



(Click the above to show a Google map.)

**USCO Special Student Exchange Program  
(Program C)**



## **Summer Course at Niigata University: Lessons from Contemporary Japan**

**The 2018 summer program at Niigata University has been cancelled.**

(15 May 2018)

If you want to check the planned 2018 summer program at Niigata University, please check [this page](#).

The UMAP summer proram at Niigata University will be substantially re-structured in 2019  
Information of the future UMAP summer program at Niigata University will be posted in a different site.  
In the meantime, please check the [Admissions](#) page.

### **Photo archive**

#### **Visits in the 2017 program**



Outlet of the waste water from the chemical plant that discharged waste water into a river without any treatment



Niigata Minamata Disease Museum  
(before the lecture started)



Tsubame Industrial Museum



Lecture on her internatinonal development cooperation in Tanzania in 1970-72 as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) and currently in Rwanda as an NGO member.

#### **Special in 2017**



Opening ceremony in Niigata  
(Welcome statement by Prof. Sato, Director, Global Education Center,



Welcome statement by Prof. Takahashi, President of Niigata University and Chair, UMAP Japan Committee

Niigata University)

## Visits in the 2016 program



Hydropower plant that provided electric power to the chemical plant that caused Minamata Disease



Yamakoshi village hit by an earthquake



Outlet of the waste water from the chemical plant that discharged waste water into a river without any treatment



Tsubame Industrial Museum



Lecture on her internatioal development cooperation in Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) and also as a JICA Expert

## Visits in the 2015 Program



Visit to the former chemical plant that discharged waste water into a river without any treatment from this outlet.



Visit to Yamakoshi village which seriously suffered from an earthquake in 2004



Lecture by a volunteer Witness of Niigata Minamata Disease



A bus of Niigata University used for site visits.



Visit to the Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA)

(The left photos with courtesy of a student)

## Feedbacks by some of the 2015 participants

[Text message by Lee Sheng-Fang](#)

[Video report by the same student \(Fourth \(last\) in the video\)](#)

## Visits in the 2014 Program



Visit to the former chemical plant that released mercury into a river, which caused Minamata Disease in Niigata



Before listening to a lecture by a Witness of Minamata Disease





Presentations by students in Prof. Sakikawa's class

Visit to an industrial museum of the crafts unique to the region, such as cutlery or tableware. Students had a hands-on experience of manufacturing spoons by themselves.



### Visits in the 2013 Program



Visit to the place from which waste water containing organic mercury released into the river without treatment, a lecture by a volunteer Witness of Minamata Disease, and a group picture there.

A brief stop at the Yahiko Shinto Shrine on the way back from a visit to the Tsubame industrial materials museum

A small evening party

### Visits in the 2012 Program



Visit to the place where organic mercury which caused Minamata Disease was released into a river



After a lecture by a Witness of Niigata Minamata Disease



Visit to an Earthquake Museum



Visit to a village which suffered from an earthquake in 2004

### Transportation to Niigata and Niigata University



Arrival at Niigata Airport



Express bus between Niigata Airport and Niigata train station



Arrival at Niigata train station



Train to Niigata University

The 50-year old model is being replaced by this newly manufactured model since December 2014. You may experience both 50 years old Japan and latest Japan on the trains.

Because the Niigata train station is under reconstruction to elevate tracks, it may take time for transfer from a train to another. Trains going to Niigata University on Echigo Line now start from the elevated tracks (nos. 2-5). (Two temporary tracks (nos. 8-9) remain on the ground but these are not used by the trains for Echigo Line to Niigata University.)

■ Because this is a program under the USCO (UMAP Student Connection On-line) of the UMAP (University Mobility for Asia and the Pacific), **students from those universities participating in the USCO and the students of Niigata University (including those studying at Niigata University as exchange students) are eligible for this program.**

■ **This is a program for undergraduate students. Graduate students are not eligible.** (The participants must be formal undergraduate students (The participants must pay tuition for August 2018 to their home universities.) until the Program ends.)

■ **Language Proficiency requirement: TOEFL 500 (iBT 61) or equivalent (No need for a certificate.** Student's declaration or his/her English language professor's declaration of his/her capability equivalent to TOEFL 500 is accepted.)

■ **Medical Insurance:** Students are required to purchase in advance an international travel insurance or another medical insurance valid for

**medical expenses in Japan** (Students should expect up to 10,000 Yen for simple treatment at a clinic for a simple cold or stomach problem. **There is no medical institution in Niigata to which payment is made directly by any travel insurance company.** Therefore students must pay to the medical institution and request later for reimbursement to the insurance company. **Most medical institutions do not accept credit cards or debit cards.** Payment must be made by cash at most places.)

([Medical institutions in Niigata City that accept credit cards \(in Japanese\)](#) - The information of this web site is not verified.)

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Please feel free to send inquiries to [intl@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp) for administrative issues including application forms, visas etc.

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### Archives of the program contents

[Information of the planned 2018 program for reference](#)

[Information of the 2017 program for reference](#) (pdf, 2.4 MB)

[Information of the 2016 program for reference](#)

[Information of the 2015 program for reference](#)

[Information of the 2014 program for reference](#)

[Information of the 2013 program for reference](#)

[Information of the 2012 program for reference](#)

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### How to come to Niigata

**It is recommended that students arrive at [Niigata Airport](#).** Because this airport is small with only one international exit, only one domestic exit and only one bus stop, **passengers do not get lost.** Also, they do not have to wait for a long time for immigration procedures. Take [a bus \(either express or local\) from the Airport to Niigata train station.](#) Arrival at this Airport may be either by an **international flight from Seoul (Inchon) by [Korean Airlines](#)** (The number of flights per week is changing, but, with many international connections to many places from Inchon, Korean Air is convenient.), **Shanghai by [China Eastern Airways](#)** (Wednesday and Saturday only), **Taipei by [Far Eastern Air Transport \(FAT\)](#)** (Monday and Friday only), or by a domestic flight from a major airport. However, it should be noted that Tokyo area has two airports (three if Ibaraki Airport is included.) with **only [Narita](#) having flights to Niigata (by [ANA](#)) (one flight each day in late afternoon from Terminal 1)**, that Nagoya area has two airports with only Centair having international flights, and that Osaka area has three airports with only domestic Itami Airport having flights to Niigata. Passengers may easily get lost in moving from the an airport to another on land.

