Program Overview

Diamond Fuji from Tateyama; Viewable during our program weather permitting
Program (subject to change)

• 2024: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Year
  • Adjustments from the 1st-year Pilot Program: work in progress
  • Subject to change

• Action-Packed
  • Lots of walking and climbing
  • Community engagement (Local Historical Organization, Rice Planting, Beach Cleaning, Movie Nights, Flower Picking....)

• Reasonably-Priced (Basic [shared rooms, shared bathrooms])
  • Local Support in Tateyama
  • Historically Weak JPY (Purchasing Power of USD-very good now)

• Cultural Experience, Natural Beauty
  • Seas (the Pacific and the Tokyo Bay), mountains, forests, etc.
Program at Glance

• What: HIST 372A History of Japanese Popular Culture (4 credits) Meets MnTC Goals 5 & 8
  • Tuition $1,142.8 (= $285.7 x 4 credits)

• When: May 14-31, 2024 (18 days; summer 2024)
  • (written and other assignments to be completed later)

• Where: Tokyo and Tateyama (Chiba), Japan
  • Tateyama, Chiba [15 nights] and Tokyo [2 nights]

• Who: Degree-seeking Undergraduate Students at Metro and any Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institution (fall 2023 – summer 2024)
  • In good academic and behavioral standing, GPA 2.5+, age 18+, no PSEO students
  • Selection Competitive: about 20 seats

• Program Fee ($2,000)
  • Covered: meals, lodging, ground transportation, activities, admission and medical insurance fees
  • Not covered: tuition, airfare, and personal spending money
Japan: Tokyo and Tateyama

https://geology.com/world/japan-satellite-image.shtml
Airfare: tips to save

• Book early
• Flexible dates
  • Going there early, coming back late
• Indirect flights
  • Delta’s direct flight: expensive currently $2,800
  • Flights from LA/Chicago, less expensive
    Staying overnight at LA or Chicago?
  • Traveling with friends
Deadlines:

• 12/10/23 Submit application
• 12/15/23 Decision made
• 1/31/24 Book Flight by this date
• 3/15/24 Get Passport by this date,
• 3/31/24 Upload All Documents, Get Visa by this date
• 5/3/24 Complete the entire program fee payment
Program Fee and Tuition Payment

• March 1, 2024: Summer Courses will be published
• March 18, 2024: Summer Courses open to registration
  • By this time, selected students will be added to Summer HIST 372A manually.
  • You may start paying parts of your Program Fee
• May 3, 2024: the entire Program Fee due
Prospective Students

- This is a history rather than language program.
  - No prior Japanese language knowledge is required. (Of course, it is helpful if you have it!)

- Those who are interested in the following topics are particularly encouraged to apply:
  - Japanese/Asian History
  - Japanese Pop Culture: Literature, Arts, Films, Anime, Manga, and Games
  - Everyday Life of Ordinary People (People’s History)
  - Military History
  - Environmental Issues
  - Eastern/World Religions (Buddhism and Shintoism)
  - City/Community Planning and Revitalization
  - Global studies
Field Trips in Tateyama (15 DAYS)

• Tateyama City Museum & Castle
• Awa Cultural Heritage Forum Guided Tours
  • 1. Akayama, Entaigō, and Kanita (abandoned WWII military facilities; women’s history); 2. lighthouse, Awa Shrine, Mera Shrine, WWII suicide attacks facilities; 3. Taibusa (a fort/defense site during the late Tokugawa and late WWII eras)
• Nago Trip (Nago Temple, Cliff Kan’non)
• Movie Nights (interaction with local students)
• Rice Planting, Japanese Cooking, Satoyama Walk (interaction with local people)
• Fan Craft
• Calligraphy, Incense Making, Buddhist Rituals
• Nokogiri Mt. Tour
• Farewell BBQ (interaction with local people)
Daifukuji Temple on the Cliff (Cliff Kan’non) overlooking the Tateyama/Tokyo Bay
Calligraphy and Chanting Prayer by burning small pieces of wood (goma) on the altar to invoke divine help at the Myōōin Temple.
Nokogiri Mountain (329.5 m/1,081 ft)
Field Trips in Tokyo (3 days)

- Asakusa
  - Sensō-ji-temple, Skytree
- Ueno
- Imperial Palace/Edo Castle Park
- Yasukuni Shrine
- Shinjuku: Kusama Yayoi Museum
- Harajuku
- Shibuya
- Tokyo Station
- Tsukiji
- Ginza
日本の慰霊碑：靖国神社、東京

写真はそのパンフレットからのもの。
YAYOI KUSAMA MUSEUM

https://yayoikusamamuseum.jp/en/exhibition/#content_current
Tokyo Anime Station, just opened on Oct. 31
Harajuku Youth Fashion

https://harajuku-pop.com/37026
Assignments

*During the trip*
- Light reading
- Blog articles (3-4 times?)
- A Community Engagement Project

*After (& before) the trip*
- Heavy reading
- Research
- Presentations (1 Zoom class)
- Two medium-length research papers (due late June)
Community Engagement

Rice Transplanting
Grading Options

Pass/Fail (Default)

Letter Grade (highly encouraged for history majors/minors and others)
Application Selection Process

• How many students will participate in the program in May 2024?
  • About 20

• Application Selection (Deadline 12/10; Outcome 12/15)
  • Able to pay for the study abroad (TRIO scholarships/Financial Aid/Self Financing)
  • Students who are likely to make the most out of the study abroad
  • Students who represent Metro State/MnSCU institution well
  • Students who have completed their applications: optional interview opportunities
  • Selection results: SCSU Application Website
Deal Breakers

