Japan, Kyoto – Kyoto University Exchange

ACADEMIC YEAR & SPRING SEMESTER HANDBOOK

The Kyoto, Japan program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with Kyoto University. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbooks or materials you receive from Kyoto University as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to IAP at UW-Madison.

This program handbook contains the following information:

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Contact Information

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION
On-site contact information for students at Kyoto University:

Foreign Students Division
Kyoto University Yoshida-Honmachi Sakyo-ku Kyoto 606-8501
ryuga-exchange@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp
http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education/international/admissions/program/tanki.htm

UW-MADISON INFORMATION
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329 Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
In case of an emergency, contact your on-site staff first using the emergency contact information provided on-site. For IAP emergency contact, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff member on call at (608) 516-9440. If you call the main IAP number after hours, the message will direct you to call the emergency number, so it’s a good place to start if you’re not sure about the time difference.

U.S. EMBASSY REGISTRATION
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

Program Dates

Spring Semester: Early April – Early August
Academic Year: Late September – Late July
Students will receive more specific dates for their particular term from Kyoto University. This information will be added to MyStudyAbroad when it is available.
Preparation Before Leaving

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

**Passport:** A passport is needed to travel to Japan and to obtain your visa. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website [http://travel.state.gov/passport/](http://travel.state.gov/passport/). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa:** In addition to your valid passport, you must have a student visa to enter Japan. A Certificate of Eligibility for the status of resident College Student is required to obtain a student visa and must come directly from the Japanese host university. The Certificate will be mailed to you prior to the program. You will need to present the Certificate along with your passport and visa application to the nearest Japanese Consulate. More information about this is available in the Travel & Visa section of your MyStudyAbroad account.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The official currency of Japan is the yen (JPY or ¥). When you arrive in Japan, be sure to have adequate funds to cover your first month’s rent, pay for transportation expenses, purchase furnishings and other necessities for your room, and any other expenses that may arise. You will want to have approximately $1000 available to you for the first several weeks. You may wish to bring a small amount in cash and the rest in traveler’s checks, which you may cash upon arrival. While you will likely not spend all your arrival funds, keeping your money in traveler's checks will safeguard against emergencies, and cash flow will be especially important in the first weeks as you get accustomed to the higher costs of living.

**Banks:** Unlike the United States, personal checks are not used in Japan; it is very common to do all of your banking and money transactions using cash or inter-bank transfers. To facilitate your access to money, it is recommended that you open a bank account as soon as you complete your Alien Registration (gaikokujin toroku) at your residential ward office (kuyakusho) (staff from the International Student Center can assist you).

To fund your new account, consider a wire transfer, cash, traveler’s checks, or international postal money order. International postal money orders may be purchased at certain U.S. post offices for a small fee (approximately $5) and can be cashed at any post office in Japan (cashing at a bank can take up to one month). After you open account, note that your statements and all transactions will most likely be in Japanese (CitiBank offers statements in English and as well as bank employees that speak English).

Banks in Japan are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Post offices also offer many banking services, including cashing of International Postal Money Orders, access to ATMs, and acceptance of payments for phone, insurance, and utility bills.

Postal Savings [www.yu-cho.japanpost.jp](http://www.yu-cho.japanpost.jp)
Traveler’s Checks: Traveler’s checks in U.S. dollars and other denominations can be exchanged for yen at most banks with exchange services and at major hotels and department stores throughout Japan (a passport is required). CitiBank and American Express traveler’s checks are the most widely accepted.

ATM/Debit cards: If you open a Japanese bank account, a cash card for automatic teller machines will be issued to you by mail free of charge. You may withdraw yen using your cash card at any ATM run by your bank. If you use another bank’s ATM or withdraw outside of peak hours, there is a service charge of approximately ¥105. Most ATMs are open until 9:00 p.m., except on Saturdays and Sundays when many of them are closed after 5:00 p.m. Convenience stores have ATMs which support most major bank cash cards, and many have begun offering 24 hour services. There is a ¥210 service charge for weekends and holidays.

To withdraw yen using your U.S. ATM/debit card, consider visiting a Japanese post office, as ATM machines in Japanese banks accept only cards issued by Japanese banks while post offices will accept foreign bankcards operating on the Cirrus (MasterCard) or PLUS (Visa) systems. Seven Eleven ATMs also accept foreign debit cards. Machines are available only during limited hours (depending on the bank, until 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. weekdays and up to 5:00 p.m. on weekends). Besides post offices, other places with ATMs that may accept foreign-issued cards include Citibank (which usually accepts both Visa and MasterCard and sometimes American Express as well), large department stores, and airports.

