

Mei-Writing Summer Camp 2023

General Information & Plan

Part I – General Information

1. What is special about Mei-Writing summer camp?

Mei-Writing summer camp is an icon of general education for all university students, regardless of their fields of studies. It is an intensive and comprehensive program that covers all the necessary academic skills, including logical thinking, academic writing, presentation, team-building, leadership. Its primary goal is to transform general education outside the classroom setting so that a suitable learning environment can be created to promote student's active learning and develop their self-confidence in thinking, communication and leadership.

2. Time and Location

In 2023, the camp will be held at 国立信州高遠青少年自然の家, from September 1st to 4th (4 days 3 nights).

3. Camp Capacity

In 2023, the maximum camp capacity is set at 24 participants, including 2 instructors, 1 organizer (TA), 4 leaders (TA).

In the near future, the maximum camp capacity could reach 44 participants, including 2 instructors, 1 organizer (TA), 7 leaders (TA).

4. Eligibility for being a camp participant

All university students from either Nagoya University or Gifu University, regardless of whether they are postgraduates or undergraduates, are eligible for camp participation.

5. Eligibility for being a camp leader

In 2023, to be employed as a camp leader (TA), he or she must be (i) a graduate student (Master's or Doctoral) of Nagoya University, and (ii) fulfill one of the following conditions:

- (a) Completed the course of either Research Skills T, or Research Skills A-1/A-2.
- (b) Completed the course of Research Skills SC (summer camp), or Research Skills D-1.
- (c) Completed a series of Nagoya University library workshops on “Logical Thinking Skills and Academic Writing”.

6. Eligibility for getting the course credits

All university students from either Nagoya University or Gifu University are eligible for getting course credits after successfully completing all the camp activities. The eligibility applies to both postgraduates and undergraduates.

Mei-Writing Summer Camp 2023

General Information & Plan

7. Transportation

Participants of the camp will be transported to and from the campsite by bus. Below is a brief travel plan:

To the campsite:

- (i) Depart from Toyota Symposium Hall, Nagoya University (Higashiyama Campus)
- (ii) Stop at Gifu JR Station
- (iii) Arrive at 国立信州高遠青少年自然の家

From the campsite:

- (iv) Depart from 国立信州高遠青少年自然の家
- (v) Stop at Gifu JR Station
- (vi) Arrive at Toyota Symposium Hall, Nagoya University (Higashiyama Campus)

8. Accommodations

All participants of the camp will stay at the accommodations provided by the campsite. One or two big lodges will be allocated to male students. One or two big lodges will be allocated to female students. Two teacher's rooms will be allocated to the camp instructors.

9. Insurance

All participants of the camp are required to buy insurance that covers the entire camp period. A JTB staff will come to Nagoya University to collect the insurance fee two or three weeks before the camp.

10. Necessary Expenses

Transportations to and from the camp are free. Accommodations are also free, as long as they are provided by national campsites like 国立信州高遠青少年自然の家. Participants only have to pay for what they consume at the campsite, such as food, drinks, snacks, etc. Some of the voluntary leisure activities such as hot spring tour, etc., may also require payment. In general, we ask everyone to bring around 15,000 yen for the whole camp.

Mei-Writing Summer Camp 2023

General Information & Plan

Part II – Camp Activities

11. Orientation session

The orientation session of the camp will be conducted by the camp organizer and instructor one or two weeks before the camp. The instructor will introduce the camp and show videos of past camps. The organizer will introduce the facilities at the campsite, inform about the gathering time and location on the departure date, etc. One important part of the orientation session is the ice-breaking activities among the participants. Participants will get to know their team leader and members for the first time. A welcome party will be held after the orientation session.

12. Workshop series on Logical Thinking and Academic Writing

This workshop series will be conducted by Prof. Lai on Day 1 (afternoon), Day 2 (morning), Day 3 (morning), and Day 4 (morning). The objective of the workshops is to teach students how to think clearly and convincingly in academic writing. Two major areas will be covered: (i) understanding the importance of having a clear thesis statement in academic writing and learning how to build one through writing a group essay, (ii) understanding the importance of having a logically convincing argument in academic writing and learn how to build one based on the thesis statement developed. All the teams will be asked to write a group essay based on some common keywords, although each of them is encouraged to develop, based on the keywords, a unique thesis statement and logical argument for their essay.

