



Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation
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This month is the Girl's Festival. Have you seen displays of us around town? There's a list at the bottom of this page!

NCIEF Contact Info
 • 025-225-2727
 • kyokai@nief.or.jp

Notices & Upcoming NCIEF Events

Oshaberi Salon

Your neighborhood Niigata City CIRs each host conversation (oshaberi) hours in the Exchange Salon inside the Friendship Center where they talk and lead discussions in Japanese about topics related to their home country and cross-cultural understanding. Here is this month's!



Topic: That's From Iowa??
Date: March 10th (Tue)
Time: 2:00-3:00 pm
Place: CrossPal Niigata 2nd floor Exchange Salon (NCIEF)



NCIEF Spring Japanese Classes

Applications for spring session Japanese classes are now open! Morning and evening classes are available in various beginner or intermediate levels. Stop in to the Friendship Center to pick up an application and get more information. Application forms are due by March 19th, however, if you miss the deadline, do not hesitate to come in and talk with us about it.



Classes Content and Schedule		Days of the Week	Times	Class Duration	Total Class Hours	Class Fee Single
A	Study beginner level materials while pursuing the basics of daily-life conversational skills.	T & Th	10:00-12:00	3/31-8/11	72h (36 times)	15,000 yen
B		T & Th		3/31-8/6		
C	Review beginner level materials in preparation for intermediate content.	W & F		4/1-8/14		
D	Comprehensively study Japanese while striving for proficiency in practical Japanese conversation.	Th	18:30-20:00	4/2-8/6	36h (18 times)	9,000 yen
		F		4/3-8/7		
I	Study beginner level materials while pursuing the basics of daily-life conversational skills.	T & Th	18:30-20:00	3/31-8/6	54h (36 times)	11,500 yen
II		F		4/3-8/7	27h (18 times)	7,000 yen
III	Review beginner level materials while studying Japanese more comprehensively.	T		3/31-8/4	27h (18 times)	7,000 yen

Hinamatsuri Girls Festival Displays

There are hina doll displays all over the city. Here is a small list of some you can check out!

Ward	Where	Dates	Hours	Admission	Closed
Chuo	Enkikan	Feb 18-Mar 15	9 am-5 pm	Free	March 2
	Saito Villa	Feb 18-Mar 22	9 am-5 pm	300 yen	Mondays
	Ozawa Residence	Feb 22-Mar 22	9 am-5 pm	Free	
	Sakyukan	Feb 26-Mar 20	9 am-9 pm	Free	
Akiha	Niitsu Shopping Street	Until Mar 8	Varies by shop	Some are free	None
	Honcho-dori				
Nishikan	Iwamuro Area	Feb 21-Mar 5	10 am-4 pm	Free	



主催: (公財)新潟市国際交流協会クロスパルにいがた 2階 〒951-8055 新潟市中央区礎町通 3-2086
 Niigata City International Exchange Foundation CrossPal 2F, 3-2086 Ishizuecho-dori, Chuo-ku
 TEL: 025-225-2727 E-mail: kyokai@nief.or.jp Website: <http://www.nief.or.jp/>



ART MIX JAPAN

This is a weekend full of different Japanese performing arts both traditional and modern. See the Furumachi Geigi dance, taiko mixed with dance, shamisen, rakugo and other comedy shows, the Sado Okesa dance, and so much more.

There are 24 different performances, all of which have been made accessible to beginners. All are only 45 minutes long and cost between 1,500 and 3,500 yen per ticket.

Dates: April 18th (Sat) – 19th (Sun)

Times: Various between 10:00 am–9:00 pm

Place: Ryutopia and Enkikan

URL: <http://artmixjapan.com/>



Intro to JLPT N3 & N4

These are classes for practicing the skills needed for the N3 and N4 levels of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). Contact the NIEF for more information and to get the application form.

