasa’s courses apart. Your advisor will be available to assist you with everything from Japanese language questions, appropriate materials for personal study, selecting suitable universities or graduate schools, applying for scholarships and so on. During your studies at Yamasa you are always able to depend on having at least one faculty member who knows you well and is therefore able to offer a highly personalized level of service. This will enable your advisor to help you realize your goals for the Japanese language and for when you graduate from Yamasa - your advisor is also there to monitor and guide your progress towards attainment of the Course Certificate, Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma.

Your Academic Advisor is the key person in your ongoing learning relationship with Yamasa. So you know that whenever you come back to Yamasa there is someone here who knows you and your needs and your time is used effectively. At Yamasa you are part of a learning community that starts from before you enter the Institute and continues throughout and beyond your studies at the Aichi Center for Japanese Studies.

This is because learning Japanese is a long-term project, and you will have the full support of the faculty and staff of the Yamasa Institute on the way, whether you are in Japan or back at home.

Summary: Yamasa Faculty

The Yamasa Faculty are all:

- native-speaking Japanese teachers
- qualified teachers of Japanese as a second language
- experienced at teaching Japanese overseas and in Japan
- specialised faculty experienced at teaching each course
- responsive to students’ needs
- supportive during your studies

In addition you will get:

- team teaching: experience four different teaching styles and ways of speaking
- academic advisors: personal support for academic and personal issues
Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma

The Yamasa Institute confers three awards for students who complete ACJS programs. These are the Course Certificate, the Graduate Certificate and the Graduate Diploma. The course certificate is issued to all students completing an ACJS program while the Graduate Certificate and Diploma requires an undergraduate degree as a pre-requisite. The Graduate Diploma is the highest level award.

Minimum requirements for Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma:

Pre-enrollment

1) You need to have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. (Please note that you do not need an undergraduate degree to enroll for a course at Yamasa. For details please read the minimum entry requirements for each course.)

2) You need to complete all admissions requirements for your course or program.

During Enrollment

3) You need to maintain an attendance rate of 95% or higher for all classes/all days for each course attended.

4) You are required to complete all coursework, exams and essays for each course attended.

5) You are to have no outstanding tuition, accommodation, financial assistance loan repayments or other fees at the end of module or course attended.

Requirements for Graduation: Graduate Certificate

To qualify for the Graduate Certificate, a student must complete 24 credit points and must satisfy the following conditions.

1) A maximum of 8 credit points may be transferred from other Yamasa-recognised institutes/universities by prior arrangement and after placement testing/reference. These credit points will be classified as Academic Points.

2) A minimum of 18 credit points must be for Academic Programs.

3) A minimum of 18 credit points must be for ACJS/OCJS programs.

4) A maximum of 6 credit points from Extension Programs.

5) An essay (主題 of the essay must be decided in consultation with your academic advisor) and a 10-minute oral presentation.

Requirements for Graduation: Graduate Diploma

To qualify for the Graduate Diploma, a student must complete 36 credit points and must satisfy the following conditions.

1) A maximum of 12 credit points may be transferred from other Yamasa-recognised institutes/universities by prior arrangement and after placement testing/reference. These credit points will be classified as Academic Points.

2) A minimum of 24 credit points must be for Academic Programs.

3) A minimum of 24 credit points must be for ACJS/OCJS programs.

4) A maximum of 9 credit points from Extension Programs.

5) An essay (主題 of the essay must be decided in consultation with your academic advisor) and a 10-minute oral presentation.
Credit Point Schedule for ACJS programs

You can earn points towards your Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma from the following courses.

Credit Points for Academic Programs

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<th>Study period:</th>
<th>Acceleration</th>
<th>AIJP</th>
<th>AJSP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 month module:</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 month quarter:</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Credit Points for Extension Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study period:</th>
<th>SILAC</th>
<th>Discovery</th>
<th>Internship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 weeks</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 weeks</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C.A.L.L. (Computer Aided Language Learning) Seminar:
Transfer credits are not offered except through OCJS (Online Center for Japanese Studies) validation.

Credits can be collected over a period of 4 years (graduate certificate) or 6 years (Graduate Diploma). Any extensions will be at the discretion of the Yamasa Institute, must be discussed with your academic advisor and may require further testing to ensure that your level is sufficiently advanced for the award. Credit is awarded only for completed modules or courses. If you leave before the end of a course, you will not gain credit for that course.

It may be possible to transfer credit from Yamasa courses to your university and from your university to Yamasa. To do this will require that you contact the Yamasa Institute well in advance and will also depend on your university. If you would like to arrange credit transfer, make sure you contact your studyabroad advisor or the Yamasa Institute well in advance.

How do I register for the Graduate Certificate or Diploma?
Within four weeks of arriving at Yamasa, you need to register at the International Office. At this time you also choose the form of your Academic Transcript - either pass/fail or GPA format.

How do I transfer credit from my university?
Contact Yamasa or your studyabroad advisor for the credit transfer forms that your faculty staff should complete. If you are a graduate or cannot get your faculty to complete the forms for whatever reason, you can request to take an examination on arrival at Yamasa. On the basis of your performance in the examination Yamasa will calculate the number of credits that will be allocated to you.

What subjects are eligible for credit transfer?
Only Japanese language courses are eligible for transfer credit. Related courses such as Japanese Literature, Culture, History and so on are not eligible for credit transfer unless they contain a significant element of Japanese language study. Contact Yamasa or your advisor for full details and a credit transfer pack. Transfer from Yamasa to your university is at the discretion of your university’s international office.
Intensive Japanese Language Programs at Yamasa

Introduction:

Language skills and effective communication are key to understanding any culture, and with a nation such as Japan this is perhaps even more so. Yamasa’s courses are intensive and are offered at all levels from foundation courses for the absolute beginner through to advanced students preparing for graduate school and work or study requiring the highest levels of Japanese language skills. No Institute offers more course options, flexibility, quality or affordability than the Yamasa Institute.

Programs are divided into Academic and Continuing Education programs. Academic programs are introduced below; see page 24 for details of Continuing Education programs.

Which is the right Academic Program for me?

All the Academic programs cover all aspects of the language. If you don’t want to learn kanji, or are less interested in being able to write in Japanese, then you should consider a Continuing Education program - although in the Continuing Education Programs some written Japanese is studied. If you are coming on a student visa, then you will not be able to follow a Continuing Education program because of Immigration Office requirements and will have to choose from among the Academic Programs.

If you have only a short period of time but would like to make the most of what you have by concentrating on intensive studies while in Japan, the Acceleration Program would probably be the most suitable for you - this course will see you increase your abilities in all areas very rapidly. To pursue a little more private study, or if you are already at an intermediate level, then the AIJP should be your first consideration - slightly less coursework and lessons per day, but roughly the same speed of work. If you have advanced language skills or have been studying for several years and have the Level Two Japanese Language Proficiency Test or equivalent, then the AJSP would be the best option.

When you are selecting a program, you should take the following points into consideration:

1) On which areas of the language do I want to focus?  
2) When do I want to start?  
3) How long do I want to study?  
4) What is my present level?  
5) Am I eligible for the program?  
6) What visa will I need?  
7) What visa am I eligible for?

Yamasa or your studyabroad advisor will also be able to help with choosing a course.

Academic Programs:

Academic programs are specifically designed for university and college students studying Japanese at home, and also for those wishing to improve their language skills in preparation for undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Japanese universities and colleges or for professional careers either in Japan or abroad. Programs can be followed at all levels from beginner to intermediate, and cover all skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students can easily switch between programs and can study for up to 24 months. If you are seeking university credit, focus on reading and writing as well as conversational skills, then you should consider the Academic programs.

As with all Yamasa’s programs, Academic programs require commitment. There is a large coursework component and continual assessment throughout your studies, along with the continual support of Yamasa faculty and your academic advisor. You can follow these programs on any visa - student, tourist or working holiday visa.

If you are considering long-term studies and want a student visa, then you will have to take these courses. This is because of Immigration Office requirements that stipulate the number of hours that you have to spend studying kanji for a course to be eligible for the student visa.

Acceleration Program:

The ultra-intensive academic programs are specifically designed for university and college students and those wishing to really boost their language skills in a short time. Courses are 8 weeks or 3 months in duration and rapidly accelerate all aspects of language proficiency. This program can be followed at levels from beginner to pre-intermediate and from 8 weeks to 6 months. Students can easily switch between Acceleration and AIJP/AJSP programs.

Academic Intensive Japanese Program (AIJP):

A challenging and rigorous intensive program designed to prepare students for undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Japanese universities and colleges or for professional careers requiring advanced levels of Japanese. You can join the program for 3 to 24 months. Levels available from beginner to Level 2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Advanced Japanese Studies Program (AJSP):

For more advanced students who already have Level 2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test or equivalent, this course will take students to new levels of competency in the Japanese language. Ideal for preparing for graduate schools or for professional careers in fields requiring advanced Japanese skills. You can join the program for 3 to 12 months.
Intensive Japanese Language Programs at Yamasa

Levels:

Yamasa runs courses at all levels from absolute beginner through intermediate to advanced. You do not need to know any Japanese to study at Yamasa. However, some programs do have entry requirements: the Advanced Japanese Studies Program for example requires at least level two of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or equivalent.

Yamasa’s rating of intermediate is higher than many other institutions. However, since our placement testing is very thorough, you will always be in the right class to ensure that you learn as fast and efficiently as possible.

There is a huge difference between study at university or language school in your home country and study in Japan where you are immersed in the language. When you are in Japan, you will learn faster because you will be using the language on a daily basis. You will soon find that all the work you did at university or your previous study helps and you will learn very quickly.

The highest level offered is in the AJSP, where classes are run from about level two standard of the JLPT, to beyond level one.

Placement testing is very thorough. All aspects of your Japanese skills will be tested. Testing also includes a 1 on 1 interview.

The Japanese Language:

Japanese is believed to be part of the Altaic group of languages, which includes Korean, Mongolian and a few other otherwise unclassifiable languages such as Hungarian, Finnish and Estonian. The group do have certain features in common, but the similarity is strongest between Japanese and Korean, for obvious geographical and historical reasons. The European members of the group are more distantly related, and their inclusion in the same group is still disputed.

The particular distinguishing feature of Japanese is the writing system, which involves the use of three separate character sets (four if you include the western alphabet which is also often used, particularly in technical materials). The three are kanji, and the kana - hiragana and katakana. The kana are the simplest, each consisting of 46 characters each of which represents a vowel or consonant+vowel combination. The same sounds are represented in each character set, but are used differently. The katakana are used largely for writing words borrowed from other languages (the vast majority being from English), and for certain onomatopoeia and names of animals.

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Japanese is a language where the endings of words of all classes (nouns, verbs, etc.) change with grammatical tense. The kanji is always written the same, so to simplify reading, the kana were developed. To represent the endings of words and tenses, hiragana are used after the kanji. This makes reading Japanese much easier, but you still have to know the readings of the kanji. Since there are over 5,000 kanji in Japanese (but only 2,000 in common use), this is one of the most time-consuming aspects of learning the language for students from non-kanji cultures (i.e. not Chinese or Korean). It is also one of the most interesting aspects too, and one of the most rewarding: one more of the many unique facets of Japan and Japanese Culture.

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Intensive Japanese Language Programs at Yamasa

**Acceleration Program - Ultra-Intensive Academic Course**

**Introduction**
These are highly intensive 8-week or 3-month programs specifically designed to enable students to obtain a significant acceleration of their Japanese language skills at the lowest cost a quality academic program can provide. These special programs were created in response to many requests made by students for an extremely intensive academic program that they could follow during university holidays. The programs are scheduled to suit the summer vacations of Northern and Southern Hemisphere universities but can be taken any time throughout the year.

**Program Outline**
With 28 program classes per week including electives the Acceleration program offers the opportunity to learn more Japanese during 8 weeks than many universities offer in a year. The extra classes make the Acceleration Program one of the most affordable methods of improving your Japanese. If you are a university or college student being recommended by your Japanese faculty, then there is also the opportunity to apply for financial aid. The extra course work and lesson time of the Acceleration Program enables more in-depth study of the topics than the AIJP (page 20) in a short time.

**Teaching**
The program has a strong emphasis on preparing academic skills such as reading and writing but also stresses listening and speaking skills and correct grammatical use. Class sizes are generally smaller than the Yamasa average and are delivered by a teaching team from Yamasa’s Acceleration course faculty, who are experienced in delivering the Acceleration Program curriculum full-time throughout the year, the Yamasa Acceleration faculty. An academic advisor is available at all times to assist you with your studies (see page 13). Texts are provided with translations at lower levels but all classwork and teaching is in Japanese.

**NOTE:** You can follow the Acceleration Program for up to 6 months. It is not possible to study longer than this as your level will be higher than the highest class on offer. (Curriculum for this program goes to intermediate level only.)
**Colin Tyner, Canada.**

*How long have you been studying Japanese?*

For about two years on my own while I was teaching English in Japan. But there’s a limit to what you can do when working, particularly teaching another language.

*Why did you choose the acceleration program?*

It’s a good stepping-stone for entrance to the AIJP - also to just make a quicker start to becoming able to use Japanese on a daily basis.

*How has studying on the Acceleration Program compared to studying on your own?*

Well, it’s a lot more intense. We have to study a lot of kanji, and we’re tested on them every day. Then we have progress tests every week and a half. It’s much more work than studying on your own - even in the seminar class. I think that the rate of learning is faster than other programs - you have to keep up with the class and complete the coursework or you fall behind quickly. We cover about one chapter of the core texts a day at the start of the program. I’m really glad I chose the program - I think it’s the best thing I did after finishing teaching.

