



School Profile for Agencies (2009)

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Transport..... | 5 |
| Yearly Schedule..... | 6 |
| School Facilities..... | 7 |
| Classes..... | 8 |
| Courses..... | 10 |
| Student Body..... | 12 |
| Arrivals..... | 13 |
| Accommodation..... | 16 |
| Cultural Activities and Excursions organized by the school..... | 21 |
| School's Selling Points..... | 22 |
| School Services..... | 23 |
| Payment Procedures..... | 24 |
| Fukuoka City..... | 25 |



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Transport

Nearest airport: Fukuoka International Airport (10 minutes and 250 yen from the school by subway, about 1200 yen by taxi)

Direct flights are available from many locations, but it is often cheaper to fly to a close airport first, then transfer to a flight to Fukuoka. Common cheap options are:

- International transfers: Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore
- Domestic transfers: Tokyo (Haneda or Narita airports), Osaka (Kansai airport), Nagoya

Nearest bullet train station: Hakata Station (5 minutes from the school by subway)

Nearest bus / subway stop: Tenjin Central Station (bus/subway/local train)

Students should plan to arrive before 9pm, to leave time to get to the accommodation. If arriving after 9pm, a hotel may be required for the first night.

Daily transportation:

All accommodation locations are within one hour of the school by public transport. Return transport costs are low – the average transport cost is 600-700 yen return, and if travel to school costs significantly more than this, we refund part of the cost of the accommodation to the student. Students travel to accommodation using bus, subway or train, or bicycle.

Students are provided with English-language maps of the city and guides to using public transport when they arrive in Japan.

Bicycle rentals: Students in accommodation close to the school can rent bicycles from the school for 500 yen per week.

Yearly Schedule

The school is closed on the following Japanese national holidays:

January 1st to 3rd New Year
Second Monday of January Coming-of-Age Day
February 3 Setsubun
February 11 National Foundation Day
March 21 Vernal equinox
April 29 Shōwa Day
May 3 Constitution Memorial Day
May 4 Greenery Day
May 5 Children's Day
Third Monday of July Marine Day
Third Monday of September Respect for the Aged Day
Around September 23 Autumnal equinox
Second Monday of October Health and Sports Day
November 3 Culture Day
November 23 Labour Thanksgiving Day
December 23 The Emperor's Birthday

If any of these fall on a Sunday, the following Monday becomes a holiday.

There are no classes on days the school is closed. However, if Monday is a national holiday, level check test and orientation are held for new students starting that day. Therefore, new students can start any Monday throughout the year.

The two exceptions are New Year (January 1 to 3) and Golden Week (April 29 to May 5), the two major holiday seasons in Japan. If Monday is a national holiday during either of these times, no level check test and orientation will be held. When a student requests to start on either of these weeks, please make sure that the student understands that only reduced classes are available. We offer a discount for the days we are closed to students who contact us directly. Agencies are free to handle pricing for these weeks as you wish, as long as the student understands the schedule.

July and August are the peak season, and we can become fully booked during these months. In addition, certain accommodation options may become unavailable. For late bookings (less than a month before the start date) during summer, please confirm that the requested class/accommodation is available before accepting the booking.

School Facilities

Total school size: 270 square meters

Classrooms: 15 classrooms, each with a different theme, based on Japanese culture
Classrooms are equipped with DVD players, TVs, stereos, whiteboards, and fully air-conditioned.
Maximum 6 students per classroom. Maximum 120 students at one time. Average 3-4 students per class.

Average classroom size: about 4m x 3m

Internet access: Multiple computers with Internet, Japanese study software and office applications are provided exclusively for student use, and free wireless Internet is available for students with their own laptops. (Students cannot use school printers.)

There is an Internet café 200 meters from school, open 24 hours.

Phone: There are no payphones in school, and students cannot use the school telephone for personal calls. Students must rent a cellphone, or use payphones outside the school.

Other facilities:

Large student lounge area, with TV, movie projector, free coffee and tea, etc.

Study rooms

Free DVD/CD rentals, textbook library available.

Disabled student access: No wheelchair access. The school is on the second floor, and only reachable by stairs.

Classes

Average number of students per class: Low season: 2-3. High season (July/August): 5

All students are placed in a class at the appropriate ability level, regardless of whether other students are there or not. For example, if a student is the only person at his/her Japanese ability level, we provide private classes for that student.

