Sapporo ♦ Japan
Message from the Director

Many people in the world think that Japan is one of the most fascinating countries in which to learn and experience a rich history and peaceful customs. I agree! Studying in Sapporo will teach you a lot about Japan, but it will also teach you about yourself.

My life changed dramatically after my first experience as a study abroad student. I am originally from a traditional Samurai and business family in Tokyo, and my first short study abroad was to New Zealand when I was 14 years old. This experience motivated me to develop a global perspective, which inspired me to join another program in Australia when I was 16 years old. These two experiences brought me to the U.S. and encouraged me to complete my doctoral study in International Education & Entrepreneurship in Texas. Spending 14 years of my life in the U.S. taught me to have a vision for the future and continuous seeking spirit to improve my global perspective. In the U.S. I met and married my best friend. I enjoy having the opportunity to meet with students and assist in raising the next capable generation!

Even a small step can provide a tremendous opportunity to open new doors. Participating in any study abroad program is exciting, but it also comes with academic, physical, and mental challenges to remain in your hearts. However, through this experience one also develops an indestructible independence, maturity and global perspective to become a citizen of this multicultural twenty-first century.

My goal as resident director here in Sapporo is to support each one of you so that you have the best time abroad, to teach you about Japan and to utilize those priceless experiences in your future career. You will stay with host families and attend classes at Hokusei Gakuen University. All the host families are well-experienced and will provide you with an excellent, practical and enjoyable opportunity to strengthen your Japanese language skills and get the most out of your cultural exchange experience. Hokusei Gakuen University provides a world-class academic curriculum and environment for all BCA students.

Thank you for your interest and see you soon in Sapporo, Japan!

Sincerely,
Dr. Yosuke Nagashima
Resident Director, BCA Sapporo

Dr. Yosuke Nagashima serves as academic advisor and cultural liaison to ensure BCA students have a rich and diverse experience abroad. Dr. Nagashima gives BCA students opportunities to experience Japanese culture and language, guides them on amazing educational excursions and offers a wealth of knowledge about Japanese history and contemporary issues.
Local to Global: Connecting to Ideas that Matter

Since 1962, BCA Study Abroad has been committed to helping students understand the complexities of the contemporary world by providing challenging academic programs and cross-cultural learning in locations around the globe.

From this start, BCA focused its educational mission on engaging students with ideas that matter.

As educators, we are convinced that no genuine understanding of global issues can be gained without a strong intellectual grounding in the histories, societies and cultures of the region in which our students pursue their studies.

Furthermore, we believe that student learning depends heavily on meaningful direct contact with local people whose lives are entwined with and affected by the issues we aim to understand.

By design, a significant component of BCA’s study abroad programs, both through traditional classroom education and in-field learning, is grasping the historical, social and cultural context of the big questions of the human condition.

Through this model, BCA strives to convey a more comprehensive and precise understanding of the world to the students who participate in our programs.
Students visit the Hiroshima Peace Park as part of their Honshu academic excursion and discuss issues of peace from a Japanese perspective.
About the Program

Our multifaceted Sapporo program is a rich combination of challenging university academics, once-in-a-lifetime educational excursions and individualized learning opportunities. Few programs can offer the diversity of experience that BCA Sapporo does; each and every semester, students have the opportunity to study and experience firsthand the most important themes of our time: social justice through the lenses of peace and reconciliation, environmental sustainability and disadvantaged populations.

“By embracing Japanese culture, I have accepted a second family here and created many great memories. I look forward to coming back to visit Hokkaido in the future. This experience has taught me a lot about myself and helped to cultivate my spirit and my interest for Japanese customs and values.”

Margarita Cherubini, Soka University
Hokusei Gakuen University

The University has worked with BCA since 1988 to provide the best cultural immersion experience for students interested in learning more about Japanese language and culture. Hokusei has a student enrollment of about 6,000 and offers courses in English literature, social work, information management, economics and business. Independent study options are encouraged and supported and internships are available.
Student Learning

Most of your academic work will focus on learning the Japanese language, but students also take courses in English literature, social work, information management, economics and business at Hokusei Gakuen University.

Recommended Courses

This is just a sampling of the rich array of courses offered at the University. To view more courses, visit our website at www.BCAsudyabroad.org.

HUM 364: History of Japanese Literature (3 credits)

The course includes an historical overview of Japanese literature, with students reading and discussing particular texts from each era. The course also explores other facets of Japanese culture.

HUM 362: Japanese Society Through Contemporary Japanese Movies (3 credits)

The course involves lectures on the understanding of Japanese Society from an insider or “emic” perspective rather than an outsider or “etic” perspective, in and through contemporary Japanese society.

