

icuhs

INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY
HIGH SCHOOL
FALL 2021



THE SCHOOL

International Christian University High School (ICUHS) is a private Japanese High School founded in 1978. It is located on the campus of International Christian University (ICU), in the western suburbs of Tokyo. ICUHS is ranked among the top private high schools in Japan.

PURPOSE

ICUHS was established at the request of the Japanese Ministry of Education to cater to the needs of returnee students, i.e. Japanese students who have lived and studied overseas. Such students often have difficulty fitting back into the Japanese education system. ICUHS provides a supportive environment for them and over the years has accepted returnees from more than 100 countries. Over 65% of the students in every grade are returnees. They study alongside the 35% who have received all their education in Japan through the Japanese education system. For both types of student, entering ICUHS is very competitive. By encountering and accepting new values and cultural differences, students develop their potential to become future leaders of the international community.

ACCREDITATION & AFFILIATIONS

ICUHS is accredited by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Education Committee of Tokyo, and the Deliberation Committee for Private Schools in Tokyo. The school is an institutional member of the Tokyo Private Junior and Senior High School Association and the Education Association of Christian Schools in Japan.



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SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Japanese academic year begins in April and ends in March: April – mid-July (Term 1); September – December (Term 2); January – March (Term 3).

THE FACULTY

There are 47 full-time and usually about 50 part-time teachers. All teachers are Japanese apart from three full-time and four part-time English teachers, and one part time Chinese teacher. The full-time faculty includes the Headmaster, the Head Teacher, the Director of the Returning Students' Education Center (RSEC) and the school nurse. The full-time English teachers act as College Advisors for students who wish to go to university abroad. There is also a school counselor. All teachers are fully qualified as professional high school teachers and subject specialists either in Japan or, in the case of non-Japanese teachers, in their home countries.

THE STUDENTS

Students enter in Grade 10 and graduate after completing Grade 12. The student body is usually about 720, 240 per grade. There are 6 home rooms per grade, 18 in total. Each home room is made up of about 40 students. Returnees and non-returnees are evenly distributed, to enable as much diversity as possible within each home room.

THE CURRICULUM

Students take a course of studies that, in principle, follows the national curriculum guidelines of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology (MEXT). ICUHS is unique, however, in that teachers have adapted these guidelines to suit the educational needs of returnees. Also, English, Japanese and Mathematics classes are divided into levels, since students return to Japan from a wide range of educational backgrounds, with varying degrees of ability in these subjects. Students' levels are decided initially by a Placement Test which all take on entering ICUHS. Some students are subsequently moved to other levels, depending on their progress.

There are also more hours per week of English than are usual in the regular Japanese curriculum, a special feature being classes taught in English by native speakers. These two factors help returnees maintain the native or near-native English learned while living in English-speaking countries or attending international schools. Non-returnee students are also offered these extra hours of English, to build up their English and help them catch up with their bilingual peers.

ICUHS also offers classes in Basic Chinese, French, German and Spanish as well as Advanced Chinese, French, German and Spanish classes for students with native or near-native ability in those languages.

All subjects apart from the English taught by native speakers are taught in Japanese.



of students at ICUHS are "returnees" or Japanese students who have lived and studied abroad for an extended period of time. At ICUHS, returnees from over 50 countries study together with students from Japanese junior high schools. By encountering and accepting new values, all students develop their potential to be both informed and active global citizens.

ENGLISH & OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGES

English classes are divided into 4 levels. Level 1 is the highest, the students having native or near-native ability in English. Level 4 is the lowest, most of the students not having lived overseas. Students in Levels 1 to 3 study Literature and Academic Writing. These classes are taught solely in English by teachers who are native speakers. Students read, discuss, analyze and write about a variety of texts from different cultures and time periods. Emphasis is placed on enhancing reading and critical thinking skills and acquiring a college level vocabulary. The aim is to provide the kind of classes students would have in international high schools or local high schools in English-speaking countries. Level 4 students study EFL, taught in English. Students are introduced to paragraph and essay writing, and their reading skills are developed through the intensive use of graded readers. Speaking is emphasized, with class discussions and presentations on issues of global significance. In addition, there are elective classes in the 2nd and 3rd Years.

For a list of books studied at each level, please see the school brochure. Please note that, in addition to these books, students are given a considerable number of shorter texts to study, such as short stories, poems, newspaper/magazine articles and various multi media texts. Students are also taught to treat films and television programs as texts deserving of scrutiny.

In the 2nd and 3rd Years, students in Levels 1 to 4 also study English in accordance with the Japanese national curriculum. This focuses on grammar, translation, reading comprehension and all other aspects of English which students might face in situations involving intercultural communication as well as in university entrance examinations.