*How do you feel your overall level of Japanese has changed since you enrolled?*

My reading and writing skills have improved substantially, and overall my general level of spoken Japanese and comprehension as well. We work on all areas of the language, including listening test practices for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test - we do about two of them every week. The course is good preparation for the proficiency tests - the listening section would be fairly easy after an Acceleration course, and by the end of the program you’ve covered all the material in the two main texts meaning you will know all the grammar for the level 3 at least. You’d have no problems at all on the kanji section - you would have it down to a science by the time you’re finished.

*Who would you recommend the course to?*

I’d recommend it as a stepping-stone to anyone who was thinking of going on to a more advanced program like the AIJP, or university students who want a program for the summer. If you took the Acceleration as a summer program, you’d have a huge advantage on any other students when you got back to university. Basically, it would be fine for anyone who is interested in going on to more study, or wanting a fast introduction to the language. The course covers a lot of material, but you don’t just learn kanji and grammar - everything is in Japanese, so your spoken and listening skills improve loads as well.

*Any hints or comments?*

You need to be really motivated to follow this program - if you don’t keep up, then you fall behind the class really quickly. You have to make sure that you keep on top of all the coursework and homework, write the assignments every week, or you find the work piles up. I wouldn’t want to try and do a part-time job and follow the acceleration program.

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**Levels**

Classes are offered from beginner to intermediate levels. The highest level is slightly above level 3 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. The curriculum is based on the same texts as the AIJP beginner classes, so it is possible to switch between courses if desired providing that a place is available in the class into which you wish to move. Placement testing is compulsory.

**Facilities**

Classes are held in the Yamasa II building. All students have access to all of the Yamasa facilities and accommodation. See page 34 for details of facilities at the Yamasa Institute and page 38 for a description of the accommodation options available.

**Visa Information**

You can study this course on any visa (student, tourist, or working holiday). With a few exceptions, applicants who intend to study for two successive Acceleration quarters will need to apply for a student visa. If you are on the Student visa, you have to study for three-month quarters - the two month modules are not an option. See page 56 for full information about each type of visa and immigration rules. If you are unsure about any matters relating to visas, please contact Yamasa or your studyabroad advisor.

**Entry Requirements**

The Acceleration Program is an academic course and students need not just a high level of motivation to learn Japanese but also the necessary academic aptitude, more so than for other programs because of the intensity of this course. The ability to maintain a very high level of attendance (95% or more) and to complete all homework and assignments on time are also important. It is not necessary to be a currently enrolled student or have any knowledge of Japanese although some general knowledge about the language or prior study is recommended.

- Applicants must have a minimum of 12 years of full-time education in their native country or have a diploma equivalent to a Japanese senior high school diploma. If you do not have any college background you are advised to apply early.
- Applicants must have academic abilities equal to or higher than that of the average Japanese high school graduate.
- As a general rule students need to be 18 years and over. For students under the age of 18 enrolling for up to 3 months some exceptions can be made if references are supplied. No exceptions can be made for student visa holders (see the visa section on page 56 for further information). There is no upper age limit.
Academic Intensive Japanese Program - A.I.J.P.

Introduction
The Academic Intensive Japanese Program (AIJP) is one of Japan’s leading Japanese language courses. It is designed to prepare students for careers where Japanese proficiency is required (many students go on to work in Japan or use their Japanese language skills in their work abroad) or for undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Japanese universities and colleges requiring advanced levels of Japanese. The program is intended for those who prefer a more academically oriented course of study.

Program Outline
The AIJP offers an intensive high quality program with up to 24 contact classes per week (20 program classes and 4 elective classes per week) and a minimum of 950 classes per academic year (4 quarters). The AIJP is offered year round in four 3-month quarters with start dates in January, April, July and October. The basic 20 language classes each week are supplemented by 4 electives, in which students can choose extra grammar, kanji, conversation or other lessons to focus on their weaknesses, or can take lessons on Japanese culture, arts and other activities in Japanese where it is possible to use the language in context. There is not only a strong emphasis on preparing academic skills such as reading and writing, but also on listening and speaking skills, correct grammatical use and preparation for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Teaching
The curriculum is taught by the AIJP faculty at all levels from absolute beginner to advanced so there is no need to have studied Japanese before joining this course at any of the start dates. Classes are taught via the direct method and Japanese is the language of instruction, however the texts at elementary level also have translations available in various languages. Romaji is not used in instruction, so as with other academic programs, you have to learn hiragana, katakana and kanji.

NOTE: You can follow the AIJP for up to 2 years, but when your level of Japanese ability is high enough you will move up to the AJSP (Advanced Japanese Studies Program - pages 22-23).
Pursuing your interests is also often the best way to get into the local community. Regine from Norway studied on the Academic Intensive Japanese Program with a student visa for six months. Being an art student herself, with a deep interest in fashion design, Regine decided that she wanted to continue drawing while in Okazaki.

All the courses available were full-time programs at universities and colleges, and generally cost a lot of money and required fluent Japanese skills. So Regine set to work with the materials at hand - an art gallery next to the school, a group of local hairdressers and some volunteer Yamasa students.

The gallery advertised some examples of Regine’s work, and found plenty of willing pupils. Putting together a group was fairly easy, there being far more applicants than space in the art gallery. Using the Yamasa students as models, Regine taught a course in Fashion Drawing for local people over the summer, providing not only plenty of time to use her artistic talents and incidentally practice her Japanese, but also a perfect chance to meet many local residents with similar interests.

Okazaki has a wealth of activities to offer to all those interested in Japan and Japanese. There are plenty of martial arts dojo for those interested in following Aikido, Karate, Judo, Kendo, and many more. There are volunteer groups like the Okazaki International Association, who offer free Japanese lessons on the weekends and regularly organise trips and weekend activities. You can also find plenty of cultural groups, practice shoji (Japanese calligraphy), go (Chinese chess), ikebana (flower arranging), Ocha no yu (tea ceremony), and plenty more. The main point being to get out there and make the most of the time you have. Japan has plenty to offer if you want to get out there and take it. At Yamasa we can help you with the first steps.

Levels
Classes are offered from beginner to pre-advanced levels. The highest level available is about level 2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. After this point, you will advance to the AJSP program (see pages 22-23). The curriculum for the beginner classes is based on the same texts as the Acceleration program (see pages 18-19), so it is possible to switch between courses if desired providing that a place is available in the class into which you wish to move. Placement testing is compulsory.

Facilities
Classes are held in the Yamasa II building. All students have access to all of the Yamasa facilities and accommodation. See page 34 for details of facilities at the Yamasa Institute and page 38 for a description of the accommodation options available.

Visa Information
You can study this course on any visa (student, tourist, or working holiday). With a few exceptions, applicants who intend to study for two successive AJIP quarters will need to apply for a student visa. See page 56 for full information about each type of visa and immigration rules. If you are unsure about any matters relating to visas, please contact Yamasa or your studyabroad advisor.

Entry Requirements
The AJIP Program is an academic course and students need not just a high level of motivation to learn Japanese but also the necessary academic aptitude. It is not necessary to be a currently enrolled student or have any knowledge of Japanese because the program is also suitable for use as a stepping stone into undergraduate studies at a Japanese university, a tertiary background is not set as a minimum entry requirement.

- Applicants must have a minimum of 12 years of full-time education in their native country or have a diploma equivalent to a Japanese senior high school diploma. If you do not have any college background you are advised to apply early.
- Applicants must have academic abilities equal to or higher than that of the average Japanese high school graduate, and the motivation to complete all coursework on time.
- As a general rule students need to be 18 years and over. For students under the age of 18 enrolling for up to 3 months some exceptions can be made if references from parents/guardians and teachers are supplied. No exceptions can be made for student visa applicants (see the visa section on page 56 for further information). There is no upper age limit.
Introduction
The Advanced Japanese Studies Program (AJSP) is designed for students who have already passed level 2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). It will increase your language skills in all areas, and prepare for post-graduate study or professional work in a Japanese language environment. One of the Academic programs, the AJSP has a very strong emphasis on written and communicative Japanese, and on ensuring correct use of previously learned grammar. Students usually go on to take level 1 of the JLPT if they have not already done so, and to work in Japan or abroad for Japanese companies.

Program Outline
The AJSP continues where the AIJP (page 20) leaves off and offers an intensive high quality program with up to 24 contact classes per week including four electives and a minimum of 950 classes per academic year (4 quarters). The AJSP is offered year round in four, 3-month quarters with start dates in early January, April, July and October on the same dates as the AIJP and Acceleration programs. Classes consist of 20 program hours and 4 elective classes each week - electives are as for other programs and include language-related and cultural activities. The curriculum is taught at levels from upper intermediate (level 2 of the JLPT) to advanced. Students must have level 2 of the JLPT or equivalent for participation in the program; if the placement test shows that your Japanese is below the level of the AJSP program, you will be required to join the AIJP program.

Teaching
Classes are taught by the AJSP faculty via the direct method and Japanese is the language of instruction; romaji is not used in instruction. All students are expected to know the basic Joyo kanji, and be able to recognise and write them confidently. Materials used in the course will include newspapers, novels, television and radio reports among other sources - this course will study modern Japanese as it is used in Japan today.

NOTE: You can follow the AJSP for as long as there is a class available at your level (usually students do not need to follow the AJSP for more than 6 to 9 months).
Intensive Japanese Language Programs at Yamasa

Oh Sae-Jung, Korea.

How long have you been studying Japanese?
For nearly two years now in Japan at the Yamasa Institute. I started as a complete beginner, and have worked up to the AIJP class from the very bottom AIJP class.

Why did you choose the AJSP program?
Effectively, I worked up to this level from the first class. When I came to Japan, I knew the hiragana and katakana and a few words, but that was about it. Then, I studied for about 18 months on the AIJP and finally moved up to the AJSP program.

What kind of things do you do in class for the AJSP?
We use all kinds of materials - newspapers, TV dramas, anime, internet, once in a while manga too. Also, Japanese novels and other stories. The language that we use is modern Japanese as it is spoken by Japanese everywhere, and we learn a lot about the Japanese culture and way of thinking - if you don’t understand how Japanese people think, you cannot really understand the language. There are a lot of discussions too, where you have to defend a position and debate various issues, which I think is a very good way of developing your language skills.

How do you feel your overall level of Japanese has changed since you enrolled?
I couldn’t really say anything when I first came, and now I can say pretty much everything I want to or need to. There is always room to improve, of course, but I now know enough to study in Japan.

What are your plans for using Japanese?
I am going to university in Japan to study for a degree in International Economics. I am hoping to do some kind of international work, either in Japan or Korea, probably related to import and export or trade between Japan and Korea. I didn’t really have any long-term plans when I came to Japan, but since I’ve learned the language, I might as well use it!

Who would you recommend the course to?
Anyone who is thinking of going on to university or to work in Japan. You learn to speak modern Japanese as it is spoken today by Japanese people, so it is ideal for anyone who really wants to achieve a high level of fluency in the language.

You’ve lived in Okazaki for nearly 2 years now - what do you think of life here? Any comments?
Okazaki is a fairly small and quiet city, but I keep busy with my part-time job at a small family-run Korean restaurant, and I often go out with friends from Yamasa or work to Karaoke.

Any hints or comments related to the course or the language?
The AJSP teaches you about the language and the culture - but it also important to try and pick up as much of the way of thinking of Japanese people too. This is covered in class, and using dramas and real-life materials helps, but you also need to make an effort to understand how Japanese think and use the language if you really want to become completely fluent.

Levels
Classes are offered from upper-intermediate (JLPT level 2) advanced levels. The highest level available is beyond Level 1 of the JLPT. If you apply for the AJSP and find that the course is too difficult or that your placement test indicates that the program is not suitable for you, it is possible to join the AIJP program as the start and finish dates are the same. Placement testing is compulsory.

Facilities
Classes are held in the Yamasa II building. All students have access to all of the Yamasa facilities and accommodation, including free, untimed internet access, library, recreational facilities and so on. See page 34 for details of facilities at the Yamasa Institute and page 38 for a description of the accommodation options available.

Visa Information
You can study this course on any visa (student, tourist, or working holiday). With a few exceptions, applicants who intend to study for two successive AJSP quarters will need to apply for a student visa. See page 56 for full information about each type of visa and immigration rules. If you are unsure about any matters relating to visas, please contact Yamasa or your studyabroad advisor.

Entry Requirements
The AJSP course is an academic course and students need not just a high level of motivation to learn Japanese but also the necessary academic aptitude. It is not necessary to be a currently enrolled student. This program is suitable for use as a stepping stone into undergraduate/postgraduate studies at a Japanese university or professional work so a tertiary background is not set as a minimum entry requirement.

- Applicants must have a minimum of 12 years of full-time education in their native country or have a diploma equivalent to a Japanese senior high school diploma. If you do not have any college background you are advised to apply early.
- Applicants must have academic abilities equal to or higher than that of the average Japanese high school graduate
- Applicants must have JLPT level 2 or equivalent.
- As a general rule students need to be 18 years and over. For students under the age of 18 enrolling for up to 3 months some exceptions can be made if references from parents/guardians and teachers are supplied. No exceptions can be made for student visa applicants (see the visa section on page 56 for further information). There is no upper age limit.
Continuing Education Programs

Continuing Education Programs at Yamasa are flexible short courses with regular start dates all year round. These programs are just as intensive as the Academic programs but are more focused on quickly acquiring conversational skills. They are often a good option for professionals or for those with limited time, or if you want to get started in Japanese but know nothing of the language and don’t know how long you will want to stay in Japan - flexibility means that you can extend some programs as you want. Courses can be followed for as long as your visa status allows and a class is available at your level. Classes are offered at levels from beginner to intermediate. Because of Immigration Office requirements, the Continuing Education Programs cannot be followed on the student visa.