All teachers are fluent in English as well as Japanese.

We use this to simplify study, by explaining in English where absolutely necessary, or relating Japanese grammar to English grammar. This is especially useful at the lower ability levels.

We make our lessons interesting by incorporating realia and innovative teaching techniques. For example, when practicing the question forms, students might write their own questionnaires, then leave the school with the teacher to ask their questions to real people in town. This kind of practical class greatly aids vocabulary retention and real-life fluency. We also have arrangements with many local area shops and other locations to take students there for planned language activities. For example, when students learn shopping vocabulary, we will practice in a real shop, with a real cashier.

We also use current materials such as news/TV/movies in classes to hold student interest and give them an education not just in the language but also in the culture of Japan.

Class Levels

Students are placed in the appropriate class based on a level check test and interview on the first day of school. The levels are as follows, although some of these levels have multiple classes:

- Complete beginner

Have never studied Japanese before or can only use very simple Japanese phrases.

Note: We accept applications from complete beginners, but students must memorize the hiragana and katakana alphabets before they start study with us. This usually only takes a couple of days.

- Beginner 1

Can hold very simple conversations, and read Japanese Hiragana and/or Katakana.

- Beginner 2

Can hold simple conversations. Equivalent to having finished Minna no Nihongo book 1 or Genki Japanese book 1, or having passed level 4 of the Japanese Proficiency Test.

Students at this level can take the Japanese Through Pop Culture course, although the materials used are restricted, and you may not be able to make requests.

- Pre-Intermediate

Have some confidence in everyday conversations, and can read texts written using Hiragana, Katakana, and simple Kanji. Equivalent to being about halfway through Genki Japanese book 2.

Students at this level can take the Japanese Through Pop Culture course using unrestricted materials, such as your favorite manga/anime.

- Intermediate

Understand the basics of grammar, can hold most everyday conversations (including telephone skills), and can read texts written using Hiragana, Katakana, and simple Kanji. Equivalent to having finished Minna no Nihongo book 2 or Genki Japanese book 2, or having passed level 3 of the Japanese Proficiency Test.

- Upper intermediate

Understand advanced grammar and kanji, can participate in a range of daily conversations, and can read common Japanese texts fairly well. Equivalent to having passed level 2 of the Japanese Proficiency Test.

- Advanced

Understand grammar and most of the main kanji in use. Able to use Japanese required in business or university settings. Equivalent to having passed level 1 of the Japanese Proficiency Test.

All classes are “rolling start” classes – new students are added to ongoing classes, and move between classes as required.

Courses

All courses are available at all ability levels (except for Japanese Through Pop Culture).

Only one course can be taken each week, but students can take multiple courses over several weeks. For example, a student studying for 4 weeks could take two weeks of Conversational Japanese, and two weeks of Japanese Through Pop Culture.

Course setup:

All standard intensive courses have 4 hours of classes per weekday, in two 2-hour blocks, plus any additional classes. All courses have two hours of Japanese grammar, two hours of conversational Japanese, then one or two hours of the specific course study (for example, pop culture or traditional culture).

Typical schedule:

9:30am – 11:30am: Conversational Japanese class

12:30pm – 2:30pm: Japanese grammar class

2:30pm – 3:30pm: Specific subject class

Students can add extra classes in addition to the standard 4 hours per day, in any of the 4 main subjects. We recommend no more than 6 classes total per day (i.e., two additional hours per day).

University credit: our courses can currently be taken for credit at several universities in the United States, including the City University of New York and James Madison University.

Courses available:

1. Conversational Japanese

For people who need to be able to communicate in Japanese, this course offers a heavy emphasis on real-life skills.

Learning Japanese just by reading textbooks and listening to tapes doesn't make you a Japanese language speaker. Students will learn common sentence patterns and vocabulary with the teacher, then use them in practical situations both inside and outside of the classroom. This course offers a full range of activities that students will find both useful and exciting.

Schedule: 10 grammar classes + 10 conversational classes per week

2. Japanese and Traditional Culture

This course offers students the opportunity to learn about traditional culture while learning the language, and the chance to participate in it with other Japanese people.

Students will study topics such as ceramics, tea ceremony, calligraphy, and flower arrangement at school, and then join real lessons run for Japanese people with a specialist teacher, as well as learning about Japanese customs, history, and art.