Date: March 16th (Mon) – 19th (Thu) 10:00–12:00
Place: CrossPal Niigata
Fee: ¥2,770
Class size: 10 people each
Contact: Tel: 025-225-2727; Email: kyokai@nief.or.jp



Charlie's Recipe Corner

This is a recipe that I knew was super simple and I enjoy every I have it as a part of a set meal but I had never made for myself before now and it was indeed as easy as I had assumed!

Leafy green vegetables such as spinach and nanohana (flowering rapeseed) are common but I have also seen recipes that use cabbage, broccoli, shimeji mushrooms, kabocha squash, bean sprouts, or a combination of the above, to name a few.

You will need to vary this recipe by the vegetable, the type of mentsuyu you use, and your tastes! If you use a concentrated mentsuyu, add more water. If you use a straight type mentsuyu like I did but like the strong flavor, don't add any extra water.

I hope you give this easy recipe a try! It is really easy to make up a batch and add it as a side dish to your meals over a few days.

Spinach Hitashi



METHOD

1. Bring a pot of water to a boil while you prepare the spinach (wash, cut off stems, etc)
2. Hold the leaves above the boiling water for 20 seconds before dropping the whole thing in and cook until they are soft (no more than a minute!)
3. Drain the spinach and rinse with cold water
4. Squeeze the water out of the spinach
5. Cut into bite-sized pieces (4 cm in length)
6. Put into a container and pour over the mentsuyu and water and mix
7. Top with bonito flakes and serve!

Ingredients (2 servings)
4 bunches of spinach
2 TBSP of mentsuyu (that has dashi!)
Water (to taste)
Bonito flakes (to taste)



Events

Key: G-General; U-University Students; H-High School; J-Junior High School; E-Elementary School

**International Friendship Center Exchange Salon
Exhibition: Introduction of JICA Japanese Overseas
Cooperation Volunteers**

Through this exhibition, JICA will introduce their activities.

Date: February 1st (Sat) – March 13th (Fri) 9:00–17:00**Closed:** Sun., Holidays, and the 4th Mon. each month**Place:** Niigata International Friendship Center (CrossPal 2F)**For more info:** 025-225-2727 (NIEF)**Toyosaka Japanese Class Social**

This is an annual event that sponsored by the Iroha Japanese Class. Enjoy chatting and a potluck party!

Date: March 28th (Sat) 9:30–12:00**Place:** Kuzutsuka Community Center (Toei-cho, Kita Ward)**Fee:** Free (but bring 1 dish or 1 drink to share)**For more info call:** 080-4058-6640 (Mr. Hasegawa)**Hanami in Uchino**

Enjoy Hananmi-cherry blossom viewing with Chinese exchange students at Niigata University!

Date: April 12th (Sun) 13:30–16:30**Place:** Uchino Elementary School Ground
(Uchinoyamate, Nishi Ward)**Fee:** G-¥2,000 U-¥1,000**Application:** Please make a phone call**Application dead line:** April 5th (Sun)**For more info:** 025-285-2242

(Japan-China Friendship Association)

**Event Cancellations due to the
Coronavirus**

Worry over the spread of the novel coronavirus has been causing last minute event cancellations. Call ahead and check if the event you were going to go to has been cancelled or postponed before going.

Notices

Immigration Procedures Consultation

Aimed at foreign residents living in the prefecture, the Immigration Bureau is holding a temporary information and consultation center once a month. Come and ask questions related to immigration and residency status.

Date: March 10th (Tue) 13:00–17:00**Languages:** Japanese, Thai, Vietnam, Chinese**Place:** Foreign Resident Consultation Center of Niigata
(2nd floor of Toki Messe)**Reservations:** Only Walk-ins or Phone consultations**For more info:** 025-241-1881 (Niigata International Association)**Niigata Prefectural Gyosei Shoshi (Administrative
Clerk) Main Office Free Consultation for Foreign
Nationals (Reservations Required)**◆ **Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata****Date:** March 25th (Wed) 10:00–17:00**Place:** Foreign Resident Consultation Center of Niigata
(2nd floor of Toki Messe)**Contact:** 025-241-1881 (Niigata International Association)**Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents**

There will be an opportunity to visit with a lawyer and receive free consultation regarding legal matters. If you don't speak Japanese, then an interpreter will be provided for you.