Short Intensive Language Acquisition Course (SILAC):

The SILAC Program is a modular short course with start dates every two weeks all year round, at all levels from absolute beginner to intermediate. The program is intensive and oriented towards quickly acquiring conversational skills, and is often a good option for professionals with limited time or for people looking for a first ‘taste’ of studying Japanese intensively. Courses can be followed for 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12 weeks, or longer if your visa status allows. You can extend your studies on arrival in Japan, although it is cheaper to apply for the full course in advance. This program forms the teaching base for the following programs as well.

Japan Discovery Programs:

A combination of a Short Intensive Language Acquisition Program with a pre-arranged tour component - learn Japanese for 4, 6, 8 or 10 weeks at our Okazaki campus, and then use your new language skills experiencing the real Japan. The tour component is for 5 or 8 days, with an optional 2-day extension for a 10-day tour. The tour will visit many famous sites around central Japan, and will also step off the beaten track for a look at some of the less well-known facets of Japan and Japanese culture. See page 28 for more details of Japan Discovery tours.

Internship Program

Gain invaluable work experience in a Japanese company. Study in the Short Intensive Language Acquisition Program for 6 or 8 weeks to brush up your Japanese language skills and then work for 4 weeks in a local company learning about the Japanese work environment and using your Japanese in context. All work placements are unpaid because of visa restrictions. See page 30 for more details about this course.

Private/Semi-Private Lessons and Corporate Programs:

Personally customized classes to suit your needs - offered all year round. You decide when you want to study, and the program you want to follow. In consultation with your teachers, you can develop the curriculum to suit your needs. See page 31 for full details about the course.

Computer Aided Language Learning (CALL Seminars):

Study what you want, when you want. The most flexible program anywhere, you can take call seminars on any day of the year, and study as little or as much as you wish. Programs are computer based and can be combined with private lessons and Online Studies to improve your Japanese in the little time that you have spare. See page 32 for further information about CALL Seminars.
**Culture Program:**

While studying, it is important to learn not just about the language of a country, but also about the culture. Particularly with a country like Japan, unique in so many ways, without understanding something about the way Japanese people think and live it will be impossible to really understand the Japanese language.

For this reason (and also just because it’s fun) Yamasa has an active cultural Program where each week students are introduced to new aspects of Japanese life. Most of the activities are taught by volunteers from the Okazaki International Association or by members of staff.

Activities include ikebana, taiko, ocha no yuu, karate, origami, and many others. There is a rolling program so that students don’t repeat activities in the space of a three-month course. This is combined with participation in local festivals such as the summer mikoshi parade (see page 5), another chance to experience the culture and life of Japan from the inside.

**Excursions and trips:**

At school you learn the language, with the cultural activities program you learn about Japanese culture, but your studies are still incomplete if you don’t get out and see something of Japan. For this reason, Yamasa often arranges weekend excursions to locations throughout central Japan.

You can join a small group of students for day-trips to Kyoto, Arimatsu, Handa, Asuke, Toyoto, Nagano and many other locations around central Japan. Because of Yamasa’s location in the heart of Japan, it is possible to visit a range of interesting sites for the day keeping costs to an absolute minimum.

Occasional weekend trips also include stop-overs in traditional ryokan or youth hostels. All accommodation is of course checked first by Yamasa staff. Enjoy a weekend skiing in Nagano in the winter, hike up Mount Fuji in the summer, trek through the hills of Oku-Mikawa in autumn, or mountain bike and white-water raft through Gifu-ken in the Spring. Activities vary from season to season, and from year to year.

To really make the most of Japan, join a Discovery tour for 5 or 8 days and visit all the important and interesting sights in Japan, take part in traditional crafts and activities, and generally get to know more about Japan in a small group than is normally possible. This is one of the best ways to really understand Japan - combining all the elements you need for not just a fantastic learning experience, but also a great holiday. (See page 28 for details.)
Program Summary

Entry requirements: None (18 years and over; some exceptions possible)
Prior study of Japanese: Not required
Levels: Beginner to Intermediate, seven levels at all times, occasionally more
Lessons per week: 23 (50 minutes each)
Lessons per 4-week course: average 95
Visa: Tourist visa only (student visa holders cannot take this course)
Start dates: all levels, every 2 weeks all year round.
Course Aims: high-speed improvement in conversational and communicative ability during a short period of studies; focussing on spoken/listening skills.

Short Intensive Language Acquisition Courses - S.I.L.A.C.

Introduction
Yamasa’s short programs are offered year round and are the most flexible language programs in Japan. The Short Intensive Language Acquisition Courses (SILAC) are the base of all Yamasa’s Continuing Education programs. SILAC programs start every two weeks at levels from absolute beginner to intermediate. These programs give students the opportunity to experience studying Japanese while living in Japan and practising in a full immersion environment. Whether you are a beginner or long term student of the language, it’s an excellent opportunity to make a quick improvement in your spoken skills. Why not join us and brush up or dramatically improve your listening and speaking skills.

Program Outline
The curriculum is intensive with 23 classes per week, however it should be noted that these courses are not as academic as Yamasa’s AJP or the Acceleration programs. The curriculum focuses more on learning conversational skills than on academic Japanese; however all students will need to work on their reading and writing skills to some extent. At higher levels, although furigana are supplied, students will be expected to know a few kanji. These courses are taught entirely in Japanese, and romaji (western latin alphabet) are not used in instruction. Translations of texts are available in the lower seven levels. In addition the programs offer not only the opportunity to study the language, but also to personally experience a wide range of cultural activities. These include Tea Ceremony, Ikebana, Kimono, O-Dori, etc. (see page 25 for details of the cultural program).

Teaching
The Continuing Education Faculty delivers these programs in Aoi Hall (see page 37). The faculty are highly experienced and have been delivering these programs for some years. The teaching style for courses with such frequent starts is very different to that for academic programs, and the course focuses heavily on conversation and listening skills so an independent faculty provides this program. All teaching are of course qualified native teachers of Japanese. (See pages 12-13 for details of teaching and faculty at Yamasa).

Curriculum
The focus of this course is to improve communicative Japanese skills in the shortest time possible. While written Japanese is studied to some extent, there is no need (particularly at the beginner levels) to know kanji. All texts will be provided with furigana (hiragana titles) so that you can read the texts used in class. You will need to know hiragana and katakana - there are studied in the first few days of the course. It is not possible to study using romaji (western latin alphabet).

The curriculum is based on the Minna no nihongo series of books, which cover all the basic grammar required to converse in and understand everyday Japanese. These texts are supplemented by materials created and selected by the Continuing Education faculty to suit each class - every course is adjusted to suit the level of the group being taught. Courses are constructed around communication. Initially you learn new grammar items in context through conversation and listening. Later lessons build upon this new material, using conversation, various exercises, role-plays and so on to consolidate learning. The entire focus of the course is to communicate with the teacher and with classmates and you will find that you very quickly begin to use language that you acquire during the lessons in your conversations outside class. Reading is also necessary, but is secondary to communicating in the language.

Taking a 10 minute break between classes.
Why did you come to Japan in the first place?
Mainly for a brush-up. I teach Japanese at high school so my Japanese is fairly fluent, but I think that it’s essential for all teachers to make sure that they are teaching the best they can for their students. I find that I need to come back to Japan every now and then to make sure I’m still speaking what is considered standard Japanese and not some outdated version - the language changes so quickly. Also, it helps being a student again every now and then - it reminds me of what I’m putting my students through!

Who would you recommend the SILAC program to?
Anyone who wants a quick improvement in skills. The course focuses on speaking and listening, so I have improved a lot in that area. Also, the course is very communicative - we spend the entire time in class discussing, doing roleplays, using the language. Also, any grammar that we cover is explained, then we’re straight into using it communicatively and in context. The teaching staff are very supportive and flexible as well. They have incorporated lots of things that we wanted to cover, they’ve gone out of their way to help us with difficult areas - they’ve been great. My speaking has returned to something like my former level before I started teaching!

Why did you choose the SILAC program?
Practically, it fits perfectly into my four-week summer holiday. Also, I’m here on a grant from the Queensland State Education Authority, and the prices fit into the range that they pay. It’s not a long course, but four weeks is just right for a refresher and to pick up some fluency that I’ve lost being out of Japan. Also, the accommodation and living in Okazaki is so convenient - it’s just easier than anywhere else.

What about the school as a whole?
The facilities in general are great - being able to keep in touch with people at home is nice. There are plenty of computers, the free internet access helps a lot - I can use online dictionaries and other resources when I’m studying. The classrooms are big and there’s plenty of space. All the shops are really close by, so life is really easy here. The support from the staff and administration has been very good too - you don’t have to worry because you know that if you have any problems at all, there is always someone there to help you out.

Levels
These programs are offered from absolute beginner to intermediate levels, with ALL levels starting at ALL start dates. Placement testing is compulsory. The course has seven levels from beginner to pre-intermediate. These levels run continuously and always consist of 23 lessons per week. Above this, there are generally two or three intermediate classes for more advanced students. These classes are run as needed, and have two formats. If there are 1-6 students, the course is in the seminar format (15 lessons per week), while if there are 7-15 students per class, the course is in the standard format (23 lessons per week). This is because the smaller groups have more teacher contact time and so learning is in fact faster than normal. Teaching staff are of course always available for assistance after class. You cannot choose Seminar or Standard format - it is decided on the basis of the number of students enrolled.

Facilities
The course is held in Aoi Hall, which also houses one of Yamasa’s computer rooms. The Continuing Education faculty also have their office in Aoi Hall, so you are able to find your teachers easily if you have questions during breaks or after class. All facilities are open to all students, of course, so you can also use the facilities in Yamasa II. There is a recreation area where you can eat your lunch, play table tennis, watch cable TV and chat with other students. All classrooms are open after lessons are finished, so you can use them for private study if they are not scheduled for lessons.

Visa Information
A tanki-taizai (tourist) visa is all that is required. If you need to apply for the visa then you are advised to obtain our ‘Letter of Acceptance’ first. Citizens of some countries will need guarantors. Please see the visa section (page 56) for details or contact Yamasa or your study abroad advisor. Note: The SILAC program, like other Continuing Education programs, cannot be followed on a student visa. If you want to study long term (6 months or over) then you should consider the Academic Programs (see page 16 for details).

Minimum Entry Requirements
These courses are open entry programs. Each course is suitable for beginners with Foundation classes scheduled at every start date. No prior study of Japanese is required. As a general rule students need to be 18 years and over. Some exceptions can be made for younger students with reasonable levels of Japanese proficiency and there is no upper age limit.
Japan Discovery Tour Programs

Introduction

If you are travelling to Japan for the first time, there is no better way to get to know the country than with one of Yamasa’s Discovery programs. Combining intensive classes in Yamasa’s SILAC program with an adventure tour discovering what Japan is REALLY like, you can mix your studies of Japanese and the Japanese language with hiking or skiing in the Southern Alps, mountain biking through peaceful forests, Tokyo Disneyland, visiting Kyoto, mix an appreciation for avant-garde culture and peaceful Buddhist temples (which are often side-by-side - after all this is Japan). Many of the destinations we visit are inaccessible by public transport.

Program Outline

The Discovery programs consist of two stages - intensive language acquisition and followed by travel.

- Intensive Language Acquisition: Participants will study Japanese for 4, 6, 8, or 10 weeks in Yamasa’s SILAC program.
- Travel component: Students can choose between a 5-day and 8-day tour component in relatively small groups (maximum size is 18).

On the Discovery program you will be in a small group so that you can take part in activities, use the language skills gained during your SILAC program and interact with local people and artisans to get a far deeper understanding of Japan. Also, on Yamasa’s Discovery Program you can take advantage of our local knowledge of the historic Mikawa area and see some of the rare sights we have found over the years. After a Discovery Program, you will return knowing something of the language and with a clearer understanding of what Japan is really like.

Yamasa’s Discovery Program is not just a tourist holiday program: this is the only program in Japan that combines high-quality teaching by a qualified and experienced faculty with guided travel to the best sights. The study component will enable you to dramatically increase your Japanese language skills, which you can then put to good use in the tour component. The tour component and weekend trips can also become a major part of the whole learning experience. As with all Yamasa’s programs, you will have the full support of our multilingual faculty and staff, to make sure that your study is as productive as possible and your stay in Japan is as pleasant as possible.
During the tour you will visit a range of sights in the area of Central Japan and beyond. The itinerary varies from tour to tour, so please check with your study abroad advisor or Yamasa for a detailed list of destinations. As a Discovery program participant, you will also have first choice on all weekend trips during the study component of your course, especially useful when places are limited.

The program is one package (i.e. the price shown in the brochure is for the tuition and tour together). Accommodation is charged separately - see the accommodation section for details (from page 38). It is usually not possible to do the tour only or combine the tour component with a different program. The curriculum is intensive with 23 classes per week, however it should be noted that these courses are not as academic as Yamasa’s Acceleration, AIJP or AJSP programs. For complete information regarding the tuition component, please check the programs section (SILAC program information is on page 26).

Visa Information
A tanki-taizai or tourist visa is all that is required (you cannot follow this course on a student visa because of Immigration Office requirements). Please see the visa section for full details and an explanation of visas for travel to Japan (page 56).

Minimum Entry Requirements
These courses are open entry programs. Each course is suitable for beginners with Foundation classes scheduled at every start date. As a general rule students need to be 18 years and over, but some exceptions can be made for younger students with reasonable levels of Japanese proficiency. There is no upper age limit, and as with all Yamasa programs, classes consist of a range of age groups and nationalities. See the SILAC program for details of restrictions relating to Japanese ability.

