

Hirosaki University

Hirosaki, Japan



Hirosaki Castle

The City: The picturesque castle town of Hirosaki, in Aomori Prefecture, has flourished since the early 17th century. Today's modern city is dotted with many famous buildings and historical sites dating back to ancient times.

Hirosaki (Japanese: 弘前市; *Hirosaki-shi*) is located at the northern end of Honshu-main Island, approximately 5 hours by bullet train and highway bus from Tokyo.

There are numerous cultural artifacts in Hirosaki, a town centered around Hirosaki Castle. The town is also known as Little Kyoto for its historic setting and cultural atmosphere. After the Meiji era (1868 - 1912), the town developed as an agricultural district and became Japan's largest producer of apples. The fruit was first grown in 1875 when a foreign teacher introduced western apple seeds to the area. Since that date continuous research has brought about significant improvement in the quality and quantity of the apples produced. The prefecture's highest mountain, Mt. Iwaki-san, lies in the west, the mountain ranges of Hakkoda-san to the east, the mountain ranges of Dewa-san to the south, and Iwaki-gawa River runs from north to south through the Tsugaru Plains. Japan's best apples are grown in this naturally pure environment. In

anticipation of the harvest season (from end of September throughout end of November), the sweet aroma of apples spreads through the city. (For more information, visit <http://hometown.infocreate.co.jp/en/tohoku/hirosaki/hirosa-e.html>.)

The University: Hirosaki University was established in 1949. Hirosaki University is comprised of five Faculties which offer courses in almost every academic field: Humanities, Education, Medicine, Science and Technology, and Agriculture and Life Science. It is a medium-sized national University with about 5800 students.

Programs available to UTM students: UTM students may study at Hirosaki University International Exchange Center, which offers Japanese language courses and courses taught in English to students from all over the world! Students may choose to study for either one term or two. Students may begin their studies at the beginning of either the spring term (1st week of April through end of July) or fall term (1st week of October through early February). Students may also participate in a 10-day Travel Study Program which is scheduled every other summer (next one will be offered in June 2010). On this program students will see one of the busiest and the most exciting cities in the world—Tokyo, Japan—and experience Japanese traditions, culture and history through their home-stay in Hirosaki. They will also have a chance to participate in classes at the International Exchange Center of Hirosaki University. Scholarships are available for both programs. For more information on studying at Hirosaki University, please contact Kyoko Hammond, Lecturer of Japanese, 427A Humanities, ext. 7484 [kyhammond@utm.edu] or Sandra Baker, Director, International Programs, 144A Gooch Hall, ext. 7352 [sbaker@utm.edu].