

Welcome!

Kyushu University's Study Program  
For International Students

## JAPAN IN TODAY'S WORLD

FALL-WINTER 2018-19

# The Next Steps For Incoming Students

*Important Information  
For Your Preparation*

Your journey to study abroad in Japan had already begun – Please read this material thoroughly and carefully to get successfully prepared for participating in the JTW Program.

- Kyushu University Japan in Today's World Program

## FUKUOKA CITY - THE HOME OF KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

**Japan' s Gateway to Asia** - As a participant of the JTW Program, you will live in Fukuoka, and this location is one the Program' s strengths. A pleasant coastal city of 1.5 million people and the largest metropolis on the island of Kyushu, Fukuoka is Japan' s gateway to continental Asia. China and Korea are both close by—the city lies midway between Tokyo, Shanghai, and Seoul—and life here still reflects an ancient heritage of cultural exchange. At the same time the city enjoys a growing reputation as a modern, vibrant regional trade and production center. Most recently MSNBC–Newsweek named Fukuoka a “city of substance,” ranking it among the “ten most dynamic cities” in the world!

**A City of Prosperity, Energy and Popularity** - The signs of prosperity and energy are everywhere. Fukuoka boasts impressive new levels of investment in building and manufacturing, one of the country' s busiest domestic and international airports, a thriving port and shipping industry, excellent public transportation, a compelling skyline mixing traditional and modern architecture, the YAHUOKU! DOME (one of Japan' s biggest entertainment and sports venues), numerous upscale shopping malls and boutiques, and a rich variety of amusements, including galleries, theaters, museums, and clubs, all set against a backdrop of thickly forested hills overlooking the superb natural harbor of Hakata Bay.

Host to national and prefectural government offices, and to the regional headquarters of many major companies, Fukuoka is Kyushu' s most active, and largest, business center. China, Korea, and the United States have established consulates in the city, too. An increasingly popular tourist destination, Fukuoka lures millions each year, many from abroad, who come to experience its colorful Dontaku and Yamakasa festivals, visit its famous shrines and temples, wander through outstanding museums, or simply explore its lively markets and colorful streets. And Fukuoka' s many attractive, well-maintained parks and beaches appeal to Japanese and foreigners alike.

With eleven major universities and 72,300 students, Fukuoka is noted as a city of youthful verve and fashion. All parts of the urban area are easily accessible by subway, bus, or bicycle, and Fukuoka' s 32,000 foreign residents, most of them from China and Korea, find the bustling downtown district of Tenjin well stocked with imported foods and foreign language books. The renowned night life quarter of Nakasu also offers a wide variety of restaurants with all kinds of traditional fare and international cuisine. The fresh seafood of Fukuoka is famous throughout Japan.

Foreign residents and visitors often comment on the friendliness and international outlook of the people of Fukuoka, making it the special place that it is. This reflects the city' s longstanding tradition of openness to the world, exhibited today in the city' s wide range of friendship societies and support services. You will find a warm welcome wherever you go, which is why Fukuoka is rated consistently as one of the best environments in Asia to live.

**More Information** - Try exploring any of the following websites to get a better sense of all that Fukuoka has to offer:

<http://facts.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/en/>  
<http://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/english/>  
<http://www.rainbowfia.or.jp/en/>  
<https://kyushu.com/fukuoka/>  
<http://www.fukuoka-now.com/en/>

## WEATHER

The best seasons here are the spring and fall when clear blue skies make a perfect backdrop for the abundant cherry blossom and vivid red maple leaves. While generally mild in winter (with temperatures seldom falling below -3° C) it can be quite humid in summer (though temperatures rarely rise above 33° C), particularly during the short rainy season.

## CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (STUDENT VISA)

The JTW Program will ask you to apply for a “Certificate of Eligibility” (CoE) online with your log-in ID and password, which will be sent to you by **Kyushu University International Student & Researcher Support Center** ( “the Support Center,” for short).

The information you provide will be delivered to the Fukuoka Immigration Bureau. Processing of the application normally takes three to four weeks, and prepares the way for you later to obtain a **Residence Card (Zairyu Card, in Japanese)** after you arrive.

In early September you will receive from the Support Center your CoE, which indicates your approval by the Immigration Bureau to come to Japan as a student. When sending you your CoE, the Support Center will also send you **an official letter of admission to Kyushu University** as a student to the Japan in Today’ s World Program, which will be written in Japanese as 入学許可証. **With the CoE and the admission letter in hand, you should apply directly and immediately for a “College Student” visa at the Japanese embassy or consulate that serves the area where you live.** Of course you will need also to present your valid passport and several passport photos for your visa application.

