



Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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Let's Make Valentine's Day Chocolates!

Come learn how to make cute and tasty Valentine's Day chocolates! This class will also include a mini lecture on how Valentine's Day is celebrated in the US and a Valentine's Day card crafting session. Sign up using the code (starting from 1/7).

Date: February 7th (Sat) 10:30-13:00

Location: CrossPal 5F, Cooking Room

Fee: ¥1,000 (¥700 for contributors)

Spots: 15 people (elementary school aged children and older, elementary students must be accompanied by an adult)

What to bring: Apron, bandana, towel

Contact: NIEF ☎: 025-225-2727



Let's Try Japanese Calligraphy!

Learn how to write Japanese calligraphy (shodo) and make your own calendar! When you sign up, please choose what class time you want to join (Group 1 or 2). Sign up using the code below.

Date: January 31st (Sat)

Group 1: 13:30-14:30, **Group 2:** 14:30-15:30

Fee: ¥100 (for paper)

Spots: 10 people per group

Location: CrossPal 3F, Classrooms 301 & 302

Contact: ☎: 025-225-2727,

✉: kyokai@nief.or.jp, or use the code



Free Administrative Scrivener Consultation

Get free consultation on visa qualifications, applying for permanent residency, doing business in Japan, car registration, traffic accident compensation, and more! No need to sign up or contact in advance.

You can also seek consultation via LINE! Scan the code below to become friends with the Niigata Prefecture Administrative Scrivener Society.

Date: January 18th (Sun) 10:00-16:00

Location: CrossPal, 3F Room #308

Fee: Free!

Contact: Niigata Prefecture Administrative Scrivener Society ☎: 070-1189-8555



Salon Exhibit: Qinghai & Northwestern China

Featuring slides and photos from the October 16th lecture by Qinghai native and Niigata City Chinese CIR, Ms. Song. Learn about the region's minority groups, the famous Qinghai Lake, food, and more!

Date: November 22nd-January 22nd 9:00-17:00

Closed: Sundays, holidays, December 22nd (Mon), & December 29th-January 3rd

Location: NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal 2F)



International Lecture: Normandy, France

Learn about France's northwestern region of Normandy from Niigata City's French CIR, Ms. Dudouit. From its Viking origins to the famous Mont-Saint-Michel island and abbey, the region has a rich history and culture. Come and see what all Normandy has to offer! Sign up using the code below.

Date: January 18th (Sun) 10:30-11:30

Location: CrossPal 4F, Audio-Visual Hall

Fee: Free!

Contact: NIEF ☎: 025-225-2727



An American Christmas Party

The Niigata Japan-America Society will host their annual Christmas party, featuring live a swing band, tasty food, and gift exchange. This a great opportunity to meet with local residents and speak English! Don't forget to bring a present worth ¥500 for the gift exchange. Sign up using the code.

Date: December 16th (Tue) 18:00-20:30

Location: Gioia Mia

7-1016-1 Higashibori-dori, Chuo Ward

Fee: General: ¥6,000; Students: ¥4,000;

Members: ¥5,500

Contact: Niigata Japan-America Society

☎: 025-365-1250



Literakoya Study Group for Teens

A weekend study group for students with foreign backgrounds, ages 13-18. Students can bring their homework and volunteers will help them study. Online Zoom study sessions are also held on weekdays. Please contact beforehand if it is your first time attending.



Date: (In person) Saturdays, 9:30-11:45, (Online) Mondays and Wednesdays, 20:00-22:00

Location: Bandai Civic Hall

9-1 Higashi Bandai-cho, Chuo Ward

Contact: ☎: 090-6684-2346

Refugee Film Festival (Online)

Japan for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is hosting its 20th film festival online to promote understanding and support for refugees. Films can be viewed for free or you can choose to provide a donation to the organization.

Featured films: *Khartoum*, *Photophobia*, *Another Place*, *Syria: Between Hope and Fear*, *Meet the Barbarians*, *Radio Dadaab*, *The Last Island*, *Kabul Beauty*

Date: November 6th-December 7th

Location: Online

Fee: Free but donations are appreciated



Information

Minimum Wage Increase!