We guarantee that you will have a great experience!

Schedule: 10 hours grammar class + 10 hours conversational class + 6 hours cultural class per week

3. Japanese Through Pop Culture

This course uses all the latest trends in Japanese pop culture to teach students the Japanese language as it is really spoken today. Students will learn Japanese through movies and TV shows, practice with roleplays, write their own manga, etc.

The materials for learning are decided based on student interests and Japanese level. Students must be “Beginner 2” level or above to take this course (equivalent to having studied about 60-80 hours, or one beginners textbook).

Schedule: 10 hours grammar class + 10 hours conversational class + 5 hours pop culture class per week

4. Activity Course

This course is for people who want to do more than just study Japanese.

Originally restricted to only high-school-age students, this course offers two or four hours of Japanese classes per day, followed by a special activity, outside of school. Students may go sightseeing, try on a kimono and experience tea ceremony, visit a manga school, practice martial arts, and more. This course combines the best parts of the Traditional Culture and Pop Culture courses.

This course is only available from the start of June to the end of August, and is restricted to 4 weeks or less.

Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 2 hours grammar class + 2 hours conversational class + one activity every day

Tuesday, Thursday: 2 hours grammar class + one activity every day

Our official WWOOF Farmstay Course is not offered through agencies except by special request.

Student Body

Age range: 14-80

Age composition:

< 20: 17%

20 - 25: 40%

26 - 30: 20%

30 - 40: 15%

40 - 50: 5

> 50: 3%

Male/female ratio: 50% male, 50% female

Student nationalities:

USA: 20%

Canada: 15%

UK: 15%

New Zealand/Australia: 10%

France: 10%

Germany: 10%

Other European: 10%

Other Asian: 5%

Other: 5%

Ability level of students when starting:

Complete beginner: 15%

Beginner: 30%

Pre-intermediate: 25%

Intermediate: 20%

Upper-intermediate: 10%

Advanced: 5%

Arrivals

Programs start every Monday throughout the year.

However, Complete Beginner students (students with no previous Japanese study experience) may only start on the first Monday of every month

Arrivals at any time can be accommodated. However, if possible arrival at Fukuoka airport before 9pm is preferred. In some cases, students who will arrive after 9pm must stay in a hotel for the first night.

Airport Pickup: Available for 3000 yen. Generally not recommended for adult students, as Fukuoka Airport is so close to the city that it is usually cheaper to take a taxi, and public transport is very convenient. The airport is connected to the subway system, and it takes only 8 minutes to get to the center of the city.

With the pickup service, a representative will wait at the exit gate to bring the student to the school or accommodation. This person will be either a host family member or a school employee, and will hold a sign with the student's name and school name on it.

Pickup service can be offered as standard for all students coming to us through an agency, if preferred, but the package is cheaper without it.

If a student does not meet up with their driver or family member, they should use a payphone to contact the school, or (if outside normal school hours) call our emergency number. We will direct them on how to meet their guide, or provide an alternative.

If a student does not request an airport pickup, we provide instructions to the accommodation from the airport by public transport. A Welcome Packet of information is sent to the accommodation in Japan before the student arrives, containing maps and instructions to the school.

If required, we can book a hotel for the student as required. Hotels we commonly use:

1. Hakata Green Hotel Tenjin

Nice business hotel, located beside the school

Phone: +81-92-722-3636, Fax: +81-92-722-3637

Address: 2-9-11 Daimyou, Chuuouku, Fukuoka City

Fukuoka City, 810-0041

<http://www.hakata-green.co.jp/tenjin/>

Single room: 6,000 yen

2. Heiwadai Hotel Arato

Located fairly centrally, very cheap, not too luxurious

Phone: +81-92-761-1361, Fax: +81-92-761-1365

Address: 1-5-27 Arato, Chuuouku, Fukuoka City

Fukuoka City, 810-0062

<http://www.heiwadai-hotel.co.jp/en.html>

Single room: 4,700 yen

Also, Heiwadai Hotel Tenjin is quite close to the school.

