

2020



School of Global Studies and Collaboration



AOYAMA GAKUIN
UNIVERSITY

SAT TERRACE THE MUSEUM

Learning Beyond Boundaries.
Collaboration Beyond Differences.

Learn about Japanese art and culture from renowned creators and performers. Carry out cutting-edge research alongside established scholars and analysts. Cultivate language ability with native speakers and motivated learners from around the globe. All at a bucolic campus just outside Tokyo, one of the world's most vibrant metropolises. The GSC Exchange Student Program provides international students interested in Japan with the ideal environment in which to enrich themselves culturally, academically, and linguistically.

Practical Interdisciplinary Education

The School of Global Studies and Collaboration (GSC) was established in 2015 with the goal of cultivating graduates able to thrive in a rapidly changing, globalized world. Students in the GSC take courses from four clusters: collaboration, sociology, business, and media and spatial information. This interdisciplinary curriculum ensures that students receive a comprehensive social science foundation that can be utilized in a wide variety of fields. GSC faculty members include instructors with long records of practical experience in their respective fields and industries, who strive to provide students with the tools to connect classroom theory with real-world applications.

Asia's Growing Significance: Challenges and Opportunities

The economic, political, and cultural impact of the emergence of Southeast Asia is transforming the shape of globalization. While the growing markets of Thailand, Malaysia, and other surrounding nations offer opportunities, their rapid modernization and internationalization also present serious challenges both locally and globally. GSC aims to cultivate individuals who can contribute to solving these problems by synthesizing theory-based social science and project-based fieldwork.

Fostering Global Citizens

Working effectively in a global environment requires more than just classroom training. Students in the department are required to complete a one-semester study abroad program at one of our partner institutions in Thailand or Malaysia as an integral part of their curriculum. This experience provides students with both the practical skills to complete on-the-ground fieldwork in developing nations as well as the opportunity to develop the flexibility and adaptability necessary to excel in multilingual and multicultural environments.



Message from the Dean

“Educating Global Citizens for the 21st Century”

Studying abroad is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the culture, language, and society of another country. But it is also a chance to step outside of one's comfort zone and reconsider one's own place in the wider world.

At the School of Global Studies and Collaboration, our aim is to nurture resourceful global citizens who can cross national, ethnic, and religious boundaries and take on important roles in both developed and emerging countries around the world. It is often said that to become a global citizen, one must possess three qualities: strong communication competency and language skills; leadership ability, including initiative and cooperation; and intercultural understanding with a strong sense of self-identity. Our program provides a curriculum geared towards cultivating these abilities, along with a specialized skillset rooted in a comprehensive social science education. We instill in our students a spirit of coexistence and both the desire and capacity to contribute to global society. Here, students with a consciousness of global issues and the motivation to pursue them academically come together to generate solutions, both in the classroom and in the field.

Featured Courses

GSC course

Global Media and Communications

Acquire the Tools to Work with Information Critically

This course will provide a means for understanding the relationships among technologies, media, and social connectivity. Media encompasses tools, platforms and strategies that we all use to obtain, create, and share knowledge about the world, through communication and interaction. In this course, students will develop the critical thinking skills necessary for distinguishing and evaluating various types of media, including formats and platforms. Students will also learn to become active participants and producers in the new digital society.

Japan Studies course

Surveying and Cartography in Japan

Exploring Japanese Geography

This course serves as an introduction to the geography of Japan. It will focus on covering the theoretical and practical knowledge needed for geographic work in Japan, including the best methods to gather geographical scholarship, carry out field research, and make maps using GIS. The course also facilitates the development of oral presentation and self-learning skills.

Featured Courses

GSC course

Cross-National Comparison

Putting Social Issues in a Transnational Context

In this course, students will come to understand the necessity of cross-national comparison, and study the major issues and methods it involves. While each nation has its own culture and institutions, no nation exists in isolation; rather, nations are interwoven through international relations (IR). Consequently, it is only through studying international relations that it becomes possible to understand the dynamics of each nation fully. This course focuses in particular on the issues of inequality and social policy.

