

MONTSERRAT IN JAPAN

MAY 16 – JUNE 14, 2026

NIIGATA, JAPAN

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

OPEN TO CURRENTLY ENROLLED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

STUDY WITH NCAD

Since 1992, Montserrat has been collaborating with our sister school at **Niigata College of Art and Design (NCAD)**. Through multiple "Open Studio" events hosted by NCAD, participating students are able to interact and connect with other art students from both schools.

Alongside the core curriculum, students may also have the opportunity to attend exclusive day workshops led by NCAD staff, including **Art of Calligraphy**, **Japanese Fabric Arts**, and **Japanese Designs**.

Students will also get to visit other affiliated schools such as **Japan Anime and Manga College (JAM)**, **Niigata Computer College (NCC)**, and the **College of Foreign Language, Tourism and Airline Studies (AIR)**.



OPEN STUDIO DAY!

EXPLORE NIIGATA

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LIFE IN NIIGATA

Niigata (新潟)

A coastal city on the Sea of Japan, Niigata is known for its agriculture and quiet lifestyles. With a population of over 775,000, it is not only the top producer of rice in the nation, but also home to bustling local restaurants, curated galleries, vibrant nature, and serene shrines. Students will have the opportunity to explore this lively city for ~3.5 weeks, before concluding the trip with 5 days spent in Tokyo.



VISIT LOCAL AREAS

From Mt. Yahiko Village to the quiet sanctuary of Saito Villa, students will experience different regions, ways of life, and history of Niigata.

Additional museum and gallery visits may include the following locations:

- Bandaijima Museum
- Niigata Anime and Manga Museum
- Niigata City Art Museum
- NSG Museum



COURSES OFFERED

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All participating students will enroll in "Arts and Culture in Japan" as well as selecting one studio course that is currently offered in the program, for a total of 6 credits.

Arts and Culture in Japan

HU215 / 3 CREDITS

A brief orientation to Japanese art and culture on the Montserrat campus is followed by several weeks of study in Japan. Course consists of an introduction to the Japanese writing systems and spoken language; [and] readings, presentations and writing assignments on topics ranging from traditional calligraphy and woodblock prints to contemporary Manga, Anime and popular culture. Course is enriched by field trips to museums, gardens and cultural events.

KYODO GANGU: Japanese Folk Toys**

ID395 / 3 CREDITS

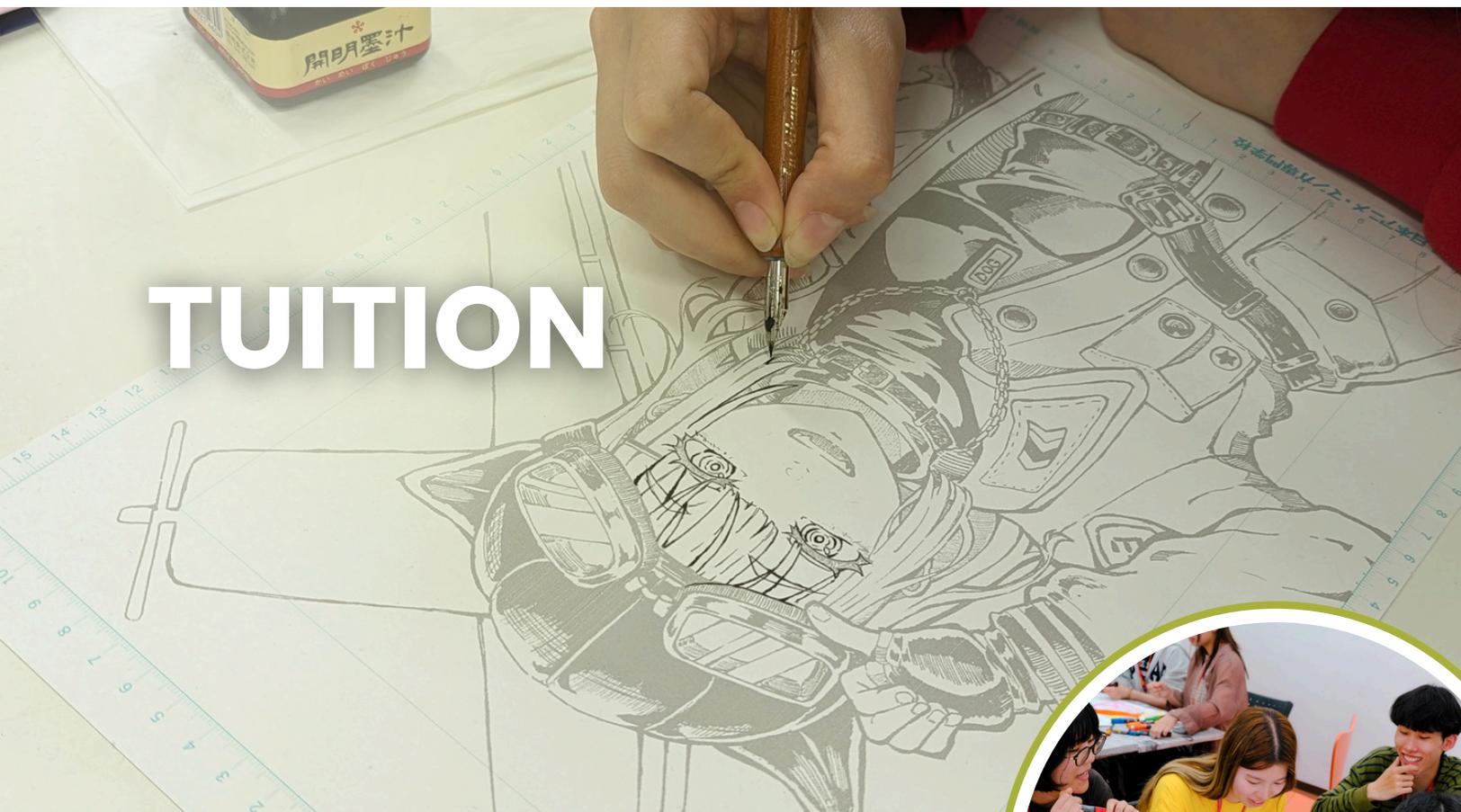
Using paper, ink, soft wood and light metals, students will create prototypes, packaging and products inspired by stories and designs of iconic Japanese folk toys (such as kendama, daruma, kokeshi and maneki-neko). A focus is placed on learning the cultural habits and historical influences of the craft -- so that historical techniques can be used to further their artistic abilities and expand them into new creative audiences. Field trips and outdoor sketching will expand projects, allowing students to record their observations and find deeper inspirations to conceptualize new stories for their toy designs.

Drawing Manga in Japan**

DR299-1 / 3 CREDITS

Students will be responsible for documenting their travels in a dedicated sketchbook with images, sketches, found objects, and writing. On-site drawing to various historical locations with daily experimental prompts will be a major focus of the course as well as observing the life and culture of Japan's everyday life. This course will provide the students an opportunity to document their own unique experiences and outlook while also expanding their visual library. Visits to museums/galleries, mini field trips around Niigata, and lectures about the history of manga throughout Japan and its influence around the world will also be part of the course. After returning from Japan, students are then responsible for completing a 6 page manga featuring the theme of "culture shock" that will be due in mid to late August.

** Students may only choose 1 studio course.



TUITION

**2026 PROGRAM
TUITION FEE: \$7,000**

- **6 college-level credits**
- Round-trip airfare between Boston, MA and Tokyo, Japan
- In-country rail / bus travel
- Housing in Niigata and Tokyo
- Course related supplies
- Museum and gallery fees
- Some meals

