



Konan University Year-in-Japan Program 2017-2018

Information Booklet

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January 30, 2017

Dear Prospective Year-in-Japan Students,

Thank you for your interest in the Konan University Year-in-Japan Program! YiJ is a unique opportunity to experience the heart of Japan, near the ancient capitals of Kyoto and Nara as well as the vibrant international metropolis between Osaka and Kobe. Just minutes from campus, you can hike in the mountains or shop for the latest clothing. We're also near a series of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama, and Himeji.

Our Global Zone offers you unique opportunities to interact with and befriend Konan University students. You can join campus clubs as diverse as martial arts, dance, and drumming. In this way, our program creates a broad range of opportunities for you to be a part of the Japanese college campus, a feature rare in study-abroad programs.

We are enclosing information about a number of other additional features of the program: our study tours, an optional trip to Tokyo, and our Tomocdachi program to connect you with Konan students before you arrive. We hope you will look over this information carefully and also take a look at our website as you prepare your application:

<http://www.konan-u.ac.jp/kiiec/english/index.html>.

I am also available to answer any questions you might have, as are your Study Abroad advisors on campus and the students from your home institution who have already participated in YiJ.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch!

I would also like to note our home stay program, which is both exciting and reassuring. Dating back four decades, our YiJ home stay program is remarkably well-organized and gives daily support to both students and their home stay families. All of our families live within reasonable commuting distance from the campus, and most are veterans of a number of years and a variety of students from different backgrounds. These families and the Konan staff combine experience with a helpful attitude so that students can have a rich and authentic relationship living in a Japanese home. We always work with you and your host family to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable experience.

The entire staff of the Konan International Exchange Center (KIEC) welcomes your application to this ground-breaking and unique program for the study of Japanese language and culture.

Sincerely,

Brian Ruppert (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)

Resident Director, 2016-17 Konan University Year-in-Japan Program
Vice Director of Konan International Exchange Center, Konan University

Konan University Year-in-Japan Program 2017-2018

Guidelines

Konan University welcomes international students to the Konan University Year-in-Japan Program each year and offers a one-year non-degree program of study at Konan University. The main purpose of this program is to provide undergraduate international students an opportunity to take courses in Japanese language intensively and a wide range of Japan related fields. Students simultaneously explore life in Japan through a well-balanced structure of academic and cultural experiential opportunities.

A private institution of higher education, Konan University serves approximately 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The university is located in Kobe, Japan's 6th largest city. Kobe is known for its international culture and unique style and atmosphere. As a flourishing port city, Kobe has been influenced by foreign cultures and has a rich history of international exchange. Kobe is geographically located close to Osaka, the economic capital of the Kansai region, and Kyoto, the center of Japanese culture and tradition.

Program Schedule (subject to change)

Fall Semester 2017	Date
Arrival	Sept. 6 2017
Program Orientation/Welcome Party	Sept. 7-11
Japanese Language Placement Test	Sept. 12-13
First Day of Classes	Sept. 14
Overnight Study Tour ①*	October
Last Day of Fall Semester	Dec. 22
Winter Break	Dec. 23-Jan. 10

*see page 5 for study tour destinations

Spring Semester 2018	Date
Arrival	Jan. 6, 2018
Program Orientation/Welcome Party	Jan. 7
Orientation/Japanese Placement Test	Jan. 9-10
First Day of Classes	Jan. 11
Spring Break	Jan.30-Feb.6
Overnight Study Tour ②	February
Overnight Study Tour ③	March
Last Day of Spring Semester	May 17
Farewell Party	May 18

Application Procedures & Requirements

Application Deadline: March 30, 2017

Students should submit all application materials to the exchange coordinator at their home institution. Please check to determine whether your home university has an earlier application deadline for the Year-in-Japan Program. Prospective students who do not have previous Japanese language experience to students with advanced level Japanese skills are eligible to apply to the program for the academic year or fall semester only. Students applying for the spring semester only must have completed at least one semester of Japanese language courses or have acquired a basic knowledge of the Japanese language.

Important Notices & Deadline	Date
Receive Acceptance Letter & Program Invoice	Mid July, 2017
Program Fee Deadline	Early August, 2017
Receive Certificate of Eligibility	Early to mid-Aug.
Receive Host Family/Dormitory Information	Early to mid-Aug.

*Please refer to the Application Procedures.



