The Country
Japan is an island country extending along the Pacific coast of Asia. It has a population of 128 million people and the world's second largest economy. Japan is a constitutional monarchy with a ceremonial emperor and elected parliament. In order to rebuild after the Second World War, the Japanese government pursued a policy of export-led economic growth that propelled the Japanese economy into the world's second largest. Japan is a leading country in all fields of scientific research and technology, especially electronics, robotics, optics, semiconductors, and automobile design and manufacturing. Although no longer a military power, Japan is an economic superpower.

People and Culture
Japan is one of the most linguistically, racially, and culturally homogeneous countries in the world. Ninety-nine percent of the population speaks Japanese as their first language, eighty-four percent profess Shinto, the indigenous religion of Japan, and Buddhism. Historically, Japanese society was very hierarchical, which is reflected in the forms and vocabulary of the Japanese language and expressed in public displays of relative social status, such as bowing to show respect to one's superiors. Japanese culture has evolved from the country's original Jōmon culture to its contemporary culture, which is a mixture of influence from Asia, Europe, and the United States. The fusion of traditional Japanese woodblock printing and Western art led to the creation of the popular Japanese comic book form called manga and the fusion of Japanese and Western music traditions led to the popular activity of karaoke singing. The most popular traditional sport is sumo wrestling and the most popular non-Japanese sport is baseball.

Japan and SUNY Oswego
SUNY Oswego's connection to Japan goes back to the nineteenth century when during the period of the Meiji era reforms (1860s-1890s) Japan began to modernize by adopting Western political, economic, and military institutions. In order to modernize its system of education, the government sent to Oswego State Normal College in the 1880s a young Japanese educator named Hideo Takamine to study the "Oswego Method" of primary education pioneered by Edward Austin Sheldon. When he returned to Japan, Takamine became Japan's first minister of public education and later founded University of Tsukuba. There is a street between Snygg and Piez Hall on campus named in Takamine's honor. Oswego has maintained since the 1970s a strong exchange partnership with University of Tsukuba. Recently Oswego established a second partnership with Akita International University, an English-medium university located in Akita prefecture, to give students who do not speak Japanese the opportunity to study in Japan.

Program Dates
- Summer TBD

Oswego
State University of New York
Akita International University

Within the Akita prefecture, in the northeastern part of Honshu Island on the Japan Sea, 400 miles north of Tokyo, lies Akita City, the capital of Akita prefecture. Akita International University’s (AIU) campus is located 30-40 minutes south of Akita City’s center, by car. From various mountain ranges and nearby cedar forests, to colorful rice fields and the Omono River (one of the largest rivers in Japan), AIU is surrounded by natural settings including ancient cherry trees and snow-capped mountains, which can be seen from the campus each spring.

The Program

The AIU Summer Intensive Japanese Language program is a rigorous program designed to improve language skills in a small classroom setting, over a period of 6 weeks. Each student will receive 6 credits in one of three levels of Japanese language. This program is a great way for students to improve or begin to learn Japanese language while deepening their understanding of Japanese culture. AIU helps to facilitate cultural learning through various workshops for Calligraphy, Japanese Kimono and so on. In addition to workshops on campus, AIU will arrange various bus trips to visit local cultural sites during the 6 week program like Kakunodate, and old Samurai town.

Experience in Japanese language is not compulsory to apply for this program.

Housing and Meals

Summer participants are required to live on AIU’s campus. Accommodation will be shared occupancy (two students per room). The rooms are air conditioned and bathroom facilities are shared between 2-4 students.

Insurance

The Japanese government requires Japanese health insurance for all international students. SUNY regulations also require repatriation insurance for all overseas programs. This special coverage will be added to your bill.

Flights

Students will receive information from the Oswego OIEP on specific dates they should arrive in Japan. Students will make their own flight arrangements.
Qualifications
Applicants must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Acceptance is based on the student’s academic standing, recommendations, and personal study statement. Experience in Japanese language is not required.

Applications
All students must use the standard SUNY Overseas Academic Program application, obtainable at any SUNY campus, and submit it to the Office of International Education and Programs at SUNY Oswego.

A non-refundable deposit of $250, applicable to the program cost, must be paid within 14 days of acceptance to the program in order to secure program participation. Any deviation from program requirements must be requested in writing and authorized by the Director of International Education and Programs before the final payment date.

Application Deadlines
- Summer April 1

Program Costs
SUNY students pay SUNY tuition and college fees at their home campuses. All other students pay tuition and fees to SUNY Oswego. The estimated cost for one semester of study is dependent on airfare, individual spending habits and housing selection. This total cost includes SUNY tuition and college fees, housing and meals, round-trip airfare, program differential, repatriation insurance, passport and local transportation. Please consult the program cost sheet for specific costs and program dates.

Financial Aid
Students currently receiving financial aid can use their aid for overseas study, and may, in some cases, have their awards increased. Students not currently receiving financial aid may be eligible. Those interested in financial aid for this program should contact the financial aid office on their home campus. Be sure to give the financial aid office plenty of time to process your paperwork.

Payment Dates
- Summer May 1st

Information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of publication, but is based in part on conditions over which SUNY-Oswego has no control; i.e., rates of exchange, and local costs and conditions. Accordingly, information provided here is subject to change, and no claims for refunds based on changes will be considered.
Summer Abroad in JAPAN

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8/25/08