

## Japanese Education in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at International Schools in Japan

**Background/Aim:** The number of IB students seeking admission into Japanese Universities is increasing gradually. Presently, at Okayama University, there are 13 IB Diploma students enrolled in different faculties. Besides the special program, the medium of instruction in all faculties is Japanese. At the undergraduate level, along with other Japanese high school graduates, IB students are also expected to take lessons, write reports and make presentations in Japanese. Following discussions with Okayama University IB student academic advisors and receiving inquiries from students, teachers and parents from IB schools, regarding the level of Japanese required at Japanese Universities, a survey was carried out to explore the different levels of Japanese being studied by IB students at International Schools throughout Japan.

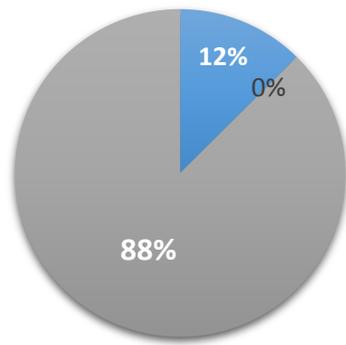
**Method:** A questionnaire with 6 closed ended, multiple choice questions was constructed and approved by Okayama University Admission Center Members. This survey was carried out during visit by Admission Center members, to various International Schools (IS) in Japan. This report contains survey data answered by academic advisors of 8 international schools in Japan, between September 2016 and February 2017.

**Results:** Analysis of data obtained from 8 IS revealed that, in IS schools, students came from various backgrounds (Japanese, returnees, mixed race or half with one parent Japanese and foreign nationals). Almost 88% of IS offer both Japanese A and Japanese B courses and only 12% IS offer only Japanese A. There was no IS included in the survey that offered only Japanese B. Regarding the type of students who take Japanese A, in 87.5% of IS, Japanese students of Japanese parents living in Japan took Japanese A. In 50% IS, “half” students and in 37.5% IS, returnee Japanese students, took Japanese A. There were no foreign students among the 8 IS, who took Japanese A. With reference to students taking Japanese B, there were no Japanese students in any IS taking Japanese B. In 88% IS, Japanese B was chosen by foreign students and in 63% IS, by “half” students and in 37.5% IS, by returnee students. When asked about how IS students choose Japanese A or Japanese B, 50% IS replied that, it was recommended by their parents, while 37% IS schools placed students in different levels following language assessment and

13% schools left it to the students choice. When asked whether the level of Japanese A, was sufficient to study at Japanese Universities, 50% IS replied it was not, while 37% felt it was difficult to say and only 13% felt the level was enough. In answer to whether students who took Japanese A, were aiming to study at Japanese universities, 100% IS answered “sometimes” with the exception of one school, which said this year only, there was an exception.

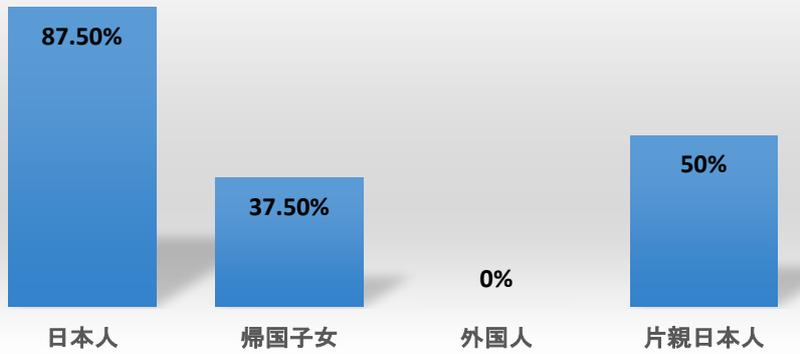
**Conclusion:** There is a growing concern about how much Japanese proficiency is required to study at the different faculties of Japanese Universities, where the language of instruction remains Japanese in almost all subjects, with the exception of International Courses. Results of this survey reveal a certain trend towards students from a Japanese background choosing Japanese A and aiming to study at Japanese Universities. However, Japanese B is chosen by students of various backgrounds including foreign students. Further survey is necessary to understand and get a clearer picture of actual facts.

## 国内インターナショナルスクールでの日本語学習

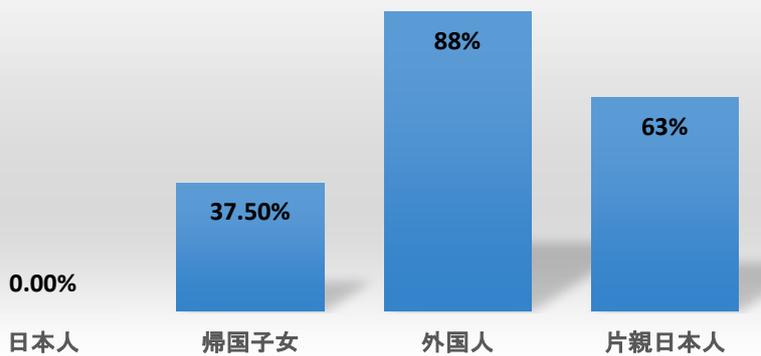


■ Jap A のみ ■ Jap B のみ ■ Jap A & B

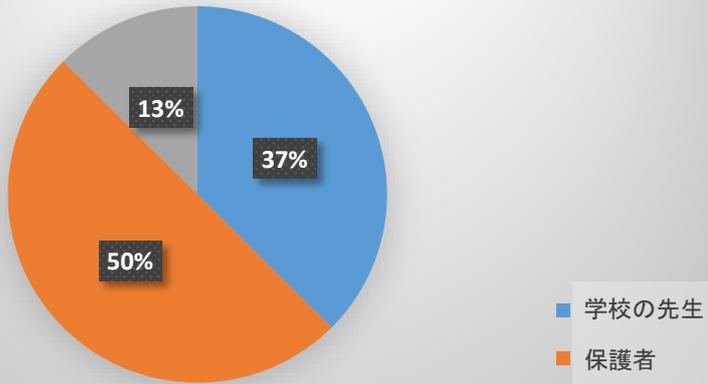
## Jap A 履修



## Jap B 履修



## 日本語科目履修決定者



## Jap. Aの学習は日本の大学の講義の理解には十分ですか？

