Getting to Nara University

From Kintetsu Takamihara Station, board a Kintetsu bus bound for "Nara Daigaku Koen" (which brings you right to campus) OR a bus bound for "Karanumae Biki", which lets you off at the "Nara Daigaku" bus stop, a 15-minute walk to campus.

About 15 min. from Takamahara Station.

Nara University

Campus Guide

http://www.nara-u.ac.jp/
1500 Misasi-gi, Nara-shi, Nara 631-8502 Japan
Phone: +81-(0)744-1251  Fax: +81-(0)744-41-0630
Find the power to act, and the power to inspire others to act, at Nara University.

Since its founding, Nara University has actively pursued practical learning through encounters with authenticity and involvement with the real world. A diverse faculty that is active on the cutting edge of academic faculties facilitates students' exploration of a broad range of research topics as they master theory and technology through practice and experience as part of a program that fosters independence, autonomy, and the ability to observe and take action so that they can act, and inspire others to act, in society and the world.

Field Activities

Nara University’s Field Activities program has three objectives. The first is to facilitate students' hands-on field work. Through experiences at sites such as active archaeological excavations, students are able to master valuable knowledge. The second objective is to help students become involved with society. Through activities in the local community and at campuses, students come to understand society and communication, offering a major advantage when it comes time for them to go out into the world upon graduation. The third objective is to ensure that students gain the skills they will need in the future through involvement with society. Through a program that offers experiential learning that goes beyond classroom study, students refine their practical skills.

The Spirit of Nara University

We believe that genius requires effort, and that it is the responsibility of each individual to bring his or her own dreams to fruition. We encourage students to fully develop their own powers through self-discovery and to never lose sight of their ambitions. Through cultivating confidence and perseverance, we hope that our students will become well-rounded adults with the spirit and determination that will lead them into the future.

Our Philosophy of Education

We aim to cultivate students who will continuously search for the truth, who fully appreciate the harmony between traditional and modern constituents, and who will contribute to the creation and development of academic culture.

We strive to foster an education rich in human interaction and dialogue; producing talented individuals with a cooperative spirit and an abiding respect for independence and freedom.

As a university founded on a respect for globalization, we hope to build meaningful connections with the local community as well as to promote peace and development in the wider world.

Fostering problem-solving skills through real world experience and involvement with society

Nara University takes advantage of the rich environment in which its campus is located to allow students to research authentic materials and participate in off-campus lectures. We also offer an array of projects in partnership with the local community and companies to allow students to deepen their learning while experiencing the bonds that link the University with its community. Many students also participate in overseas training and exchange programs, giving them a global reach.

History

April 1969

• Nara University opens its doors in the Nara-ken district of Nara.
• The Faculty of Letters is established with three departments: Japanese Literature, History, and Geography.

April 1979

• The Faculty of Letters establishes the Department of Cultural Heritage Studies.

February 1988

• The University relocates to its present campus in Minoo-cho.

April 1988

• The Faculty of Social Studies is established with two departments: Sociology and Industrial Sociology.

April 1993

• The Graduate School is established and begins offering master’s degrees in Japanese Literature and Cultural Heritage Studies and Archaeological Science through the Graduate School of Letters as well as a master’s degree in Sociology through the Graduate School of Social Studies.

April 1995

• The Graduate School begins offering doctoral degrees with a major in Cultural Heritage Studies and Archaeological Sciences.

April 1999

• The Departments of Sociology and Industrial Sociology change their names to the Department of Interpersonal Relations Studies and the Department of Contemporary Sociology, respectively.
• The Graduate School establishes a masters course in Geography.

April 2005

• The Distance Education Division’s Faculty of Letters establishes the Department of Cultural Heritage Studies and History.
• The Graduate School of Social Studies establishes the Clinical Psychology Course and Sociology Course.

April 2007

• The Department of Interpersonal Relations changes its name to the Department of Psychology.
• The Nara University Museum opens.

October 2007

• The Nara University Clinical Psychology Clinic opens.

April 2010

• The Department of Contemporary Sociology changes its name to the Department of Social Research.

April 2012

• The Graduate School’s program in Sociology is expanded to add the Sociocultural Research Course and the Clinical Psychology Course.