Curriculum & Academic Components

The academic year for exchange students consists of two semesters, the first running from September to December, and the second from January to May. Our Year-in-Japan Program comprises of approximately 150-170 hours of Japanese language courses, plus over 75 hours of related Japan Studies classes. Students attend three morning classes in Japanese language, Monday through Thursday (9:00-9:50 / 10:00-10:50 / 11:00-11:50), and two morning classes on Fridays (9:00-9:50 / 10:00-10:50). Japan Studies courses are held in the afternoon, each meeting for 90 minutes twice a week. All Japan Studies courses offered through the Year-in-Japan Program are taught in English. The normal course load for all students consists of one Japanese language course (14 hours per week, 10 credits) plus two Japan Studies courses (3 hours per week each, 3 credits each) per semester. An official transcript of the grades is forwarded to each student's home university at the end of each semester. Students should inquire with the appropriate office at their home university about transferring credits earned at Konan University.

● Japanese Language Courses

The Year-in-Japan Program offers instruction in the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in an integrated curriculum. The Japanese language curriculum provides 5 levels of courses suitable for students from beginning to advanced. The size of each class is limited to 10 students in order to maximize individualized instruction. At the beginning levels and pre-intermediate levels, oral performance and the interactions that students have in their daily lives in Japan are given emphasis in instruction. As students progress to intermediate and advanced levels, reading and writing receives increasingly more attention. At the advanced levels, academic discourse is focused on in instruction, as students learn to read and write essays and other academic texts.

At all levels, Japanese is the medium of instruction. However, limited support in English can be provided at the beginning levels as needed.

Audio-visual materials are used in in-class activities and out-of-class assignments to help students improve their command of spoken Japanese. Textbooks as well as tailored handouts, short stories, newspaper articles, and other materials are also used in instruction. Konan University student volunteers occasionally attend classes to provide students with additional opportunities to interact with native speakers. Students are encouraged to use the sentence structures, vocabulary, etc. that they have learned in class and through out-of-class interactions with their homestay families, friends, KIEC staff, etc. The Global Zone *Porte*, located next to KIEC offices, provides students with additional opportunities to meet and interact with Konan University Students.

Throughout the school year students are assessed through quizzes, tests, and mid-term and final exams. Both oral and written quizzes, tests, and exams are used, depending on the level of instruction. Students also demonstrate the language skills gained through the participation in structured events such as speech contests, and through the interactions with native speakers outside of class and during study tours.

Placement

Students are placed in instructional levels based on their background in Japanese language learning and the results of placement tests. Students take a simple online placement test before arriving in Japan which test is used to determine the approximate number of students in each level, and for other planning purposes. After arrival, students participate in a more rigorous placement test which includes both a written examination and an oral interview. Each student is then consulted and assigned to a level appropriate to their language abilities based on the results of the placement tests and their Japanese language learning background.

Japanese Language Courses (10 credits)

Japanese Language Courses	Language Proficiency Goal
Japanese I (Beginner Japanese)*	JLPT**N5 Level
Japanese II (Pre-Intermediate Japanese)	JLPT N4 Level
Japanese III (Intermediate Japanese)	JLPT N3 Level
Japanese IV (Pre-Advanced Japanese)	JLPT N3-N2 Level
Japanese V (Advanced Japanese)	JLPT N2-N1 Level

*No prior Japanese language experience necessary (Fall semester only)

**Japanese Language Proficiency Test

Overnight Study Tours*

The Year-in-Japan Program includes three supervised study tours during the program year, as part of Japanese language component. Each study tour provides students with opportunities to see different regions throughout Japan. Study tour itineraries are carefully planned to offer students a culturally rich and diversified experience of contemporary Japan, while also incorporating traditional activities that are unique to the particular regions visited. Study tours provide students with opportunities to apply what they have learned in their Japanese language classes through interactions with local community members in each region. These study tours offer excellent opportunities for students from participating universities on the Year-in-Japan Program to learn in-depth about Japan.