The English course titles on the student's transcript and in the school brochure may not accurately reflect course content. This is because the school follows course titles prescribed by MEXT, while having the freedom to decide what is taught under those titles. Course content is shown below in parentheses.

Advanced Placement (AP)

ICUHS offers an AP course in Literature & Composition to 2nd year students. This class is open to students in Levels 1-3 and focuses on the study of novels, drama, short stories, poetry and essay writing. In addition, students are encouraged to take the AP exam.

ENGLISH & OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGES

English Language Arts (Years 1-3)

English Writing Workshop (Year 1)

English Grammar (Years 2 & 3)

English Elective: College Preparation (Year 2)

English Elective (Year 3) Media Studies, College Reading, Paragraph Reading, Film, Critical Thinking, Debate

Basic Chinese, French, German, Spanish

Advanced Chinese, French, German, Spanish

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

As demonstrated by the name International Christian University, both the University and High School follow three principal commitments as their mission: internationalization, Christianity and academic studies. All students take the Introduction to Christianity course once a week during each of their three years at ICUHS. Not only do the students study the Bible and Christianity, they are also taught to think about how human beings should live their lives.

JAPANESE

65% of our students come back to Japan with varying degrees of experience overseas. As a result, the range of Japanese ability among the students is very wide. To allow for this, Japanese classes are divided into levels: four in the 1st Year, three in the 2nd Year and two in the 3rd Year, with an additional class for the small number of students who are in need of Japanese language support due to the length of time they have lived abroad. Subjects studied are Classical Japanese, Classical Chinese and Modern Japanese Literature.



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics classes are divided into 4 levels. All students take Mathematics I and Mathematics A in the 1st Year and Mathematics II in the 2nd Year. Students concentrating on Mathematics and Science take elective Mathematics courses in the 2nd and 3rd Year. The Mathematics courses in the 3rd Year are very demanding even for the most skilled students.

- ◆ Mathematics I (1st Year – Quadratic Equations and Functions, Trigonometry, Metric Geometry)
- ◆ Mathematics A (1st Year – Sets & Logic, Permutations, Combinations & Probabilities, Introduction to Plane Geometry)
- ◆ Mathematics II (2nd Year - Proving Inequalities, Trigonometric Functions, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Elementary Calculus)
- ◆ Mathematics B (2nd Year Electives - Sequences, Vectors)
- ◆ Mathematics III (3rd Year Elective - Differentiation and Integration of Elementary Functions)
- ◆ Mathematics Seminar (3rd Year Elective - preparation for entrance to university)

SCIENCE

All students take Science and Basic Biology in the 1st Year. In the 2nd and 3rd Year, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Earth Science (Geology) are offered as electives. Please note that Earth Science is called Geology in the School Brochure. Advanced courses in Physics, Chemistry and Biology are also offered in the 3rd Year for future science majors. The abundance of nature on the ICU campus provides wonderful opportunities for students to explore and experiment.

SOCIAL STUDIES

All students take World History in the 1st Year and Ethics in the 2nd Year. In the 2nd and 3rd Year, World History, Japanese History and Geography are offered as electives. In the 3rd Year, all students take Politics & Economics. 3rd Year elective courses prepare students for university entrance.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sports and health are an important part of school life at ICUHS and the school grounds and our school's new gymnasium, featuring an indoor running track and rooftop archery & futsal area, provide an ideal environment. The P.E. staff teach both Physical Education and Health Education. In Term 3 in the 1st and 2nd Years, all students compete in a Road Race (11.4 km. for boys, 6 km. for girls).

OTHERS

Other required courses are **Home Economics**, which is taken in the 1st Year, in which students learn the basics of cooking and food hygiene, and **Computer Science** which is taken in the 3rd Year. **Integrated Studies (International Understanding & Peace Studies)** is required in all three years and demands that students do a piece of writing about a special event such as an activity they participated in during Christianity Week or the 3rd Year school excursion to Okinawa. It is awarded with a Pass/Fail grade. **Art** and **Music**, although they are elective subjects, play a very important role at ICUHS. Students' paintings and sculptures are always on display, and there is a thriving Art Circle. In Music class, each student learns to play an instrument and gives a performance at the end of term. **Calligraphy** is another elective course offered within the Fine Arts bracket. The **Senior Project** is a one hour per week, non-credit elective where students choose from an eclectic range of subjects – anything from Aerobics to Introduction to Greek.