Date: March 19th (Thu) 13:00–17:00**Place:** Foreign Resident Consultation Center of Niigata
(2nd floor of Toki Messe)**Language:** Japanese, English, Spanish, Portuguese,
Mandarin Chinese**Length of Consultation:** 40 minutes per person**Reservations:** Please make a reservation by phone call or
email in advance.**For more info/reservations: call** 025-241-1881**Email** nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp (Niigata International Association)**Niigata City ALT Job Opening**

The Niigata Municipal School System is now hiring Assistant Language Teachers. For more information, please check their website.

Contract Duration: April 1, 2020–March 31, 2021**Application dead line:** March 3rd (Tue)**Contact:** 025-226-3263 (Niigata City Board of Education)URL: www.city.niigata.lg.jp/kosodate/gakko/oshirase/gakkoh28altsaivou.files/2020saivousenkou.pdf**PSA: National Health Insurance**

March and April mean a lot of people moving jobs. If you are one of those people who is leaving the national health insurance for private insurance or will enroll in the national health insurance system go to your ward office to fill out paperwork as it is NOT automatically done for you.

Job Fair for Foreign Students (Registration required)

Foreign students who are currently enrolled in a university pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree, and who expect to graduate between April 2020 and March 2021.

For more information, please check their website.

◆ **Sponsored by Global Leader****Date:** Tokyo- March 7th (Sat), 8th (Sun) Osaka- March 14th (Sat)**URL:** <https://www.globalleadernavi.com/>◆ **Sponsored by Works Japan****Date:** Kyoto- March 19th (Thu) Tokyo- March 25th (Wed)**URL:** <https://www.global.worksjapan.co.jp>**Japanese Volunteer Teachers Seminar**

If you're interested in teaching Japanese for foreigners, this seminar would help you.

Date: Second & forth Sundays in April to August 13:00–15:00**Place:** CrossPal Niigata **Fee:** ¥500/time**Application:** Please make a phone call**Application dead line:** March 31st (Tue)**Contact:** 080-4058-6640 (Mr. Hasegawa)**PSA: Help Mark**

The mark to the right is used by people who may need extra help due to medical conditions they have. If you see someone with this mark on them or their bag, offer them your seat on the bus or train, offer help if they seem to need it, especially during an emergency.



ADVERTISEMENT

**Legal Consultation in English**

Takashi Soma, attorney at law

Niigata Kokusai Law Office

025(255)6006

somat@rainbow.plala.or.jp<https://www.nklaw.info>



Classes

Japanese Courses offered by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

Beginner through Intermediate 2	-Classes of varying difficulties are available at different times throughout the week. -Pricing info & the Spring Session Schedule are available in the "Support for Foreign Nationals" section of the NCIEF website: https://www.nief.or.jp/	Ms. Ayako Homma Tel: (025) 225-2727
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Japanese Study Support Group for Children & Students: Niko Pal Club (Free of charge)

Day of the week & Hours	Room No.	Content	For more info.
Every Sat 10:00 – 14:30	202	This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies.	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727
Every Wed 9:30 – 11:30 (No class in March)	202	To help students get the Japanese language skills needed to go to school in Japan.	

Himawari / Kotonoha at Hayadori Community Center (37-1 Hayadori, Kita Ward)

Every Wed & Sat	15:00 - 18:00	Japanese Study Support for children Copy Fee	Ms. Kawasaki Tel: (090) 2756-0967
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Japanese Classes by Volunteer Groups at CrossPal Niigata

Day of the week	Hours	Room No.	Level	Fee	Organizations & Info
Every Wed	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 202	Beginners	¥500/ month	Niigata Nihongo Kaiwa Kyoshitsu
Every Thu	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 202	Beginners		
Every Fri	13:00 - 14:30	201, 202 or 306	Beginners & Advanced Beginners	Cost of materials	Niigata Nihongo Gakushu Kai
Every Sat	10:30 - 12:00	201 or 306	Advanced Beginners	¥500/ month	Waon
First & Third Sat: Mar. 7 th & 21 st	10:30 - 12:00	309	Newspaper Class (Intermediate)	Cost of materials	Yaponika
Every Sun	15:00 - 16:30	201 or 202	Introduction - Beginners	Cost of textbook	Niigata Nihongo Volunteer

