

# Japanese Language Education at TIU: Self-Study, Resources, and Career Guidance



# Preparing for Japanese Language Courses

## The Japanese Language Institute (JLI)

The JLI at Tokyo International University supports students in every aspect of Japanese language acquisition. Our instructors are experienced professionals with a passion for language education. Through effective instruction and support, the JLI seeks to fulfill its mission of:

- (1) building communicative ability for students' daily lives, and
- (2) preparing students with the business level proficiency required for entering the workforce in Japan.

For more information about the JLI and Japanese Language courses, visit

<https://www.tiu.ac.jp/etrack/academics/jjs.html>



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## Our Recommendation

While English is the language of instruction in E-Track, students must complete a minimum number of Japanese language credits. Gaining knowledge and ability in the local language will improve students' understanding of the country and their ability to interact with locals, enhancing their overall experience at TIU.

Japanese is a fun and rewarding language, but the learning curve can be steep. Even students who already speak multiple languages may feel quite challenged. The language courses at TIU are rigorous, and students are expected to attend all classes and submit quality work.

**We therefore strongly recommend that all students self-study before beginning their program.** Students who self-study will naturally gain an advantage and may be better equipped for success in the required language courses.

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## Self-Study Resources

We recommend the "Marugoto" Online course, which is designed and maintained by the Japan Foundation. Marugoto is fun, interactive, and *free*! For a list of courses visit < <https://minato-jf.jp/> >.

The course "Marugoto A1-1 (Katsudoo & Rikai)" is suitable for beginners, as it helps students gain “practical communication skills” and “a comprehensive Japanese ability that includes reading, listening, writing, and speaking.”

The "Hiragana A1" and "Katakana A1" Self-Study Courses are also used as “Pre-enrollment Preparatory Course in Japanese” for incoming students of our E-track Program.

There is a multitude of other resources Online, include YouTube videos, blogs, books, etc. Students should make sure that their chosen resources are from a trusted source and appropriate for their level.

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## On-Campus Resources

Students should make full use of TIU's Japanese Plaza, located near our International Exchange Office. The Japanese Plaza is staffed by friendly instructors and tutors, and is a safe space to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Japanese.

Also, learning support services such as one on one tutoring, called "Terakoya", by Japanese instructors and "Conversation Partners" by native and native-level Japanese TIU students are provided.



# Work and Graduate School: How much Japanese do I need?

Students wanting to work in Japan upon graduating TIU should take Japanese language courses beyond the minimum requirement. Many companies in Japan require a Japanese Language Proficiency Test level of N2 or N1. To learn more about JLPT certification, visit <https://www.jlpt.jp/e/about/index.html>



Students should connect with the TIU Career Center as soon as possible – even during freshman year. The hiring system in Japan is quite different from many countries, and some things need to be prepared years in advance. The Career Center’s guidance can prove crucial in your job search; it may make the difference between getting hired or not! To learn more about how the Career Center supports students, visit <https://www.tiu.ac.jp/etrack/whytiu/career/>.