Credit cards: Japan is primarily a cash-based society, with most establishments not accepting credit cards for purchases. Credit cards may be used for obtaining cash and paying for accommodations, meals at expensive restaurants, train or air tickets, and major purchases. The most readily accepted cards are MasterCard (also called Eurocard), Visa, and the Japanese credit card JCB (Japan Credit Bank).

PACKING
While most things are readily available in Japan, some items may be more expensive, difficult to be mailed internationally, or simply inconvenient to purchase there; hence, you may wish to bring particular items with you from home. Recommendations include:

Passport-size photos: 2 extra passport-size photos (for ID cards, forms, and applications)

Clothes: Temperatures on Honshu can range from about 10 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter to 100 and humid in the summer. Hence, a wide range of clothing sufficient for the entire year is necessary:

- Comfortable shoes – you will do a lot of walking.
For men, semi-dress pants like cotton khakis.
- Women should make sure they have at least one dress or skirt.
- Collared long sleeve shirts are useful. You can wear them under sweaters in the winter and roll the sleeves up during autumn and spring.
- Jeans for casual wear.
- Shorts (comfortable to wear at home in the summer, but are seldom worn by Japanese students to school).
- Rain jacket/rain boots – Japan has a rainy season. Some past participants have found these helpful.

**Personal Items:**
- Deodorant (it is difficult to purchase U.S.-style anti-perspirant in Japan)
- Sheets/pillow (if your dorm does not provide them)
- Any over-the-counter medicines you think you may need. While it is possible to get Japanese brands of over-the-counter medicines, if there is something you are accustomed to using often (pain relievers, cold medication, etc) you may wish to bring it with you.
- Contact lens solutions in Japan differ from American brands and American brands can be difficult to find, so you might want to bring your preferred brand.

**Prescription Medications:** A one-month supply of prescription medication is allowed. Medications must be in their original container with the prescription label. Most prescription drugs are permitted, including drugs that may not be available in Japan, such as birth control pills. Drugs that are hallucinogenic, narcotic, and/or psychotropic in nature will be confiscated, except in extenuating circumstances where prior approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare. If more than one month's supply is required, prior permission from the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare in Japan is required:

Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare

www.mhlw.go.jp/english/
http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health-medical/pharmaceuticals/01.html

Be sure to have a copy of the prescription and/or letter from your prescribing physician explaining the nature of the medication, the purpose of taking it, recommended dosage, and frequency of ingestion.

Past participants have also had prescription medications sent to them via air mail. Check with your local post office and pharmacy for information about regulations.

**Travel and Arrival**

You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to Kyoto. There are several international airports in Japan and below are some of the options for transport from the airports to Kyoto Station. While taxis are convenient they are also expensive in Japan, so the below directions disregard taxi services. In addition, further travel may be necessary depending on your living arrangements.
Central Japan international Airport (Centrair) (NGO) – Take the Meitetsu Limited Express train to Meitetsunagoya Station, then walk to Nagoya station where you will take the Tokaido/Sanyo Shinkansen to Kyoto Station (about 90 minutes).

Kansai International Airport (KIX) – Take either the JR Haruka main line or the limousine bus service directly to Kyoto Station (about 75 – 90 minutes).

Narita International Airport (NRT) – First reach Tokyo Station from the airport; you can take the limousine bus service or take one of the train lines. Two specialty trains run from the airport to Tokyo; the Narita Express stops at Tokyo station while the Keisei Skyliner stops at Ueno, requiring a short transfer to the Yamanote line to reach Tokyo Station. From Tokyo Station take the Tokaido/Sanyo Shinkansen to Kyoto Station (about 4 hours total).

Osaka International Airport (ITM) – Take the limousine bus service from the airport to Kyoto Station (about an hour). You can also reach Kyoto station by train, but there are several transfers required.

Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) (HND) – First reach Shinagawa station by taking the Keikyu Airport Line (continues as Keikyu Main Line) or reach Shinyokohama Station by taking the limousine bus service. From Shinagawa or Shinyokohama Station take the Tokaido/Sanyo Shinkansen to Kyoto Station (about 3 hours total).

