

EXCHANGE FACTSHEET



Kyoto Seika University is located amid the green northern hills of Kyoto, an ancient city that was Japan's imperial capital from 794 to 1868. Kyoto remains the cultural heart of Japan, with 230 National Treasures and 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, as well as Nintendo and the Kyoto International Manga Museum, a joint venture between the city and Kyoto Seika University.

Founded in 1968, Kyoto Seika University has approximately 4,200 students across undergraduate and graduate programs in Art, Design, Manga, Media Creation, and Global Culture.

1: Eligibility

Students currently enrolled at one of our [partner institutions](#) are welcome to apply through their home institution for a single-semester exchange at Kyoto Seika University. We are unable to accept applications from students who are not enrolled at one of our current partner institutions.

2: Available Departments

A list of available courses can be found on our [exchange application website](#)

Students apply for one department relevant to their major at their home institution. Generally speaking, each department independently manages its own curriculum and facilities. This means that there is less opportunity for interdisciplinary coursework at Kyoto Seika University compared to other academic institutions.

Art: [Oil Painting](#), [Japanese Painting](#)①, [Sculpture](#), [Ceramics](#), [Textiles](#), [Printmaking](#), [Video & Media Arts](#)

Manga: [Comic Art](#), [Animation](#)②, [Character Design](#), [New Generation Manga](#)

Design: [Graphic Design](#), [Illustration](#), [Digital Creation](#), [Product Communication Design](#), [Interior & Goods Design](#), [Fashion](#), [Architecture](#)

Media Creation: [Media Technologies](#), [Image Creation](#), [Sound Creation](#)

① Japanese Painting only considers students with a strong background in traditional painting.

② Animation requires JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) N2 or higher.

3: Academic Calendar

Spring semester (early April – early August) **Fall semester** (early October – early February)

A student visa is valid for 6 months. Exchange students can arrive in Japan up to one month before the beginning of classes, or stay on after the semester within your resident card's period of validity or until the end of September/March.

- Your residence status as a student in Japan is dependent upon your enrollment at Kyoto Seika University. This means that once your classes have concluded, your residence status will no longer be valid, regardless of the expiration date on your residence card.

4: Credits

Be sure to check with your academic supervisor at your home institution to determine how many credits you will need to receive during your exchange studies. In most cases, exchange students at Kyoto Seika University take between 8 and 10 credits. Although this number can change due to faculty or course requirements, students should not anticipate taking more than 10 credits during their exchange semester. Students with strong Japanese abilities (JLPT N2 or higher) may have the opportunity to take additional credits with faculty approval.

- In Japan, the standard value of one credit represents “contents requiring 45 hours of study (including self-learning). Each Japanese credit converts to approx. 1.5 to 2 ECTS, depending on the country or the university.

5: Applications

Students must first be nominated for exchange via their home institution. After receiving approval from your home institution, please send us KSU's Exchange Student Application form ([download from our website](#)) including your study objectives and a tentative study plan, together with your most recent transcript, a faculty member's recommendation, and a representative portfolio of 10-20 recent works (digital images compiled as a PDF may be sent as an email attachment, or by a data service such as WeTransfer).

- Acceptance to Kyoto Seika University is dependent upon available work space and a suitable academic supervisor in your desired department.

Application for Admission as an Exchange Student at Kyoto Seika: Faculties of Art, Design, Manga, and Popular Culture

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Applicant's personal details | Name: _____ Sex: _____ Birth date: _____ Birth place: _____ | Photo: _____ |
| Family information | Family name: _____ Telephone: _____ | |
| Academic information | Country of origin: _____ Age: _____ Nationality: _____ | |
| Education | Level of education: _____ | |
| Study objectives and tentative study plan | _____ | |
| Faculty member's recommendation | _____ | |
| Portfolio | _____ | |
| Remarks for admission | _____ | |

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6: Deadlines

For Spring semester (early April start)
Nomination → October 15th of the previous year
Application → November 15th of the previous year

For Fall semester (early October start)
Nomination → March 15th
Application → April 15th

Email applications to kokusai@kyoto-seika.ac.jp

7: Fees

Exchange students pay tuition fees to their home institution only. However, you may need to pay for some studio materials at Kyoto Seika University depending on your class.

8: Language Requirements

Exchange students are encouraged to learn some basic Japanese before arriving. While Kyoto Seika University does not make Japanese proficiency an exchange requirement, your on- and off-campus experience will be greatly enhanced with even a basic understanding of the language.

- JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) N2 is required for Animation.

Japanese classes

Weekly Japanese language classes are provided free of charge for students during their exchange studies. While Kyoto Seika University does not offer credit for these classes, they are taught by certified professionals with attendance, evaluations, and achievement certificates at the end of the program. In certain cases, it may be possible to receive credit from your home institution for these studies.

9: Accommodation

Kyoto Seika University will provide resources to exchange students, including campus dormitory information and contact details for local student housing realtors. However, finding accommodation for the duration of your exchange studies is the individual responsibility of each student. We encourage you to begin searching for housing as soon as you receive your official notice of acceptance.

University Dormitory

Kyoto Seika University owns and operates the Shuko-kan, an international student dormitory available for exchange students within walking distance of our campus. In most cases, international exchange students will share a room with a Japanese student. We will attach an information form to your acceptance email which will have a link to the dormitory application. Due to limited room availability, we may not be able to accommodate all exchange students.

Apartment/ Share House

Kyoto is a compact city with a large number of universities, so there are numerous properties that can accommodate international students. Still, searching for housing can be challenging due to contract lengths and language barriers. For this reason, we have compiled a [list of housing agencies](#) on our website that offer student-friendly properties and contracts.

10: Student Visa

You will need a student visa to study in Japan. If you do not have a current passport, be sure to apply for one well in advance of your exchange student application.

After your application for exchange is approved by Kyoto Seika University, we will apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) on your behalf at the Kyoto Immigration office. This COE is a digital notification that informs your local Japanese Consulate or Embassy that they have permission to issue you a student visa. COE processing takes at least one month, and will be emailed to you as soon as we receive it so that you can apply for your student visa at your nearest Japanese Consulate or Embassy.

11: Insurance

Student visa holders are legally required to join Japan's National Health Insurance system, even if you have other coverage in your home country. This insurance covers 70% of ordinary medical costs including doctor, hospital, and dental fees for necessary treatment (accident or sickness). You will sign up for NHI at the local ward office during your orientation. Coverage begins as soon as you sign up, and costs around ¥2,000 per month.

In addition to health insurance, Kyoto Seika University requires all students to be covered by comprehensive personal accident insurance. This policy costs approximately ¥3,000 for the entire semester.

- Both of these insurance plans are mandatory, even if you have other coverage.

12: Orientation and Travel to Japan

Kyoto Seika University hosts a mandatory orientation program for incoming exchange students. Students are responsible for their own flight reservations and must cover all travel expenses to and from Japan. We will provide access information in our Predeparture Information guide sent with your Certificate of Eligibility.