This course is recommended for all those who are interested in the culture and history of Japan, both ancient and modern, and would like to experience first-hand some of the best features of Japan.
Internship Program

Introduction

One of the most effective methods of developing your language skills is to use them in the workplace. Not only do you learn through communicating, you also master the language that you need for your job. An internship with a Japanese company could be a major boost to your career and to your language skills.

Program Outline

The program is 10 or 12 weeks long, and includes two components. The first is a 6 or 8 week period studying on the SILAC program developing your language skills in preparation for the second component, a four-week placement with a company in the Okazaki area. You will be housed in Yamasa accommodation throughout the entire period. Of course, you will have the full support of Yamasa staff throughout the program. The International Office will be available for assistance and consultation during your studies and work placement.

Please see the SILAC section for details of the course structure for the language study component (page 26).

Visa Information

A tanki-taizai (tourist) visa is all that is required. If you need to apply for the visa then you are advised to obtain our ‘Letter of Acceptance’ first. Citizens of some countries will need guarantors. See the visa section for details (page 56).

Because of immigration office requirements, you cannot follow this course on a student visa. All placements are unpaid - it is not possible to receive payment for work while on a tourist visa.

Minimum Entry Requirements

You are required to have basic conversational ability in Japanese to apply for the internship program, and general knowledge of the language equivalent to at least level three of the Japanese Proficiency test. The minimum age limit is 18 years, and you must have at least two years of work experience in the field in which you would like to work.

With your application, you will be required to submit a resume detailing your work experience and skills, and a cover letter detailing your interests and the type of placement that you would like. Applications must be completed at least 3 months before the start date of the study component so that Yamasa can find a suitable placement matching your skills, experience and needs. Most placements tend to be within the field of computing and internet - but the better your language skills and experience, the wider the range of options available to you.

Imtensive Japanese Language Programs at Yamasa
Private/Semi-Private and Corporate
Customized Language Courses

Introduction
These days there are many people who require personalized language programs to suit a specific need or schedule. Yamasa is one of the few Institutes in Japan where the needs of individuals, professionals and organizations requiring specific programs are taken seriously. No program is delivered off the shelf.

Teaching Staff
The difference between Yamasa’s courses and those offered by other Institutes is that we have the resources and facilities to offer the programs without any variation in quality. Our dedicated faculty for private and semi-private lessons will design the program that you need. Our faculty are experienced not just in teaching private and semi-private lessons for individuals and for companies, but they are also experienced at delivering those programs in various countries. At any given time, Yamasa’s large faculty and professional services staff are delivering customized programs not only in Japan but abroad.

Private/Semi-Private Courses
Yamasa offers personalized programs to business people, academics, overseas Japanese language teachers and other individuals who require special programs at all levels. Whether full-time or part-time the same dedication to service is provided. Textbooks and other materials can all be chosen in consultation with your teacher(s), and you can bring with you any particular materials that you wish to examine in class.

Customized Courses for Organizations
Companies, Universities and NGOs regularly turn to Yamasa when they require specific Japanese language programs. Our experience with teaching Japanese to staff at Sony, Mitsubishi, 3M, Toyota and many other multinationals and organizations is testament to the quality of our teaching faculty. Each program is designed from base with the involvement and on-going feedback of both the organization and the students to produce a course that will fulfill all your requirements.

Facilities
Lessons can be held on Yamasa premises, or at the location of your choice. All students attending courses on the Yamasa campus have full use of all Yamasa facilities including untimed free internet access and use of the Online Center for Japanese Studies. Accommodation, use of the free airport pickup service, access to Yamasa’s business center and the Online Center for Japanese Studies and other services is all taken into consideration when designing the program to suit your needs.

Enrolment
If you are interested in building the ideal program for your staff or for yourself, please contact Yamasa or your Yamasa agency with your requirements for hours, schedule, location, group sizes, levels, material to be covered, and any other special needs. Flexible scheduling is no problem, and classes can be held either day or night and class length varied as desired. Please note that we need two month’s notice to design a course to suit your requirements if you want special materials to be developed or if the teacher of the course will require specialist knowledge.

Entry Requirements
There are no entry requirements for private/semiprivate or corporate programs. There is no age requirement for private lessons, but for semi-private lessons students must be aged 18 years or over (unless coming in a group with other students). There is a minimum requirement of at least 10 lessons per week for private lessons if you require accommodation provided in Yamasa’s residences. Lessons are offered at all levels.
CALL Seminars

For the most flexible program, the shortest period of study, and absolute customisation, the CALL Seminar Program (Computer Aided Language Learning) is the most advanced program of its kind that you can find at any language teaching institute within Japan. With CALL you can customise your studies down to the content of each lesson. For busy professionals, this program may be the ideal way to improve your Japanese - a weekend study program, tailored to your needs, and with high-quality accommodation provided - or perhaps a week during your summer or winter holidays - this is the most flexible language program you will find anywhere.

Structure:
Fifty-minute lessons can be started at any ten-minute interval throughout the day. During the space of a fifty-minute lesson, you will spend ten minutes conversing directly with the teacher, and forty minutes working on exercises and learning new material directed by the teacher. In consultation with your teacher, you can choose the areas of language on which you want to concentrate - perhaps the only language program where you can customise your studies within each lesson.

Resources:
You will have access to the full facilities of the Online Center for Japanese Studies (OCJS) and continued membership of the OCJS for one year so that you can continue your studies at home and between visits to Yamasa. In addition, the CALL Seminar classroom is equipped with the latest learning aids both online and in print form for all major languages (ie dictionaries, grammar references, etc.). Each room contains five workstations linked by a 100Mbit internal network to the OCJS video server in the building, so that you are able to watch streaming video demonstrations and exercises online through your personal state-of-the-art workstation.

Teaching Staff:
Each class will have a maximum of five students per teacher. Teaching staff are all experienced in teaching not just with the OCJS online methodology, but also in modern private and group language-teaching methods. Before joining the OCJS team, all faculty members are required to be able to speak at least 2 languages, have a Masters or higher degree, and have experience of studying a language abroad. All faculty have extensive experience in teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, and a minimum of two years teaching experience before joining the OCJS.

Course Enrolment:
You can enrol for a course starting on any day of the year except public holidays. Absolute beginners may also join a course on any start day. Minimum enrolment is for at least two lessons per day (maximum eight lessons), and for a minimum of two days’ study. Accommodation is available - see the Accommodation section for details of the options available (page 38).

It is possible to switch from CALL Seminars to other programs, provided place is available on that program on the start date requested. The most effective and common combination is of CALL Seminar lessons with private lessons.
Regine Mowill  
Norwegian born in Oslo, residing in London

Which course are you studying in?  
I'm studying in the Academic Intensive Japanese Program.

What were you doing before you came to Yamasa?  
I was studying business management at Kings College at the University of London. I've just graduated with my BSc.

Did you start as a beginner?  
I had studied some Japanese before. At Yamasa I started in a beginner class so it was revision for me.

Where did you study (Japanese or what) before?  
I did 1 year at university but that was 3 years ago. It was about 2 hours per week for a total of 60 hours or so.

Is this the first time you have lived in Japan?  
Yes. 5 years ago I visited for 5 weeks as a tourist and when I was a child I came here for a couple of weeks.

Where are you living at the moment?  
I'm living in a single apartment in Yamasa Villa IV. I've changed my accommodation three times now. I started in the Student Village and then I moved into a homestay for 2 months. When the homestay couldn't be extended I decided to try the Villa apartments.

What is your accommodation like?  
It's a small studio apartment. It has a nice bathroom and is comfortable. For some reason dust accumulates very quickly - it would be nice if Yamasa could provide a mop.

Zoltan Heredi  
Debrecen, Hungary

Which course are you studying in?  
I'm in the Academic Intensive Japanese Program.

What were you doing before you came to Yamasa?  
I was studying linguistics at Kossuth Lajos University in Debrecen. I'm a 4th year student there.

Where did you study Japanese before?  
I studied at the university. It was mostly grammar for 4 semesters - about 100 hours only in total. The lecturer is Japanese so we were taught by a native speaker, but it was hard to practice outside class. Also it was hard for her to explain grammar as everyone had the same Hungarian native language background.

How long have you been at Yamasa?  
I've been here 8 months now. I started in the H class and now I've moved up to C. I can now communicate in everyday Japanese, shopping is no problem as is most conversation. If I have a new encounter - such as visiting a doctor etc - then I need new vocabulary, but grammatically it's fairly easy to communicate now. I can read about 1000 Kanji now, so simple texts or children's books, manga comics etc are no problem but without a dictionary reading a newspaper is still very difficult.

Where are you living at the moment?  
I live in Yamasa Villa IV. It's a shared room. It's nice and quiet but a bit boring sometimes.

How do you get to classes?  
I ride my bicycle, it only takes a couple of minutes. I bought it from a student and its the "mama's-chariot" type. Big shopping basket, 3 gears and a bell.

What is the biggest challenge or problem you've faced so far in Japan?  
Obtaining the visa was annoying. The process is bureaucratic, its not like moving around the different countries of the European Union. I guess the main challenge is that Japan is slightly expensive. London is expensive too of course but at least I know where to go and what to buy. Here I can see something cheap in the supermarket but not know how to cook it, things like that. Also travelling is expensive - the fares and accommodation prices are high so day trips are the way to go. It would be nice to be able to do longer trips.

Any surprises you would like to share?  
I was here 5 years ago so most of the surprises were back then. I found communication to be difficult - getting over the language barrier. I was very surprised at how few people can speak English etc.

If a new student was entering your class today and asked for some advice, what would you say?  
The language skills you learn in class need to be practised in context and friends made etc. It’s best to be speaking to people with similar interests. I think I’d advise them to join activities as soon as possible - join a club, a circle or a karate dojo etc. I taught an art class and made a homepage.
The Facilities

In addition to the quality of our programs, another key factor that will be absolutely fundamental in determining whether you are successful in learning Japanese is the quality of the facilities. It is these facilities that provide support for you and enable you to concentrate your valuable time on learning. No Institute invests the way Yamasa does in ensuring that our students receive an ideal environment for learning Japanese in as much comfort as possible.

The modern Okazaki campus has spacious new buildings such as the 5 storey Yamasa II building and the newly refitted Aoi Hall, and the purpose-built Student Village. These provide our students with a higher comfort level than found in most Institutes and Universities in Japan. Compared to most Japanese educational institutions, Yamasa’s more spacious ‘western’ size classrooms provide the space and comfort you need to be able to concentrate on your studies. All students at Yamasa have desks - there are no writing palettes attached to chairs where you need to balance a dictionary on one knee while trying to write your notes. The extra space means that you never sit in rows - all classrooms are arranged with the desks in a U-shape to assist participative learning with teachers. All of the facilities have western style amenities in the bathrooms and lounge areas. Also note that Japan’s summers are hot and humid, while winters are cold and windy. Studying Japanese can be hard enough without distractions. The modern buildings mean that you don’t have to suffer from draughts and all of the classrooms are air-conditioned/heated for your comfort.

Multimedia and Self-Study facilities at Yamasa are excellent. Over 30 IBM compatible PC’s are provided in the two computing rooms with unrestricted use - more per student than most private universities in Japan. All of the computers are connected to the Internet via Yamasa’s fiber optic Local Area Network (LAN) and also provide access to educational software (both net based and CD-ROM). Assistance and support is always available. Further, with unrestricted access to Yamasa’s LAN, students bringing their laptop computers can connect directly into the network.
Sakura House

Sakura House is a traditional Japanese-style building located next to Aoi Hall. The ‘Kitsutsuki’ Cafe occupies half of the building, with the other half a tatami-mat floored meeting and lunch area for students. You can order meals and drinks in the cafe, or eat your own ‘obento’ in the tatami room.

Recreational facilities include the Kitsutsuki Cafe on campus where you can buy lunches and drinks; basketball and tabletennis. There is plenty of communal space for students to relax between lessons, or study after class. Most of the classrooms are also available after lessons for self-study, and in Aoi Hall these also have internet connections so that you can work online if you want.

The combination of modern facilities and advanced IT services with plenty of space and support from professional staff means that studies with the Yamasa Institute will enable you to gain the most from your time in Japan. Our non-profit status allows us to pursue a program of continued investment in facilities and support services that is superior to any other language-teaching institution in Japan. Our aim is to create the ideal environment for language study in Japan; at the Aichi Center for Japanese Studies, you will find not only the best and most modern facilities in Japan, but also an Institute committed to maintaining existing standards of excellence and extending study options to the widest range of students possible.

**Main Features:**

- purpose-built accommodation and teaching facilities
- larger classrooms with desks - no writing-flaps
- two computer rooms with over 30 public-use Pentium PCs
- fiber-optic LAN for unlimited unrestricted high-speed access to the internet
- recreation facilities: two half-size basketball courts
- student lunch preparation room
- large library/study area
- audiovisual learning aids
- 100 MBit internal network (Aoi Hall) + on campus video server

Outside there is a basketball court for recreation. On Saturdays, the Okazaki International Association hold meetings and lessons in the tatami room, which students can participate in freely - another excellent opportunity to meet local Japanese and get extra lessons.

Plenty of bicycle parking space is available - necessary as most students at Yamasa have a bicycle, either rented, bought or borrowed.
Yamasa II

Very few Japanese language teaching facilities can match the Yamasa Institute’s modern Okazaki campus. The campus is located just a 7-minute walk from the main Japan Railways (JR) Okazaki railway station, not far from the administrative center of Okazaki and near to shopping, restaurants, banks and other services (see the location section for details).

