



## Orientation Program

The JISPA offers the Orientation Program (OP) to newly accepted scholars under the partnership track. The OP aims to ensure that scholars entering the JISPA are well prepared to commence their master's programs in economics at the partnership universities and to adjust to life in Japan through intensive courses in English, mathematics/introductory econometrics, introductory economics, and Japanese. This program is held from mid-July to late-September (2.5 months), prior to commencing studies at the partnership universities. The OP is conducted at the International University of Japan, located in Niigata, Japan.

The OP comprises:

- a four-week course in academic English (reading, writing, listening, and oral communication skills) and writing tutorial sessions during the subsequent four weeks;
- a four-week course in mathematics for economics and introductory econometrics (including statistical software);
- a one-week course in introductory economics; and
- a one-week course in the Japanese language (including lectures on cross-cultural understanding and field visits), in addition to practical sessions.

All JISPA incoming scholars are required to participate in the OP. Scholars from countries where the official language is English or those with high English proficiency are exempted from taking the English component, but must participate in the remaining components of the OP.

In addition to the courses mentioned above, the IMF staff will offer lectures on the IMF to introduce its role and functions, as well as contributions made by the Japanese Government to the IMF. Some extracurricular activities are organized by the IUJ to facilitate interaction among the OP participants. The OP aims to develop leadership, organizational, and interpersonal skills through social and cross-cultural communication activities.