It takes several weeks for us to obtain and send to you the CoE and the admission letter. Nonetheless, it normally takes only around one week for you to obtain the visa once appropriately applying for it. But do not delay in applying. We suggest you contact the embassy or consulate in advance to inquire about visa application procedures and fees, as these may vary from country to country.

*Please note: Your passport (with “College Student” visa attached) and your CoE are both necessary for entry to Japan, so be sure to have them with you for airport immigration procedures.*

## HOUSING

As a new arrival at Kyushu University, you are guaranteed a furnished room with balcony and private bath at **Dormitory 1, Dormitory 2, or Harmony House** (Kyosokan), all self-catering residence facilities on Ito campus, where JTW is based. Classrooms and libraries are in close walking distance, and optional cafeteria are nearby.

Each room is fitted with a single bed, futon and sheets, writing desk with lamp, chair, wardrobe, kitchenette, refrigerator, and a combined air conditioner/heater. Coin-operated washing machines and dryers are also available. We urge that you bring with you a laptop computer with Ethernet cable and Wi-Fi capability for, respectively, room and campus-wide internet access and use.

**While a room is assured for you, you still will need formally to apply to live at one of our residence halls.** This must be done online with a log-in ID and password to be emailed to you by the Support Center.

Residence hall addresses are as follows:

Dormitory 1 & Dormitory 2 (Campus Map No. 78 or No. 79):  
674 Kuwabara, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka 819-0382  
Tel: +81-92-807-7188 (Dormitory 1), +81-92-806-6841 (Dormitory 2)

Harmony House (a.k.a., Kyosokan) (Campus Map No. 95):  
522 Kuwabara, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka 819-0382  
Tel: +81-92-806-5779

See also: <http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en/housing>

Dormitories 1 and 2 are a few minutes’ walk or bicycle ride from your classrooms at Center Zone buildings, as seen in the attached campus map. Harmony House (Kyosokan), however, is a little further away, requiring about a 10-minute bike ride or 15-minute walk. Inexpensive,

new bicycles (around 10,000 Yen) are readily available in town for purchase.

## COST OF LIVING

Living costs are significantly lower in Fukuoka than in other major cities in the country such as Tokyo, Kyoto or Osaka, not least because the easy access to campus cuts down on local transportation costs. You will need **approximately 100,000 - 120,000 Yen a month to get by**, depending on your dormitory room choice and habitual use of water and electricity. We estimate a very rough monthly budget as follows:

Dormitory Room Rent	16,500–25,500 Yen*
Dormitory Upkeep	4,500 Yen
Utilities (Water & Electricity)	15,000 Yen (will vary with usage)
Food	30,000 Yen**
Local Transportation	10,000 Yen (individual spending habits may vary)
Books & Supplies	5,000 Yen (instructors typically provide reading materials in class)
Internet Service	3,000 Yen
Health Insurance	2,000 Yen
Personal Expenses	20,000 Yen (individual spending habits may vary)
Once-off Charges include:	
Dormitory Room Deposit	30,000 Yen***
Half-year Futon Rental	5,000 Yen
Dormitory Internet Set-up	10,000 Yen
Emergency Security Plan	1,500 Yen (valid through a year)

\* Your dormitory room rental fee is normally assessed on a monthly basis.

\*\* Lunch at the school cafeteria runs about 350–400 Yen, and students typically prepare their own breakfast and dinner at the dormitory.

\*\*\* This is refundable in full upon room-vacating less any assessed damages.

## JTW ORIENTATION

All JTW students are required to attend the JTW Orientation, which will take place just a few days after you arrive in Fukuoka and settle into your housing. The specific date, time, and venues will be determined and reported to you late via email.

During the orientation, we'll introduce the JTW Program, ask you to introduce yourself to other students, and go over some aspects—both academic and practical—of studying at Kyushu University (or “Kyudai”) and living in Fukuoka. Of course you are welcome to contact us with questions at any time before you get here.

Should you have any question, please email is at: [intlr-jtw@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:intlr-jtw@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp)

## STUDENT TUTORS & CONVERSATION PARTNERS

JTW works with student tutors (supporters) and conversation partners, both of whom are degree-seeking students at Kyushu University and are assigned to provide you with one-on-one assistance and support. Most of them are Japanese.