3. Khao San Youth Hostel

The cheapest option, well-run and maintained. A 15-minute walk and 5-minute subway ride to school

Phone: +81-92-761-1361, Fax: +81-92-761-1365

Address: 11-34 Hiemachi, Hakataku, Fukuoka City

<http://www.khaosan-fukuoka.com/>

Shared room: 2,000 yen. Private room: 3,500 yen

4. Hotel Monterey La Soeur

Stylish new business hotel, very close to school

Phone: +81-92-726-7111, Fax; +81-92-726-7100

Address: 2-8-27 Daimyo, Chuuouku, Fukuoka City, 810-0041

http://www.hotelmonterey.co.jp/lasoeur_fukuoka/index.html

Single room: from 7,900 yen

5. Asahi Ryokan

Small traditional Japanese-style hotel, downtown, about 20 minutes walk from school, somewhat old and not too clean but very cheap. Coin-operated air-conditioning and shared toilets/showers.

Phone: +81-92-524-1200, Fax: +81-92-524-1219

Address: 2-6-2 Kiyokawa, Chuuouku, Fukuoka City, 810-0005

<http://nttbj.itp.ne.jp/0925241200/index.html>

Single room: from 3,000 yen

6. Capsule hotel Platon Fukuoka

Modern and clean, but a capsule hotel, so tiny tiny spaces. Can be a fun experience, for a night! Also has a sauna and communal bathing, for an extra charge. About 20 minutes on foot from the school.

Phone: (092) 262-1126

Address: Akatama Building 6F, 3-7-10 Nakasu, Hakataku, Fukuoka City

<http://www.sauna-platon.jp/09capsule.html>

Single room: 4000 yen

7. Popeye Media Café

Not technically a hotel, but this Internet café offers private booths, reclining chairs, on-site showers, free drinks, and a host of other services. "Night packs" are often very cheap, and the place is kept quiet and dimly lit at night, to help people sleep. Less than 3 minutes' walk from school.

Phone: 092-739-7272

Address: Hotel Ascent Fukuoka B1, Tenjin 3-3-14, Chuoku, Fukuoka City

<http://www.media-cafe.net/tenjinhp.htm>

Private booth: 2,000 yen for 10 hours

There is a page on our website showing the locations of all these hotels, in comparison to the school, here:

<http://www.genkijacs.com/hotels.htm>

First day schedule

Generally we require students to be at school by 9:00am on the first day.

1. Level check test (2 hours): test includes written and interview portions. Classes and class content are decided based on results of this test
2. Orientation: information about school, classes, study methods, Japanese culture and manners, life in Japan, etc.
3. Two hours of Japanese classes
4. One-hour tour of Fukuoka City (free, optional)

Information provided in the Welcome Packet

School schedule, maps, school information & services, homestay rules, travel guides, transport guides, tourist information, local English-language magazine

Accommodation

Accommodation information is generally provided to the agency about a month in advance of the student's start date.

Accommodation types:

1. Homestay with a Japanese family
2. Dormitory
3. Room in a shared apartment
4. Private apartment

Note that all options offer a private room, and laundry services.

| | Homestay | Dorm | Shared apartment | Private apartment |
|-----------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Cost | Medium: 14,000 yen per week | Low: 10,000~14000 yen per week | Lowest: 10,000 yen per week | Highest: 21,000~ yen per week |
| Privacy | Low: Family may have curfew, guest rules, etc. | Medium: Shared facilities, no curfew | Medium: No curfew, etc., but shared facilities | High: Totally private |
| Community | High: Students are a member of the family. | High: GenkiJACS and Japanese university students are always around | Medium: Others in apartment can become friends. | None |
| Location | Furthest: About 45 mins from school on average | Medium: A train (or bicycle) and subway ride from school | Close: Usually 10-30 mins by subway/bus | Closest: Usually 5-10 mins on foot |

Please note that applicants under the age of 18 at the time of study must stay with a host family or in a dormitory.

Homestay

The opportunity to stay with a Japanese host family is the perfect way to immerse yourself in the culture, and practice at "home" what you learned at school that day.

When arranging a host family, we try to take into account any needs or preferences students may have, such as smoker or non-smoker, allergies, English ability, and so on. Host families can act as guides and mentors, friends and companions, and a wonderful resource in students' adventure in Japan. They are likely to be the people students become closest to during their stay, which is why

we perform a thorough screening of all host family applicants, to ensure that they can provide a suitable environment to assist learning and to allow students to fully experience Japan. The level of English spoken varies between host families, but all Japanese people have 6 years of English education in school.