Baggage Delivery Service (takkyubin): If you are traveling with multiple large suitcases or simply don’t want to have to worry about your luggage, there are many baggage delivery services available. You can bring your bag(s) to one of the baggage service counters in the airport and they will deliver your bag to your destination. The cost per piece of luggage depends on the size and the destination. It is usually next day or two day delivery so you might want to keep some necessities and a change of clothes with you. These same services do baggage pick-up for when the time come to return to the airport, arranged online or by phone call. Baggage can also be dropped off at many convenience stores across Japan and be brought to the airport where you can pick up the bags at your terminal.

Transportation from Narita into Tokyo:

Narita airport is located about 35 miles outside of Tokyo and there are several options for transportation with ranging costs and times:

By Taxi: Taxi rides are quite expensive in Japan. While taxis can be convenient, the ride from Narita airport into Tokyo has costs as high as 20,000 yen and the drive takes between an hour and a half to two hours or longer depending on the traffic situation.

By Bus: Buses run regularly from the airport to various stations and hotels in the Tokyo area. The Airport Limousine Bus Service is a popular choice and tickets can be bought at the airport terminals after your arrival. The buses run from every hour to up to 3 or 4 times an hour and the costs is about 3,000 yen. The buses pick passengers and their baggage up outside of terminal
one and terminal two and the rides varies from an hour and a half to two hours depending on the destination and on traffic.

**By Train:** There are varying degrees of local and express trains from Narita into Tokyo. Via local train, the ride starts at around 90 minutes and the costs vary depending on the type of train. However, there is no luggage rack on the train and no seat reservations so you may end up standing in a crowded train. To avoid this there are two specialty trains running from Narita into Tokyo;

Narita Express (East Japan Railways): The Narita express train runs from Terminal one and Terminal two of Narita airport and stops in various stations within Tokyo including Tokyo station and Shinjuku station. The cost is about 3,000 yen and the ride takes about an hour. There are luggage racks in each train car and train tickets can be purchased in advance.

Narita Express: [https://www.jreast.co.jp/e/nex/index.html](https://www.jreast.co.jp/e/nex/index.html)

Keisei Skyliner (Keisei Railways): The Skyliner departs from Terminal one and Terminal two of Narita airport and reaches Ueno Station a short 40 minutes later with one stop at Nippori station. The cost is about 2,000 yen. There is an area on each train car to place luggage bags and tickets can be purchased in advance or after you arrive at the airport.


Baggage Delivery Service (takkyubin): If you are traveling with multiple large suitcases or simply don’t want to have to worry about your luggage, there are many baggage delivery services available. You can bring your bag(s) to one of the baggage service counters in the airport and they will deliver your bag to your destination. The cost per piece of luggage depends on the size and the destination, with costs from 2,000 to 4,000 yen. It is usually next day delivery so you might want to keep some necessities and a change of clothes with you. These same services also do baggage pick-up for when the time come to return to the airport. Baggage can also be dropped off at many convenience stores across Japan and be picked up from a counter in Narita Airport.

### The Academic Program

**KYOTO UNIVERSITY**

Renamed Kyoto University in 1947, Kyoto Imperial University was founded in 1897 by Imperial Ordinance, the second university to be established in Japan. The original four colleges, Science and Engineering, Law, Medicine, and Letters have since expanded to include 10 Faculties, 18 Graduate Schools, 14 Research Institutes and 18 additional education/research facilities. The buildings are organized in three main campuses, Yoshida, Uji, and Katsura. The Yoshida Campus has been the core of the University since the founding, containing both historical buildings, such
as the Clock Tower Centennial Hall, and modern laboratory buildings. The Uji Campus, formerly owned by the Imperial Army, became a part of Kyoto University in 1949 and is home to many of the research institutes and testing facilities. The Katsura Campus is the most recent addition to the University, opening in 2003 and is described as, “a place where technology, regions, and nature blend and interact.”

Of the 23,000 students at Kyoto University approximately 1,700 are international students. These students come from about 100 different overseas locations making Kyoto University a diverse place to study.

Kyoto University: [http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en)

**KUINEP**

The exchange program formally known as KUINEP (Kyoto University International Education Program) is one of two exchange programs offered at Kyoto University. KUINEP offers courses in English on a variety of subjects and courses are taken with other international exchange students as well as Kyoto University students.