***Study Tours are required parts of the program and covered by program fees.**

Overnight Study Tour ① Koya-san

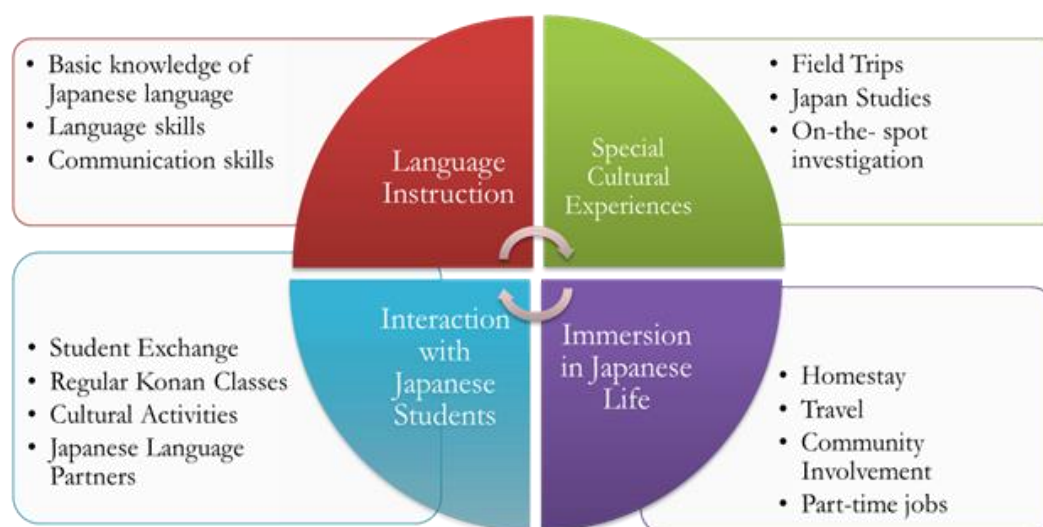
Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Koya-san is a historic Buddhist sanctuary in Wakayama Prefecture and one of the most rewarding places to visit in the Kansai Area.

Overnight Study Tour ② Shikoku

Shikoku is the smallest of Japan's four major islands. It is well known as the home of the 88 Temple Pilgrimage of the Shingon sect of Buddhism.

Overnight Study Tour ③ Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park & Miyajima Island

Hiroshima is a major city of western Honshū, an old castle town, and the first community in the world to suffer atomic bombing. Students visit the Memorial Museum and the Peace Park, then head to Miyajima Island to visit Itsukushima shrine (UNESCO World Heritage Site).



● Japan Studies Courses (3 credits each)

Japan Studies are elective courses focused on a range of subjects related to Japan. Course topics vary somewhat from year-to-year depending upon the interests of students and the areas of research of current English-speaking faculty members.

Courses for Fall	Category	Theme (2017 Fall)
Japan Studies 1	Linguistics, Literature, Education	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics
Japan Studies 5	History, Religion, Geography	Japanese History
Japan Studies 8	Economics,Business,Adminisration	Environmental and Resource Economics
Japan Studies 9	Art, Culture, Society	The Art & Architecture of Japan
Japan Studies 13	Joint Seminar*	Japan and Global World
Courses for Spring	Category	Theme (2018 Spring)
Japan Studies 2	Linguistics, Literature, Education	Grammar and Communication Strategies in Japanese Conversation
Japan Studies 3	Linguistics, Literature, Education	“Japanese”, “Modern”, “Literature”: Exploring Japan’s Modernity through Literary Discourse
Japan Studies 6	History, Religion, Geography	To be announced
Japan Studies 7	Economics,Business,Adminisration	To be announced

*Joint Seminar is a Japan Studies course that offers an opportunity for students on the Year-in-Japan Program and Konan students to meet and share their views about global topics in a formal classroom setting. Students participate in group discussions. Essays and other assignments in English or Japanese is also required for the course. Joint Seminar encourages academic interaction between students to develop cultural awareness and international perspectives while also improving skills in their target languages. The course meets less frequently than other Japan Studies courses, and is taken in addition to two other Japan Studies Courses. (2 credits)

● Regular Konan Courses (Fall semester only)

Students with sufficient Japanese language ability and proper faculty approval may audit regular Konan University courses in Japanese. The Department of English also invites students to approved English Literature and Linguistics courses during a “sit in” month. Participation in regular Konan classes are another way for program participants to become involved in the University community.

● Second Language Classes (Fall semester only)

The University offers German, French, Chinese and Korean language classes. Students should consult with KIEC if they are interested in taking a foreign language class other than Japanese. These courses may be taken on a non-credit basis.

● Physical Education Classes (Fall semester only)

Students have a chance to join regular physical education (PE) classes offered to Konan students. Enrolling in a PE class on campus is a great way to keep fit and an excellent way to make friends with Konan students who have the same interests in sport and physical fitness. For administrative purposes, students must inquire with KIEC before attending PE classes.

(Details about regular Konan courses, second language and physical education classes will be announced during orientation. Interested students should inquire at KIEC before attending classes due to administrative procedures.)

