

Konan University Year-in-Japan Program 2022-2023 Information Booklet

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January 30, 2022

Dear Prospective Year-in-Japan Students,

Thank you for your interest in the Konan University Year-in-Japan (YiJ) 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 cities of Osaka and Kobe. Just minutes from campus, you can hike in the mountains or shop for the latest clothing, anime, and manga goods. We are also in close proximity to several UNESCO World Heritage sites in Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama, and Himeji.

As a YiJ student, you will have unique opportunities to interact with and befriend people from the local Japanese community. At the campus level, you can join campus clubs as diverse as martial arts, dance, and Wadaiko (Japanese drums). Joining a campus club is a great way for you to meet Konan students and become part of the Konan University student body, a rare feature of study-abroad programs.

YiJ students live with home stay families. The home stay experience gives you an authentic perspective of life in Japan with a local family. Home stay families live within a reasonable commuting distance from campus and most home stay families have many years of experience hosting international students from different countries. The Konan University staff work very closely with home stay families to ensure you have a safe, reassuring, and enjoyable experience.

We are enclosing more detailed information about additional features of the YiJ program, including study tours, an optional trip to Tokyo, and our Tomodachi Partners program that connects 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/kiec/english/index.html>.

I want to strongly encourage you to consider submitting an application for the YiJ Program. Please feel free to contact me or your campus Study Abroad advisors with any questions you may have about the YiJ Program.

The entire staff of the Konan International Exchange Center (KIEC) welcomes your application to this absolutely fantastic program for the study of Japanese language and culture!

Linda Oshita (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

Resident Director, 2019-20 Konan University Year-in-Japan Program

** For your safety, program modifications have been made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic Please refer to page 9 of this booklet for more information. **

Konan University Year-in-Japan Program 2022-2023

Guidelines

Konan University welcomes international students to the Konan University Year-in-Japan Program each year and offers one-full academic year or a single-semester 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 7th 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 is subject to change due to COVID-19 situations. Please read carefully "STUDY ABROAD ADVISORY DUE TO COVID-19" on the last page.

Program Schedule (subject to change)

Fall Semester 2022	Date
Arrival	Sept. 7 2022
Program Orientation	Sept. 8-12
Japanese Language Placement Test	Sept. 13-14
First Day of Classes	Sept. 15
Overnight Study Tour ①*	November
Last Day of Fall Semester	Dec. 23
Winter Break	Dec. 24-Jan. 15

*see page 5 for study tour destinations

Spring Semester 2023	Date
Arrival	Jan. 10, 2023
Program Orientation	Jan. 11
Orientation/Japanese Placement Test	Jan. 12-13
First Day of Classes	Jan. 16
Spring Break	Feb.1-5
Overnight Study Tour ②*	March
Last Day of Spring Semester	May 18
Farewell Party	May 19

Application Procedures & Requirements

Application Deadline: March 30, 2022

Applicants must be nominated by their home/sending institutions. 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, 2022
Program Fee Deadline	Early August, 2022
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 more than 180 hours of Japanese language courses, plus over 75 hours of related Japan Studies classes. Students attend Japanese language classes in the morning Monday through Friday. 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 (approximately 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 approximately 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 presentation days, and through the interactions with native speakers outside of class and during study tours and cultural workshops.

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 evaluation 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 N2 Level
Japanese V (Advanced Japanese)	JLPT N1 Level

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

**Japanese Language Proficiency Test

Overnight Study Tours* (Subject to change)

The Year-in-Japan Program includes two 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.