The heart of the Institute is the 5-storey Yamasa II building. Completely modern, this fully air-conditioned and heated facility contains a library and computer laboratory with a variety of resources including audio-visual and online learning aids, copying machines for students, western style amenities and easy access to staff (the faculty of the Academic programs are also located in Yamasa II).

The classrooms are significantly larger than the standards recommended by the APJLE - the space means that none of our students spend their classes sitting in rows. Instead all classrooms are laid out in a U-shape to maximize interaction not only between the students and the teaching team but also among the students themselves. Instead of the ‘Tokyo style’ writing palettes attached to the arm of a chair, all Yamasa students have desks with plenty of room to spread out dictionaries and other learning aids. Combined with our smaller class sizes, you clearly enjoy the advantage of space when you study at Yamasa.

Yamasa is also one of the most wired campuses in Japan. Students who have their own laptop computer can plug directly into the high-speed local area network. Even if you don’t bring your own computer, modern computing facilities are also provided for students in the laboratories and internet access is both free and untimed - even on weekends.

Summary:

- Modern facilities
- Excellent IT facilities
- Spacious
- Fully air-conditioned/heated
- Space for study after class
- Library and audiovisual aids

In the library on the ground floor of the Yamasa II building provides a quiet and relaxing environment for self-study and doing homework or preparation for lessons.

In the library there are also several private booths if you require a more private space to remove all distractions.

Computing facilities are also very well developed. More PCs per student than almost any university in Japan, all connected by a Local Area Network (LAN) are available for free, untimed access to the internet in Yamasa II and in the Aoi Hall building (see page 37).

Large heated/airconditioned classrooms means that your lessons will be more comfortable and you can concentrate on learning Japanese without distractions.

The library on the ground floor of the Yamasa II building provides a quiet and relaxing environment for self-study and doing homework or preparation for lessons.
**Aoi Hall**

The Aoi Hall building is a former factory which has been refitted and completely converted into classrooms for Continuing Education Programs and the Online Center for Japanese Studies (OCJS), and office space for the International Office. Built on two floors, the upper floor contains:

- 12 classrooms for the SILAC, Internship, Discovery, CALL and other Continuing Education programs students and courses
- Faculty office for the Continuing Education Faculty - so that your teachers are on hand to answer all your queries
- One of Yamasa’s two computer rooms - free untimed internet access and computing facilities
- 100Mbit internal network: watch high-speed streaming video from the dedicated OCJS server housed in the same building

The lower floor contains:

- The International Office - assisting and supporting your studies.
- 60 seat theatre for lectures, films and audio-visual presentations
- Toilet facilities (with wheelchair access)
- An event and party hall, with bar, vending machines etc.
- Office space, server room and telephone call center for the OCJS
- FM Okazaki studio, our radio station broadcasting live everyday.

Outside, between Aoi Hall and Sakura House, are a half-basketball court, additional toilet facilities and a car park. Although the Continuing Education programs are run in the Aoi Hall and the Academic Programs are run in the Yamasa II building, all the facilities are open to all students at the Yamasa Institute.

**Summary:**

- Spacious, modern facilities
- Faculty on-hand for consultation
- Excellent IT facilities
- Student recreation area
- Internet connections in classrooms
- 60-seat theatre

All the classrooms are spacious, well-lit and comfortable and fully airconditioned/heated. Every room also has computer connections, so you can plug into the Internet to use online aids during or after class.
Finding an apartment in Japan is not as straightforward as you might think. There are several problems faced when trying to rent accommodation, which are made worse when trying to rent in Osaka, Tokyo or other major cities. Aside from the basic linguistic problems faced when renting and running an apartment, dealing with agents and landlords, there are several other points to consider.

The first is *shikikin* or deposit. This is an advance payment of rent, which averages three months rent but can be up to five months or more for an apartment in a fashionable area of a large city. This is usually returned in part or full less damages or a charge. In the case of a tatami mat apartment, the landlord may also deduct money to replace the tatami when you move out (long-term stays only).

Another term to be aware of is *reikin*. This is “thank-you money” that you pay the landlord when you enter the apartment, and is not returned. This can vary from nothing to three or more month’s rent, depending on the quality of the apartment.

These charges mean that it is often difficult to rent an apartment for yourself, and because of the bureaucracy involved it is not always possible for foreign students to find good accommodation near to their place of study. People in Japan tend to change job or house in April so choices are more limited at other times of year.

For short-term students, these problems mean that it is almost impossible to rent an apartment on their own. For all students, since few schools provide quality accommodation, this can seriously affect your quality of life.

### YAMASA STUDENT HOUSING AND HOMESTAY PROGRAM

**The Problem:**
Every year, thousands of international students who come from many different countries and backgrounds to study Japanese in Japan encounter one common problem. The fact is that obtaining good convenient housing is impossible for most students. Most students cannot afford high rents and end up living in substandard housing while spending long periods standing in expensive and congested trains, subways and buses during their commutes.

In Japan and especially in Tokyo, these 60-90 minute one way commutes are considered normal and are virtually impossible to avoid. It is something to consider carefully - the fact is that long commutes and poor accommodation will affect your studies. Expensive too! In Tokyo that is an extra 16000-30000 yen per month.

Public transport in Japan is usually crowded as well as expensive. Housing is often very difficult for foreigners (especially students) to obtain and Japanese guarantors plus a lot of expense are usually required. Furthermore, even if they are willing to provide a guarantee for their students, many Japanese institutions including universities rely heavily on private vendors for accommodation over which they have no control. Most real estate agents charge 3-4 months ‘key money’ which unlike a ‘bond’ - is rarely returned at the end of the stay.

**The Solution:**
By comparison Yamasa has its own (not leased) student housing within easy walking distance of the Yamasa campus. All Yamasa owned student housing is located in quiet, safe, residential areas with shops, restaurants and other facilities nearby. There isn’t a single student staying in student housing who needs to budget for the cost of public transport commuting to classes. You can leave the rush hour to others and stroll down to the Institute 10 to 15 minutes before your first class. At Yamasa substandard housing and long uncomfortable commutes are considered neither normal nor desirable. For transport to other areas of the city or for weekend and holiday travel, there are bus stops located close by and the station (JR Okazaki on the main Tokaido line between Tokyo and Osaka) is a short bicycle ride away. Access to student housing is guaranteed. Put simply, every student who enrolls in Yamasa is GUARANTEED appropriate, safe, affordable housing.

In addition, at Yamasa, there are not only a number of options in Student Housing as well as the Homestay program to choose from, but it is also possible to move from one option to another after enrollment. Many of our students move from Studio Apartments to Homestays or the Student Village and vice versa.

Student Housing currently includes:

**Studio Apartments:** Yamasa Villa I, III & IV, Residences K and U

**Dormitory:** Yamasa Student Village, Yamasa Villa II

As well as Special Accommodation for students bringing families, private rental accommodation can also be arranged if you require or have any special needs. Yamasa can provide this extra care because we have a full-time housing office looking after your needs. Yamasa also has one of the most successful homestay programs of any academic institution in Japan - see the homestay page for details (page 52).

Remember, if you are planning a long-term stay in Japan, the environment in which you live and study is going to be a vital component in determining your success.
Accommodation Types compared:

Dormitory and Studio Apartment accommodation is available. Below is a brief summary of the main features of each type and the names. For full details, see the following pages.

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Furnishings:
Please note that sheets and blankets are not provided. This is mainly because of the cost of western style mattresses in Japan. Students buy or rent futons through Yamasa or borrow from friends instead. Students studying in Yamasa’s AJIP for 6 months or longer will find it cheaper to buy a futons rather than rent. Futon rental and purchase can be done in advance when you enroll in a Yamasa program. If you arrange the futons through Yamasa, our staff will ensure that the futons (one set consists of the mattress, the quilt part, and covers and pillow) will be in your room from the first night you spend in Okazaki. It is of course OK to make your own arrangements for futons or other bedding. If you are borrowing from friends, ask them to send the futons to Yamasa so that we can store them in your apartment. There is no charge for this service.

All accommodation comes with a desk, chair, desk lamp, bookshelf and wardrobe. Studio apartments also include fridges and televisions. Cooking facilities are provided too. However, you will need to bring or buy your own plates, bowls, knives, forks, chopsticks, etc. in Studio Apartment accommodations. These are easily and cheaply obtainable from local discount stores. These utensils are provided in communal accommodation.

Which accommodation option?
If you like to live in a community atmosphere with communal facilities and study areas, then the dormitory-style Student Village or Villa II are best. If you prefer a little more privacy in your own apartment, then we recommend that you try a studio apartment. Residence K and U are the furthest from the campus, but are also the quietest and most secluded - we recommend these for couples. For studio apartments nearer to other students and very close to the school, Villa III&IV would be the best option - single and shared apartments offer plenty of chances to meet other students. If having Internet access is important to you, then the Student Village is the best option, although it is easy and cheap to arrange Internet access through a mobile phone. If you require disabled access, then you should choose the Student Village.

When planning your studies in Japan - make sure that you take into account the environment in which you will be living. It could be the deciding factor that determines whether or not your trip to Japan is a successful learning experience.

Transport

Getting around in Japan is easy. However, if you are commuting a long way every day, it will get expensive. Travelling too far is also a waste of time, not just money.

For this reason, you should try to find an apartment as close to your place of study as you can - while the chikatetsu (subway or underground) in Tokyo, Osaka, or Nagoya is excellent, fast and safe, you can easily find yourself paying an extra twenty percent or more on your rent just for a few minutes ride on a crowded train every morning.

Okazaki is a small city, but with all the benefits of Nagoya just thirty minutes by train, and with excellent shopping and services just minutes from Yamasa by bicycle. You can afford to make the occasional trip to the Nagoya, Tokyo or Osaka, because you have everything you need on hand. Further, your accommodation will be just a few minutes walk or cycle ride from the school. Most students rent or buy bicycles from one of the many local stores or from other students and since there are no hills in the city, it is easy to get around. Having your accommodation so close to school also promotes a community feeling among students and saves valuable time for study.

Services within the city are also excellent, with a widespread bus network that will allow you to explore all of the city and the surroundings cheaply and easily. There are plenty of destinations for afternoons after class or weekends. The local Aikan Tetsudo also runs north-south through the city providing a quick means of getting to Toyota and the northern parts of Okazaki.

Yamasa’s location is also ideal for travelling around Japan on the money that you save from living in a low-cost area and not taking public transport to school. Being central, from your base in Okazaki you can reach virtually any part of Japan without trouble, and much more cheaply and more quickly than from large but distant centers such as Tokyo/Osaka.
STUDIO APARTMENTS - RESIDENCE U

Residence U, Residence K and Yamasa Villa I apartments all have roughly the same layout: a study-bedroom and a separate kitchen. Each has its own bathroom with western style toilet and a separate unit shower/bath. The Residence U apartments are located slightly further away from the campus than the other options (approx. 15 minutes walk, 5 minutes by bicycle) and are generally taken by students enrolled in programs for three months or longer. They are usually reserved for single occupants except in the case of students attending Yamasa as couples - however, it is also possible to have a shared room in a Residence U apartment if you apply in advance. There is a 24-hour convenience store located less than 100 meters away and a park close by; the area is a quiet residential neighborhood.

The apartments are western style and the space of each is 24.6 m². Residence U is about the same size as Residence K, and a little smaller than Yamasa Villa I. The apartments are larger than the one-room Yamasa Villa III&IV apartments. They have air-conditioning/heating, a large wardrobe, and a kitchen with a kitchen sink, refrigerator, electric hotplate, electric rice cooker and some cooking utensils. There is no gas cooking available although some long-term students buy their own gas rings with disposable gas cartridges.

Yamasa provides a TV, bed, desk, and chair, study lamp, bookshelves and a washing machine. The balcony is the largest of those available in student housing. There is a free car park for students with private vehicles. Telephones are not provided; most students rent a cellular phone. However, Yamasa can arrange landline phones for you but the connection fee in Japan is very high. Please note that as with all Yamasa student housing, students will need to buy, rent or borrow futons. Please see the general section for information about bedding.

Students who are coming as a couple tend to choose Residence U or Residence K. If you prefer a private apartment in a quiet area, then we recommend these two options. If you prefer to be closer to other students or a more communal lifestyle, or prefer somewhere very close to the school, then you should consider the Student Village, Yamasa Villa I, II, III&IV.

Summary
Area: 24.6m²
Time to school: 5 mins (bike); 15 mins (foot)
Availability: Generally long-term students
Single/shared: Mostly single, some shared
Toilet: Private
Shower/bath: Private
Carparking: Yes (free)
Telephone: No (rent mobile)
Rooms: 2 + shower + bath
Balcony: Yes
Airconditioning/heating: Yes
Cooking: Electric hotplate

Furnishings etc:
- Desk
- Chair
- Bed
- Study lamp
- Bookshelf
- TV
- Rice cooker
- Electric hotplate
- Fridge
- Wardrobe
- Washing machine
- Basic cooking utensils
- Kitchen sink
Samantha Wong Mong Ghee - Singapore, AJSP

Why did you choose Residence U?
It’s located in a clean and quiet residential area, and there are plenty of shops nearby - a grocery store complete with fresh vegetables fruits and gourmet foods right next to the apartment, 24-hour convenience stores (Mini-Stop and K-mart and The Daily Store) are within walking distance too. It takes about 1 min by bicycle to reach the Bank and Drug store. If you go further down along the same road, there’s an authentic Korean BBQ Restaurant which serves pretty good “BiBimBa” and a traditional Japanese Noodle Restaurant with tatami seats where you can get a really cheap set menu lunch. There are also several small coffee houses with all kinds of Japanese magazines and comics. Recommendation: just across the road from the grocery store is a cafe which serves all kinds of Indian tea.

