Japanese House

KAZUKO CARLSON, Faculty Director
KYLE IKEDA, Faculty Director
DANIEL BROWN, Student Director
MAXFIELD DAVIS, Student Director

OVERVIEW

This Japanese culture and language residential learning program is designed for students eager to study Japanese culture and/or language in mutual teaching and learning activities. Its major goal is to explore Japanese culture through shared activities. Use of the Japanese language in suites and during program activities will be encouraged but not required. The residential component of the Japanese House is open to all UVM students who are currently studying or who have studied Japanese culture and/or language and also to students who have native or near-native fluency in Japanese and are willing to share their knowledge and skills. The extra-residential components of the Japanese House encourage participation by all members of the UVM community and of the local Vermont community who wish to share their interest in Japan, especially including visiting and resident Japanese nationals. Basic to this program are the convictions that the best way to learn is to teach others and that experience is essential to the learning process. Program activities are guided by participant interests and are made as enjoyable for all as possible.

The program members are expected to interact with other Global Village members to share different cultures for better mutual understanding.

Japanese House Program residents are encouraged to take Japanese language courses at the relevant level.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objective #1
Enhanced knowledge of Japanese culture

Action Steps
• Teams of program members and students taking Japanese language courses organize and lead educational events consisting, for example, of a lecture by a guest speaker, a presentation on some aspect of Japanese culture or life by students, a showing of a Japanese cultural video and a feature film, a demonstration/workshop on Japanese tea ceremony, flower arranging, calligraphy, cooking, music, martial arts, etc. These events are usually open to the public.

• Program members will collaborate with students of Japanese at Champlain College, St. Michael's College and South Burlington and Essex High School at special events such as Matsuri, the Japan Festival.

**Learning Objective #2**
Enhanced Japanese language fluency.

Action Steps

• Program members who are Japanese language students or (near-)native speakers will be expected to use Japanese as much as possible when speaking with other language students or (near-)native speakers both during and outside of program activities and especially within the program suite.

• Program activities will include a session on basic Japanese phrases and frequently be conducted bilingually in Japanese and English.

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**About the Global Village**

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

• Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
• Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
• Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
• Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.
• “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: http://www.uvm.edu/globalvillage

**GRS 025: The Global Village Seminar**

GRS 025: The Global Village Seminar is a largely self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village Residential Learning Community. All new Global Village residents must enroll in GRS 025 for one credit during the fall semester or spring semester. (Returning Global Village students who have not yet satisfactorily completed the class must enroll in GRS 025 during the fall semester.) This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. The course will be partly comprised of a series of “Common Hour” community gatherings held on Thursday afternoons. The primary purpose of the Common Hour meetings is to build a stronger sense of community among the members of the many Global Village houses and programs. As well, the Common Hour gatherings will help Global Village citizens build a common knowledge and skill set, including such topics as intercultural communication, globalization, etc. A variety of program offerings will take place during Common Hour meetings, such as special guest lectures, interactive dialogue and social gatherings. During weeks when the Common Hours are not held, you are expected to participate in one educational event or activity with a global cultural theme. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a global cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend.

We’ll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in Common Hours and the educational events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in GRS 025 during the fall semester or spring semester.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact Prof. Joseph Acquisto, Faculty Director of the Global Village, at Joseph.Acquisto@uvm.edu

For more details about this course, visit: http://www.uvm.edu/~gvrcl/?Page=passport/passport.html&SM=passport/sub-menu.html