13. Team-Building Training

The entire camp will be conducted in the spirit of “cooperating to compete”. Every student participant will be allocated to a team of 4 or 5 members throughout the camp period. Team members are selected based on creating a well balanced between different nationalities and disciplines. Under a multinational and multidisciplinary environment, team members need to learn how to communicate in English and explain their ideas in a clear and convincing manner to the audience from different fields. And most importantly, they need to learn how to support each other and work together. All the teams will compete for a top prize based on their group-works. The prize will be awarded on the final day.

14. Leadership Training

Five students from the camp participants will be chosen to form the leadership and management team of the camp. One of them is the organizer, and the other four the team leaders. Together they will manage and lead the camp. The camp organizer will (i) lead a team of four team leaders, (ii) make plans about the camp location, period, schedule, activities, (iii) conduct PR activities for the camp, (iv) chair leadership meetings, etc. Each of the team leaders will (i) lead a team of four or five students, (ii) help the organizer plan the camp schedule and activities, (iii) conduct PR activities for the camp, (iv) participate in the leadership meetings, etc. Through

Mei-Writing Summer Camp 2023

General Information & Plan

the practical experiences of how to manage and lead, the student organizer and leaders will learn valuable lessons about how to become managers and leaders. The leadership training will start four or five months before the camp.

15. Presentation Training

Every team is asked to give a final group presentation on the last evening of the camp. The presentation is the final competition among the four teams, which is a decisive factor for choosing the winning team of the camp. After the presentation, all the camp participants will vote to decide which one of the teams wins the top prize. Every team member will work from Day 1 for the final group presentation. In order to win the votes from the audience, every team member will contribute to making their group presentation unique and attractive. By working together with other team members in this way, students will learn important presentation skills that are missing from the ordinary presentation course.

16. Morning Exercises

Every morning during the camp period, each team leader will take turns to lead the morning physical exercises. The exercises are usually dances that are invented by the leaders. They are extremely fun and exciting!

17. Campfire & BBQs

Campfire and BBQ are the symbols of summer camp! They are important for making the camp fun and enjoyable. Participants can take these opportunities to bond with their fellow camp members and strengthen their friendship.

18. Other leisure activities

In addition to the campfire and BBQ, the camp organizer and leaders will also organize many other leisure activities such as sports activities, hot spring tours, short-distance hiking, etc., to make the camp as fun and enjoyable as possible.

Mei-Writing Summer Camp 2023

General Information & Plan

Part III – Overall Schedule

Day 1

- (1) Arrive at the camp site
- (2) Lunch
- (3) Camp orientation
- (4) Workshop on logical thinking for academic writing – introduction
- (5) Teamwork (let's build a great team!)
- (6) BBQ
- (7) Welcome party

Day 2

- (1) Morning exercise
- (2) Breakfast
- (3) Workshop on logical thinking for academic writing – thesis statement
- (4) Lunch
- (5) Teamwork (prepare for the group presentation 1)
- (6) Teamwork (prepare for the group presentation 2)
- (7) Dinner/BBQ
- (8) Hot spring tour (optional)

Day 3

- (1) Morning exercise
- (2) Breakfast
- (3) Workshop on logical thinking for academic writing – logical argumentation
- (4) Lunch
- (5) Teamwork (prepare for the group presentation 3)
- (6) Teamwork (prepare for the group presentation 4)
- (7) Dinner
- (8) The final group presentation! (and the awards ceremony!!)
- (9) Celebration party with campfire & fireworks

Day 4

- (1) Morning exercise
- (2) Breakfast
- (3) Workshop on research ethics
- (4) Lunch
- (5) Sightseeing and outdoor activities
- (6) Going back home

Mei-Writing Summer Camp 2023

General Information & Plan

Important Notice!

During the summer camp, every participant will spend almost the entire period working and socializing with other participants. Participants will also share bedrooms, bathrooms, and meals together. It would be practically impossible to avoid close contact among the participants.

To prevent coronavirus infection under such circumstances, all camp participants must be fully vaccinated at least two weeks before the camp. They are also required to follow the necessary infection prevention protocols.