During the sakura season, you get a pretty view at the pond down the slope on the right side of the apartment. You wouldn’t think that those are the sakura trees surrounding the pond until the season comes in late March. Guaranteed to be a pleasant surprise!!

What is the room like?
It’s a big apartment divided by a sliding door into 2 rooms. There’s plenty of space to allow a dining table if needed. On one side is the kitchen (fully-furnished with a refrigerator, rice-cooker, hot-pan, cooking utensils, a big sink and a washing machine)- and the toilet (complete with bathtub and half-body mirror). On the other side is the bedroom and veranda. Furnished with a single bed, study table with a standing lamp, book shelf, a big wardrobe and TV. It’s a simple room but rather cozy.

Who would you recommend the accommodation to?
Anyone who is independent enough to manage on his or her own, or anyone who wants to get a first-hand experience of the Japanese life-style. For example, besides having fixed dates for rubbish dumping, there are several rules and regulations which one must stick to as well. You get to receive the Community Newsletter and Event info on a regular basis; keeping you updated on the happenings in town.
STUDIO APARTMENTS - RESIDENCE K

These apartments are the furthest from the campus (approx. 13-15 minutes walk, 5 minutes bicycle) but offer greater privacy. They are located in a quiet residential neighborhood with a village feel. Each of the three buildings has only 4 or 6 apartments, which reduces noise.

The people:
They are usually reserved for single occupants although they are the preferred accommodation for students attending Yamasa with their partner. If you want a particularly quiet location during your stay, this is the best option for you. Demand for Residence K means that you will usually need to apply 3 months or more in advance to get a room. As with Residence U, most of the apartments are taken by long-term students.

The apartments:
The apartments have 2 rooms and a balcony. The apartments are western style with an area of 25.92 m², and each apartment also has its own bathroom with western style toilet and unit shower/bath. They have air-conditioning/heating, a large wardrobe, and a kitchen with a kitchen sink, refrigerator, electric hotplate, electric rice cooker and some cooking utensils. There is no gas cooking available. Yamasa provides a TV, bed, desk, and chair, study lamp, bookshelves and a washing machine. There is a balcony and a courtyard which overlooks the free private car parking area. Telephones are not provided. However, Yamasa can arrange landline phones for you but the connection fee in Japan is very high. Please note that as with all Yamasa student housing, students will need to buy, rent or borrow futons. Please see the general section for information about bedding.

The area:
A large supermarket is located nearby and the area is served by good public transport facilities. A convenience store, restaurant/bar and other shops are all within a few minutes walk, and the Student Village is also just a three-minute walk away. This means that a Residence K apartment enables you to combine privacy and quiet without isolating yourself from the rest of the student community.

Summary
Area: 25.92m²
Time to school: 5 mins (bike); 15 mins (foot)
Availability: Generally long-term students
Single/shared: Mostly single, some shared
Toilet: Private
Shower/bath: Private
Car parking: Yes (free)
Telephone: No (rent mobile)
Rooms: 2 + shower + bath
Balcony: Yes
Air conditioning/heating: Yes
Cooking: Electric hotplate

Furnishings etc:
- Desk
- Chair
- Bed
- Study lamp
- Bookshelf
- TV
- Rice cooker
- Electric hotplate
- Fridge
- Wardrobe
- Washing machine
- Basic cooking utensils
- Kitchen sink
Tricia Stewart, USA. Acceleration.

Why did you choose Residence K?

I chose Residence K because I wanted my own apartment and also because it was one of the few accommodations that had washing machines in the apartments.

What is the room like? What is in the room?

I liked my room. It was very clean and most things were new. Also, everyone has their own balcony. The kitchen is furnished with a kettle, frying pan, pot, and rice cooker. The washing machine was new as well as the refrigerator. The bedroom had a t.v., bed, desk, chair, and bookcase. All the basics that you need for study and to get by were provided.

Who would you recommend the accommodation to?

I would recommend Residence K to students who like to be in a quiet area and want to study undisturbed. Really, the Student Village and other Dorms are just down the street so if you want to hang out it is just a short walk away. The convenience store next to the dorm is open 24 hours a day so that is convenient, too.

What is the area around the accommodation like? Shops and Transport?

I kind of answered this question already but in addition to the convenience store there is a shopping plaza close by where you can get most things from clothes to food, and there is a fresh bakery there too. The bus stops are just down the street although I never rode the bus while I was at Yamasa. It's about a 25 minute walk from the train station so you can get out of town quick enough. School is about a 15 minute walk away. Residence K is in a nice location. Stores and restaurants are close by. No worries.

Any problems?

I lived in Hokkaido where it was too cold for bugs but down in Aichi there can be some in the summer and fall. Nothing that will get out of hand, and all the doors have screens so you don’t really notice them.
YAMASA VILLA I

These apartments are located next to the Yamasa Villa III & IV studio apartments and are larger with 2 rooms and a balcony. Each has its own bathroom with western style toilet and a separate unit shower/bath. They are equally close to shops and restaurants, the campus (8 - 10 minutes walk) and public transport.

The People:
It is more difficult to obtain an apartment in Yamasa Villa I on arrival as there are only twelve apartments and they are restricted to long-term students enrolled in Academic Programs. Entry is subject to availability. They are usually reserved for single occupants except in the case of students attending Yamasa with their partner. If you cannot get a room in Villa I, but want this type of accommodation, you should also consider Residences U and K.

The Apartments:
The apartments are western style and the total area of each is 30.06 m². They have air-conditioning/heating, a large wardrobe, and a kitchenette with a kitchen sink, refrigerator, electric hotplate, electric rice cooker and some cooking utensils (frying pan, saucepan, kettle). There is no gas cooking available. Yamasa provides a TV, bed, desk, and chair, study lamp and bookshelves, and there is a balcony. There are washing facilities for clothes located next to Yamasa Villa III & IV - less than 50 meters away. Students with private vehicles can use the parking lot (car park) in front of Yamasa Villa I. There is no charge for parking. Telephones are not provided, students rent a landline phone or cellular phone. Yamasa can arrange both. Please see the general section for information about bedding.

The Area:
There are shops located nearby, including two restaurants open 24-hours per day, a convenience store also open 24-hours per day, several other restaurants, billiard hall, supermarket, and the school is within a ten minute walk. Transport connections are excellent, as Villa I is located near the main road through Okazaki (but far enough away that it is always quiet).
Why did you choose Villa I?
It’s the biggest room of all the residences. I wanted somewhere with plenty of space, so I came here. I prefer having the separate toilet and shower too. I did a homestay last year, and the room I had was a bit smaller than this one. I lived in Villa III initially, then this room came vacant so I took it.

I think the best thing is the door between the kitchen area and the living room - in winter, you don’t have to heat the entire apartment, just the one room. That saves a lot on bills, and on air-conditioning in summer as well. Also, it just feels more like a real apartment having two rooms. Villa III was big enough, but this just feels more like a home.

What do you think of the area?
It’s really convenient. There are plenty of shops around, and there is a small store just down the road. The supermarkets are nearby, and it’s close to the school and the other residences.

You’re right next to the other residences, but the entrance is the other side of the building from the Villas, so you feel as if you have a bit more privacy.

What about the room?
No problems at all. The coin laundry in front of Villa III&IV is really close, so washing clothes is no hassle. I’d prefer a gas cooker rather than the electric plate in the kitchen, but you can make anything you need on the hotplate. There’s no Internet connection or telephone of course, but you can get both with a mobile phone if you really want to.

What about transport?
The school is so close by you don’t need anything except a bicycle. There are buses, but I don’t use them at all. The train station is really close - just a few minutes by bike - so you can get out to Nagoya, the beach or other places pretty easily by train.
YAMASA VILLA III & IV

Close to shops and restaurants, these studio apartments are popular as they are also the closest to the campus (8 - 10 minutes walk) and the closest to public transport. Students staying at Yamasa Villa III & IV are usually closer to friends as there are more apartments in the one location than for the rest of student housing. In addition to the studio apartments there is a recreation room (heating/air-conditioning available) often used by students for group study (though more often for student parties).

The apartments are western style. They may be rented as single rooms or shared with one other student. The space of each apartment is 21.84 m², and each has air-conditioning/heating, a large wardrobe, kitchen area with a kitchen sink, refrigerator, gas range & electric rice cooker (NOTE: These apartments are the only Yamasa studio apartments with gas cooking facilities.) There is a large elevated area over the wardrobe where large bags can easily be stored out of the way. The room also comes with a TV, bed, desk, chair, study lamp and book shelves. Each apartment also has its own private bathroom with western style toilet and unit shower/bath. Coin laundry facilities are available on site. Please see the general section for information about bedding.

There is also a car park for students with private vehicles and a large shelter for bicycles. There is no charge for parking. A public telephone is available (ISDN enabled) but there are no telephones in the apartments. Students who want a private phone either rent a landline or a cellular phone.

This is the most popular and most common studio apartment option. If you are looking to be very near to your friends and other students, near the school and close to shops, but prefer not to share communal facilities, then this is the ideal option. If you prefer to have communal facilities and a private study bedroom, you should consider the Student Village or perhaps Yamasa Villa II. If you want an internet connection in your room, then you should consider the Student Village. For absolute peace and quiet, check Residence K or U, and for apartments with separate study/bedroom and kitchen facilities, check Residences K, U and Yamasa Villa I.
Accommodation

Interview

Daniel Ebeling, Germany, Villa III single.

Why did you choose the Villa III room?
For the space, and because it’s fairly cheap. Also, I didn’t want to share facilities - I wanted something a little more private.

How was the room when you arrived?
Very clean. There is enough space - it’s bigger than I expected. Everyone told me that accommodation in Japan would be very small - but it’s okay. There is plenty of space to put things on the walls, there is airconditioning and heating - but all the buttons are marked in Japanese, so at first you have to try by trial and error.

What about privacy?
It’s fine - you can close everything up and no one bothers you. But all your friends are nearby - you just have to go outside and see whose door is open, and you always meet someone, so it’s a friendly place.

What do you think of the area?
It’s near the school, so you can just walk in or cycle. Near the train station too, plenty of shops, and the supermarkets of course. The coin laundry is right next to the building too. It’s a very safe area too. Also, when you first come to Japan, I think it would be very difficult to rent an apartment on your own. Here, it is all done for you. If there is any problem with the bills, or the gas or water, you know that there is someone to help you or to sort it out for you, which is very reassuring. Particularly at first if you don’t speak any Japanese!

Any complaints?
No, not really. I was worried about insects first, but there haven’t been any at all. The window has a screen, so you can keep it open in summer and mosquitoes don’t come in.

Any comments about the housing?
You have the desk, bookshelf, rice cooker, fridge, everything you need for study or for getting by. There are no plates or anything like that, but you can buy them at the local shop very cheaply. There is no Internet, but you can use it at the school so it isn’t a problem.
YAMASA STUDENT VILLAGE

The village is Yamasa’s newest student housing. It is a college style dormitory with single and shared study/bedrooms. Students share the toilets, showers and coin laundry facilities, and the kitchens and study areas. The kitchen has gas cooking as well as microwave ovens, oven toasters, fridge-freeezers, rice cookers and cooking utensils. It is the only Yamasa student housing/accommodation where no cooking equipment needs to be purchased - the kitchens are supplied with plates, knives, forks, chopsticks, cups, as well as the usual frying pans, saucepans and so on as in the other residences. For short term students this is usually the cheapest option in terms of total cost.

The building is on three floors. The ground floor has two kitchen areas and two large recreation and dining rooms each with a large cable TV. There is also a piano, computers connected to the Internet, and a study room. Everything opens out onto a large covered terrace with tables and chairs for relaxing, eating, BBQs, etc. There are two coin-operated laundries, six showers and six toilets (one of each with wheelchair access). Two staircases lead from the ground floor to the top floor, and there is also a lift for disabled students.

The middle floor is for male occupants and consists of ten shared and 16 single rooms. There are six more showers and six more toilets. Outside the middle floor there is a small garden, half-size basketball court and bicycle shelter. The two entrance doors open onto this floor. The top floor consists of ten shared rooms and 14 single rooms for females, and another six showers and toilets. All rooms have sockets to connect to the village LAN and provide free 24-hour Internet access. There is a telephone in each room and students can both make and receive international calls - unusual in Japanese student housing. It is free to receive calls.

There is no curfew. The room key will also open the front doors, and an intercom connects all rooms. The village is located in a residential area and the grounds are well lit. Next to the village there is a 24-hour convenience store and a swimming pool. A large supermarket/shopping center is located nearby and the bus stop is less than 100 meters from the village entrance.

Please see the general section for information about bedding.
Interview

Abhay Joshi, India. AIJP (Student Visa)

Why did you choose the Student Village?
Because it’s the most lively residence and the best place to meet lots of people. I came last year for a short course and stayed in the Yamasa Villa III. That was good too, but I liked the communal facilities here. Also, you get to hear a lot of different types of Japanese - spoken by Japanese people, Chinese, Korean, American, Australian, Europeans - people from all over the world. Some of it is correct Japanese, some of it isn’t, but it’s all part of the practice. You end up being able to understand almost anyone! Also, you can just go out of your room, and there is always someone to talk to in the kitchens or common room downstairs.

What do you think of the building?
It’s really good. Right from the beginning, you can feel that Yamasa is an international center, but the rooms feel very Japanese. People say that in Japan, there isn’t much space, but here in Okazaki there is room so the new buildings like this one are fairly large.

