



Japanese Language Studies for IPLA Students

Spring 2025

Hello, everyone.
I will now explain the Japanese courses.



Flow of Japanese Language Program at Kawauchi (JLPK)

1) Take the Placement Test.

JLPK Guide: <https://bit.ly/4cgx4h4>

Placement Test:

<https://www.ihe.tohoku.ac.jp/SJLE/JLPK/testinfo.pdf>

New students who are beginners don't have to take the placement test.

2) Choose the courses.

Syllabus: <https://www.jlpk.ihe.tohoku.ac.jp/syllabi/>

Credits: <https://bit.ly/420fnxC>

3) Enroll in the courses' Google Classroom.

Google Classroom code: <https://bit.ly/4ldERjC>

4) Attend the classes.

Students studying Japanese at JLPK must first take a placement test. Open this URL to find out how to take the test. Check the guide to see which courses you can take at your level.



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Once you know your level, check the syllabus and credits required for completion, then select the courses you wish to take.



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4) Attend the classes.

Once you have selected the courses, join their Google Classrooms. You will be able to get course schedules, teacher contact information, grading instructions, classroom locations, and other information. Some courses are online for the first few sessions, so be sure to read the information on Google Classroom carefully.



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5) Review the

Attend your first class based on the information obtained from Google Classroom.



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5) Register for courses.

If you decide to take the courses you after attending them, you must register for them. The procedure is the same as for non-Japanese classes.



Placement Test (PT)

- The level of your Japanese Language ability will be determined by the result of the online PT*.
*New students who are beginners in Japanese do NOT need to take the placement test.
- The PT may be taken **only ONCE** during the semester.

Level	CEFR/JFS	JLPT
Level 1: Beginner	A1	N5
Level 2: Basic	A2.1	N4
Level 3: Pre-intermediate	A2.2	N3
Level 4: Intermediate	B1	N2
Level 5 :Upper-Intermediate	B2	N1
Level 6: Advanced	C1	

There are six levels of Japanese. The placement test may be taken only ONCE during the semester. You must take classes at the level determined by the placement test.



Placement Test (PT)-Kanji

For kanji classes, please select just one class at **your designated level**, or **one level below or above that level**.

*However, if the instructor does not give permission, you cannot take the class.

Kanji Level	Kanji classes
K1	K100, K150a, K150b
K2	K200, K250
K3	K300a, K300b
K4	K400
K5	K500
K6	K600

However, for the Kanji level, you can take classes at one level above or below your own.



Tentative Level

If your PT result is on the borderline between two levels, your level certificate may show

仮(tentative), e.g. 仮 4 レベル = tentative level 4

Tentative Level	Courses you should choose
Tentative Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You have to decide which courses to choose, EITHER your tentative level OR one level below.<u>You cannot mix classes at more than one level.</u> Ex. If you are "Tentative level 4", you may enroll in EITHER Level 4 OR Level 3 courses.
Tentative Level 3	
Tentative Level 4	
Tentative Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You can take courses at both the level at which they are tentative and the level one level below. Ex. If you are "Tentative Level 6", you may enroll in Level 5 and/or Level 6 courses SIMULTANEOUSLY .
Tentative Level 6	

If your PT result is on the borderline between two levels, your level certificate may show “仮 (tentative)”. In this case, you can take courses either at the tentative level or one level below.



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Tentative Level 4	
Tentative Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You can take courses at both the level at which they are tentative and the level one level below. Ex. If you are "Tentative Level 6", you may enroll in Level 5 and/or Level 6 courses SIMULTANEOUSLY .
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Note that students in Tentative 2, 3, and 4 cannot mix classes from different levels. Choose either your tentative level or one level below.



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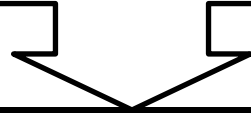
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Students at tentative 5 and 6 levels have more flexibility. Those at tentative 5 can concurrently enroll in classes at both levels 4 and 5, and those at tentative 6 level can do the same for levels 5 and 6.



Change the Level

Attended classes at the level by the PT, and felt them too difficult, etc.



Apply for the Level change from the form below by **April 14 (Mon).***

*Those who have not arrived in Japan by the beginning of the semester can change levels after **April 14 (Mon).**

<https://x.gd/0OdW3> (Log in using your university account)

If you feel that the class level is not suitable for you after attending the first session, please submit a level change request form before the deadline. The form must include a detailed reason for the request, such as how much Japanese you have studied before, which textbooks you have used, and your JLPT score (if applicable). You may be required to take a short test (that we have prepared) to verify the validity of your request. Even if you find the level too easy at first, we do not recommend requesting a change immediately, as the classes start off simple but gradually become more challenging.



