



Ryukoku University Exchange Program Overview

Topic	Details
Name	Ryukoku University
Campuses and Schools	<p>FUKAKUSA Campus Main campus (southern Kyoto). Home to the Center for the Promotion of Global Education, JEP Kyoto classes, and Faculties including International Studies, Economics, Business Administration, Law, Policy Science, Sociology, and First/Second Year subjects of the Faculty of Letters and Faculty of Psychology.</p> <p>OMIYA Campus Original campus (founded in 1639, central Kyoto, beside Nishi Hongwanji Temple). Hosts Third- and Fourth-year subjects of the Faculty of Letters and Faculty of Psychology and the Graduate School of Psychology.</p> <p>SETA Campus Located in Shiga Prefecture's "Biwako Culture Park." It is the newest and largest campus, housing the Faculties of Advanced Science and Technology and Agriculture.</p>
Transportation Between Campuses	<p>Free shuttle buses are available throughout the day.</p> <p>Travel time: Fukakusa to Omiya – 20 minutes; Fukakusa to Seta – 40 minutes.</p>
<h2>Academic Calendar and Deadlines</h2>	
Academic Calendar	Spring Semester: April – September Fall Semester: September – March
Nomination Deadline	Fall Semester: April 30, 2025 (Those who complete procedures by the deadline will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance in approximately mid-June.)
Application Deadline	Fall Semester: April 7, 2025 – May 14, 2025
Certificate of Eligibility (COE)	Accepted students will receive their COE at approximately the beginning of August.

Exchange Period	Runs from Orientation to the end of examinations. Applications will not be accepted if you cannot fully attend Orientation Week or if you leave before examinations end. (Joining late or leaving early means you won't receive class credits.)
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Arrival & Orientation

Arrival Dates and Moving into Dormitory	Spring Semester: March 24, 2025 Fall Semester: September 4th and 5th, 2025 (Tentative)
Orientation Week	Spring Semester: April 2nd Fall Semester: September 8th – September 12th (Tentative)
Holiday Breaks	Spring Semester (Summer Holiday): Early August – Mid-September Fall Semester (Spring Holiday): Early February – Late March
Dormitory Checkout Deadlines	Spring Semester: August 10th, 2026 (Tentative) Fall Semester: March 19th, 2026 (Tentative)

Courses of Study

JEP-E (Japanese Experience Program in Kyoto – In ENGLISH)	<p>Designed for students with little or no Japanese language experience.</p> <p>Exchange Students take classes covering Japanese Society and Culture (including Japanese History, Society, Economics, Business Administration, Law, Technology, Literature and Movies, Media and Arts, Pop Culture, etc.) plus an introductory language class (three times a week).</p> <p>Recommended for non-native English speakers with a TOEFL PBT equivalent of 500.</p> <p>Students may also register for selected English-taught classes in regular Faculties/Graduate Schools.</p> <p>Note: If selected, this study course cannot be changed after submission. One-year exchange students will continue with JEP-E in their second semester.</p>
JEP-J (Japanese Experience Program in Kyoto – In JAPANESE)	<p>Offers Japanese language classes (from upper beginner to advanced levels) and elective subjects focusing on various aspects of Japanese culture and society.</p> <p>Also available: a selection of electives taught in English.</p> <p>Recommended for students who have studied Japanese for at least 300 hours or achieved at least N4 on the JLPT.</p> <p>Participants placed in Class 4 or above on the Japanese Placement Test can enroll in additional English-taught classes.</p>
Registration for Regular Classes	<p>Faculty Classes Only For those eligible through a Student Exchange Agreement with your home university.</p> <p>Graduate School Classes Only For those eligible through a Student Exchange Agreement with your home university's Graduate School.</p>

Important – Class Selection Guidelines	<p>STEP 1: Confirm your eligibility to register for JEP Kyoto classes by checking with your home university’s exchange program representatives.</p> <p>STEP 2: Select either [JEP-E] or [JEP-J] on your application form. This choice cannot be changed once submitted.</p> <p>STEP 3: Those selecting [JEP-E] or regular Faculty/Graduate School classes will not take the Japanese Language Placement Test.</p>
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Health Insurance

Japanese National Health Insurance	<p>Under Japanese Immigration Laws, all exchange students staying in Japan for at least three months must enroll in the Japanese National Health Insurance system, even if you have insurance in your home country.</p> <p>Insurance fees are estimated to be 1,500 to 2,000 yen per month.</p> <p>Enrollment is done at the Ward Office closest to your Japanese residence.</p> <p>If needed, you may also purchase international health insurance in your home country.</p> <p>More information will be provided during Orientation Week.</p>
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Accommodation