Each KUINEP student will be associated with one of the nine faculties available:

- Faculty of Integrated Human Studies [http://www.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/soujin/index_e.html](http://www.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/soujin/index_e.html)
- Faculty of Letters [http://www.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/index-e.html](http://www.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/index-e.html)
- Faculty of Education [http://www.educ.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e_index.htm](http://www.educ.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e_index.htm)
- Faculty of Law [http://law.kyoto-u.ac.jp](http://law.kyoto-u.ac.jp)
- Faculty of Science [http://www.sci.kyoto-u.ac.jp/international/](http://www.sci.kyoto-u.ac.jp/international/)
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science [http://www.pharm.kyoto-u.ac.jp/english/index.html](http://www.pharm.kyoto-u.ac.jp/english/index.html)
- Faculty of Engineering [http://www.t.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en](http://www.t.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en)
- Faculty of Agriculture [http://www.kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp/](http://www.kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp/)


**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Courses:** There are three types of courses that are available to students on the program.

Japanese Language Courses – You will take a Japanese placement test upon arrival that will allow the KUINEP staff to place you into language courses appropriate to your level. There are three levels of Japanese Courses

- Elementary: Courses designed for students with little or no background with Japanese. The course includes 6 sessions per week and students may take an additional kanji session as well.
- **Intermediate I and II**: Courses designed for students with intermediate level knowledge of Japanese. Students can take up to 6 sessions per week and there is an optional kanji session as well.

- **Intermediate III and Advanced**: Courses designed for students with high level knowledge of Japanese. Students meet at most 6 times per week and there is an optional kanji session as well.

**KUINEP Courses** – A set number of courses are offered each semester to students participating on the KUINEP program. These courses meet twice per week and are worth 2 credits, with students taking a total of 6 KUINEP courses. There are typically 12-15 courses available each semester with a range of topics including life science, physics, politics, social studies, and more.

**General Kyoto University Courses** – Students who test highly enough into Japanese may be able to take general undergraduate courses taught in Japanese. There are also a number of courses taught in English that are scattered throughout the university that fall into this category. General coursework can be substituted for KUINEP coursework.

For Course Information: [http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education/international/admissions/program/guide/kamoku.htm](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education/international/admissions/program/guide/kamoku.htm)

**Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CER)**: Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request Form (CER). Detailed information on the UW-Madison course equivalent process is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

For Japanese language courses, you will receive credits for the next course(s) in the UW-Madison Japanese language sequence. Japanese literature classes may be grouped together to form one UW-Madison course equivalent. These course equivalent determinations are made by the Department of East Asian Languages & Literature in consultation with IAP. Courses that are not Japanese language or literature will be reviewed by the appropriate UW-Madison academic department to determine the course equivalent.

**CREDITS**

**Conversions**: The number of credits you receive for a given course at Kyoto University will convert to the same number of credits at UW-Madison. For example, 4 credits of Japanese Language will convert to 4 credits at UW-Madison.

**Limits and Load**: Students are expected to enroll in a full-time academic program. The requirement on this program for UW-Madison is a minimum of 12 credits. Kyoto University expects that exchange students will enroll in 12 credits of KUINEP liberal arts courses (or general Kyoto University courses) taught in English. Students are also able to enroll in up to 7 credits of Japanese language. Since the credit conversion is 1:1, UW-Madison students may enroll in a maximum of 18 credits while at Kyoto.
PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for Academic Policies.

GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS

Grades will be converted according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kyoto University</th>
<th>UW-Madison Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-80</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Living Abroad

JAPAN

Japan is an archipelago comprised of four main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, although thousands of smaller islands occupy the surrounding water. Its climate is temperate, with four seasons, resembling the East Coast. Unlike the East Coast, however, it rains between 40 and 120 inches a year, contributing to Japan's long growing season from early spring to early autumn. Steep hills and mountains cover over 70% of the land which divide the habitable parts of the country. Due to this, Japan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with a population of over 120 million people.

Japan has few natural resources, apart from some wood, fish and rivers for hydroelectric power. Unlike most industrialized nations, Japan is almost completely dependent on imports for its raw materials and is one of the world's major importers of oil, coal, iron ore, lumber, cotton, wool and even silk. And even though its farms are among the most productive in the world, Japan still imports much of its wheat and other foods. Nevertheless, no other country in the world with so few natural resources has achieved the level of economic success that Japan has. After World War II, the Japanese people built their country from virtual devastation to a leading economic power. Textile manufacturing was its first success, then shipbuilding. Today, the automobile industry is key, as well as its advancements in a variety of technological industries.

