

Hitotsubashi University Global Education Program (HGP)

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Hitotsubashi University launched a new program entitled Hitotsubashi University Global Education Program (HGP) in April 2010. The HGP offers interdisciplinary courses taught in English, designed for both international and Japanese students. Students can choose from a variety of courses in the Social Sciences. The HGP provides in-depth learning opportunities in the fields of Business, Economics, Law, Sociology, IT and others. The HGP also includes courses specifically designed for exchange students studying for one or two semesters ranging from Japanese Language for Beginners and Japanese Affairs to Seminars (courses with a limited number of students). Those courses are conducted in English except Japanese Language ones.

At Hitotsubashi University, international students with an advanced level of Japanese proficiency are encouraged to enroll in regular courses conducted in Japanese, and the university also suggests Japanese students with a high English proficiency to take part in the HGP and become a part of this international learning community. Hitotsubashi's academic staff members are from around the world, and its international students come from over 50 different countries and regions. In addition to Hitotsubashi's advanced-level Japanese language courses, the HGP has credit-bearing courses in Japanese language starting at an introductory level. The Japanese Language courses are highly acclaimed, providing an exciting and effective learning experience.

With the HGP, the course selections are not limited to Japanese language and culture-related courses. There are academic subjects available in English, so a student can pursue studies of subjects related to his/her major. To thrive as a program that fosters both theoretical and practical knowledge, the HGP has a number of lecturers with professional experience in various industries, connecting Hitotsubashi's classrooms to the real world.

Designed specifically for newcomers, the HGP offers seminars taught in English such as Social Science Seminar and Explore Japan Seminar. Social Science Seminar helps students to learn how to maximize their study abroad experiences at Hitotsubashi, while Explore Japan Seminar offers experiential-based immersion in various aspects of Japanese culture. Both of these seminars are designed to foster learning community through student interactions in small groups that allows for a more intimate learning experience and better interaction with the professor.

For students who are non-native English speakers, the HGP offers an opportunity to advance their English abilities with courses focused on skills needed in an English

academic setting. Those courses are Academic Writing 1 and 2, Academic Presentation 1 and 2, and Academic English (TOEFL Preparation) 1 and 2 and they are all designed to prepare students for studies in an English-speaking environment.

Unlike the traditional model of short-term (one or two semesters) study programs for international students in Japan that separate students into non-Japanese speaking courses and Japanese-speaking courses, the HGP put the control in hands of the students. Students, in consultation with academic advisors and HGP advisors, are free to choose from courses taught in English or Japanese that correspond to their academic needs and Japanese proficiency level.

For more information about the HGP, refer to the following website (<http://cse.hit-u.ac.jp/html/web5E.html>).