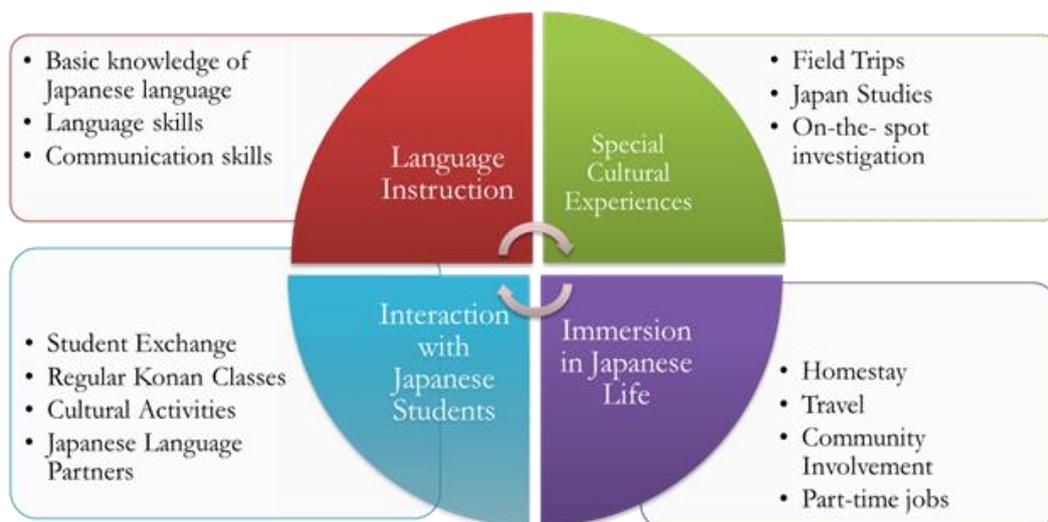
Please note that study tours may be cancelled/subject to change due to COVID-19 situations.

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 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.

2022-2023 Japan Studies Course List (Subject to change)

2022 Fall	Category	Theme
Japan Studies 1	Linguistics, Literature, Education	Topics in Japanese Linguistics
Japan Studies 2	Linguistics, Literature, Education	The Visual Culture of Japanese Buddhism
Japan Studies 5	History, Religion, Geography	Japanese History
Japan Studies 8	Economics, Business Administration	Contemporary Economy and Business in Japan
Japan Studies13	Joint Seminar*	Japanese Material Culture
2023 Spring	Category	Theme
Japan Studies 6	History, Religion, Geography	Japanese Religion: Thought and Practice
Japan Studies 7	Economics, Business Administration	Introduction to Japanese Economy
Japan Studies 9	Art, Culture, Society	Modern Japanese Foodways
Japan Studies10	Art, Culture, Society	Ritual practices and daily rituals: An introduction to the anthropology of Japan

*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 are 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 is 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

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.

Clubs & Circles

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.

Language Partner

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.

Student Organizations

There are student organizations whose purpose is to support international students, such as International Exchange Committee (IEC) and Konan Global Exchange Association (KGEA). They organize various international student exchange activities on campus throughout the year.

Global Zone Porte

All Year-in-Japan students are welcome to join any of the activities held daily at Global Zone Porte. A meeting place for internationally-minded students, Global Zone Porte is comprised of 3 areas; the Ajisai Room, the KONAN Language LOFT, and the Global Learning Commons. It is centrally located on campus and considered by many to be the hub of international events and activities for students. Students participating in the Year-in-Japan Program have a chance to work as student tutors at the KONAN Language LOFT, the university's self-access learning center, to help Konan students improve their communication skills in English by facilitating interaction and encouraging active participation in games and activities. It's a great opportunity to develop cross-cultural understanding and global competence while making friends at Konan University.

Scholarship

Students accepted to the YiJ program are eligible to apply for an internal scholarship, Konan scholarship and external scholarships such as HUMAP and JASSO. Each scholarship has their own application procedure, requirements, and limit for the number of accepted applicants.

Please refer to the following link for further information.

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

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. Host families' homes are of all types. Some live in apartment buildings. Others have modern wood-frame homes. 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 weekends 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.

***Please kindly note that the accommodation could be changed to university-arranged dormitory or other facilities due to COVID-19.**