The government in Japan is democratic with a constitution that guarantees representation and individual rights. Japan has one of the world's oldest unbroken monarchies with an emperor that, while possessing no governmental power, continues to perform many state functions.

While most Japanese people do not practice religion on a regular basis, Japan has been influenced by two major religions: Shinto and Buddhism. The basic Shinto belief is that people should live in harmony with all living things. Shinto established a set of ethics that guide the relationships between human beings and nature, and between the individual and society. Buddhism taught that salvation was possible by purging oneself of personal desires and attachment to worldly things. In practice, millions of Japanese are both Shinto and Buddhist, for
example, using Shinto rites when they marry and Buddhist funeral rites when they die. The two beliefs are not incompatible. In everyday life, also, the Japanese perspective on morality and ethics has been influenced by Confucianism, which is not a religion but a philosophy of personal behavior. Most Japanese do not consider themselves to be Confucianists, but its concepts of a rational approach to life and society strongly influence the culture.

KYOTO

Kyoto flourished as the capital city of Japan from 794 to 1868 A.D., from the beginning of the Heisan aristocracy to the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate (Edo) period. To this day, it remains a vibrant artistic capital - a treasure trove of cultural assets and traditions kept alive through its citizens.

Built upon a foundation of skilled artisans and craftspeople versed in aesthetics developed over a millennium, modern day Kyoto has also witnessed the birth of frontier technologies and international business successes. This is a city where the best of both the old and the new can be found.

HOUSING

International students studying at Kyoto University have the option to live in university dormitories or private accommodations. University dormitories have options for both combined, international and domestic residents, and international student only residents. Kyoto will contact students about housing options.

Students seeking private accommodations can receive information from the Kyoto University International Center on possible options; students would apply directly to the private company. For more information: http://www.opir.kyoto-u.ac.jp/w-opir/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/20131128_housing_info.pdf

STUDENT LIFE

Club Activities: Former students have stated that the best way to meet Japanese students is to join a club. However, you will probably receive little information about the clubs and so it may require being fairly assertive and asking around.

Social Life: Coffee shops, family restaurants, and bars are nice places to meet with friends. The biggest drawback, however, is that they are quite expensive by U.S. standards. When frequenting bars, be aware that if you order only drinks many bars will require you to eat something along with your drink order, and some may ask for a "table charge". Nightclubs are more expensive than regular bars, so they are seldom frequented by college students except for special occasions and dates. Cover charges are around ¥1000 per person, and you are often expected to order a steady stream of drinks and food for as long as you remain there. At other clubs, you may pay ¥5000 to ¥10,000 to get in the door, but are treated to a gourmet dinner and open bar while a band performs.
It is frequently the custom that the bill is divided equally among everyone, regardless of who ordered what. Thus, a person who ordered only an iced tea winds up being socially pressured into paying his or her share of a bill when others were drinking beer. Many people do not like this custom, but it is considered impolite to not pay an equal share of the bill.

**SHOPPING**

Most stores are open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with most convenience stores open 24 hours. Past participants recommend ¥100 Shops for buying things you may need for your dorm, including cheap snacks and drinks. For clothes, past participants recommend Gap, Zara, and UNIQLO.

**TRANSPORTATION**

The city of Kyoto has several bus lines along with both railways and subways. Instead of purchasing tickets each time you travel, buying a prepaid IC card can be convenient. Icoca is the JR Railway IC card in Kyoto and there is also a local card called Pitapa. The main difference between these two cards is that the Icoca must be charged before hand while the Pitapa works more like a credit card, paid after use. These cards can be used on most public transportation in the area; however, they cannot be used on the Kyoto bus system or the Eizan railway.

The other card system is Surutto Kansai card, a non-chargeable card purchasable in various amounts. The Surutto Kansai card can be used on the Kyoto bus system and most of the railways in Kyoto (including the Eizan line); however, you cannot use the Surutto Kansai card on JR lines. This card is also known as Miyako card or Legare card.

For more information on transportation in and around Kyoto visit: [http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2363.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2363.html)

With respect to Kyoto University, the three campuses have different access routes.