Change the Level

The following are a few pieces of advice based on our extensive experience:

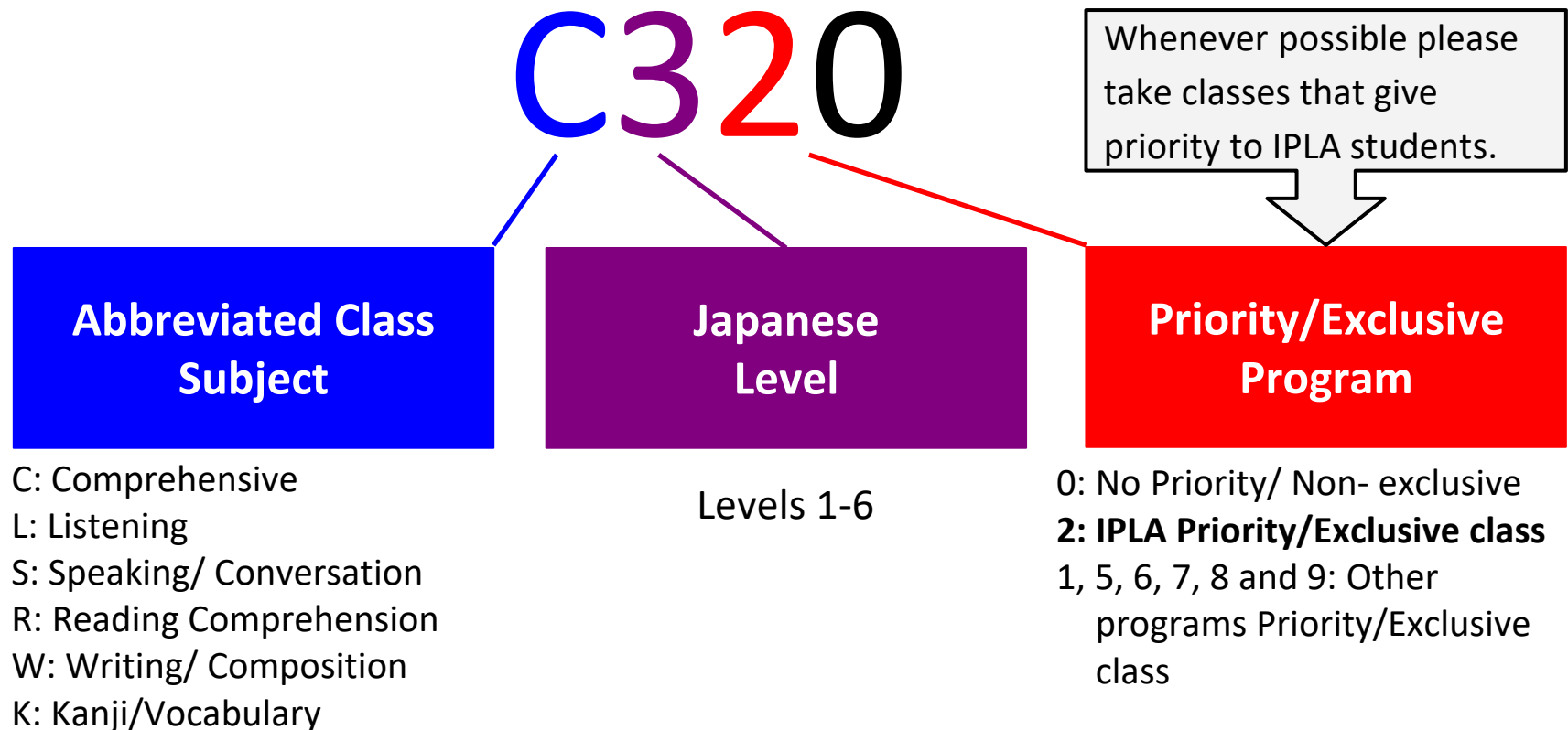
1. The pace of Japanese language classes in Japan differs from that of universities in your home country and is significantly faster. Even if everything seems familiar now, the class will soon move on to entirely new grammar patterns.
2. If you take a class at your current level where you already know the material, you will be more likely to earn an "A" (of course, if you work hard enough). On the other hand, if you push yourself to enroll in a higher-level course beyond your ability, you may struggle, risk failing, or find yourself unable to advance. If you are unsure whether to apply for a level change, we would recommend taking a cautious approach.
3. When you return to your home university, you may need to take a placement test. Based on your results, you could receive course credits or be placed in a Japanese class that matches your proficiency. That's why it's best to focus on filling any gaps at your current level, strengthening your skills, and building a solid foundation before you return home.

The following are a few pieces of advice based on our extensive experience.



Japanese class numbering system

Ex. C320 = **Comprehensive class** for **Level 3 IPLA students**



The classes are numbered according to these rules.



