

【Field of study : New disciplines】

University	Nishogakusha University
Program Title	Establishment of World Organization for <i>Kanbun</i> Studies
The core course to form the program	Chinese Studies, Graduate School of Literature
Program Leader	Setsuya Takayama

《Program Summary》

In this program Japanese *Kanbungaku* indicates a study on writings written by Japanese People in *Kanji* and *Kanbun*. The study covers, besides literary works such as Chinese poetry and historical documents such as chronicles and recordings, literature of every field written in *Kanbun*.

Japanese people who originally did not have their own characters learned Chinese characters and absorbed Chinese culture and scholarship. Soon they invent a unique reading method of Chinese writing,

which is called *Kundoku* method, and accordingly Japanese peoples' assimilation of Chinese culture expanded greatly while writings by Japanese people in *Kanji* and *Kanbun* started appearing in volume. It is not too much to say that in premodern Japan *Kanji* and *Kanbun* literature constituted the nucleus of Japanese culture and scholarship. This means the knowledge of Japanese *Kanbun* is indispensable for the study of Japanese culture and thus it is fundamental to Japanology. From this point of view, domestic and overseas Japanologists strongly suggest Japanese *Kanbun* studies be strengthened and more *Kanbun* scholars and researchers be trained.

As a matter of fact, however, due to the rapid modernization after the Meiji Restoration Japanese *Kanbungaku* gradually shrank and a great number of related literature and documents were lost and forgotten. Before things become too late, it is urgently necessary to hunt after related materials thoroughly and globally so as to be put into a database for global information sharing.

Considering the situations stated above, this program will carry out the following tasks.

- ① Forming a network for the exchange of study results among scholars and researchers.
- ② Exhaustively locating relevant literature and creating the database of collected information.
- ③ Educating young scholars of *Kanbungaku* and training bibliographers specialized in *Kanji* and *Kanbun* literature.
- ④ Promoting and studying in the education of *Kanbun* through such activities as the development of textbooks for college students.

