

Becoming an Uchideshi in Wa Shin Ryu Jujutsu (12-7-05)

The title of uchideshi (special student; student of the inner circle) is accorded to those few, special students who establish a close rapport with the sensei, who show a high degree of commitment to the system, who participate and put in extra time, and assist in all facets of the operation of the club. Uchideshi are special students who, without being asked volunteer and take on special responsibilities which contribute to the growth and development of the system, who assist and collaborate with the sensei in carrying out research and who, by example, help set the highest standards of performance and conduct. Finally, uchideshi are students who, in addition to demonstrating high levels of skill and knowledge also best exemplify the twelve Guiding Principles of the system.

The bond that is established between the sensei and uchideshi continues even after students move on. It is a special bond akin to taking a blood oath. A bond that demonstrates commitment, loyalty and absolute trust by both the sensei and the uchideshi.

When an uchideshi moves on he/she becomes an ambassador of the system. It is also expected that uchideshi will continue to practice, study, and eventually teach and/or perpetuate Wa Shin Ryu Jujutsu the way they learned it from their teacher. Upon receiving Menkyo Kaiden uchideshi may add to, or modify aspects of the system and develop it further so long as such activity is consistent with the major principles of the system.

To qualify as an uchideshi a student will have achieved, at the very least, the rank of Ikkyu and will have demonstrated his/her commitment to the system by placing the Wa Shin Ryu tattoo on the left forearm . The tattoo symbolizes an uchideshi's pledge and oath to their sensei and the system.

NOTE: Students who do not continue to practice, study, maintain contact with the sensei or fail to remain true to the system may be deprived of their uchideshi status.