Host families are chosen to be as close to the school, and the center of Fukuoka City, as possible. All host families are within one hour traveling time of the school by public transport. Students are guaranteed to have their own private room, which may be either Japanese or Western style. A few host families accept more than one student at a time.

Homestay Costs

Homestay family placement fee (one-time): 10,500 yen

Per week: 14,000 yen

Additional nights: 2000 yen per night

Prices include breakfast.

Students can specify common conditions for their host family, such as no pets, no smoking, etc. We will try to accommodate any requests, and provide the host family most closely matching the student.

Dinner with the host family: Available for 500 yen per night. Students can book in advance (i.e., "half-board"), or pay each night as required. We recommend NOT booking half-board in advance, for several reasons: 1) Students are often not home at dinnertime, due to after-school activities, etc. If they have paid dinner in advance, they lose money. 2) Due to Japanese working conditions, many host families do not feel able to guarantee dinner every night, so specifying half-board in advance means the number of potential host families the student can stay with is much smaller. 3) Students can easily book dinner directly with the host families for just the nights they want to eat, for the same cost as booking in advance.

2 people can stay in a single room (if married, engaged or family) for 1.5 times the standard price.

Dormitory

A private room in a dormitory with other GenkiJACS students and Japanese university students gives students the freedom to enjoy the city life without a curfew, but also the chance to make lots of friends. We offer 5 different dorms, each with different strengths and weaknesses. All dorms have private rooms, but shared facilities (kitchen, toilet, shower, etc.). Breakfast and dinner are available for an additional cost.

Dormitory placement fee (one-time) 10,500 yen

Dorm 1 (Tomo)

Cost per week: 10,000 yen

Travel time to school: About 1 hour (by bus)

Travel cost: 500 yen one way (minimum 5000 yen per week)

Bathroom: shared

Facilities: cafeteria, limited Internet access, no kitchen

Meal cost: breakfast 300 yen, dinner 500 yen

Comments: We have used this dorm for 3 years now. The managers are lovely people, and often arrange intercultural events for our students. The dorm is rated highly by students, except for its location - quite far from school.

<http://www.geshuku-tomo.com/>

Dorm 2 (Cool Reve)

Cost per week: 12,100 yen

Travel time to school: About 15 minutes (by train)

Travel cost: 240 yen one way (minimum 2400 yen per week)

Bathroom: ensuite, private

Facilities: cafeteria, Internet access (free for 4 weeks, then 500 yen per week), kitchen area

Meal cost: breakfast 500 yen, dinner 700 yen

Comments: Beds are a little small. Mixed dorm.

<http://www.gennanso.com/citylife/dormitory/ijiri/>

Dorm 3 (Lupo Kenchouguchi)

Cost per week: 14,100 yen

Travel time to school: About 15 minutes (by subway)

Travel cost: 200 yen one way (minimum 2000 yen per week)

Bathroom: ensuite, private

Facilities: cafeteria, Internet access (free for 4 weeks, then 500 yen per week), kitchen area

Meal cost: breakfast 500 yen, dinner 700 yen

Comments: Mixed dorm.

<http://www.gennanso.com/citylife/dormitory/kencho/>

Dorm 4 (Wings Nishi Kouen) - Women only

Cost per week: 12,100 yen

Travel time to school: About 10 minutes (by bus or bicycle)

Travel cost: 180 yen one way (minimum 2400 yen per week)

Bathroom: ensuite, private

Facilities: cafeteria, Internet access (free for 4 weeks, then 500 yen per week), kitchen area

Meal cost: breakfast 500 yen, dinner 700 yen

Comments: Female-only dorm.

<http://www.gennanso.com/citylife/dormitory/nishikoen/>

Dorm 5 (Wings Ohori) - Women only

Cost per week: 14,100 yen

Travel time to school: About 10 minutes (by bus or bicycle)

Travel cost: 180 yen one way (minimum 2000 yen per week)

Bathroom: ensuite, private

Facilities: cafeteria, Internet access (free for 4 weeks, then 500 yen per week), kitchen area

Meal cost: breakfast 500 yen, dinner 700 yen

Comments: Female-only dorm. The closest to the center of the city, in nice area.