May 2014

• The University receives a gift of 63,000 specialized texts on cultural properties from the Nara Archeological Association, strengthening it as Japan’s leading center of research on cultural properties.
Faculty of Letters
Departments of Japanese Literature, History, Geography, and Cultural Heritage Studies

Department of Japanese Literature
Field of study

Students undertake a deep, systematic study of the world of Japanese language. They develop skills of literature and study knowledge related to culture and publishing. They define their ability to express themselves in Japanese while emphasizing experiences that facilitate encounters with authentic materials.

Japanese Course
Students study Japanese from the standpoint of spoken and written language as well as vocabulary and grammar. They also consider various writing styles and various genres, enabling students to access and understand contemporary dialects.

Classical Literature Course
Students focus on the works of a variety of authors during the Edo period to the present day. They approach these works from the perspective of literature, including poetry, short stories, and novels, while mastering basic knowledge related to literature.

Publishing Culture Course
Students undertake an experiential study of publishing literature to develop historical, cultural, and publishing knowledge. This course also covers the past, present, and future trends of publishing culture through the experiences of publishing professionals and the technology they use.

Encountering literature and discovering a new world of words
Our ancestors left a rich and varied tradition of Japanese culture in the form of songs and stories. That tradition consists of a backdrop of the daily lives, deep thoughts, and playful spirit of the ancient people, and it has evolved into contemporary culture and language. Students undertake a systematic study of the brilliant culture surrounding such works.

Nara is blessed with a deep history and rich culture, allowing our Faculty of Letters to conduct a wide variety of educational and research-related programs. Literary, historical, and cultural studies are enhanced by exploring the vast resources unique to Nara.

Department of History
Field of study

The Department of History takes maximum advantage of the University’s location in the ancient capital of Nara to offer an experience and action-based program of study that puts “history you can think about” and “history you can feel” into practice.

Japanese History Course
History must be reconstructed based on facts, so it is necessary to read historical materials carefully. In addition, students learn how such materials include ancient myths, legends, and tales, thereby understanding the history of Japan and how to record official messages in ancient times. Students learn how to develop these materials.

World History Course
The World History Course focuses on the research on all of the areas of the world outside of Japan. These include Asian region such as China and Korea, which greatly influenced ancient Japan; Islamic region, which built up a global empire; and European countries, leaders in the capitalist movement. Students study the various regions and cultures, thereby developing a sense of history.

Regional Revitalization Course
Rural Japan is struggles with various issues related to the aging population, depopulation, and lack of vigor. Students learn how to protect and maintain the environment of rural areas while considering the characteristics and history of the cultural heritage region by using resources such as drawings and ancient maps to study the spatial relationships observable in past people’s lives.

Archaeology Course
This course seeks to reconstruct the lives of people in the past based on artifacts and materials. Students gain the skills they will need to work as archaeologists and museum educators, including identifying and analyzing artifacts and understanding the significance of their cultural and material values.

Historical and Cultural Geography Course
This course seeks to reconstruct the lives of people in the past based on artifacts and materials. Students gain the skills they will need to work as archaeologists and museum educators, including identifying and analyzing artifacts and understanding the significance of their cultural and material values.

Regional Environment and Disaster Prevention Course
When a natural disaster such as an earthquake, tsunami, or other occurs, students will come to understand the damage and the emergency’s response, and they will take measures to minimize the damage. Students will then examine the disaster that occurred in the natural environment, for example, the climate, and also the natural environment in which people live.

Art History Course
This course examines historical periods for paintings, sculptures, and other artworks as well as the background against which such works are created. Students observe authentic art and learn about its history, exhibition, and display.

Spatial Data Science Course
Today’s advanced information society is characterized by the accumulation of information, and sophisticated data analysis skills are essential. Students study methods for handling big data and geographical information systems to gain presentation skills that will allow them to communicate their findings in an easy-to-understand manner.

Encountering authentic materials to learn from, protect them, and pass them on to future generations
Home to numerous World Heritage sites and national treasures, Nara is uniquely suited to the study of cultural properties. Nara University has trained museum curators and cultural property specialists but also other institutions in Japan.

