



OTARU UNIVERSITY
OF COMMERCE

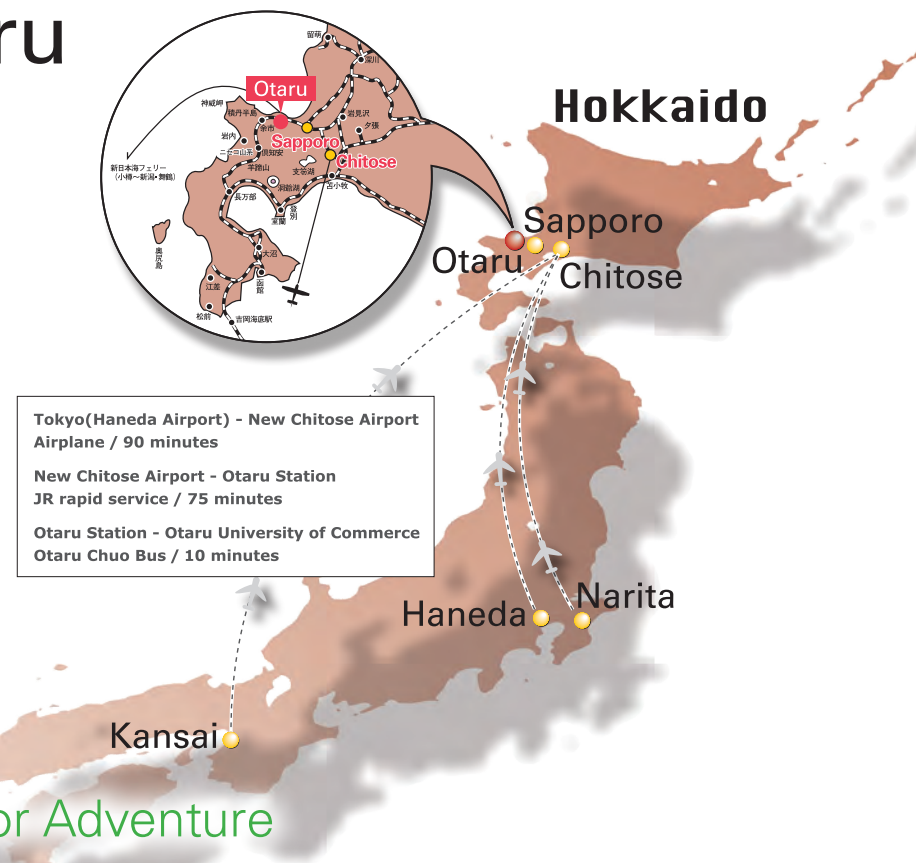


*Study **A**broad in **H**okkaido, **J**apan*



Studying in Otaru

Otaru, a historical city in western Hokkaido, is only a 30-minute train ride away from Sapporo, the biggest and most vibrant city in Hokkaido, and Niseko, a world-class ski resort. Otaru's rich cultural heritage from its heyday as the main commercial center in Hokkaido rank it among the top tourist destinations in Japan. While Otaru has a lively downtown, the city itself is comparatively small and students have easy access to everything the city has to offer.



Otaru at a Glance

Population: 105,554 (June 2024 census)	9 beaches
Public transportation: Terminals for railway, ferry, and bus lines	Winter average temperature: -3.3°C
3 ski resorts in the city	Summer average temperature: 21.7°C
100 cm of snowfall	1.5 hours from Tokyo to Sapporo by air
Historical Architecture and important cultural properties	30 minutes from Sapporo to Otaru by train
The yearly anime party weekend event	

Full of Great Opportunities for Adventure

Historical Sites

Otaru was the first and most important commercial center in Hokkaido during the early years of the 20th century. The city is graced with numerous majestic limestone and brick buildings that once housed bank and trading company headquarters or served as warehouses. These buildings have been converted into museums, restaurants, and other types of retail establishments.

Sushi Restaurants

Otaru is famous throughout Japan for its superb sushi. There is even an avenue called Sushi Street (*Sushiya Dori*), which once was home to more than 100 sushi restaurants.

Outdoor Activities

Otaru has easy access to venues for snow sports, hiking, rock climbing, sea kayaking and more.



Hokkaido

Opportunities for More Adventure!

Skiing and Snowboarding

There are nearly 100 ski resorts in Hokkaido. Especially the ski resorts in the western part of the island are world-renowned for the powder snow which attracts skiers and snowboarders from around the world.

Ice Floes

Ice floes on the east coast of Hokkaido are a major tourist attraction in winter.

National Parks

There are six national parks where you can experience Hokkaido's natural splendor. The one at the Shiretoko Peninsula is a UNESCO world heritage.

Fresh Food

Hokkaido is renowned for its fresh seafood, agricultural products, dairy products, and various types of distinctive cuisine and confectionary.