Credits

Students who achieve a grade of **C or higher** can earn credits.

- 1 credit for classes that meet once per week
- 2 credits for classes that meet twice per week
- 4 credits for classes that meet 4 times per week

Ex.

- C220 Basic Comprehensive Japanese
4 times per week → 4 credits
- K300 Pre-Intermediate Japanese Kanji/Vocabulary

Students who achieve a grade of C or higher can earn credits. They will earn 1 credit for classes that meet once per week, 2 credits for classes that meet twice per week, and 4 credits for classes that meet 4 times per week.



Notes on Course Selection

- All courses have size limits. If a course's limit is exceeded, **a lottery* or some other means is used to select students**, and you may not be able to get in.
*Lottery results are usually announced during or after the first class, **so please attend the first class**.
- You **cannot take more than one course with the same alphabet letter** (e.g. C210 and C220, R400 and R500).
- You **cannot simultaneously take C courses with C-L/S or C-R/W courses** (e.g. C320 and C310-R/W, C420 and C410-L/S), but can take C-L/S and C-R/W (e.g. C310-L/S and C310-R/W).

All courses have size limits. If a course's limit is exceeded, a lottery or some other means is used to select students, so you may not be able to get in. It is possible to take priority classes for other program students, but these may not be available if they are full.



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You cannot take more than one course labeled with the same alphabet letter. For example, C210 and C220 cannot be taken at the same time because they cover the same content. R400 and R500 cannot be taken at the same time, since they are at different levels but are both labeled with an R.



Notes on Course Selection

- All courses have size limits. If a course's limit is exceeded, **a lottery* or some other means is used to select students**, and you may not be able to get in.
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Comprehensive C classes labeled R/W and L/S are a bit more complicated: R/W classes focus on reading and writing, while L/S classes focus on listening and speaking activities.

C320 is composed of the contents from C310-R/W and C310-L/S. Students cannot take C320 and C310-R/W at the same time, but they can take C310-L/S and C310-R/W at the same time.



Notes on Attendance

- If you must be absent from class, inform your class instructor directly or via a classmate.
- If you do not attend at least two-thirds of the total number of classes, you will receive a "D" (fail).
- If you are **absent for two consecutive classes** with no valid reason, you may be removed from the class list.
- If possible, notify your class instructor of your absence in advance and try to get any relevant class materials in order to catch up.

Note that if you miss too many classes, your grade will be a D.



FAQ

Q1. Can I take C310-R/W and R300 at the same time?	A1. Yes, you can. C310-R/W is a Comprehensive class focusing on Reading and Writing and R300 is a Reading class.
Q2. Can I raise (lower) my Kanji level by one?	A2. You can take the Kanji class at your designated level , or one level below or above that level . Therefore, you do not need to change your kanji level.
Q3. Can I apply for a level change after the deadline?	A3. You cannot apply after the deadline unless you missed it due to an unavoidable reason. In that case, please request permission from the IPLA office first and then contact the JLPK Coordinators.
Q4. Where can I find classrooms and instructor contact information?	A4. Important details such as classroom and instructor contact information will be posted on the “Guidance” page of Google Classroom for each class.



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How to obtain Japanese Language Proficiency Certificate and Japanese Language Course Transcript

The following explains the procedure for obtaining the two types of certificates:

Japanese Language Proficiency Certificate (日本語能力証明書)

Please contact the Incoming Student Exchange Section (studyab@grp.tohoku.ac.jp) first. They will inform us of your request and we will issue the certificate accordingly.

Japanese Language Course Transcript (or Grade Transcript) (日本語成績証明書)

Please contact the Incoming Student Exchange Section (studyab@grp.tohoku.ac.jp) first. They will process your request and will issue the certificate.

Please avoid contacting class instructors or coordinators directly at first, as this may cause delays in the process.



Contact

If you need further assistance for your Japanese study,
Please contact:

Coordinator. **Wataru Nakamura**

To: wataru.nakamura.a8@tohoku.ac.jp

Sub-coordinator. **Natsue Sugaya**

CC: natsue.sugaya.e1@tohoku.ac.jp



Assistance for Japanese Study

Some useful links and study tips are uploaded on
Google Classroom

Classroom Code: 4sbnoze

Back-up classes

Wednesday 14:40-16:10

Please contact:

Ms. Huja Backley

e-mail: huja.backley.d7@tohoku.ac.jp

Ms. Buckley is also available for consultation.
Please study a lot and enjoy your life at Tohoku University.
This concludes our explanation of the Japanese classes.

Kana Intensive Sessions

Non credit

- H150a Tue April 8th 1, 2, 3 periods
- H150b Thu April 10th 1, 2, 3 periods
- Information is on the Google Classroom of Assistance for Japanese Study