Department of Geography
Field of study

Students of the Department of Geography learn about “living” geography, through active outdoor observations both in Japan and overseas. The Department fosters students’ ability to think creatively through a curriculum offering four courses.

Archaeology Course
This course seeks to reconstruct the lives of people in the past based on artifacts and materials. Students gain the skills they will need to work as archaeologists and museum educators, including identifying and analyzing artifacts and understanding the significance of their cultural and material values.

Historical and Cultural Geography Course
This course seeks to reconstruct the lives of people in the past based on artifacts and materials. Students gain the skills they will need to work as archaeologists and museum educators, including identifying and analyzing artifacts and understanding the significance of their cultural and material values.

Regional Environment and Disaster Prevention Course
When a natural disaster such as an earthquake, tsunami, or other occurs, students will come to understand the damage and the emergency’s response, and they will take measures to minimize the damage. Students will then examine the disaster that occurred in the natural environment, for example, the climate, and also the natural environment in which people live.

Art History Course
This course examines historical periods for paintings, sculptures, and other artworks as well as the background against which such works are created. Students observe authentic art and learn about its history, exhibition, and display.

Spatial Data Science Course
Today’s advanced information society is characterized by the accumulation of information, and sophisticated data analysis skills are essential. Students study methods for handling big data and geographical information systems to gain presentation skills that will allow them to communicate their findings in an easy-to-understand manner.

Encountering authentic materials to learn from, protect them, and pass them on to future generations
Home to numerous World Heritage sites and national treasures, Nara is uniquely suited to the study of cultural properties. Nara University has trained museum curators and cultural property specialists but also other institutions in Japan.
Programs in the Faculty of Social Studies explore the society in which we live, with a focus on the disciplines of sociology and psychology. Students learn to explain all aspects of social behavior using social research and the approaches of psychology. The Faculty’s programs are designed to foster a clear perspective for observing our constantly changing society and a sharp sense for anticipating future trends.

In order to foster experts who can carry out research and apply the theories and techniques of each major field of study in order to assume leading roles useful to society. The Graduate School of Nara University is divided into two departments, the Graduate School of Letters, and the Graduate School of Social Studies. There are three major fields within the Graduate School of Letters: Japanese Literature, Cultural Heritage Studies, and Archival Science, and Geography. The Graduate School of Social Studies offers a major in Sociology.

Fields of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Psychology</th>
<th>Field of study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Psychology Course</td>
<td>This department explores human emotion while observing the effects of society on individuals. Through lectures and practical study, students master techniques that will facilitate a deeper understanding of human emotion such as experimentation, psychological studies, and interviews, as they explore human psychology.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Social Research</th>
<th>Field of study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Management Course</td>
<td>Today, companies need workers with the ability to reliably analyze data, make predictions and form judgments based on objective data. Students in this course study basic knowledge in the fields of economic and business administration and learn how to analyze phenomena in a scientific manner. They also learn to assess companies and economic conditions through off-campus interviews and questionnaires.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Social Psychology Course | As human beings, we continuously think about the relationships with society. For example, with friends, family, and the mass media. The Social Psychology Course approaches human emotion in the context of these social relationships using the empirical techniques of psychological studies and experimentation. |

| Cultural Information Course | In this course, students decipher contemporary society based on information related to society as a series of relationships between individuals. Specifically, they investigate interactions between people in a variety of settings using questionnaires, interviews, social media, and virtual reality technology. They also study techniques and technologies for presenting cultural information from the past to the future. |

| Exploring human emotion and society | In today’s society, interest in mental health is growing. The Department of Psychology seeks to offer a major experiencing human development, mental health, and group psychology based on a consideration of the relationships between individuals and between individuals and society. |

| Gaining comprehensive skills that will be useful in society | Students in this course observe society deeply through a balanced study of sociology, anthropology, economics, business administration, and information science, in order to understand the complex nature of contemporary society. They put their knowledge into practice through the “Practical Experiences in Society” program. |

| Message | Fostering specialized individuals who will contribute to society |

| Distance Education Division | The Distance Education Division has integrated two separate Ed.D. study into one interdisciplinary program. A blending of our Cultural Heritage Studies curriculum and our history curriculum, the program offered by the Distance Education Division emphasizes the historical logical and cultural history from each historical era. Nara was the very center of ancient Japan, and it is from here that we can transmit the traditions and culture of our ancestors all over Japan. |

| Faculty of Letters Department of Cultural Heritage Studies and History | The Major in Cultural Heritage Studies and History focuses on the study of Japanese culture and history, with a particular emphasis on the Meiji period and the modernization of Japan. Students in this major are trained in a variety of disciplines, including art history, archaeology, and cultural history, and are prepared for careers in museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions. |
Campus Map

Nara University’s quiet, leafy campus is the ideal learning environment.