If you arrive at [Narita Airport](#) and want to take a train to Niigata, firstly take a **JR train (either expensive [Narita Express](#) or reasonable but infrequent rapid) to [Tokyo train station](#)** and then take a [Jo-Etsu Shinkansen](#) train to Niigata unless you take a domestic flight to Niigata moving from an international section in either Terminal 1 or 2 after immigration procedures to the domestic departure area in Terminal 1. From Narita Airport, taking a JR train is the least complicated way to come. If you use a regular train ticket, going to Tokyo by [Keisei Railways](#) via [Nippori](#) or to [Ueno](#) slightly saves money. However, changing trains in Tokyo may not be easy.

If you arrive at Haneda Airport near downtown Tokyo, take either Tokyo Monorail to Hamamatsu-cho or Keikyu train to Shinagawa and then take JR Yama-no-te Line or Keihin Tohoku Line to Tokyo station to take Jo-Etsu Shinkansen train.

From Narita or Haneda Airports, a "JR East Pass (Nagano, Niigata area)" is **reasonable at the price of 18,000 Yen (purchase within Japan) or 17,000 Yen (advance purchase in your country)**. This pass allows the holder to ride on all trains of JR East in the Tokyo, Niigata and Nagano areas on any five days within a 14-day period after it has been issued at a train station. As it costs 11,000 - 14,000 Yen one way between Narita Airport to Niigata by a regular ticket, you can save money with the JR East (Niigata, Nagano) Pass. **Please check whether this Pass is available when you come to Niigata at the following page:**

[http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/eastpass\\_n/index.html](http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/eastpass_n/index.html)

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### Changing money

**Changing money into Japanese Yen may be done in your country at a better exchange rate. Currencies other than US dollar and Euro may not be exchanged or will be exchanged at a substantially weaker exchange rate because the demand for such currencies is quite small in other countries.**

**However, if you want to exchange your money in Japan, please change money on arrival at an airport in Japan. In case you have failed to do so, please do so at a bank near Niigata train station open between 9:00 and 15:00 on week days only.**

It is also possible to change money at the [Travel Service Cener](#) in the JR Tokyo train station near the Marunouchi North Exit from 7:30 to 20:30 if you pass through Tokyo station ([Tokyo train station map](#)).

You may not have sufficient time to go to a bank to change money during the class period and banks are closed on weekends except at major airports (**The bank/money exchange in the Niigata Airport is open on weekdays only and between 9:00 and 15:00 only.** Credit cards are accepted only at major business establishments. **Foreign debit cards are not accepted for purchase at almost all places in Japan.** But **foreign ATM/debit cards are accepted for withdrawal by [ATMs of the Seven Bank](#) located at many of the Seven-Eleven shops.**

[The Niigata University Post Office](#) may change money from US dollar or Euro to Japanese Yen.

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### Preparations to stay in Niigata

- [Visa to Japan](#) (Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- [Web sites of Japanese Embassies and Consulates](#)
- [Student visas](#) (Study Japan web site)
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- [Climate and weather in Japan](#) (Meteorological Agency of Japan)
  - [Current weather of Niigata City](#) (Meteorological Agency of Japan)
  - [Current view of Niigata City downtown area](#) (from Toki Messe Conference Center - tallest building of Niigata)
- [Niigata City International Exchange Foundation](#) (Abundant useful information about how to live in Niigata)
- [Travel advice on safety to UK citizens traveling to Japan](#) (This is a UK example. Different advice may be applied to different nationals. Please check a similar web site of your Government.)
- [Travel advice on health to UK citizens traveling to Japan](#) (This is also a UK example. Different advice may be applied to different nationals.)

#### ■ [Questions and answers on the basis of the questions received in 2012](#)

##### **Costs, what to wear, and many other questions**

(But the time table there is too old. There is no UMAP Scholarship in 2018.)

#### [新潟大学の学生のためのUMAP Program C情報](#)

#### [Information of UMAP Program C for students of Niigata University](#)

■ 2018年度現在、このプログラムで開講する2科目は、新潟大学のGコード科目です。そのため、交換留学で来ている学生を含め、新潟大学の学生は、夏季集中講義として履修し、単位を取得することができます。実際に、毎年本学の学生も履修しています。

The classes given in this program are G classes of Niigata University. Therefore students of Niigata University, including exchange students studying there, are eligible for these classes.

■ 他国の大学が行っているUMAPのプログラムへの参加も可能です(但し、欧米の夏休みの時期に行われるものが多く、本学がまだ授業期間になっているものが少なくありません。)。留学交流支援課(旧国際課)が扱っているので、同課に聞いてみて下さい。(新潟大学として締結している学生交換協定に基づく交換留学は同課(UMAPはこれに含まれます。)、それぞれの学部・研究科が締結している協定に基づくものはその学部・研究科の学務係またはその学部・研究科の国際交流委員が担当しています。)

■ [新潟大学ウェブサイト海外留学のページ](#)

■ [UMAP ウェブサイト](#)

■ [UMAPフェースブック](#) (このUMAPフェースブックに新潟大学のフェースブックへのリンクがありますが、その内容は、UMAPや交換留学とは)関係ありません。)