• Japan:
  • The most stringent COVID border control: opened in October 2022
    a mask-oriented society: expected to wear mask in public
    a cash-oriented society (not every merchant accepts credit cards)

• No weekends: We use Saturdays and Sundays for activities

• Meals: Basic, **No Alcohol during the program**
  • Breakfasts at the inn/hostel provided for everyone
  • Lunches provided at the seminar house for everyone (bento boxes, catering, events)
  • Dinners (some provided, others covered by the cash allowance from the program fees)
    accommodation for students with dietary restrictions limited
    students’ responsibility to get alternative and extra food

flexibility: cash allowance option incorporated
Next Steps

• Before Application
  
  **Financial Preparation**
  
  • Apply for a Normandale travel scholarship by Dec 1 (there will be another chance to apply in spring) Go to the Scholarship Application Portal, log in, sign the release if you need to, follow the prompts, then search for the Academic Travel Scholarships. Choose Academic Travel Course, Japan and submit by December 1 at midnight. If you are selected, you will be notified by me around the 15th of December
  
  • Financial Aid: make an appointment with Angela Prohel angela.prohel@normandale.edu

• Application: by December 10
  

• Selection Result: by December 15
  
  • By the SCSU Application Site (accepted, rejected, waitlisted, etc.)

• See instructions next slides
Note: This program is organized by Metro State University and governed by Metro State University's policies. This program is open to any Minnesota State Colleges and Universities undergraduate students. If you are not an SCSU student, please do not use your StarID to create an application.

Learn more about this program through the different tabs on how you can experience Japan!

Steps to Move Forward:

1. Find out about the program at Metro State University
   - Zoom Information Session #1: November 6, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
     Meeting ID: 954 8165 2401
SCSU Students: Use StarID and StarID password. Everyone else will need to create an account.

Username *
sumiko.otsubo@metrostate.edu

Password *

Remember Username?

Login

Forgot your password?

New User? Create Account
Ignore this!
Click "Non-SCSU Summer 2024 anyway!"
Information in Application Website

(note that it is hosted by SCSU based on Metro’s Education Abroad Partnership with SCSU)

• Forms to Fill Out and Documents to Upload (Any Questions? Contact Dr. Otsubo)
  • Pre-decision
    • Info. Form (not connected to Metro’s eServices)
    • Emergency Contact Form
    • Signature Verification Form (email/mail PDF to SCSU)
    • Enrollment and Financial Agreement (to be updated)
    • Photo consent and Release
  • Metro Survey: some overlap with the above; faculty/staff reference letter and your current unofficial univ/college transcript to be uploaded
    • Estimate time for completion (11 min), Metro/MNSCU account needed to fill out
      (Metro’s Security Officer, Rice Planting, the Imperial Palace Visit....)
    Once your application is complete, I will start inviting you for a 30 min interview.
  • Course Registration/Payment (Info will be sent to selected students)
**Mailing Address:**
St. Cloud State University  
720 Fourth Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

**Phone:** 612-297-5353  
**Email:** educationabroad@stcloudstate.edu

Clearly Indicate: "Metro Short-Term Program (Japan)" in the subject line.
Don't forget to fill this out! You will need a recommendation letter and a transcript.
Information not in Application Website

• Course Information: Subject to change! (weather, strikes, natural disasters, illness....)
  • Field Trips
  • Readings
  • Assignments
  • Grade Options

• Post-Decision Information Sessions in the Spring Semester
  • Trip Preparation/Going over Readings
May in Japan

• **Pleasant**: perfect for studying and activities
  - average temperature in Tateyama: H 73°F and L 63°F
  - average temperature in Tokyo: H 74°F and L 59°F

• Flowers: Azaleas

• **Diamond Fuji** from Tateyama (mid-May)

• No swimming
  - Swimming allowed in beaches b/w mid-July and late August
Living Anywhere Commons (LAC) Tateyama
Seminar Room, Cafeteria

https://livinganywherecommons.com/base/tateyama/
Imano Tokyo Hostel
Shinjuku, Tokyo

https://imano.jp/shinjuku/en/top/
Convenient Location

https://pkg.navitime.co.jp/sevenbank/spot/list/map?address=12205&search=address&lang=en
Students’ Comments (pre-departure)

• “I'm really excited for an opportunity like this, and I feel like I can't pass it up!”
• “I would like you to know that words cannot describe the excitement, sense of fulfillment, and feelings of overjoy I received knowing that I will be able to study abroad in Japan.”
• “So excited for this amazing opportunity!”
• “I want to say thank you and Metro State for providing this opportunity to us.”
Students’ Comments (Post-Trip) 1

• “I loved LAC [hostel in Tateyama] since it was right next to the station, the sea, and many different restaurants and entertainment.”

• “LAC Tateyama was an incredible facility in a wonderful location. A core part of what made this experience so special. From the accommodations to the friendliness of the staff it was so wonderful.”
Students' Comments (Post-Trip) 2

• "I am counting my days until I can go back to visit Japan. ...I am eternally grateful for this program for starting me down this path and hope others have this experience in the future."

• "This program did so much in opening my eyes to the world. Not a day goes by where I don't wish I was back in Japan, learning and growing in a new place."
Questions about the program and Application?

• Contact Dr. Otsubo at Sumiko.otsubo@metrostate.edu.
Thank You