GRADING & RANKING

ICUHS follows the 5 point Japanese grading scale: 5=A, 4=B, 3=C, 2=D, 1=F. A small number of classes are awarded with a simple Pass/Fail grade. Grades for the majority of classes are based on examination scores, although some teachers put more emphasis on continuous assessment, basing the grade (or part of the grade) on the student's performance throughout the term (taking into account weekly quizzes, class writing, home work writing, presentations and class participation). Examinations are given at mid-term and end of term in Terms 1 and 2, and at end of term in Term 3.

Please note that ICUHS, like most Japanese schools, does not offer any classes that are officially designated as honors classes, although certain 3rd Year electives are highly advanced. Where mainstream classes are divided into levels, as in the case of English, Japanese and Mathematics, this simply means that the students are taught to a standard which is appropriate for them. For example, Level 1 English is advanced when compared with ordinary Japanese high school English but is actually equivalent to a regular English class in an international high school or local high school in an English-speaking country.

Like most Japanese schools, ICUHS does not rank students. However, every year we are allowed to recommend up to 80 students to International Christian University and a list of students' grade point averages is used as the basis for this. In order to be recommended, students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above.

SAT

The history of ICUHS students taking the SAT goes back to the early 1980s. Students who take the SAT at ICUHS are usually in English Levels 1-2. They use their scores to enter universities in Japan and overseas.

The following table is comprised of data from June 2016 to May 2019. During this period, a total of 153 graduating students took the SAT at least once, most of them 2-3 times. The numbers in the ERW and Math boxes are based on each student's highest score in the Evidence-based Reading & Writing and Mathematics sections.

Score Range	ERW	Math
700-800	9	73
600-690	67	60
500-590	63	17
400-490	12	3
300-390	2	0

CLUBS

In Japanese high schools, club activities are an essential part of school life, and ICUHS is no exception. There are about 20 clubs to choose from and most students join one in the first month. They leave the club in the final term of the 2nd Year to concentrate more on studies. Club practice takes place every day after classes are over, except for the week leading up to and the week during mid-term or end of term examinations. During the summer of their 1st and 2nd Years, students attend a week-long camp for the club. Some students also work as managers, taking charge of all aspects of the club, from setting up games with other schools to dealing with finances. Students at ICUHS devote a lot of time and energy into making their club experience a valuable one.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students handle many responsibilities throughout the school year. Some are student council members, some are home room representatives, and some are active in organizing the various annual student-run events, the biggest of which are Culture Festival and Sports Day.

AFTER GRADUATION FROM ICUHS

The majority of our students enter Japanese private universities, the most popular destinations being International Christian University, Keio University, Sophia University, Waseda University, Aoyama Gakuin University and Chuo University. A smaller number enter national universities. Between 5 and 10 students every year enter foreign universities. See our school brochure for a list of foreign universities entered by our graduates between 2015 and 2019.

Clubs@ ICUHS

Archery
ICU Jazz Sounds
Rock Club
Handball
Baseball
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Cheerleading
Dance
Swimming
Volleyball
Track and Field
Boys Tennis
Girls Tennis
Tea Ceremony
Photography
Environmental
Volunteer Network
Chorus Club
Orchestra



ICU High School Course of Studies

ENGLISH & OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGES

English Language Arts (Years 1-3)
English Writing Workshop (Year 1)
Grammar (Years 2 & 3)
English Elective: AP English Literature & Composition (Yr 2)
English Elective: College Preparation (Year 2)
English Elective (Year 3) Media Studies, College Reading,
Paragraph Reading, Film, Critical Thinking, Debate
Basic Chinese, French, German, Spanish
Advanced Chinese, French, German, Spanish

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History A
World History B
Japanese History A
Japanese History B
Ethics
Geography A
Geography B
Politics & Economics
World History Seminar

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics I
Mathematics II
Mathematics III
Mathematics A
Mathematics B
Mathematics Seminar

SCIENCE

Science
Basic Physics
Basic Chemistry
Basic Biology
Basic Earth Science
Advanced Physics
Advanced Chemistry
Advanced Biology

Physics Seminar
Chemistry Seminar
Biology Seminar

JAPANESE

Japanese
Modern Japanese
Classics
Classical Japanese & Chinese
Japanese II
Japanese Seminar

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education
Health Education

FINE ARTS

Art I
Art II
Art III
Calligraphy I & II
Music I
Music II
Music III

OTHERS

Home Economics
Computer Science A
Introduction to Christianity*
Integrated Studies*
Senior Project
* Required, non-graded
(Pass/Fail) classes

- ◆ 1 period = 50 minutes; 6 periods per school day; 6 school days per week, 4 periods on Saturday
- ◆ Approximately 200 school days per year
- ◆ 88 credits required for graduation
- ◆ All subjects apart from the English taught by native English speakers are taught in Japanese.