Hiking and Climbing

Climb and hike more than 40 mountains in the prefecture.

Hot Springs

Bathe at the more than 20 hot spring districts in Hokkaido. Each district boasts multiple spas.

Snow Festivals

The frigid winters have fostered various snow festivals. In addition to the famous Sapporo Snow Festival, there are other festivals to help you enjoy the long Hokkaido winter.



Studying at OUC

“The lone star in the North, small but brilliant”

This is the famous quote that has been used to describe OUC’s more than 110 years of academic excellence and long list of distinguished graduates.

The Only National University of Commerce in Japan

Otaru University of Commerce is and has been a center of social sciences and humanities in northern Japan. Since OUC’s founding as Otaru Higher Commercial School, the university has been emphasizing the link between theory and practice, based on a solid academic foundation. Its strength in foreign language education is a consequence of this practical attitude. For both business and academic activities, practical ability in foreign languages is critically important.

Stunning Panoramic Views from our Campus

The unique location of our main campus on a hill at 130+ meters above sea-level offers stunning panoramic views of Otaru-city and Ishikari Bay. Discovering the locations that offer the best views of the surroundings is one of the attractions of life on campus.

Learning in a Global Context

OUC also emphasizes global education based on the axiom that there are no borders in business. OUC offers various programs and courses for study abroad.



Main Campus Building in 1910's.



Current Main Building.



Active Learning

Unlike traditional “passive learning” styles in which teachers give one-way lectures, in “active learning” (AL), students are at the center of learning, with task-oriented research, PBL (Project Based Learning), group work, discussions and oral presentations. AL classrooms include cutting-edge ICT equipment such as tablet devices, multiple wall projection screens, discussion tables and other interactive tools.



University Library

In a departure from the concept of conventional libraries where people quietly sit and read, the remodeled library features a main floor (2F) with a group learning room and an open space as part of an active learning area for students. That floor is also used as a learning commons area where students can work together.

The third floor is more in keeping with the conventional image of a university library. The facility’s extensive collection, which has been built up over the university’s history of more than 100 years, is one of the nation’s largest and not only includes rare first print editions of Karl Marx’s “Das Kapital” and Adam Smith’s “The Wealth of Nations” in its rare books collection, but also an extensive collection of modern manga in English.



OUC at a Glance

Founded in 1910	40 international students	97% student employment rate at the time of graduation
2,300 undergraduate students	120 faculty members	80+ student clubs
100 graduate students	70 administrative staff members	27 international partner schools



Degree Programs

Undergraduate Program

The four-year undergraduate program culminates in a Bachelor of Arts in Commerce. Students completing the program are ready for global careers in Japan and abroad.

The Faculty of Commerce offers 5 major and 2 minor programs:

1. Economics
2. Commerce
3. Business Law
4. Information and Management Science
5. Glocal Course

1. Minor in Glocal Management
2. Minor in Entrepreneurship

Graduate Programs

Major in Modern Commerce Master's Degree Program

This two-year graduate program culminates in a Master's of Arts in Commerce. The program expands undergraduate studies in commerce-related fields by introducing graduate students to cutting-edge academic research and prepares them for the Doctoral degree program and to pursue careers as researchers or as highly skilled businesspersons with a cosmopolitan outlook.

Doctor's Degree Program

This three-year graduate program culminates in a Ph.D. in Commerce. The program further trains students for careers as researchers in the academic field of Commerce or to pursue careers as highly skilled businesspersons by means of in-depth studies on specific themes and completing a doctoral dissertation. Graduates of the Doctoral program are equipped to work and contribute at very high academic levels in a variety of fields.

Major in Entrepreneurship (MBA Program)

This two-year graduate program culminates in a Master of Business Administration. The program fosters business leaders who will initiate new projects at companies, start new businesses, strategize and carry out business plans, and reform the stagnant organizational structure of many companies and municipalities.



Non-degree programs

YOUC Program

This 2-semester program is designed for international students who wish to study in Japan with Japanese students and/or to take business courses offered in English. (for details, see page 7)



Research Student Program

This is for students who wish to study a particular topic for a period of between six months to one year.

Credited Auditor Program

This is for students who wish to receive specific credits from the undergraduate programs or graduate school.



YOUC Program

Year at Otaru University of Commerce

Full-year (two semesters) :

September – August / March – February

One semester :

September – February / March – August

Primary Fields of Study: Economics, Marketing, Japanese Language

The YOUC Program is designated for third-year economics majors, management majors, and business majors, although second-year and fourth-year students may also enroll.

Prerequisites

Proficiency in English and elementary knowledge of economics, business, and calculus are required to enroll in the YOUC Program. No Japanese skills are required.