Student Interaction & Activities

Student life at Konan University is enriched by a wide array of student exchange activities with Konan University students. The Konan International Exchange Center (KIEC) organizes programs and encourages on-campus student exchange. These activities give students the opportunities to practice language skills, heighten cultural awareness, and develop their global perspectives.

Tomodachi Program	Global Zone <i>Porte</i>
The Tomodachi Program matches 1 or 2 Konan student volunteers with students who have been accepted to the Year-in-Japan Program. Friends from Konan will contact exchange students during the summer by email to introduce themselves and provide pre-departure support. Students will meet their Konan friends during orientation week.	Global Zone <i>Porte</i> , the University's newest facility for intercultural exchange, is a meeting place for internationally-minded students. Students who want to experience an intercultural atmosphere and be part of the global community on campus are always welcome to take part in activities and events. It's a great place for students to meet and make friends with Konan students.
Clubs & Circles	Ajisai Room
There are many sports and cultural clubs and student circles on campus. Joining a club or circle is a good way to make friends with Japanese students. Belonging to a group and becoming involved in the student community enriches the overall study abroad experience.	The Ajisai Room, originally established in 1976 as a place to welcome exchange students on the Year-in-Japan Program, has found a permanent home in Global Zone <i>Porte</i> . It is a place where students feel at home and gather to enjoy the company of other students. The area is located nearest to the Konan International Exchange Center for easy access to program coordinators and administrative staff.
Language Partner	International Exchange Committee(IEC)
The Language Partner program is an ideal opportunity for students to work one-to-one and help each other practice the language they are studying. KIEC assists with matching partners and students meet at their convenience. Each student has the opportunity to broaden his or her cultural perspectives through friendship with their language partner.	IEC is a Konan University student organization whose purpose is to support students on the Year-in-Japan Program. IEC organizes various international student exchange activities on campus throughout the year.

Optional Tour (Taikan Tokyo Tour)

The optional "Taikan Tokyo Tour" is an overnight trip with Konan students to Tokyo, the capital of Japan. You will have a chance to experience Tokyo up-close and communicate with Konan students! The tour will be scheduled in spring 2018.

The tour includes (Examples from 2017 Tour)

- Welcome lunch party at Monjya Yakatabune(Tokyo style Japanese pizza)
- Group walking tour of favorite local sights
- Japanese company visits
- Networking opportunities with Konan University alumni

An information session will be held in mid-October after your arrival.

The exact cost of the tour will be announced at the first informational session.

Students are required to arrange their own transportation to Tokyo.

Accommodation

● Homestay

A Japanese homestay is an excellent way for exchange students to significantly improve their Japanese language skills and prompts a much deeper understanding of Japanese culture and traditions than otherwise possible. The homestay experience is highly valued by past students, who cherish the friendships they were able to make with their host families. This experience has proven to be an invaluable part of the program and adds immensely to the study abroad experience long after students return to their home countries. Students are provided a private room furnished with Japanese futon or regular bedding and two meals a day (breakfast & dinner) on weekdays and three meals on the weekend and national holidays.

In the application, you will be asked to provide information that will help KIEC in matching students with host families. Please be aware that KIEC cannot guarantee that students will be matched with a host family that meets all of their preferences. KIEC is also unable to guarantee that there may or may not be other exchange students living in the host family home. Please be sure to fill out all questionnaires carefully, and provide KIEC with any additional information that will help in matching selection.

● Off-campus Privately Owned Dormitory Accommodations

Dormitory managers live on the premises in each dormitory to address student needs immediately and offer assistance with adjusting to life in a dormitory. Breakfasts and dinners are included in dormitory costs. Vegetarian and allergy free menus are not available. Rooms with a small kitchen may be available. Please let us know if you require further information. KIEC will provide opportunities for students to visit Japanese families (home visit) for a day visit or overnight stay during the program. For more information about dormitories, visit the following website:

http://www.konan-u.ac.jp/kiec/file/DormitoryInformation_2017-18.pdf

Living Cost http://www.konan-u.ac.jp/kiec/file/EstimatedCosts_2017-18.xls

Application Process

- ① **Complete & submit all application materials to your study abroad advisor.**
- ② **【Mid-July】 Receive an Acceptance Letter**
- ③ **【Beginning to Mid-August】 Receive a Certificate of Eligibility**
- ④ **【Mid-Late August】 Receive Host Family/Dormitory Information**
- ⑤ **【September 6, 2017】 Arrive at Kansai International Airport**
- ★ **Konan University Year-in-Japan Program Begins!**

For more information about this program, please visit:

<http://www.konan-u.ac.jp/kiec/english/index.html>



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