They will help you settle in, introduce you to the university club of your choice, accompany you in exploring Fukuoka City, and be of support in a variety of other ways. Of course interacting with tutors will benefit your Japanese conversation skills, but you have in addition the option of being assigned one or more conversation partners should you wish to have more regular and informal occasions to practice. In the typical arrangement, conversation partners will talk with you in Japanese at least one hour every week. Many of the tutors and conversation partners are thinking of studying abroad next year themselves, and so are highly motivated to work with you.

Please know that, even if you speak no Japanese at all, you still will be able to manage fairly well, right from the start, both with the aid of tutors, instructors, and staff, and with the help of the many friendly Fukuokans who can speak some English. In addition, we'll provide you with an English map and survival guide when you get here!

## BANKING & MONEY

Soon after you arrive, the JTW staff members and student tutors will assist you in opening a deposit account with Fukuoka Bank or Nishi-Nippon City Bank, which provide cash cards and offer convenient ATM locations throughout the city and on campus. The process will be explained and carried out during the JTW orientation.

The JTW Program advises that you bring with you about 120,000 Yen to cover normal expenses for September and October (as budgeted above) and at least 46,500 Yen to meet the required initial move-in costs (also as budgeted above). Any additional funds you may need can be wired later to your bank account once it is opened.

Many find it convenient to exchange their currency for Yen at international airports, and you may do so, during normal business hours, if entering Japan via one of its major international airports (Narita or Haneda in Tokyo; Kansai in Osaka; Chubu in Nagoya; Fukuoka).

Please note that Japan is a cash and (increasingly) credit card economy; there is no use or acceptance of bank checks, as in some other countries. Most of your daily transactions will take place using Yen cash. Traveler's checks are accepted for exchange at banks, but for purchase of goods and services by only a small number of international tourist-oriented providers, such as hotels. We strongly recommend that you come with one or two internationally useable credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, etc.), if only to be relied upon in emergencies. A debit card capable of accessing a major global interbank system such as Plus, Cirrus, Maestro, or Pulse is also advisable.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

It is extremely important to have health insurance coverage during your participation in the JTW Program. **All JTW students, whether spending the full academic year or a single semester in Kyushu, are eligible and required to sign up for Japanese National Health Insurance (NHI).** This costs approximately 17,000 Yen annually, with premium payments comfortably spread out in monthly installments. The program covers 70% of medical bills (hospital fees and related medical expenses).

By law, **JTW students are not permitted to substitute their home coverage for the Japanese National Health Insurance (NHI) coverage**, although such a program may be useful for eventual reimbursement of expenses not covered by NHI (30% of assessed fees).

**We also strongly recommend that you consider buying travel insurance for emergency-related evacuation and repatriation costs, which NHI does not cover.**

An additional insurance program you are required to purchase upon arrival, the **Emergency Security Plan (ESP)**, costing about 1,500 Yen for the year, provides phone-based Japanese-English translation help when receiving medical treatment and assistance locating treatment centers anywhere in Japan, among other benefits that will be explained during orientation.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES & FACILITIES

Most JTW classes are held in Center Zone buildings on Ito Campus, and much of Ito Campus offers free wireless internet connectivity. Ito University and Q-Commons libraries (No. 40 and 70 on the campus map) provide a wealth of academic books in Japanese, English, and other languages. As a JTW student, you also will have full electronic access via the University library to thousands of online academic journals published from around the world.

An infirmary and a counseling office, for addressing respectively minor physical as well as various mental health issues are located conveniently in Center Zone.

See: [http://www.chc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/english/organization/facility\\_list.html#unit01](http://www.chc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/english/organization/facility_list.html#unit01)

For more serious problems, students may turn to one of a number of clinics or hospitals in the area where English is spoken. A list of such hospitals will be provided during the JTW orientation.

There are several cafeterias on campus open for lunch and dinner that serve typical, everyday Japanese dishes at affordable prices, around 300 to 500 Yen. And you will have use of the University's athletic facilities, including gym (No. 74, campus map), with its weight-training and exercise rooms, basketball court, and more.

Kyushu University provides no public computers which students may use, we strongly recommend that you bring a laptop from home, or plan to purchase one upon arrival. JTW and the University rely heavily on email to communicate with students (e.g., assignments are frequently submitted online).

## HOME VISIT PROGRAM

If you are interested, the JTW Program can introduce you to a Japanese family in the Fukuoka City area, typically with children, who will host you on periodic weekend visits to their home throughout the semester and year.