Nihongo Kyoshitsu Waon II at Higashi Ward Plaza (1-4-1 Shimokido, Higashi Ward)

First & Third Tue of the month: Mar. 3 rd & 17 th	10:00–14:00	Beginners–	Fee: ¥300/ time	Ms. Takenaka Tel: (025) 277-3621
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Nihongo for Foreign Residents at Ekinan Community Center (4-12-20 Yoneyama, Chuo Ward)

Every Sun	10:00 – 12:00	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥2,000/month	Ms. Nagai Tel: (090) 2849-8425
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Konnichiwa! Nihongo at Kobari Elementary School Volunteer Room (2-36-1 Kobari, Nishi Ward)

Every Thu (but Mar. 19 th & 26 th)	10:00 – 11:30	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥300/month	Ms. Wakatsuki Tel: (080)8431-0310
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Taiken Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Nishi Chiku Kominkan (603 Uchino, Nishi Ward)

Every Tue (but Mar. 24 th & 31 st)	10:00 – 12:00	Beginners – Advanced	One term ¥3,500 + Textbook & Copy Fee	Nishi Chiku Kominkan Tel: (025) 261-0031
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Iroha Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Kuzutsuka Community Center (1-1-18 Toei-cho, Kita Ward)

Every Sat (but Mar. 28 th)	10:00 – 12:00	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥1,000/month	Mr. Hasegawa Tel: (080) 4058-6640
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Akiha Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Niitsuchiku Kominkan (2-5-6 Niitsu Higashi-cho, Akiha Ward)

Every Thu	13:00 – 15:00	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥1,000/month	Mr. Hasegawa Tel: (080) 4058-6640
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Maki Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Makichiku Kominkan (635 Makiko, Nishikan Ward)

Every Thu	19:00 – 20:45	Introduction – Advanced	One term ¥3,500 + Textbook & Copy fee	Ms. Fujita Tel: (090) 4072-3840
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NEW! Shirone Nihongo Volunteer at Shironechiiki Seikatsu Center (1136-1 Shirone, Minami Ward)

Every Sun (but Mar. 29 th)	19:00 – 21:00	Beginners – Intermediate	Fee: ¥200 / time	Ms. Takeishi Tel: (090) 6624-5126
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Cultural Classes

International Cooking Class	When: Mar. 21 st (Sat) & 22 nd (Sun) 11:00 – 14:00	Fee: Foreign residents, students- ¥1,800; Japanese citizens- ¥3,800
	Where: Ms. Ueno's residence (3-4-16 Ogijima, Akiha Ward)	
	Menu: Spring Western dishes (Bar style snacks, calzones, red wine stewed spare ribs, clam chowder and more!)	
	Please sign up at least three days before class.	For more info call: 0250-24-6859 Ms. Ueno

Consultation Services

Niigata Help Association TEL: 025-228-2212	Every Day: 9:00 – 23:00 Spanish, English, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Chinese, etc.
Niigata International Association TEL: 025-241-1881 Email: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp URL: http://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/	English: Mon & Thu 10:00–14:00 Thai: Tue 10:00–14:00 Chinese: Wed 10:00–14:00 Tagalog: Mon 10:00–14:00
Helpline for Foreigners TEL: 0120-279-338	Call the toll-free number and press 2 after the Japanese guidance
Niigata Medical Care Information Network URL: http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/	Site available in Japanese Only
Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service TEL: 025-280-8609 Niigata Misaki Godo Chosha #2 (1-2-1 Misaki-cho, Chuo Ward, Niigata City)	1 st – 4 th Wed 13:00 – 16:00 English & Chinese



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(Written and edited by Charlene Woolson & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed on March 23rd.