Surrounded by natural beauty and the area’s historical legacy, Nara University’s campus offers a quiet, academic ambiance. The University invites you to deepen your studies while experiencing the weight of history in a culturally rich atmosphere.

Facilities

Library

The University’s library features a collection of valuable books including a number of the world’s oldest first editions as well as reports detailing the findings of research on cultural properties nationwide.

The University’s library houses 150,000 volumes, including a first edition of Charles Darwin’s On the Origin of Species and extensive materials related to Nara. The University’s collection of specialized works on cultural properties exceeds 150,000 volumes, and the University is considered one of Japan’s leading sources of information about history and cultural properties.

Museum

In addition to preserving, studying, and researching the scholarly materials held by the University, the Nara University Museum contributes to the community as a place for lifelong learning by making research findings from the University available to a broad audience through exhibits, symposiums, and other events. The facility is also used for practical study by students seeking to become museum curators.

Computer Center

The Computer Center offers state-of-the-art computers and other equipment to support students in a way that meets the needs of today’s advanced information society. Students are able to search the Internet, investigate research findings from both on and off campus, and exchange information.

Research Institute

This research facility is dedicated to using the University’s research findings to benefit the region. By allowing faculty members to conduct research in line with university-wide projects and interests with colleagues in other fields, it fosters new findings, disseminated through open lectures and courses.

Clinical Psychology Clinic

The Clinical Psychology Clinic offers counseling to local residents to help address emotional concerns and problems. It also supports the education of clinical psychology professionals by offering education, research, and practical study opportunities to students.

Conservation Science Lab and Historical Materials Processing Lab

The Department of Cultural Heritage Studies operates an extensive range of state-of-the-art equipment for analyzing cultural properties, including an X-ray fluorescence analyzer and X-ray diffraction analyzer, a digital microscope, a 3D printer, an infrared TV camera, and an infrared spectrometer. Students learn how to operate this equipment as part of their classes.
Academic and Educational Exchange Programs
Facilitating student exchanges and joint research

Universities and institutions with which Nara University has entered into overseas academic and educational exchange agreements

1. Fudan University (3/1997)
2. Suzhou University of Science and Technology (1/2008)
4. Tianjin University of Technology (12/2017)
5. Hanseo University (11/2005)
6. The Korea National University of Cultural Heritage (1/2006)
7. The Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (1/2014)
8. Eotvos Lorand University (11/2018)

Nara University and Its Surroundings
The area around Nara University’s campus is dotted with numerous World Heritage sites as well as shrines, temples, and historical sites that are valuable from both an academic and historical standpoint. Don’t miss the chance to visit these remarkable sites and in the process, experience Nara’s unique cultural ambience. The area is also home to numerous museums with valuable collections, offering opportunities to encounter Japanese history and traditional culture.

Nara is home to eight World Heritage sites:

1. Todaiji Temple
2. Yakushiji Temple
3. Heijo Palace Site
4. Kofukuji Temple
5. T吗iji Temple
6. Kasuga Grand Shrine
7. Kintai-surugi Temple
8. Tвыifuji Temple

Convenient access to Kyoto and Osaka
Nara University’s campus is only one hour from both Osaka and Kyoto, making it conveniently located for daily commuting, visiting historical sites, and even for getting away for shopping and fun.

Kyoto
Kintetsu Kyoto Station is 35 minutes from Takamatsu Station. Visit World Heritage sites, shrines, and temples, or enjoy shopping.

Umeda, Osaka
Osaka’s Umeda area is a shopping district with numerous department stores and malls, including Grand Front Osaka.

Namba, Osaka
Namba is Osaka’s entertainment district, home to regional performing arts such as puppet theatre, kabuki, and comic theatre.