



# oh-i!



英語

Issued by Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP)  
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## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!

Happy New Year! We will send out useful information to everyone again this year, so please look forward to it!

### Experience Japanese culture!

In February there will be an event where people can experience Japanese culture.  
 Please participate!



Day/time: **February 16 (Sun) 10:00AM – 2:00PM**

Venue: Utsunomiya City Hall 14th floor large meeting room (1-1-5 Asahi)

Cultural activities: Tea ceremony, flower arranging, calligraphy, torn paper art, etc.

※Sign up is required to try on a kimono.

Sign up starting January 20 at the Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA)  
 (at UCIA, or by phone, e-mail, etc.)

10:00AM session, 11:00AM session First 10 people (women) per session

Stage: Taiko drumming, Okinawa Eisa folkdancing, Tsugaru shamisen (stringed instrument), etc.

Participation fee: 300 yen for general admission, 100 yen for elementary school students  
 (free for children younger than elementary school age)

Sign up: Not necessary

#### 【Inquiries】

Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA)  
 ☎ 028-616-1870 E-mail: [ucia@ucia.or.jp](mailto:ucia@ucia.or.jp)

### Utsunomiya International Association (UCIA) Official LINE!

The Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) sends information in easy Japanese on fun exchange events, Japanese and foreign language classes, and useful information for daily life. Please consider "registering as a friend" and using this as a tool to gather information!

#### ★Note

UCIA official LINE simply sends out information from UCIA.

Replies can't be sent, so if you have any questions, please contact UCIA directly.



QR code →



URL: <https://line.me/R/ti/p/%40579ryukk>

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## Recruitment of scholarship students

This scholarship is a grant. This money can be used to go to school or university. Depending on the situation, this money may or may not need to be paid back later.

### (1) Scholarship Loan System (※This is a scholarship that needs to be paid back.)

▼Eligibility: Persons who are scheduled to attend an applicable school (see chart below) during the 2025 fiscal year and for whom ① and ② below apply.

① Persons who are a dependent of a citizen living in Utsunomiya City, and for whom it is difficult to attend school due to economic reasons.

② Persons who can choose a joint guarantor who pays taxes properly.

※A joint guarantor is a person who can pay back the scholarship grant if the applicant is unable to.

▼Grant amount: 20,000 yen or less per month for high schools, etc., 50,000 yen per month for universities, etc.

▼Recruitment quota: Around 150 people

▼Selection method: Examination of application documents

▼Application period: December 2 – January 30 (Must arrive by final date)

▼Application documents: Scholarship loan application form and recommendation from school principal

### (2) Payback Exemption Scholarship Loan System (※This is a scholarship that doesn't need to be paid back.)

▼Content: Persons who continue to live in Utsunomiya City in the future can receive this scholarship. People who continue to live within the city for 5 consecutive years after graduating don't have to payback the loan.

▼Eligibility: Persons who plan to enter a university, etc. (see chart below) in April 2025 or persons who will be in their second and third years of a university, and for whom ① – ③ below apply.

① Persons who are a dependent of a citizen living in Utsunomiya City, and for whom it is difficult to attend school due to economic reasons.

② Persons who can choose a joint guarantor who pays taxes properly.

③ Persons who hope to live in Utsunomiya City after graduating.

▼Grant amount: 20,000 yen per month

▼Recruitment quota: Around 60 people

▼Selection method: The first round of screening is a document examination based on application documents, and the second round is an essay and interview (mid-March).

▼Application period: December 2 – February 28 (Must arrive by final date)

▼Application documents: Scholarship for education and training fund application form and recommendation from school principal

#### ■Applicable schools

High schools, etc.	High school, specialized vocational high school, vocational school (with a 2-year or longer term of study), or secondary school (later stage)
Universities, etc.	Graduate school, university, junior college, or vocational school (with a 2-year or longer term of specialized study)

#### ■Application method

Please fill in the necessary information on an application form available at the Education Planning Division (City Hall 13<sup>th</sup> floor), any district community center, any branch office, or library (or download from the city website), and bring or send it in to the Education Planning Division at the City Hall (〒320-8540).