What about the communal facilities?
Downstairs there is plenty of room for private study, internet access, large kitchens. The place is always very clean - the manager works really hard. The showers and toilets are cleaned for you, but you have to clean your own room.

What about the room?
The telephone in the room is useful - it’s really good being able to get in touch with family at any time - they know where they can contact me. It is a little expensive to make international calls, so I use a pre-paid card when I call home. Otherwise you have everything you need - desk, bookshelf, etc.

What is the area like?
Very convenient - there is a ministop right next door, so you can always pop out for a snack or to photocopy things. It’s open 24 hours a day - there was one student here a few months back who liked the yakisoba - a kind of fried noodle - and he would go out every morning at about 3am to eat! It’s near the school too, so you can walk or cycle to lessons easily.
YAMASA VILLA II

Located in front of the Yamasa Villa III & IV studio apartments, Yamasa Villa II is reserved for female students only. It is reserved for those studying for at least 3 months in an academic program. Rooms may not be taken as shared occupancy as the facilities are not suitable for more than eight persons. The low number of rooms available means that it is advisable to apply early for accommodation in Villa II.

It is a single-story building with eight bedrooms and shared facilities. In front of the building is a parking space for up to 3 cars, and students can also use the space in front of Yamasa Villa III & IV. There is no charge for parking. Telephones are not provided, students rent landline or cellular phones. Yamasa can arrange both.

The building consists of 8 rooms, (available for rent as single rooms only), a shared kitchen and two bathrooms (again shared). The total area of each room is different, but averages about 15m². Each room is provided with a television, desk, bookcase, study lamp and fridge and there is a wardrobe for storing clothes. Every room has airconditioning and heating and so the building is comfortable all year round. The building has a balcony/entrance area. The kitchen area is equipped with basic cooking utensils, rice cookers, and gas rings. All gas, water and electricity charges are included in the rent. This is the cheapest single room accommodation.

Please note that as with all Yamasa student housing, students will need to buy, rent or arrange with friends to borrow Japanese futons as sheets and blankets are not provided because the Japanese style beds do not have western style mattresses. Please see the general section for information about bedding (page 39).

If you prefer a communal lifestyle, but would like to live in a smaller community or require a little more privacy than the Student Village, you should consider Villa II. If you require Internet access in your room, the Student Village is a better choice. For more privacy, consider either Residence K or U or Yamasa Villas I, III and IV.
Interview

Kelly Duke, Canada. (Student Visa)

Why did you choose this apartment?
Mainly because it’s the cheapest accommodation! Also because it’s communal the bills are included in the rent and you can plan how much you spend each month. Along with Villa I and III&IV, it’s the closest to the school. You get a big room with television, private fridge, desk and so on so you can study and relax in privacy if you want to. The other villas are right next door, so you can easily meet up with other students. Also the kitchen is fairly large so that you have somewhere to sit down and chat to friends.

What is it like sharing with seven other people in one building?
It’s nice - we get on well. There were quite a lot of dinner parties when we first moved in, but it’s pretty quiet otherwise. Everyone shares things too and that doesn’t seem to create any problems. Also, the only common language we all have is Japanese, so we use that all the time - the people here are from Singapore, Taiwan, America, Korea, Europe, all over the place. So we have to speak Japanese. We have a rota for cleaning too so there are no complaints or problems.

What are the facilities like?
The kitchen is pretty well equipped - there’s a toaster oven, microwave oven, gas stove, fridges, cupboards. We cleaned out the shoe cupboard and use that for food instead, because no one has that many shoes. When one of the rooms is empty, we sometimes use the fridge there as well, or use it as a communal room or lounge when we don’t use the kitchen. Because the rooms are large, you can also get away from people or have friends around without feeling cramped - there’s plenty of privacy despite it being communal.

What about maintenance?
So far, whenever something has been broken it’s been fixed right away. The only thing is the light in my room, but that’s only because I haven’t got round to telling the school that it’s broken yet!

Any other good or bad points?
Nothing bad really - of course, since it is communal, you have to be able to get on with other people and you have to know how to give and take a little.
Yamasa’s homestay program began when the Aichi Center for Japanese was first established. Being just outside, not in the center of a major city, houses in Okazaki are larger and good homestays are easier to obtain. Okazaki is a city of manageable size with a long history that has also kept its traditions and heritage. Here you can experience the true culture of Japanese family life, something increasingly hard to experience in crowded metropolitan cities.

Yamasa’s homestays give you not only the opportunity to practice language skills (especially listening and speaking) and intimately experience the culture, it also provides a priceless chance to communicate across cultures and make long lasting friendships. Many students who have experienced the homestay program at Yamasa continue to maintain close friendships with their Japanese family. If you don’t want to spend the entire time living with a family, you can also take advantage of Yamasa’s free homevisit program at weekends.

Homestays are not Student Housing. There are some basic rules. A homestay is a wonderful opportunity for you to improve your Japanese and understand the culture in a way not otherwise possible - however please note that it is not like staying in a hotel. You are a guest of a family and are required to follow the rules, as they would apply for any family member.

Usually students stay for a minimum of one month although weekend homestays and home visits are options. Extension is possible and not unusual although this depends entirely on the family’s schedule and commitments. After one month you may need to be prepared to either move to another homestay or move into student housing. To give yourself the maximum chance of a homestay it is best to apply early. Your chances of obtaining a homestay are also generally higher if you have some conversational Japanese that will enable you to communicate with the family.

**Interview**

**Sofia Olsson - Sweden**

SILAC program (8 weeks).

*How far is your homestay from the school?*

Just ten minutes by bike - the family have lent me one to come to school.

*How many people in the family?*

Five altogether - the parents and three children - two girls and a boy aged 12, 14 and 16. The younger two are a little bit shy still, but I get on very well with the older daughter and we talk a lot.

*What language do you use at home?*

Japanese. The parents know a few words in English, but we always get by in Japanese - often with dictionaries. They’re very patient with me as well!

*What is your room like?*

I have my own room, and I sleep on a futon on the floor. It’s very comfortable.

*What about meals? Do you eat with the family?*

Yes - they do everything. We have rice and miso soup and vegetables for breakfast, and traditional Japanese food for dinner. The food is always really good - always lots of different things every day. We’ve been out to lots of restaurants to try different types of Japanese food as well.

*How do you get on with the family?*

Very well - it feels like I am a part of the family. They really take care of me, and we’ve been to see lots of things - the castle, up into the mountains; we went hiking one day. They’re always interested to talk about the differences between Japanese and Swedish traditional culture. They take me out to see all their friends a lot too. Once a friend of the family dressed me up in a traditional kimono, and we went to a tea ceremony.

*Any negative points?*

Well, not really a negative point, but because you are living with a family, it is less easy to meet with other students - you have to plan to meet up. You don’t just bump into people at a homestay like in the residences. But it’s excellent being able to spend the entire time speaking Japanese - I think it’s a great experience.
Greg White  
Pasadena, California, USA

Which course are you studying in?  
I'm studying in the SILAC program concentrating on conversation skills.

What were you doing before you came to Yamasa?  
I'm a college professor in business marketing. I decided to take a year off from my teaching and go travelling. I started by learning Spanish in Guatemala and then I headed over to France to study French in Hyeres and then Paris. Then I decided to learn Japanese.

Did you start as a beginner?  
I started as an absolute beginner. I found my first lesson to be very different. It was a totally foreign experience. We started with A, I, U, E, O... It was also exciting because it was so different especially compared to learning Spanish and French. Not using the English alphabet for the first time in my life...

Why Japanese? What led to you deciding to study Japanese?  
Well I made a visit to Japan about 2 years ago. It was just as a tourist - I thought, Japan. And I was kind of overwhelmed by the generosity of the people here and the richness of the culture. Very distinct culture. So from that point I was curious and wanted to know more about it. I met a lot of Japanese students who were studying Spanish and French and I made a lot of friends. When I visited Tokyo in Golden Week I was able to meet many of my friends. Also in Kobe. People I'd met in Hyeres and then Paris.

Where are you living at the moment?  
I live in the Student Village - I decided to share a room. My room mate from Taiwan doesn't speak any English so we speak in Japanese. It was pretty difficult at first - a lot of gesturing really - but gradually we've been able to communicate in Japanese.

What is your accommodation like?  
It has a college dorm feel. Its good for interaction and learning not only about Japan but also about other cultures. The village is a real melting pot of different cultures. There are so many nationalities under the same roof. Only downside at the moment is that a few more computers would be good - because I didn't bring a laptop.

What is the biggest challenge or problem you've faced so far in Japan?  
For me the biggest problem was being read the signs. Getting used to the Hiragana, Katakana and kanji combinations.

Any surprises you would like to share?  
Yeah this stay has been a real eye opener in many ways. The beer vending machines on street corners, the traffic police standing in the middle of intersections directing traffic even when the traffic signals were working perfectly, the school uniforms worn by the kids. A lot of things I didn't expect at all.

If a new student was entering your class today and asked for some advice, what would you say?  
Study up on your hiragana and katakana. You need to come prepared to be serious - this is a challenging course. Make some friends especially Japanese friends so that you use the language. Put yourself in positions, especially into social positions etc where you have to speak Japanese.

Hordur Thordarson  
Reykjavik, Iceland

Which course are you studying in?  
I'm studying in the SILAC for 4 weeks.

What were you doing before you came to Yamasa?  
Working as a meteorologist for the Icelandic Meteorological Institute in Reykjavik.

Is this the first time you have lived in Japan?  
Yes its the first time. I have been here before as a tourist for 3 weeks but I was always travelling - so this is the longest time I've been living in one Japanese city. I've done a fair bit of travelling this time as well though. I just got back from Tokyo.

Where are you living at the moment?  
I'm staying in one of the studio apartments at Yamasa Villa IV.

How do you get to classes?  
I rented a second hand mountain bike - it takes me less than 5 minutes to get to the campus.

What is the biggest challenge or problem you've faced so far in Japan?  
Communication with Japanese people. I don't think that is really a problem, more that I am still new to the language. Everyone has been very courteous and helpful.

Any surprises you would like to share?  
No, not really. All the information I had before I came to Japan was very good. All the questions I had were answered before I came. So everything is much as I expected.

Is there any particular event or activity that you have enjoyed while you are here?  
Spending time with Japanese people, especially playing Go games in Okazaki and in Tokyo. I really enjoy playing the game but in Iceland there aren't many people who know the game's rules. I often work late night shifts at the meteorological Institute and pass the time playing Go. But I normally only get to play Go over the internet. So when I arrived in Okazaki I asked Yamasa staff where I could play Go and they took me to a small Go club near Okazaki station where I could play all afternoon. It was fun to play face to face with people this time.

If a new student was entering your class today and asked for some advice, what would you say?  
I would advise them to approach their studies here seriously. The pace of the SILAC program is very fast. You learn very quickly but you need to do a lot of reviewing, get the homework done and do extra study so that you can get the most from the studies.
**Counseling and Advice**

**Introduction:**
When you are in any foreign country, you are going to experience some kind of culture shock. It is important to be prepared both physically and mentally when going abroad, and this is as true for Japan as for any country. We make it our job to ensure that you have all the support and assistance that you need while in Japan, whether you are a seasoned traveler, or this is your first trip abroad. Every experience is different, and every experience is unique. We try to make it the best experience it can be.

During your stay in Japan you may sometimes encounter difficulties and need advice. Yamasa is one of the few Institutes in Japan where counseling and support is provided by a full time team. Another important difference is that often it is the foreign staff members at Yamasa who provide much of the counseling. The teaching faculty members at Yamasa are all Japanese, however we recognize that there are times when you need to consult using your native language. At Yamasa there is a multilingual support team available to assist you - all of who speak Japanese and will speak to you in Japanese unless otherwise requested - but who are also available to assist you in your native language if needed.

Counseling at Yamasa usually covers the following areas:

**Welfare & Health:**
Housing, Homestays, Banking, Visas, Health care, Health Insurance, Computing support, Translations and general advice. This counseling is particularly an advantage for beginners. There are times when accuracy in communication is very important - when visiting a doctor or dentist for example or when signing a lease agreement. At Yamasa you can seek professional assistance and avoid problems so that you can concentrate on your studies - you don’t have to worry about any legal or official matters.

**Job Placement:**
An increasing number of students, particularly professionals who enroll in Yamasa with the longer-term goal of working in Japan are making use of the Job Placement service. This is not for part-time work but for students seeking full time positions in Japan after they complete their language studies. Yamasa maintains close links with local industry and has helped find quality jobs for students in fields such as manufacturing, information technology, financial services and international trade. You can also use the free online ‘ACCESS’ database for information about internships around Japan.

**University Placement:**
If you are intending to continue studying in Japan after you complete your academic studies, the placement services available from Yamasa will make it easier. The bilingual ‘ACCESS’ online database was developed by Yamasa and includes all of the information required by foreign students for every university in Japan, and information about scholarships and internships as well. Yamasa will be able to assist you with selection, obtaining interviews, scholarship information, exam preparation etc. In addition, many of the universities in central Japan have become ‘suisen daigaku’ that accept Yamasa graduates on our recommendation, allowing Yamasa students to bypass examinations. With assistance from your academic advisor at Yamasa, we ensure that all our graduates are guaranteed a place at a Japanese University.

Overall, your studies at the Yamasa Institute will be a major step in advancing not only your language skills, but also your plans for using Japanese in the future.
Providing a supportive, academic environment, you will be able to make the most of your time in Japan and ensure that you are able to realise your goals. And even if you are just coming for pleasure, you can be sure that you will have a trouble-free stay in Japan. Because the satisfaction and well-being of our students is as important to us as ensuring that you are able to fulfill your academic goals.

Health Care and Insurance

“What happens if I get sick?”

