

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Semester or Year Abroad)

Choosing the Right Subjects

Subject Selection Advice – **The website is a bit tricky to navigate, so read carefully**

- Begin search by selecting: “**Search by Course Information**”
- Then **select the YEAR** you are going abroad (if unavailable use the current year)
- **Subject Name** Leave Blank
- **Instructor:** Leave Blank
- **Semester/Quarter:** APU operates on a semester system made up of two quarters. Some classes (mostly language classes) will run for the duration of the semester. Most classes will be taught during one of the two quarters that makes up the semester. The first quarter runs for the 1st half of the semester. The second quarter runs for the 2nd half of semester. Reference the following when selecting the appropriate semester/quarter:
***If you are a Fall Semester participant search for FA, FA1 and FA2. Spring Participants search for SP, SP1 and SP2**
 - Fall Semester = FA
 - Fall (1st quarter) = FA1
 - Fall (2nd quarter) = FA 2
 - Spring Semester = SP
 - Spring (1st quarter) = SP1
 - Spring (2nd quarter) = SP2
- **Day/Period:** Leave Blank
- Click on **Search**

- Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) often does not post courses far in advance, so you may have to use the previous year as a guideline for what will be offered when you will be going.
- For a **course description & details**, click on the course title.
- **NOTE: Not all classes are taught in English.** Only select courses that are indicated as being taught in English (unless you have a very strong proficiency in Japanese). The course title will end with a code indicating the language of instruction: **Any code with and E is for English** and with a J is for Japanese.

Approval

APU does not pre-approve your course selections, so it is your own responsibility to select courses that you are qualified to take while abroad. (For example, don't select an upper division marketing class if you have never taking an introductory marketing class.)

Scheduling

Timetables at most universities are not published until just before the semester begins. Therefore, you will not actually enroll in your subjects until after you arrive. You will choose your classes from your list of subjects you selected during pre-departure (and had approved by your home university), according to how they fit into your schedule. If you choose to enroll in any subjects that were not pre-approved by your US University, you should contact your university from Japan

in order to obtain the necessary approval. Be sure to bring your advisor's fax number with you to aid in communication. We will be sending you more information about approvals once we receive your subject choices.

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) Subject Load Information

APU students are allowed to **enroll in a minimum of 10 credit hours** and a **maximum of 18 credit hours** per semester. A "Normal" Semester credit load at APU is 14 to 18 credits. However, as an AsiaLearn participant, we require that you enroll in a minimum of 14 credit hours per semester. **Your program fees cover tuition up to 14 credits. A supplemental charge will be added for students taking additional credits.**

Classes that meet for the entire semester (ie. Language classes are worth 4 credits). Classes that meet for a quarter within the semester are worth 2 credits. Normally, a student will take a Japanese Language class combined with 2 or 3 classes each quarter.

Language Courses at APU

Japanese language courses are offered in six different levels from the beginner to the advanced every semester. Each language class is 4 credits.

ASIALEARN GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)

Accrediting System

The accrediting system of Japanese universities is determined by the government in the "University Establishment Standards", a ministerial ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). At APU, 1 credit consists of a total of 45 study hours which includes classroom hours, preparation and review. Credits are given not only for classroom hours but for preparation and review. APU courses require students to complete many assignments outside of class.

Graduation Requirements

Degree-seeking students are required to complete 124 credits in order to graduate: 40 credits of Common Foundation Coursework or 1st year subjects, 62 credits within the major and 22 general elective credits. Students begin taking subjects in their major beginning in the 2nd year.

The APU Accrediting System

At APU, the distribution of classroom hours and preparation/review hours was determined based on the former "University Establishment Standards" and is reflected in the number of credits. This standard is used by most Japanese universities. The number of hours and credits are as follows.

- Language Subjects: 1 credit for 30 classroom hours and 15 hours for preparation/review
- Other subjects: 1 credit for 15 classroom hours and 30 hours for preparation/review
- At APU, each 95-minute class is counted as two hours.

Explanation of each subject (contact hours of instruction, preparation and review)

At APU, the semester is divided into two quarters. Language classes meet for the duration of the full semester. All other subjects are taught during one of the two quarters within the semester.

- The 4 credit language subjects meet 4 times a week for 15 weeks.
Classroom hours: 8 hours/week (2 hours x 4 times a week) x 15 weeks = 120 total hours
Required preparation & review: 15 hours per credit (4 credit subject = 60 total hours)
- The 2 credit lecture subjects meet 2 times a week for a total of 15 lectures.
Classroom hours: 2 hours per week x 15 lectures = 30 total hours
Required preparation & review: 30 hours per credit (2 credit subject = 60 total hours)

NOTE: For those students participating in the 8-week Summer Gateway Program, we have included a supplement with additional information specific to that program.

APU GRADING SYSTEM

US Equivalent*

| | | |
|------|-----------|---|
| A+ = | 90-100% | A |
| A = | 80-89% | A |
| B = | 70-79% | B |
| C = | 60-69% | C |
| F = | below 60% | F |

Source: World Education Services (WES) www.wes.org