

Ritsumeikan University

Japan

The University

Ritsumeikan's history goes back to 1869 when Prince Kinmochi Sajonji, an eminent liberal statesman who later served as the prime minister of Japan, founded a private academy. Through his encouragement and patronage, his protégé Kojuro Nakagawa began an evening law school in 1900, adopting the name of his mentor's academy. At that time university education was the privilege of the elite, and the founder wished to encourage those who had the skill and determination to broaden their horizons. Within a few years of its inception, the school developed into a full-fledged institution of higher learning with a college of law and economics and a pre-professional school in general studies, Nakagawa serving as the first president. An affiliated middle school was founded in 1905, and the School of Engineering was added to the University in 1939 at the Kinugasa Campus. At the time of the founder's death in 1944, the pre-professional school had developed into the Departments of Letters, Commerce, and Engineering. Today, Ritsumeikan is the home to over 21,000 students with areas of specialization in law, economics, business administration, social sciences, international-relations, letters, science, and engineering.

<http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/eng/>

The City

Kyoto was the capital of Japan for about 1000 years from her establishment as Hejan Kyc in 794 until the transfer of government to Tokyo in 1868 following the Imperial Restoration. Surrounded by magnificent hills, Kyoto with her poetry reflects the changing of the seasons, and has provided over the last twelve centuries a natural cradle for the art and culture of Japan, and a noble heritage for her people. This is why Kyoto is known as the spiritual home of the Japanese people; it is said that without knowing Kyoto, it is impossible to understand the real Japan. On the other hand, Kyoto is not only an old capital but also a modern city with a population of 1,480,000. Kyoto is now flourishing as the center of traditional industry, art, scholarship, and religion.

About the Program

Exchange students can study for a single semester or a full academic year.

The Study in Kyoto Program is a non-degree program that offers students a well-balanced curriculum of both academic and cultural course selections. For students with previous experience studying the Japanese language, the Study in Kyoto Program offers intensive Japanese language study of 12 hours per week. Students with little or no experience with the Japanese language may apply to the English-based Japan and World Perspective (JWP) Track.

http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/eng/international_programs/skp/index.shtml

Academic Calendar

Spring: April – August

Fall: end of September - February

Am I eligible for this program?

You must have a 2.5 Combined Retained GPA. Students should have minimum four semesters of Japanese to be eligible to apply.

What could I study?

Students in the Intensive Japanese Language (IJL) track can take Intensive Japanese language courses as well as Japan and World Perspective courses taught in English and optional Japanese Traditional Arts courses (fees may be collected as necessary). Those students in the IJL track who have received high scores on their initial placement tests can take classes designed for regular Japanese classes.

Students in the Japan and World Perspective (JWP) track can take English courses taught through the JWP curriculum as well as an introductory Japanese language class and optional Japanese Traditional Arts courses.

http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/eng/international_programs/skp/curriculum.shtml

What about academic credit?

Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant's Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU.

Where would I live?

The International Center at Kinugasa Campus arranges housing for all Study in Kyoto Program students who are from partner institutions of RU and who do not wish to find housing on their own. Although the university manages two dormitories, Ritsumeikan International House I and II, the number of participants in the Study in Kyoto Program has outgrown the capacity of these two dormitories, and the university must now place several students every semester in alternative dormitory or apartment housing.

Please see the following website for details:

http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/eng/international_programs/skp/accommodations.shtml

How much does it cost?

Costs at OU: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the student's major is in a different college. All participants pay a \$10/credit hour study abroad fee.

There is a \$ 35 non-refundable application fee for study abroad.

Accommodation cost ranges 25,000 -50,000 yen per month, approx. \$230 - 460 depending on the housing student is assigned to.

Meals expenses are around 45,000 yen per month, approx. \$420.
Mandatory Health Insurance: 9,000yen per semester, approx. \$85.
Local transportation: around 11,000 yen per month, approx. \$100.

How do I apply?

Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be found in the “how to apply” section of our website.

For more info please contact:

ea@ou.edu