

2026 Autumn Admission for Eikei University of Hiroshima
(Selection of International Students/
Integrated Selection of Japanese Students in English)
First, Second and Third Window

Short Essay Question

An Introduction to the Liberal Arts

A liberal arts education, such as the one provided by Eikei University of Hiroshima (EUH), has classically been oriented toward “education befitting a free person,” (Greteman, 2023). Rather than specialized training toward predetermined ends, the liberal arts offer a foundation for broader perspectives and new syntheses of knowledge and ideas from diverse academic fields and experiences. In doing so, they cultivate “a well-rounded education to navigate global society” (Eikei University of Hiroshima, n.d.). As Greteman (2023) explained, such an education expands one’s freedom “as a citizen and thinker.” Indeed, it is now as important as ever to be able to draw from various traditions of knowledge and ideas to think and act effectively about multifaceted social issues. In your essay, therefore, keep in mind how the liberal arts could contribute to better approaches to the complex challenges our societies are facing.

References

- Eikei University of Hiroshima. (2025.March 31.) Features of learning. Retrieved July 4, 2025, from <https://eikei.ac.jp/english/academics/feature/>
- Greteman, B. (2023, September 18). "What are the liberal arts? A literature scholar explains." *The Conversation*. Retrieved July 4, 2025, from <https://theconversation.com/what-are-the-liberal-arts-a-literature-scholar-explains-211011>

General Instructions for the Essay

Investigate a recent attempt to address a social issue in Japan, such as through governmental policy, social entrepreneurship, or community organizing. Based on your research, describe the issue and the response. Then discuss this case from a liberal arts perspective. That is, explain how studying different academic subjects can deepen one’s understanding of this social issue and the attempt to address it. Finally, suggest how further liberal arts studies, including your own studies at EUH, could contribute to future efforts to address the issue.

Provide in-text citations to indicate clearly any data, examples, arguments, or other information from sources. Additionally, include a clear and complete list of references on the final page.

For evidence and perspectives, please refer to trustworthy sources such as *Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* (<https://apjif.org/>), *NHK World-Japan* (<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/>), *Nippon.com* (<https://www.nippon.com/en/>), *Japan Today* (<https://japantoday.com/>), *The Conversation* (<https://theconversation.com/global/topics/japan-285>), Nihon Shinbun Kyokai member news sites (<https://www.pressnet.or.jp/english/member/>), JSTOR (<https://about.jstor.org/oa-and-free/>), or other databases. Considering the well-documented problems with generative AI chatbots, be very cautious about using such tools in your research process.

Detailed Instructions

- The following is a model outline for your essay. Include each element in the order indicated below. Note that section titles for these elements are **not** required.
- The length of the essay must be within two A4-size pages, including figures and tables, with 12pt font in the university template (not counting the list of references).
In addition, it is **not** permitted to submit any materials other than the essay.

| Elements | Contents and points of preparation |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Title | Create a title that expresses the content of the essay concisely. |
| 1) Issue and Response | Introduce the issue and one attempt to address it within the past decade, supported by evidence and reasoning. State the focus of the essay regarding how liberal arts studies could contribute to a better understanding of the issue and better responses to it. |
| 2) Liberal Arts Perspective | Identify and describe some advantages of studying multiple academic disciplines, such as the courses in the EUH curriculum (https://eikei.ac.jp/academics/curriculum/), for enriching one's understanding of the issue and responses to it. |
| 3) Future Efforts | Summarize the case and the advantages of a liberal arts perspective. Logically extend this argument to how further liberal arts studies, including your own studies at EUH, could help to improve future responses to the issue. |
| References | List any references, documents, websites, etc., that you have cited. You do not need to follow a specific style guide, but please consistently present the references list. For a consistent citation style example, refer to APA style (https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references). |

Evaluation Criteria

The University will evaluate essays based on the following criteria.

| Items | What We Evaluate | Admission Policy |
|---|---|---|
| Basic Requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the university template used correctly? • Is the essay within the specified page limit? • Does the essay follow the assignment instructions? • Is the essay written in a clear and coherent style with appropriate grammar and spelling? | - |
| Attitudes and Perspectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the essay identify and coherently describe a recent attempt to address a social issue in Japan? • Does the essay persuasively explain the value of a liberal arts perspective in relation to the social issue? • Does the essay provide insightful analysis? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person who has strong interests in various cultures, history, society in Japan and overseas, and international relations and is willing to learn further by actively communicating with others • A person who aims to strengthen their own abilities by studying with a sense of purpose and looking ahead to the future |
| Academic Abilities and Their Expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the essay written logically based on evidence (citations)? • Does the essay express its analysis clearly and concretely? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person who has gained basic academic skills through high school studies, takes initiative in facing various challenges with a broad perspective while engaging others, and intends to contribute to society at large |