

Undergraduate Research in Japanese Higher Education: case of humanities

-Undergraduate Research (UR) is the culminating experience of undergraduate study.

Definitions -UR is done during the senior year with various types of faculty support.

-UR takes place in courses named “seminar”, “graduation thesis”, “graduation research”...

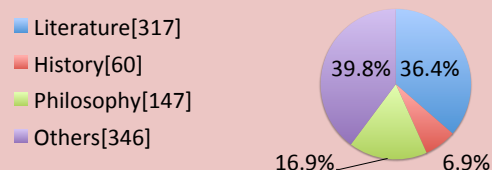
Humanities in Japanese Universities

-780 universities (86 national, 90 public, 604 private) in AY2017

-More than 5,000 departments in total

-870 departments of humanities (literature, History, Philosophy, and Others) [Fig.1]

Fig.1 Disciplinary Distribution



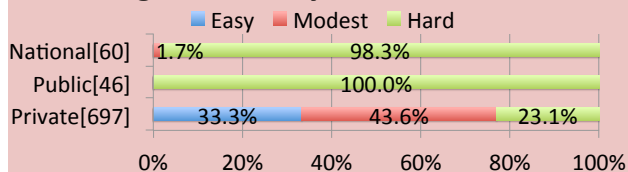
-2.89 million undergraduates in total

-14.1% of them enrolled in humanities (32.3% in social sciences, 14.9% in engineering)

-On average, 116 students in a department (national 130, public 94, private 117)

-Wide range of difficulty of admission, esp. in private universities [Fig.2]

Fig.2 Difficulty of Admission



% of Departments Requiring UR

-In the post-war educational reform, UR became part of undergraduate curriculum

-Majority (77.8%) require UR

-Departmental traits make a difference in the % of departments requiring UR [Table1]

Sector: national & public > private

Student numbers: not significant (n.s.)

Discipline: history & philosophy > others

Difficulty of admission: n.s.

Number of credits: n.s.

Table1 Result of Logistic Regression

	B	SE	Wald	p	Exp(B)
Sector			18.190	.000	
national	2.201	.630	12.216	.000	9.030
public	1.546	.557	7.710	.005	4.692
Student numbers	-.001	.001	.642	.423	.999
Discipline			12.234	.007	
literature	.091	.204	.197	.657	1.095
history	1.488	.543	7.509	.006	4.430
philosophy	.707	.300	5.534	.019	2.028
Difficulty of admission	-.024	.013	3.214	.073	.977
Credits for graduation	.074	.043	2.752	.097	1.074
Credits for major	-.012	.006	3.551	.060	.988

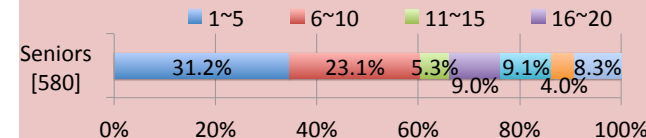
n=779, Nagelkerke R²=.088, Correct prediction 79.5%

Workload for UR

-In general, undergraduates in Japanese universities devote their senior year to UR

-A national survey of 2014 revealed that a typical senior of humanities spent 12 hours a week for UR [Fig. 3 for the distribution]

Fig.3 Hours Spent for UR



-Japanese University Law mandates that...

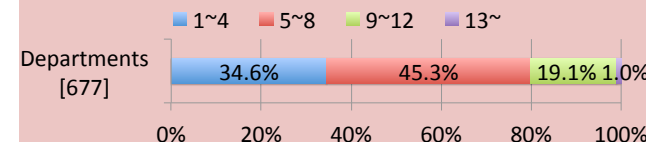
One academic year = 35 weeks

One academic credit = 45 hours study

=>The work of 12 hrs/wk is worth 9.3 credits

-On average, departments of humanities set 6.9 credits for UR [Fig. 4 for the distribution]

Fig.4 Credits for UR



-Students' work for UR is underestimated in terms of academic credits