<http://www.gennanso.com/citylife/dormitory/oohori/>

Shared Apartment

Staying with other people in the city gives students the opportunity to make friends easily, and go out freely, but still have a good level of privacy and freedom. In a shared apartment, students have their own private room, but share the central facilities, such as laundry, kitchen, living room, bathroom. Apartments are generally owned by a Japanese person.

Most of these apartments are quite close to the center of the city.

Shared Apartment Costs

Apartment placement fee (one-time) 10,500 yen

Per week 10,000 yen

Prices do not include any meals.

Additional nights: 1500 yen per night

2 people can stay in a single room (if married, engaged or family) for 1.5 times the standard price.

Private Apartment

Private apartments are usually similar to a hotel room in quality, and can be rented by the week. They include a bed, living room area, kitchen area, and bathroom. Generally there is no laundry in the apartment, but there may be one in the building itself. High-speed Internet access is included in the cost of the accommodation.

Most private apartments are very centrally located, in the main business/entertainment district and within easy walking distance of the school itself.

As these apartments are maintained by a separate company, we request an estimate from them for you, and forward the details on to you.

Private Apartment Costs

Apartment placement fee (one-time) 10,500 yen

Per week From 21,000 yen

2nd person in the apartment: 1,000 yen per day surcharge, plus 1,000 yen per week bed charge

Prices do not include any meals.

Friends/family visiting the student

In dormitory, shared apartment and homestay, generally guests (even family members) cannot stay

with the student. With the private apartment, guests are allowed.

Cultural Activities and Excursions organized by the school

Generally, 2-4 extra-curricular activities are held per week.

Example cultural activities:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Trip to local "onsen" hot springs | 700 yen |
| Aso Mountain overnight trip (includes transport, accommodation, entry to hot springs, making noodles, and Japanese-style BBQ) | 10,000 yen |
| Nagasaki tour day trip | 6,000 yen |
| Movie night - big-screen movies at the school | 200 yen |
| Japanese game night - learn traditional games such as hanafuda | free |
| Wii Sports night | free |
| Beach barbecue | 3000 yen |
| Floating restaurant where you catch your own fish | ~3,500 yen |
| Street stall dining (a local specialty) | ~2,000 yen |
| Goukon (Japanese dating party) | ~3,000 yen |
| Karaoke competition | ~1,500 yen |
| Indoor snowboarding | 3,000 yen |
| Asahi beer factory tour | 500 yen |
| Japanese Tea ceremony experience class | 2,000 yen |
| Calligraphy class for beginners | 2,000 yen |
| Making soba (Japanese noodles) | 1,500 yen |
| Kimono fittings | 1,000 yen |
| Visit to a manga art school, to see the process by which new manga are created. | (free) |
| Cherry-blossom viewing party, with food and drink | 1000 yen |

Many photos of these activities are available on our website at this address:

<http://www.genkijacs.com/gallery>

School's Selling Points

This school was created to fill what we saw as a major gap in current language education. Our teachers have extensive experience teaching at other schools within Japan, but found that each school had serious shortcomings. The main problems we saw were a lack of focus on student needs, over-reliance on traditional Japanese teaching methods, and a compartmentalization of Japanese language education.

We aimed to solve these problems by creating a new kind of language school that gave personalized education to each and every student through:

- 1) small classes
- 2) involved, certified expert teachers using practical, modern, and proven teaching methods
- 3) a holistic approach to language skills, and an integration of language and culture

Our lessons are fun and practical, and teachers are extremely involved in the development of their students.

One very common complaint about Japanese language schools is that they are very inflexible. For example, only a few start dates are offered throughout the year, and many students of varying ability levels are thrown together in a single class. We wanted to create a school that avoids these problems entirely. In the past, we have had students who have also studied at other schools in Japan, such as the Yamasa Institute. These students have all told us that their Japanese ability improved more during their time with us than it did at their previous school, due to the high quality of teaching and personalized attention we provide.

We also try to take advantage of new technology in teaching – so, for instance, we use DVDs, voice recorders and Internet in class. All classrooms are equipped with wireless Internet. Students record video in classes to gauge their improvement.

We are the only Japanese language school to offer a full-time course of Japanese study using pop culture materials. We are also the only school to offer an official WWOOF (Willing Workers On Organic Farms) study course.