Diversity of Nationalities

You will experience an international learning environment of students from around the world—not only students enrolled in the YOUC Program, but also Japanese students enrolled in the Glocal course.

Small Classes

The class sizes in the YOUC tend to be small, typically 20 or fewer students. Our internationally experienced academic staff provide cutting-edge education with MBA-like opportunities for classroom interaction.

Courses Offered in English

With the exception of the elementary, intermediate and advanced Japanese language courses, all the lectures are conducted in English and require English language proficiency (TOEFL PBT score of 550 or the equivalent). No prior knowledge of Japanese is required. Although the YOUC Program is not a program for language training, you will have ample opportunity to improve your Japanese proficiency by interacting with your Japanese peers and the local community.

Subject List

Introduction to Glocal Management
Business Economics
Introduction to Empirical Studies
Glocal Field Work
Japanese Economy
International Development Cooperation
Marketing Strategy in Asia and Pacific
Tourism Marketing
Japanese Culture (Pop culture)
Japanese companies in Global Business
Exercise and Sports II c (Skiing: Intensive course)
Introduction to Japanese Management
Tourism Marketing
International Marketing
Glocal Internship
Glocal Seminar
Research Paper
Japanese Language

Scholarships

Qualified students from OUC's partner universities may apply for financial aid provided by the Japan Students Services Organizations (JASSO). Application for the scholarship is to be made through OUC's partner universities.

Please contact your study abroad officer for allocation* and application details.

*The allocation to each university is subject to change.

How to Apply

Application deadline :

April 10 for September admissions

October 10 for March admissions

Students from OUC's partner universities

To apply for the YOUC Program, please contact the study abroad (or international studies) office of your institution.

Students from non-partner universities

Please e-mail us at inljimu@office.otaru-uc.ac.jp.



Campus Life

International House

Exchange students are eligible to live in on-campus housing called International House, a 3-story facility built in 1999. The facility was designed for comfort, privacy, and convenience. International House is less than a 5-minute walk from the center of campus.

Each single room is furnished with a bed, a desk, a chair, a bookshelf, a refrigerator, a closet, a gas range, a gas water heater, a gas heater, an intercom, sockets for TV connection, lighting, and a fan. Coin-operated washers and dryers are available in the common laundry room. Free Wi-Fi is available. The communal lounge has air-conditioning.



Single room
Monthly fee : 12,800 yen*
Deposit (including cleaning fee): 60,000 yen

Double room
Monthly fee: 25,800 yen*
Deposit (including cleaning fee): 100,000 yen

*Not including utilities.



On-campus Catering

On campus there are two catering options: a cafeteria and a co-op store that sells sandwiches, snacks, and drinks.

The cafeteria on the first floor and the student lounge next to the co-op store on the second floor of the Student Hall feature stunning panoramic views of Otaru-city and Ishikari Bay. IC cards (electronic money) can be used in the cafeteria and the co-op store.



Financial Facts

Estimated monthly living expenses for a student living at International House are as follows:

Food: 18,000 yen - 25,000 yen
Books: 5,000 yen - 10,000 yen
Utilities (including telephone*): 8,000 yen - 15,000 yen
National Health Insurance (mandatory) 1,600 yen
Other expenses: 10,000 yen - 20,000 yen
Total: 42,600 yen - 71,600 yen

*reasonable usage



From an Alumnus



A stimulating and supportive learning environment for aspiring researchers

Han Xing

Lecturer, School of Economics and Management (School of tourism), University of Dalian
(Class of 2021 Graduate School of Commerce, Major in Modern Commerce Doctor's Degree Program)

I studied at OUC as a Ph.D. candidate in Modern Commerce from 2018 to 2021. It was a valuable experience that has directly shaped my subsequent career. As an international student from China, I was impressed by the university's strong focus on providing a global learning environment. Most of my courses were taught in English by professors from diverse cultural backgrounds, which enriched my academic experience tremendously. My Ph. D. research was about the role social interaction plays in the tourism experience of Chinese inbound visitors to Japan. My academic training at OUC included various research field trips. OUC also provides travel funding for graduate students to present their research at international conferences, which allowed me to connect with top researchers and other doctoral candidates in tourism research from around the world. The academic skills and experiences that I gained at OUC are valuable assets that I now

apply in my current job as a university lecturer in the field of tourism at Dalian University in China.

Beyond the classroom, OUC offered tremendous support that enabled me to complete my degree smoothly. My supervisor provided excellent guidance, and I also received a lot of help and encouragement from many other professors and administrative staff. The university library was especially helpful, regularly asking for our book lists and then promptly purchasing the resources we needed. The comfortable seats and peaceful sea-view windows at the library are also something I miss greatly.

The supportive community, stunning seaside location, and responsiveness to student needs created wonderful conditions for my academic and personal growth. I believe these will benefit prospective students too.





Contact

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