Yoshida - The Yoshida campuses can be accessed easily by bus with various stops reaching the different parts of the Yoshida campus. Several train lines run near Yoshida campus, the two closest being the end of the Eizan Line (Yanagi Station) and the Keihan Oto Line (Demachiyanagi and Jingu Marutamachi Stations).

For a map of the area visit: [http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access/campus/yoshida_all.htm](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access/campus/yoshida_all.htm)

Uji – The Uji campus is accessible by two lines, Keihan Uji Line (Keihan Obaku Station) and JR Nara Line (JR Obaku Station).

For a map of Uji Campus, visit: [http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access/campus/ujii.htm](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access/campus/ujii.htm)

Katsura – The Katsura Campus is less accessible than the Yoshida and Uji Campuses. The bus line that runs through the campus is Katsurazaka 20 (桂坂20). The stations near the campus are [Katsura-Innovation-Park-mae], [Kyodai-Katsura-Campus-mae] and [Katsura Goryouzaka].
For a map of the Katsura Campus, visit: http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access/campus/katsura.htm

SAFETY
Crimes are uncommon, and those that do occur usually involve petty theft or vandalism. However, as in any new situation, it is better to be somewhat conservative until you are more familiar with the city. Common sense is the best way to avoid bad situations. Women should be aware of safety issues, such as groping (particularly on trains) and harassment. Report any crimes immediately to the local police box (Koban).

HEALTH
Kyoto University offers a variety of health services including primary care for students.

For more information on Kyoto University Health Services: http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/health/kuhc-E.html

Insurance: You are required to join the Japanese National Health Insurance. The rate varies by residential ward, but is relatively low (¥1,300-3,000/month). Most ordinary medical treatments (including dental) are covered by the National Health Insurance.

Full-time international students can also apply for Student Medical Care Assistance (provided by the Japan Student Service Organization). You only need to apply for this after receiving medical care. Forms are available in the International Center. Utilizing these two types of assistance, you can cover a majority of medical fees.

Japanese health facilities will generally not accept foreign insurance policies in lieu of payment. Be prepared to pay all fees for treatment and hospitalization in cash immediately after services are rendered. You will then have to submit the required documents for reimbursement to CISI.

Student Testimonials

The Kyoto University exchange program is newer to UW-Madison. The quotes below are comments from past participants who attended Sophia University in Tokyo; they reflect various students’ experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. While some of the information is specific to Tokyo, many of the comments apply to Japan in general. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD
Japan has a lack of foreign ATMs, so I’d really recommend opening a bank account in Japan. The Post Office ATMs are virtually the only machines that accept foreign cards. On top of that, their hours are very limited on weekends and the ATMs are CLOSED on holidays, the very times you’ll need money the most. Also, be sure to keep a good chunk of cash on you at all times. Most
places do not accept credit cards, and you don’t want to find yourself stuck. It’s relatively safe to carry a lot of money on you.

**PACKING**

If you’re intending on leaving during the summer, take those summer clothes you feel you will need, and send your winter clothes later on. Take a fall jacket and some long sleeve shirts just in case, but leave your sweaters and winter coat for a later package. At the same time...for guys at least... you don’t need to take as many clothes as you might otherwise think.

Bring DVDs and English novels. You may not think you need them, but one night when you are bored and missing home you will be thankful you brought them! I ended up lending out DVDs and books to a lot of my friends. Everyone appreciates the familiar TV shows and movies.

Bring enough shoes and clothes for the whole year, especially if you are not petite. Japanese women’s shoes only go up to size 25 (US 8) so you may not be able to find any. UNIQLO and GAP are the cheapest places to shop and offer a wider range of sizes than some other stores, but do be aware that they run smaller than in the US.

If you don’t have a suit, you might want to think about getting one. I ended up needing one for several dorm and club events, for job interviews, and at my part time job as an English teacher.

It’s good to have a few small gifts for teachers who help you out a lot, but don’t overload yourself with little trinkets and gifts or you will end up scrambling to find people to give them to before you go home. WI T-shirts make great gifts because they are cheap, light, and American university apparel is popular in Japan.

**COURSES**

Japanese classes are comparable to the rigorous courses at Madison, so you won’t get behind. The placement test can be a bit tricky and many students were placed below their level. It’s hard to switch, so I’d recommend studying! Take the intensive classes, it may seem mundane at first but you will learn a lot of Kanji!