## Fun events ♪ ♪

### International Exchange Salon ♪

- ⌚ Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 4:00PM – 6:00PM
- ⌚ January 25 (Sat)
- ⌚ An opportunity to enjoy interacting with people from various countries.
- Cost** Free
- @ Utsunomiya International Plaza (4-1-1 Baba-dori)
- ☎ 028-616-1563



### Famous Film Viewing



- ⌚ January 25 (Sat) 2:00PM
- ⌚ "Go For it! Gateball Sakura Team!"  
("Soreike! Gateball Sakura-gumi!")
- Cost** Free
- Limit** First 300 people  
Numbered tickets distributed 45 minutes before screening on the day
- @ East Community Activities Center (*Higashi Shimin Katsudo Center*)  
Audiovisual Library (*Shichokaku Library*)  
(3-chome Nakaimaizumi)
- ☎ 028-638-5704

### Exciting Bean Throwing



- ⌚ February 1 (Sat) 11:00AM - 11:30AM
- ⌚ Make a monster mask and throw beans with others
- Limit For** First 15 people  
Age 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade elementary school
- @ South Library (*Minami Toshokan*)  
(56-1 Suzumenomiya-cho)
- ☎ 028-653-7609

### Workshop Eco-friendly Fun!

- ⌚ January 18 (Sat) & 19 (Sun)  
10:00AM - 3:00PM
- ⌚ Enjoy eco-friendly activities, such as games and quizzes!
- Cost** Free
- Sign up** Not necessary
- @ Utsunomiya City Environmental Learning Center (*Utsunomiya-shi Kankyo Gakushu Center*)  
(777-1 Mobara-cho)
- ☎ 028-655-6030



### New Year's Concert ♪ "Tsugaru Shamisen~ Examining Spring~"



- ⌚ January 26 (Sun) 2:00PM - 3:00PM
- ⌚ Concert by the Tsugaru Shamisen Oyamaryu group ♪
- Cost** Free
- Limit** First 50 people
- @ Kawachi Library (*Kawachi Toshokan*)  
(3397 Nakaokamoto-cho)
- ☎ 028-673-6782

### Flower Therapy

- ⌚ February 9 (Sun) 10:00AM - 12:00PM
- ⌚ Lecture by Keiko Matsumoto on flower therapy arrangement and flower essence
- Cost** Free
- Limit** First 100 people
- Sign up** Starting January 7 by phone  
City Hall 14<sup>th</sup> floor large meeting room  
(1-1-5 Asahi)
- @ Flower & Vegetation Community Development Promotion Council Secretariat (*Hana to Midori no Machidukuri Suishin Kyogikai Jimukyoku*)  
028-632-2597

## Interview

# Yo of China

We asked Yo of China about Harbin City, what he has noticed about Japan, studying Japanese, entering a university, and recommended cuisine of Harbin.



Nihao! (Hello in Chinese)

Yo came to Japan from Harbin City 10 years ago when he was 16 years old

### UCIA: What kind of place is Harbin?

**Yo:** Located in northern China, it gets down to -30°C in January. Due to the influence of Russia, there are magnificent European-style buildings, and the Harbin Ice Festival is also famous, attracting many tourists from overseas.

### UCIA: What did you notice when you came to Japan?

**Yo:** Japanese students participate in sports and club activities to enjoy school life. In China, learning is the main focus, and students have a “vertical” relationship with their teachers, but in Japan, my teachers treated me kindly.

### UCIA: How did you study Japanese?

**Yo:** I couldn't speak Japanese at all, so at first I learned Japanese for a month in the “Habataki Classroom,” where I made my first friends. Then I entered junior high school, had a Japanese volunteer teacher from UCIA come to school to teach me Japanese, and attended UCIA night and Sunday Japanese classes.

In addition, HANDS of Utsunomiya University dispatched Chinese exchange students to teach me how to study Japanese history and geography. After graduating from junior high school, I was unable to enter the high school of my choice, but I was able to enter a part-time high school. It was fun every day to learn by interacting with a variety of people including senior citizens, people chose not to attend regular school, and people from other countries.

### UCIA: What was important for you to go on to university?

**Yo:** I was able to enter Utsunomiya University's Faculty of International Studies through the entrance examination for foreign students, but since I was in junior high school I was told that writing ability is important, so I made an effort to focus on “communicative, historiated, and coherent writing.”

### UCIA: Please tell what cuisine of Harbin you recommend.

**Yo:** Gubaolou is Harbin's traditional dish of thinly sliced pork topped with batter and fried and eaten with sweet and sour sauce. It's very delicious.

**UCIA: Yo, shieshie! (Thank you!)**

## Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) Services

### General consultation for foreign residents

※Assistance in other languages is possible using a tablet that can interpret and translate multiple languages.



## UCIA OFFICIAL LINE

We send out information on fun exchange events and everyday life information. Please register as a “Friend” to use it as an information gathering tool.



“Oh-i!” is available in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Thai, and Vietnamese. You can also read it on the Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) website at <https://www.icia.or.jp>