Host families often take JTW students on local trips to sightsee, shop, dine, visit with relatives, enjoy festivals, and much more. Friendships often develop that last indefinitely beyond the program period. More information will be provided during the JTW orientation.

## CONTACTING AND CONSULTING WITH JTW STAFF

JTW faculty coordinators and administrative staff are available to support you as needed. All inquiries and requests for assistance are welcome. The JTW program office is located on the 1st floor of building No. 83 (see <http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/f/32764/2018ito-en.pdf>). The JTW faculty coordinators have offices on the 4th floor of West Zone 1 building No. 32.

## CLOTHING /ATTIRE

For most of the activities you will be involved in while here, including going to class and participating on field trips, casual but presentable clothes will be suitable. It is strongly recommended, however, that you bring at least one set of dressier (workplace-appropriate) clothes for the occasional, more formal event, such as the JTW closing ceremony in late July, both of which you are expected to attend.

# SO, WHAT TO DO NEXT? – TIMELINE FOR YOUR PREPARATION



## LATE JUNE

Begin preparing for your study next semester at Kyushu University by **reading closely and carefully through all the materials in your acceptance packet (including this one!) and other materials** to be sent to you in coming weeks.

Kyushu University International Student & Researcher Support Center ( “the Support Center,” for short) will help you apply for a **“Certificate of Eligibility” (CoE)**, which is needed when you apply later for your student visa. The Support Center will also help you reserve a

dormitory room and arrange shuttle-bus service from the airport. These arrangements will be done online.

In late June or early July, you will receive an email message from the Support Center with instructions for accessing the pre-arrival application online system. Please look for “Notice regarding the Online Application System” in the message subject line. Use the website address, log-in ID, and password provided to complete the online procedures as instructed.

Details about those procedures are available at:  
<http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en/procedure1>

Should you have questions or difficulty with any part of this process, please contact the Support Center for assistance:

Kyushu University International Student & Researcher Support Center  
Tel: +81-92-802-2290  
Email: [supportcenter-tan@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:supportcenter-tan@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp)

## JULY & AUGUST

This is the period in which to make your flight and other travel arrangements. Of course the earlier you book your travel, the greater the choice you will have of itinerary and fares. Please be mindful of when in September you are requested to arrive in Fukuoka, as discussed below.

## SEPTEMBER

Early this month you will receive from the Support Center your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). With this document in hand, as instructed above, you should apply directly and immediately for a “College Student” visa at the Japanese embassy or consulate that serves the area where you live.

During September you will be making your final preparations to come to Fukuoka. It will be very important for us to know how to contact you, particularly via email, should the need arise, in the weeks just before your departure, so please be sure to tell us if the email and home addresses you listed in your original JTW application have changed.

Please arrange your travel to arrive in Fukuoka (Fukuoka Airport / FUK) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September (Wednesday). This is the arrival date the JTW program designates in order to ensure the availability of university-arranged shuttle bus services on your behalf and a smoother transition to the program. The shuttle bus services are scheduled to be provided on the 21st (Fri) and the 25th (Tuesday) of the same month. However, these services are mainly for international students of other programs. We will notify you in early September the specific schedule of the shuttle bus services.

University-dispatched staff members will meet you at Fukuoka Airport and escort you directly to the residence hall where you will live—Dormitory 1 or Dormitory 2 on Ito Campus—by shuttle bus. Please note that this service will be available only on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September (Wednesday).

The student tutor (supporter) assigned to you will meet you at the residence hall. You will be given a schedule for the next few days at that time. To ensure that your arrival goes smoothly, we ask that you tell us in a timely way when and how you plan to reach Fukuoka. Arriving later than the requested date is strongly discouraged and will create numerous logistical difficulties, for the staff as well as for you. Your cooperation in this will be most appreciated.

A half-day JTW orientation will be held shortly after your arrival. The orientation is tentatively scheduled on September 22 (Saturday). Once the date is finalized and the venue is determined, we will let you know via email. Attendance is required as this will be the



crucial, first step for your participation in the JTW Program. Your student tutor (supporter) will escort you from your residence hall to the venue of the orientation.

We will then take you on a two-day JTW Welcome/Orientation trip to Oita Prefecture, southeast of Fukuoka (in the west central part of Kyushu Island). The setting is beautiful and relaxing, and will provide a pleasant opportunity for everyone to get to know each other. This trip is tentatively scheduled to be taken place on September 24 (Monday) and 25 (Tuesday). We will keep you posted on the scheduling of this important activity via email.