Classes outside of Japanese are taught in English. They are hit or miss, however, and you may find yourself bored at times. Attendance is taken in many of them, so pick classes that interest you. The work is not very rigorous, but some professors are tough graders.

**STUDENT LIFE**

Joining a student club is a great way to meet Japanese students who share your interests. It’s also an excellent opportunity to practice your Japanese. While not all clubs place an emphasis on drinking, many do. Just ask around about clubs’ reputations before expressing too strong an interest in joining a particular one. Go to your first club activity saying your study schedule is very hectic and you’re worried about being able to participate fully in all social activities. It’s always better to be suddenly able to take part in more activities than you thought you could, than to lose face by having to back out of something after you’ve already committed yourself.
It’s easy to spend a lot of money in Tokyo, but there are ways to spend it wisely. Don’t eat out too much! The conbins have cheaper pre-made food, but cooking for yourself is the best option.

Clubs are really expensive, and some require you to have a drink in your hand at all times. Izakayas are fun to eat and drink at, and you can find all you can drink, nomihoudai, or all you can eat, tabehoudai, specials at lots of places. Utilize this, it will save you money. Karaoke is really fun, even if you are not a professional singer. They have a wide selection of Western songs, including some of the newest hits, and its fun to sing Japanese songs too.

While club activities at Japanese universities can be very exciting and fun and a great way to make friends and meet new people, they take their club activities very, very seriously, and at times this can get in the way of studies. The key is balance!

Speak Japanese every day if you can. This is the only way you will improve. I had Japanese friends whom I met with occasionally, and once a week I did a language exchange. My international friends and I also spoke Japanese together, and this is really good practice as well. I did not noticed my improvement until I came back, but I reached my goals!

Don’t shrug off friendships with other international students. They are valuable friends and understand your frustrations. Welcome the new international students second semester – remember how lost you felt.

My roommates were Japanese, so we spent time together often. At Sophia, however, you take classes with mostly foreign students and there is a divide between the Japanese and the foreigners. Clubs like AMITY or the Walking Club will make it easier to integrate. Also, if you live with a host family they may introduce you to people.

If you go out with large groups of Japanese people, be aware they often split the bill evenly no matter who got what. Sometimes they will take notice of someone who didn’t really eat or drink much and offer to pay that person’s share. This happened to me a lot because I do not drink and can’t eat seafood.

When you go out to eat, it is easy to get separate checks and you don’t have to tip. Don’t be surprised, however, if there is a ¥300 table/service charge.

Family restaurants (Skylark, Saizeriya, Jonathan’s) are the best places to hang out for very little money. The food may not be great, but you can stay as long as you like and enjoy the cheap (¥200) drink bar.

**SHOPPING**

Harajuku has really cheap clothes, and cute too. There is also a shop near Sophia that has lots of clothes for under 2500 yen. The more expensive shops are in Shinjuku and Shibuya. Go to Ginza to see designer brands!
TRANSPORTATION
The best way to get around the city is on JR, and make sure to get a PASMO or SUICA card. These cards will work for all lines, including private ones, and they will deduct from your account every time you ride the train. They are a great convenience, especially if you are running late for a curfew.

SAFETY
Personally, I did not have many issues. Occasionally, I was stared at on the train but it was not overt. Beware of sexual offenders, or “chikan,” on the crowded trains. They have no shame and will get uncomfortably close to you. Position yourself against a wall near the doors and keep a bag in front of you. This will create a buffer between you and any shady characters.

TRAVEL
It’s a lot of fun to just get on the trains and see where you end up. Ride to the end of a line you use every day and see what there is to do there.

Climbing Mount Fuji was amazing. There is a limited time frame in which this can be done beginning in late June, so plan ahead. Also, it is very cold at the top, so dress appropriately!

www.hyperdia.com. Get travel itineraries to and from anywhere in Japan, great when you want to go somewhere new!

EMPLOYMENT
The best part-time job for exchange students is private English teacher. Making connections will also help you find a job. Personally, I used Japanese a lot when I taught English and afterwards we would converse in Japanese. This is not the case for most students, so don’t expect it.

A student visa includes 20 hours of work. Students are not allowed to work in bars. Working is a great way to make money, and was a positive aspect for me.