Almost every student considering extended overseas study asks this question. An equally important question is to ask for precisely what assistance you will receive from the Institute you are considering enrolling in.

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Japan is a safe country and the standard of medical care is one of the world’s highest. However students need to consider what will happen if they are taken ill, and in some cases make preparations that will make life easier during their stay if illness occurs.

Inside the main campus building, Yamasa has constructed a purpose built infirmary for student use. In addition Yamasa’s campus is located next to Minami (South) Hospital - in fact the doors of the hospital and those of the main Yamasa II building are less than 200 meters apart. At all times during your stay, Yamasa faculty and administrative staff will be available to assist you with any medical problems or questions you have, and wherever required in your own language. Virtually all of Yamasa’s faculty and administrative staff have first hand experience of living and studying in a foreign country. Communication is usually the most frustrating part of health care when studying abroad; it is something you won’t need to worry about as a Yamasa student.

For the safety and welfare of our students, Yamasa strongly recommends that all students coming to Japan on a short-stay visa be covered by travel insurance or an international health care insurance policy that is acceptable in Japan for the full period of your stay. You should take out an insurance policy before coming to Japan. You will usually have to pay for any treatment in Japan and then receive a refund from your insurer - it is best to bring a credit card or ensure that you can arrange funding for an emergency. Yamasa will assist in obtaining any receipts and translations required for any insurance claims free of charge.

If you are entering Japan with a student visa then you are eligible to join the Japan National Health Insurance (JNHI) program on arrival. JNHI provides full cover for medical services include dental work and as a student you will receive a reduction of up to 60% in the premiums. The JNHI policy covers between 70% and 80% of the cost of general medical and dental care and hospitalization. Yamasa staff will assist you in obtaining the insurance. You will receive receipts for the part payments you need to make if you require medical attention. If your expenses for one year exceed a certain level (usually about 60,000 yen per year) then the excess is refunded.

In summary, when you are choosing an institute, make sure that you consider not just the quality of teaching and faculty, facilities and availability of accommodation, but also check that you will be provided with the support and information required to ensure that you are able to study in comfort and without additional worries or distractions.
**Terminology:**

*Letter of Acceptance:* This is a letter that Yamasa issues to you on payment of your tuition fees and which confirms that you have a place on a course at Yamasa. This letter will assist you in getting the tourist visa. If the immigration office requires that you have a guarantor, then Yamasa will require a *Letter of Guarantee* before issuing the *Letter of Acceptance.*

*Certificate of Eligibility:* This is the certificate issued by the Immigration Office to Yamasa when your application for a student visa has been approved. On payment of your tuition and accommodation as required by Yamasa, you will be sent the *Certificate of Eligibility.* With your passport and other supporting documentation sent to you by Yamasa, take this to the Japanese Consulate and you will be issued the student visa. The certificate is for a set course start date, and you cannot change the date - the Immigration Office requires that you start on that program.

*Letter of Guarantee:* This is a letter issued to you by your Personal Guarantor, and which invites you to come to Japan. It states that the guarantor will be legally and financially responsible for you and for your actions while you are in Japan. Yamasa may not be able to issue the *Letter of Acceptance* without a *Letter of Guarantee.*

*Personal Guarantor:* A person who will be responsible for you and your actions while you are in Japan. They must be living in Japan for the entire duration of your stay, and must have sufficient funds or be working full time and so able to assist you if necessary. The Personal Guarantor does not have to be Japanese, but should have either permanent residency in Japan or a work visa. If the immigration office requires that you have a Personal Guarantor, then you will be unable to get a visa for Japan without one. If you do not know whether you require a personal guarantor or not, please contact Yamasa or your studyabroad advisor.

*Financial Sponsor:* Someone who will support you financially while you are in Japan. They do not have to be in Japan, but they should show proof of employment and proof of savings sufficient to cover the expenses for your studies, and also proof of their relationship to you (the Financial Sponsor is normally a relative or a company that pays for your studies). If you are paying for your own studies, you will not require a Financial Sponsor.

**Visas**

Every person who is not a Japanese citizen will need a visa when coming to Japan. Nationals of certain countries can be issued with a tourist visa on arrival in Japan; nationals of other countries are required to apply for the visa in advance. In all cases, if you are unsure about anything concerning your visa, contact Yamasa, your studyabroad advisor or the nearest Japanese Consulate for advice. *Don’t assume that because you come to Japan with a passport, you will get a visa. Check first.*

**The main types of visa are:**

**Tourist Visa**

The length of the tourist visa varies from country to country; in some cases it is two weeks, in others six months. Usually it is three months or 90 days. Nationals of many countries can come to Japan and receive a tourist visa on arrival at the airport. Others are required to go to the Japanese Consulate first to be issued the visa. Nationals of certain countries will require a Personal Guarantor in Japan and it may take several months to be issued the tourist visa. Please make sure that you contact the nearest Japanese Consulate to find out their requirements for citizens of your country before you finalise your plans for study in Japan. You can follow any of Yamasa’s courses on this visa for as long as the visa is valid, but you cannot work while on a tourist visa.

**Student Visa**

This requires a little more preparation for all applicants. The student visa is issued twice a year, once in April and once in October. The visa from April is for one year, renewable up to a total of two years’ study, and you have to complete an application by December 20th of the year before. The visa from October is for up to 18 months’ study, and the application deadline is June 20th of the same year. All applicants will need to show either that they have sufficient savings to cover their studies for the year, or that they have a Financial Sponsor who can do so. Some applicants may require a Personal Guarantor. You can only follow Academic courses on the student visa (Acceleration, AIJP, AJSP). You may work up to four hours per day on this visa once you have applied for permission.

**Working Holiday Visa**

The *working holiday visa* is only available for citizens of a few countries (check with the Japanese Consulate if you are eligible). This visa can only be taken once, is usually for 6 months and for up to 30 year olds. The visa is applied for through your local Japanese Consulate; you do not require any documentation from Yamasa. When you come to Japan, you are then free to work or study as you please. You can follow any of Yamasa’s programs on this visa.

**Other matters:**

**Alien Registration Card**

While you are in Japan on the *student visa,* you will be issued with an alien registration card. You are legally required to carry this with you at all times.

**International driving licence**

It is a good idea to get an international driving licence before coming to Japan, in case you intend to rent a car.
SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Virtually all of the Institute’s faculty and administrative staff have spent a considerable amount of time studying and working outside their home countries. We are very conscious that the relatively high cost of living in Japan can deter many gifted but financially disadvantaged students from taking what would be a vital step towards a fulfilling and successful career. For this reason, Yamasa makes every attempt to keep tuition, accommodation and other fees as low as possible and offers all programs on an at-cost basis. However despite our determined efforts to ensure that Yamasa provides not only high quality but also the most affordable programs available in Japan, the fact remains that some students are unable to find sufficient finance to cover their period of study.

Quite a few of Yamasa’s students come to Japan using scholarships and/or student loans they have obtained in their own country. However in addition, for the benefit of students enrolling or presently enrolled in Yamasa, a limited number of assistance plans are available through the support of our benefactors to selected students who wish to continue their studies in the Japanese language but are experiencing financial difficulties. These are the Hattori Foundation Fellowships, Yamasa Institute Scholarships and our Financial Aid program. Application forms may be obtained prior to enrolment in Yamasa programs, however please note that in most cases an interview at Yamasa will be required before aid can be approved. Also please note that the support of Japanese faculty at your university or college is considered essential - it is very difficult to obtain financial assistance without this support.

Students applying for and/or enrolled in Yamasa’s Japanese programs may be eligible for:

- **Hattori Foundation Fellowships**: Full tuition scholarship with rent assistance and living expense allowance for selected students aiming for graduate school places or for research positions after their studies at Yamasa.
- **Yamasa Institute Scholarships**: A range of scholarships negotiated between Yamasa and leading international universities.
- **Financial Aid**: A range of assistance including rent assistance, textbook allowances, tuition credits and/or living expense allowances.

In addition, some of the educational institutions throughout the world who maintain educational exchange and scholarship agreements with Yamasa also provide financial assistance. Students are also advised to inquire about the possibility of using for study abroad purposes the financial aid they are currently receiving or applying for additional programs that may be available. Due to the limited amount of funding available, the chances of receiving a fellowship, scholarship or financial aid are higher if you have already made the effort to find some supporting funds. Please also note that most funding is reserved for long-term students; check first that your course is eligible for financial assistance before beginning an application for scholarship or aid.

Lilla Marta Krajczar, Hungary studied on the AIJP program for one year with a full scholarship from the Hattori Foundation through the University of Debrecen.

**How did you find out about the Hattori Foundation Scholarship?**

I study Japanese at University in Debrecen, where they only teach Japanese for beginners. My university has exchange programs with two institutes in Japan - one a University program in Chiba, the other with the Yamasa Institute. The university in Chiba teaches all their Japanese language lessons in English, so I chose Yamasa - all the lessons are in Japanese, so you learn a lot more and a lot faster. My major is Italian, but I wanted to learn another language too so I chose Japanese. Learning it in Japan is the best way.

**Why did you choose Japanese?**

Ten years ago my father came to Japan, and we had some Japanese friends. I was very small then and I don’t really remember much, I suppose I just remember that the language and people were interesting. Then, when I was at university I discovered that we could study Japanese as well. I’m interested in the different culture, and I suppose it’s just because I like the language.

**What do you think of the program?**

It’s very good - since everything is in Japanese, you learn to speak very quickly. Japanese is quite difficult though, so it takes quite a while - I’m really glad that I can stay here for a whole year.

**What about after you graduate from Yamasa?**

I have one more year of university to go before I graduate from Debrecen, then I will be looking for a job. Because I’m studying in the Italian Department, I will know Italian but so many people can speak lots of languages now that I think one foreign language isn’t enough. Not many people can speak Japanese, so I think it will help me a lot with my career. Also I would like to work in Japan in the future - speaking English and Italian, with Japanese as well I hope I can find an interesting job somewhere in Japan.
FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the average class size?

A. The average for the past three years has been 12.4 students per class in the Academic Programs, and about 7 students per class in the Continuing Education programs. The maximum class size permitted at Yamasa is 15 students per class - 5 students less per class than the standard recommended by the APJLE.

Q. Will my lessons be in English, or Chinese, or Korean, or Portuguese...?

A. No. You will be taught by the direct method - the fastest way to learn any language. Your classes will all be in Japanese from the very start, so that you will learn Japanese, in Japanese, communicating in Japanese. This way, even grammar and kanji lessons become conversation classes.

Q. Can I move from one accommodation option to another?

A. Yes, you can. There are occasional restrictions dependent on availability, but there is no need to commit to any one option for your entire period of study.

Q. If I don’t get on with my homestay family, am I able to move straight away?

A. Yes you can move straight away. Students are not expected to continue their homestay if they feel uncomfortable. Alternative accommodation is available.

Q. Can I work part-time to help pay my tuition?

A. If you have a student visa then it is possible to work part-time. A document giving permission to work can be obtained from the Immigration Bureau in the first months of your stay. You can then work for up to 4 hours a day, 28 hours per week. It is not possible to work if you have a tanki-taizai (tourist) visa. Also, if you are applying for a student visa you have to show that you have sufficient funds for your studies not including any money that you might earn while you are in Japan.

Q. How quickly will I pass Level 1 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test?

A. It will depend on various factors including your commencement level, Kanji background and study-time. However students at Yamasa usually take 12-18 months from beginner level to reach Level 1.

Q. Is it possible to obtain confirmation of financial aid prior to enrolment?

A. Unless you are a currently enrolled student at a university or college that has a formal agreement with the Yamasa Institute then no it is not possible. Confirmation is usually made after your financial aid program documents have been screened and interview completed. See the financial aid section for full details (page 57).

Q. Will I be able to learn how to use Japanese language software?

A. Yes. All of the PC’s in the computer laboratory and multimedia center have Japanese language based software. Japanese language based computing is also one of the electives available.

Q. How is Yamasa able to guarantee accommodation?

A. Yamasa guarantees accommodation within walking distance and does so by constructing or purchasing the buildings required. The reason why Yamasa is not
affected by shortages or surpluses of housing is because of the carefully controlled planning of each intake. This control also provides better quality accommodation.

Q. Can Yamasa guarantee that I will get my first choice of accommodation?

A. All accommodation is allocated on a first come, first served basis. This means that if you apply well in advance, you will be almost certain to get your first choice. If you apply at the last minute, then it will depend on what vacancies there are.

Q. I’m studying Japanese at my university. Can I get credit for my studies at Yamasa?

A. If you notify us in advance, and ask your supervisor or studyabroad advisor to contact Yamasa, we can usually arrange a credit transfer for you. See the section on credit transfer (page 15) for full details.

Q. I will be studying on a tourist visa. What courses can I take?

A. Any course at all. On the student visa, you can only choose the AIJP, AJSP and Acceleration programs, but on the tourist visa, you can choose any program.

Q. I want to study for 3 months. Do I need a student visa?

A. No, a tourist visa is sufficient. If your country has a visa exemption agreement with Japan then you will not need to apply for the visa. Check with Yamasa or your advisor for more details. For longer studies, a student visa is usually required.

Q. I have a work visa, but want to study in Okazaki during my summer holidays. Can I study or do I lose my work visa?

A. You just need a letter from your employer stating that they give you permission to study and that you will be returning to your job after studying.

Q. Do I need a guarantor? Can Yamasa be my guarantor or find a guarantor?

A. For some nationalities a guarantor is required. Check with Yamasa or your advisor for more details. Note that Yamasa cannot act as your guarantor, or help you find one. Guarantors need to be citizens or permanent residents of Japan.