HUM 365: Japanese Culture through Performing Arts (3 credits)

The course is an overview of Japanese performing arts, especially those involving music, and of their cultural contexts and histories. Students will learn about various genres of Japanese music and musical performance which trace their origins to various periods of Japanese history.

“My Japanese language speaking skills improved vastly over the course of my studies. My knowledge of and ability to use grammar patterns and vocabulary, the ability to keep up with rapid speech, and my pronunciations all improved and expanded.”

Anna Stiff, Austin College

Hokusei Gakuen University also offers free excursions and cultural opportunities throughout the year, including a visit to the hot springs and classes in calligraphy and traditional Japanese tea ceremonies.
CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Many BCA Sapporo students choose to volunteer in local elementary or middle schools,
Volunteering at the Utsukushi Gaoka Elementary School became one of the most heart-warming experiences that I had while in Japan. Each week I assisted the teachers with English lessons for fifth and sixth graders. During a typical class, students would repeat after me the pronunciations of new vocabulary words; I led the group in vocabulary games, and I also acted as a conversation partner for each student to practice the new vocal skills. While my primary focus of being in Japan was to learn as much of the language as possible, I feel that I learned a great deal about the importance of the study of foreign language through my interactions with the kids. Now these memories remain near the top of my most joyful experiences from Japan."

Natalie Collar, Manchester University

BCA’s Signature Courses focus student learning on intellectual development, cross-cultural awareness and trans-disciplinary study, both through traditional classroom learning and in-field experience.

Shortly after arriving in Sapporo, you will take a language placement exam to determine your level of proficiency.

Hokusei Gakuen University offers a variety of courses that are taught in English (or with a Japanese translator). In addition to the courses offered by the university, BCA students are required to spend 12 credit hours per week in Japanese language instruction. Independent study options are encouraged and supported and unpaid internships are available.

**Required Course:**
**Japanese Language (12 credits)**

This course teaches basic grammatical structures and builds vocabulary. Reading and writing of some basic Kanji is included in the course.
Wearing colorful and unique costumes, people from all around Hokkaido dance with Naruko (wooden percussion instruments) to the music of "soran," old herring fishermen’s work songs for the Yosakoi Soran Festival in Sapporo. The festival combines Yosakoi dance in Kochi Prefecture of Shikoku Island and rhythmical soran music of Hokkaido.
Living in Sapporo

Known as one of Japan’s most desirable places to live, Sapporo is located on the Ishikari Plain on the island of Hokkaido, which is home to the island’s indigenous people, the Ainu. Japanese settlers came to the region in the 7th century.

Sapporo is surrounded by mountains and is 30 minutes from the coast. There are five national parks in the area that have volcanoes, lakes and hot springs. Sapporo has its own symphony orchestra, an art park featuring sculptures, a zoo, art galleries and craft studios, restaurants and cafes, and a variety of nightclubs. From Sapporo, it is easy to explore the rest of Japan with a nearby airport and the world-famous bullet train, Shinkansen.

Hokusei Gakuen University also offers additional free excursions and cultural opportunities throughout the semester, including a visit to the hot springs and classes in calligraphy and traditional Japanese tea ceremonies.

Living with a Host Family
While in Sapporo, BCA students live with a Japanese host family, which improves proficiency in the Japanese language and provides an intensive cultural introduction to Japan. The family provides breakfast and dinner each day, and students receive a stipend for lunch.

Sports & Activities
Sapporo has excellent skiing facilities in the area, a benefit of hosting the 1972 Winter Olympics. Tennis, football, basketball, baseball, volleyball and Japanese archery are popular varsity, intramural and leisure activities offered through the university.

On campus, BCA students have the opportunity to make friends by joining some of the many student clubs and organizations including rugby, tennis, flower arranging, Japanese archery and many more.

“I learned the value of humility, understanding, language comprehension, passion and people. I learned that the values of community, harmony and sacrifice are really important. The friendships that I formed, the new lifestyle that I discovered, a shifting of world view and the experience of questioning everything were valuable.”

Katherine Brelje, Manchester University

EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS
Students benefit from BCA excursions included in the program fee and offered throughout the semester. Students typically enjoy:

- A study tour of the Honshu Region
- A cable car trip up Moiwa Mountain for panoramic views of Sapporo.
- The hot springs at Shikotsu-Toya Park
Mission Statement
Rooted in the values of peace and justice, BCA Study Abroad promotes international understanding, awareness of global citizenship and academic scholarship through educational exchange.

BCA Sapporo Quick Facts
Dates of Study:
- Fall Semester: Mid-September through late December
- Spring Semester: Late March through late July

Application Deadlines:
- Fall Semester: April 1
- Spring Semester: October 15

Language of Instruction: Japanese and English. No previous experience with Japanese is necessary. Japanese language classes are taught in Japanese.

Host University: Hokusei Gakuen University
Housing: Host families

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