As a Non-Profit Organization, we donate a percentage of yearly proceeds to charity. We also involve our students in a variety of volunteer activities, both as a way of benefiting the community and of helping our students to meet local people and practice their Japanese.

We also run an English conversation school, and arrange events between the students of both schools.

School Services

The following services are provided to all GenkiJACS students, at no additional cost:

- Welcome packet of tourist and other useful information
- Orientation to school and city life
- One or two textbooks (depending on the course)
- Free tea/coffee/snacks
- Free Internet access and computers with study software installed
- Counseling session every Friday (mandatory the first week, voluntary thereafter), to discuss classes, accommodation, and life in Japan
- Free study book/CD/DVD rental service
- TV and DVD player to watch movies, etc. at school
- Assistance with booking tickets, travel, accommodation, and other common issues
- Tourist and travel information leaflet area
- Information on interesting activities around Fukuoka City

The following services are provided depending on conditions:

- Free lessons on specific topics from trainee teachers
- Free tutoring for weak students from trainee teachers

Payment Procedures

Preferred payment method:

Bank transfer

Bank transfer details:

Bank: Mitsui Sumitomo Banking Corporation, Tenjincho branch

Swift Code: SMBCJPJT (Note: IBAN numbers are not used in Japan.)

Sort Code: 0009; Branch Code: 717

Account Number: 1639339 Account Name: NPO GenkiJACS

School Address: Daimyo 2-9-5-2F, Chuuouku, Fukuoka, 810-0041, Japan

Bank Address: 11-1 Tenjin 2-chome, Chuuouku, Fukuoka, 810-0001, Japan

Paypal, international postal money orders, Western Union and moneybookers.com can also be used.

Paypal: Please note that Paypal charges a 3.4% commission, which must be split between the school and agency

International postal money orders: Make payable to "Genki Japanese and Culture School Rie Kirby".

Western Union: Send money to "Genki Japanese and Culture School", Fukuoka, Japan.

Payment deadline: In general, 30 days after the student's last day of classes. However, payment for the first student only is required in advance.

Fukuoka City

Description of school and surrounding neighborhood:

The school is situated in the center of Fukuoka City, a city of 1.4 million people, just a few hundred meters from the central train/subway station, on one of the main streets of the city. As such, all necessary conveniences such as banks, post offices, shops, etc. are available within walking distance of the school. In addition, the immediate area has a very active nightlife, and there are several large parks close by. The closest swimming beach is just 10 minutes away by bicycle or bus, and there is a beautiful beach and resort area (Momochi) less than 20 minutes away.

Fukuoka City is the largest city in Kyushu, South-Western Japan. Its moderate climate, beautiful scenery and great location have made it popular with travelers worldwide. Fukuoka was ranked as the best city in Asia by Asiaweek magazine for 1997, 1999 and 2000, because of its cleanliness, safety, excellent amenities and all-round good quality of life. It was also picked as one of the world's 10 boomtowns by Newsweek in 2006. Close to both mainland China and Korea, it is a link to the rest of Asia and beyond. Summers are warm, winters mild, and the people friendly.

Fukuoka's renowned cuisine and warm-hearted people will make your stay here a pleasure. The city is full of wonderful restaurants, and it's hard to visit an izakaya (local restaurant) without making new friends. In addition, Fukuoka is bursting with culture: its many art galleries, museums, and theaters will give you your fill of the arts, while the nightlife is some of the best in the country.

Fukuoka is also unparalleled in convenience - the international airport is 10 minutes from the school and city center by subway, and the shinkansen (bullet train) station is even closer.

Opening Hours

Shops open 9am to 8pm every day. Convenience stores open 24 hours.

Banks open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm Saturday. Some ATMs open 24 hours.

Climate

Average temperature range:

Winter: 2-10 degrees C, 36-50 degrees F

Spring: 10-23 degrees C, 51-75 degrees F

Summer: 19-32 degrees C, 66-89 degrees F

Autumn: 10-23 degrees C, 51-75 degrees F

Rainy season: late June/early July

Summer, especially August, is very humid.

Money

Credit cards can be used in most major shops, though some restaurants and many smaller shops do not accept them. Most transactions are cash-based.

Several ATMs, including the Post Office ATM network, can be used to take out money from overseas bank accounts. Travelers checks can be used in only a few of the major shops.