Dormitory Options for International Students	<p>Ryukoku International House and Mitra-kan are available.</p> <p>Resident Supporters (Japanese Students) are present to assist you.</p> <p>Rental Bedding Fee: 1,680 JPY per month.</p> <p>Please note: Dormitory assignments are decided by the university and, in principle, cannot be changed.</p> <p>Students with health concerns requiring special consideration are given preference in room allocation.</p> <p>Dormitory fees shown are after deducting the International Student Accommodation Support Scholarship (single: ¥10,000/month; twin: ¥5,000/month).</p>
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Guidelines for Filling the Application Forms

Certificate of Eligibility (COE) & Student Visa	<p>To obtain a student visa, you need a COE.</p> <p>Our R-Globe Office will apply for the COE on your behalf once we receive your application documents. It usually takes 6–8 weeks for the COE to be issued; please submit your materials promptly.</p> <p>Once the COE is received, we will send it along with your Letter of Acceptance in a “Welcome Package” to your home university.</p> <p>You must then take these documents to the Japanese Embassy in your country to apply for your student visa.</p>
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<p>IMPORTANT – Regarding the Application Form</p>	<p>For the ID photograph: Ensure it shows your face (upper half, shoulders and above) with no objects or shadows in the background.</p> <p>Select the Faculty/Graduate School most related to your home university major.</p> <p>Note: You must have obtained a Bachelor’s degree and currently belong to a Graduate School at your home university if you intend to enroll in any Graduate School at Ryukoku University.</p>
<p>Submission of “Grid for Self-Assessment of Japanese Language Skills” and “SPOT Test” Results</p>	<p>All Exchange Applicants Submit the “Grid for Self-Assessment of Japanese Language Skills” (read the provided explanation before filling out the form). If you do not yet have a Ryukoku University ID Number, you may leave that line blank.</p> <p>JEP-J Study Course Applicants Only You must take the online SPOT Test and submit the results (PDF) through our online application portal by the final submission deadline.</p>
<h2 style="color: purple;">Class Registration Guidelines</h2>	
<p>Credit Requirements</p>	<p>Exchange Students must register for a minimum of 16 credits per semester (and 32 credits for one year). (Note: The minimum credit amount is subject to change.)</p> <p>To transfer credit after the exchange period, students should carefully check which Ryukoku University classes are required and officially recognized by their home university.</p>
<p>JEP Course Eligibility</p>	<p>JEP-J Applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Those assigned to Class 4 or above are eligible to register for selected Faculty/Graduate School classes taught in Japanese and English. ❖ Those assigned to Class 2 or 3, as well as JEP-E Applicants, are eligible to register for selected Faculty/Graduate School classes in English.
<p>Restrictions for Regular Faculty/Graduate School Classes</p>	<p>Some classes cannot be registered for, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Classes with an early registration requirement ❖ Classes with a student limit ❖ Seminars (classes written as ゼミ or 演習, etc.) ❖ Classes with other systematic restrictions <p>Permission must be received prior to registering for any Faculty/Graduate School classes.</p>
<p>Additional Resources</p>	<p>The Ryukoku University Syllabus is available here.</p>

Bank Account & Financial Advice

<p>Opening Bank Account for Exchange Students</p>	<p>You must open a bank account after arrival in Japan (for scholarships and automatic withdrawals).</p> <p>Bank: Yucho Ginko (Japan Post Bank)</p> <p>Required documents:</p> <p>口座開設申込用紙 (Application for Opening an Account) – Help will be provided during Orientation.</p> <p>預金口座振替用紙 (Bank Account Transfer Sheet) – Provided after dormitory entry.</p> <p>A copy of your Residence Card – Issued upon arrival in Japan.</p> <p>Automatic withdrawal (for dorm fees) takes around 2 months to establish.</p> <p>Until then, fees must be transferred manually at a convenience store.</p> <p>Credit or debit card payment is not possible.</p> <p>Japan Post Bank does not offer online banking.</p> <p>Optional: You may also open an account with international banks (e.g. Citibank, Star, Cirrus, Maestro) before arrival.</p>
<p>IMPORTANT: Common Financial Problems After Arrival</p>	<p>At the beginning of the semester, a few students have a very difficult time because they are not able to use the bank cards which they have brought with them from abroad, and therefore are not able to withdraw the necessary funds for their everyday lives.</p> <p>① Please be sure to confirm with your card company/bank that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (1) you will immediately be able to withdraw funds after arriving in Japan with your card, and• (2) that you know exactly how to use the card.• Please make it a point to remember your pin number to avoid having your account blocked. <p>② It is sometimes the case that students do not inform the bank in their home country of their exchange study period, and their bank card is frozen due to sudden use in another country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please be sure to inform your bank that you will be studying abroad to avoid this problem. <p>③ There is often a daily limit for withdrawing money internationally from one's bank in their home country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please be well aware of what the daily limit is, so you can surely make initial dormitory payments, as well as have enough for initial living expenses.• If your bank will not allow you to withdraw enough money shortly after your arrival, please be sure to bring sufficient funds with you.