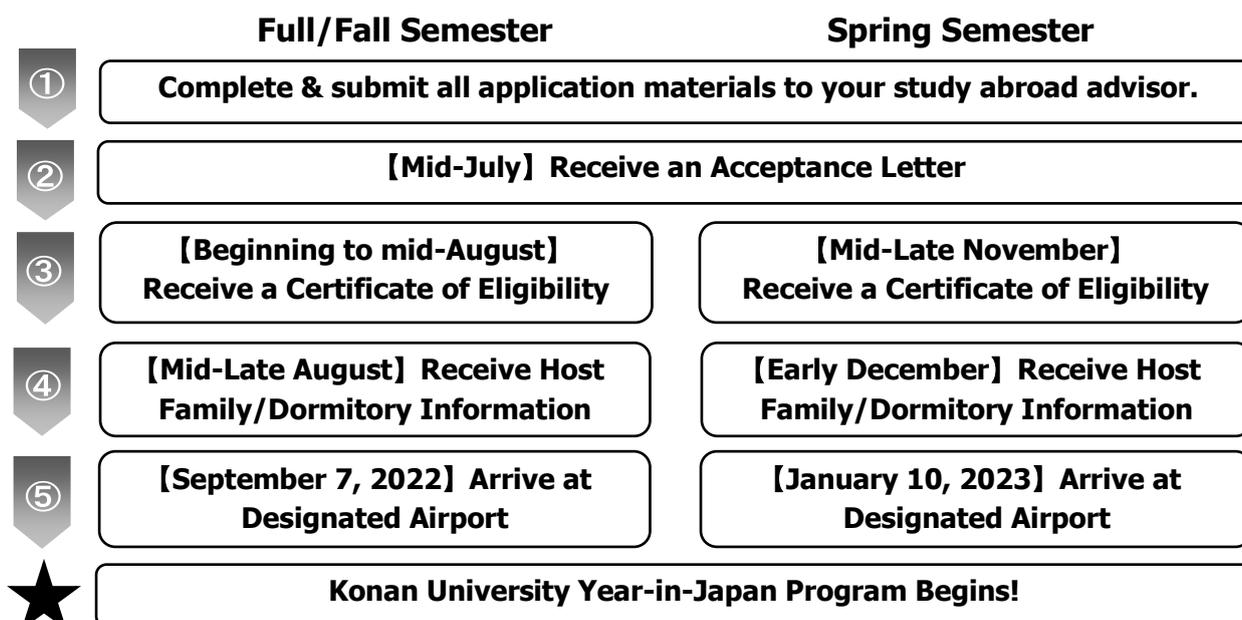
● Off-campus Privately Owned Dormitory Accommodations

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/Dormitory_Information.pdf

Living Cost http://www.konan-u.ac.jp/kiec/file/Estimated_Costs_2022-23.xls

Application Process



*The details of arrival information will be announced at later date.

STUDY ABROAD ADVISORY DUE TO COVID-19

In response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which continues to impact countries worldwide, the Japanese government maintains its strict border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As of 31 January 2022 foreign nationals from the countries listed on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan are restricted from entering Japan.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

Konan University must abide by the national government policies and regulations issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Considering the government's policies as well as the covid situation inside and outside of Japan, Konan University will carefully decide whether it is possible to host international students. We recommend you **not to** purchase flight tickets until further notice. If the situation worsens and it is difficult to ensure the health and safety of international students, Konan University may decide to cancel programs before they begin, or during the programs, in which case, international students is likely to be instructed to return to their home country.

Foreigners staying in Japan more than three months must enroll in Japan's National Health Insurance. This will cover 70% of the total cost of care at clinics and hospitals, and you will need to pay 30% of the total cost (there are cases that will not be covered). Please note that this insurance will not cover any medical emergencies that may occur during your trip to Japan and while returning home after you complete the program. To participate in the Year-in-Japan Program at Konan University, students must have international medical and travel insurance which covers your medical expenses for the duration of the program before entering Japan in accordance with the Japanese government's guidelines for foreign nationals who are willing to enter Japan. Students are required to carry a copy of their insurance. It is also strongly recommended that students bring any necessary medication. Please be advised that students are responsible to pay all expenses for mandatory quarantine, medical insurances, and other costs at your own expense when mandatory quarantine is required upon arrival in Japan. Besides, please kindly note that depending on the COVID-19 situation, homestay may not be offered and the accommodation could be university-arranged dormitories or other facilities. In that case, the cost may increase subject to their availability.

There are various risks involved in studying abroad during in the current unstable situation. Konan University is deeply grateful that students consider Konan University as their study abroad destination; however, please carefully read and understand the above detailed information before applying to the program.

Konan University does not accept responsibility for the risks associated with study abroad, such as becoming infected with the COVID-19 or failure to earn course credits due to program cancellation.



KONAN UNIVERSITY

Konan International Exchange Center (KIEC)

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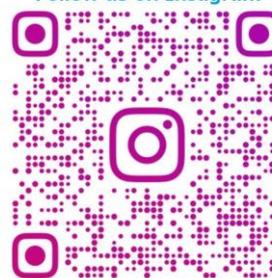
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*Online consultation on Zoom is available!
Please feel free to contact us.

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