

Introducing Hokkaido University

Video 4 (Length 5:46): The Seasons on Campus

Hokkaido University campus is a great place to enjoy the changing seasons. Let's take a short look at the seasons on campus.

The arrival of spring heralds the beginning of the academic year. In April, thousands of new students enter the university to begin their new life and studies here. It is a time of making new friends and seeing old friends again after the winter vacation. Spring is also a time of rebirth for nature. The last snows of winter are melting away by the beginning of term. Then, the cherry blossoms bloom in early May. All around campus there are many flowers and leaves appearing after the long winter months. Spring is a time of new hope, of looking forward, and of fresh starts.

Summer is a very pleasant season in Hokkaido. Unlike the rest of Japan there is no rainy season in June. At the beginning of June is the Hokkaido University festival, which usually coincides with the beginning of the nicest weather of the year. Summer is a time to enjoy the great outdoors. You can sit outside on the grass to read a book, or enjoy a Genghis Khan party with your friends. Like spring, summer is also a great time to enjoy the flowers in bloom around campus. And as we enter August, there is the long summer holiday to look forward to, after the end of term exams, that is!

The arrival of autumn means the beginning of the second term. Students are back from their summer holidays ready to begin studying again. The campus puts on a spectacular display of reds, yellows and oranges in late October. The university is rightly famous around Hokkaido as a place to see autumn leaves. People come from far and wide to stroll under the autumn leaves and take photographs. The Ginkgo Avenue is particularly famous for its bright yellow leaves, but we must not forget the reds and oranges up the central avenue. The evenings are getting cooler, and as the leaves fall from the trees

we can feel winter approaching.

From mid-December, snow falls regularly in Sapporo. Gradually the campus is blanketed in deep snow. This can make getting from place to place difficult, and please be especially careful about using your bicycles in winter. But, there is a serene beauty to the campus in winter. In February, when the snow is at its deepest, the students have left for their winter vacations. Campus can be eerily quiet. In March the snows begin to melt. But the melting snow means that spring is only around the corner. Another year at Hokkaido University is about to begin. Another group of students with many hopes and dreams will arrive. Another year will be added to the over 130-year history of the university.

(Credits)

There have been many people involved in the production of the video series *Introducing Hokkaido University ...*

Script and Narration:

Philip Seaton

Music:

Mozart, Gran Partita

Performed by members of the Hokkaido Symphony Orchestra.

Conducted by Satoshi Oku.

Photographs:

Philip Seaton, Kimihiro Ito and members of the Hokkaido University Staff

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