As of October 2, 2025, the minimum wage has increased from ¥985 per hour to ¥1050 per hour, for a total increase of ¥65 per hour.

For questions, contact: Niigata Labor Bureau or local Labor Standards Inspection Office

PSA: Holiday Trash Collection

Due to the holidays, there will be a special collection of burnable trash on December 31st (Wed) but no trash collection between January 1st and 3rd. Regular collection services will resume on January 4th (Sun).

International Cooking Class

Menu: (December) New Year's Feast
Side dishes, seasonal hassun bento, shrimp ozoni soup, sushi, and more!

Date: Dec. 18th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd 11:00-14:00

Fee: Foreign residents, students: ¥2,000;
General: ¥3,800

Location: Ms. Ueno's residence in Akiha Ward
Call to sign up. Must sign up at least 3 days before class. For January's menu and dates, please contact Ms. Ueno.

Contact: Ms. Ueno, ☎: 0250-24-6859

Niigata Jazz Street

It's time for the 47th Niigata Jazz Street! Come and enjoy a day of jazz with performances by local jazz musicians from Niigata and surrounding prefectures. This event has performances taking place simultaneously across multiple venues, including cafes, bars, and concert halls. Check the schedule and plan out your day!

Date: January 24th (Sat) 12:00-23:00

Location: Cafes, bars, concert halls, etc. in the Furumachi & Niigata Station area
(check the website for more details using the code to the right)

Fee: ¥2,000 for a 1-day pass to all shows (JHS students and under are free), comes with 1 drink


*Available for purchase at each venue, Ryutopia information center, and Media Ship 1F information center

Contact: Jazz FLASH, ☎: 025-224-4518



Classes

Japanese Language Courses (NIEF classes and others)

NIEF classes: Beginner through Intermediate 2	-Classes of varying difficulties are available throughout the week. -Pricing info & the schedule for the current session: https://www.nief.or.jp/	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka ☎: (025) 225-2727	Volunteer Japanese Classes: 
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Japanese Study Support Group for Children & Students: NicoPal Club (Free of charge)

Day of the Week & Hours	Room No.	Content	For more info.
Every Wed. (contact for info)	202	Please contact Ms. Tanaka for more information.	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka ☎: (025) 225-2727
Every Sat. 10:00 - 11:30 *except 12/27, 1/3 *Please register beforehand	201	This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies.	

Consultation

Niigata Help Association ☎: 025-228-2212	Everyday 10:00-23:00 English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc.
Niigata City International Exchange Foundation (NIEF) ☎: 025-225-2727 ☒: kyokai@nief.or.jp URL: https://www.nief.or.jp/	Monday-Saturday 9:00-16:00 English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, French
Niigata International Association (NIA) ☎: 025-241-1881 ☒: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp URL: https://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/	Weekdays 10:00-17:00 English, Russian, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese
Helpline for Foreigners ☎: 0120-279-338 (toll-free)	Press 2 after the Japanese guidance
Niigata Medical Care Information Network URL: http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/	English, Chinese, Korean
Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service ☎: 025-280-8609 Niigata Misaki Godo Chosha #2 (1-2-1 Misaki-cho, Chuo Ward, Niigata City)	1 st - 4 th Wed 13:00-16:00 English & Chinese
Immigration Bureau Consultation	3 rd Tue. of the month (12/16&1/20) 1pm-4pm Thai, Vietnamese, Russian
Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation	4 th Wed. of the month (12/24&1/28) 10am-5pm Chinese, Russian
Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 rd Thur. of odd numbered months (1/15) 1pm-5pm Russian
Houterasu Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 rd Mon. of even numbered months (12/15) 1pm-5pm English, Filipino, Russian
Education Consultation	Every Tue. 13:00-17:00 English, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian

Make a reservation by phone or email in advance.

Place: Multilingual Consultation Center of Niigata (formerly Foreign Resident Consultation Center)
(2nd floor of Toki Messe)

Contact: ☎: 025-241-1881

☒: nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp

*All listed dates are subject to change. Please call or email to confirm.



Edited and Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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(Written and edited by Alyssa Williams & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed Dec. 22nd, Dec. 29th-Jan. 3rd, & Jan. 26th