Japan Studies course

Introduction to Japanese Politics and Society

Diverse Perspectives on Modern Japan

This course introduces students to the major themes in Japanese politics and society through a careful study of modern Japan. The course emphasizes careful reading and analysis. The classes will combine lectures and discussion. Students will come away with a thorough understanding of how the modern Japanese political and social worlds developed.

Credit Requirements

Exchange students may register for any courses offered by GSC. Students are required to register for at least 14 credit hours per semester (including compulsory Japanese-language related courses).

Eligibility

Applicants are required to be students at one of Aoyama Gakuin University's partner institutions and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher (4.0 scale)

Language Proficiency Requirements

GSC requires students to have language ability equivalent to either of the following:

- (1) at least one year of formal study of Japanese and JLPT N5 or above
- (2) IELTS 5.5 or TOEFL iBT 68 or above

Learn More Online

Visit the GSC website for more details about the program, eligibility, and application process:

<http://international.gsc.aoyama.ac.jp/>



Exchange Student Program

GSC provides highly-motivated international students with a variety of undergraduate courses grounded in social science in both English and Japanese. These include Japan Studies Courses, which offer students a unique opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Japan and Japan-related academic fields. In addition to compulsory Japanese language courses (5 courses, 6 credits total), students can choose from a selection of courses covering business, economics, culture, history, and media / spatial information, in which they will learn from a team of renowned researchers, artists, and policy analysts about issues in each field.

Japanese Language Courses

AGU offers a range of Japanese language courses for beginners through advanced students. No Japanese language proficiency is required at the time of admission. Courses in Japanese and Japanese Culture & Society are taken according to student level, as determined by placement test results and application documents. Please note that AGU does not have a separate Language Center.

GSC Courses

GSC's interdisciplinary curriculum ensures that students receive a comprehensive social science foundation that can be utilized in a wide variety of fields. Experienced faculty prepare students to integrate theories with professional skills for solving today's social problems and improving the global community through project-based activities.

Media / Spatial Information



Sociology



Collaboration



Business

Japan Studies Courses

Japan Studies Courses enable Japanese and foreign students to immerse themselves together in the study of Japan. Students can choose from courses covering business, culture, history, sociology, and media / spatial information studies, taught by experienced faculty. Some courses provide opportunities for hands-on experience with traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, from Nō and Kabuki to pop culture and robotics, inside and outside the classroom.

Featured Courses

GSC course

Global Environment and Resources Management

Protecting the Environment in a Changing World

In this course, students will learn about the importance of environmental protection and resource management in realizing sustainable development, with a special focus on climate change and the developing world. The course provides a broad overview of environmental issues and strategies to address them. In small groups, students will analyze and discuss key issues with their peers.

Japan Studies course

Traditional Art and Culture in Modern Japan

A Hands-on Introduction to Japanese Culture

This course provides students with a thorough introduction to traditional Japanese culture, including Ikebana, calligraphy, tea ceremony, Kyōgen, Kabuki, and more. The course will be taught by internationally-recognized artists, performers and specialists. Students will have unique opportunities to acquire knowledge from experts and experience performances first-hand. Depending on the topic, they will also have hands-on experiences in class workshops.

Featured Courses

GSC course

International Business and Strategic Management

Business Fundamentals in the Digital Age

International business has witnessed dramatic change due to the digital transformation. The rise of the Internet challenged existing national borders, while cutting-edge technologies like blockchain challenged national currencies. Through considering business methodology past and present, the course introduces trends in contemporary international business, as well as the skills necessary for forging new business enterprises today.

Japan Studies course

Travel and Tourism in Contemporary Japan

A Comprehensive Look at the World of Tourism

In Japan's aging society, tourism is expected to play an increasingly major role. In this class, students will learn about the current situation of the country's international and domestic tourism, and its social and economic significance. The class will cover various popular tourist destinations, as well as the major business players in the tourism industry, including hotels, ryokan, transportation, and tour operators.

✉ Message from Support Staff

We are here to support you!

Our school provides comprehensive academic and extra-curricular support to students in both Japanese and English. Feel free to visit our Student Center and chat with our helpful staff if you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your study-abroad experience.





Yokohama, Kanagawa



Tomioka Silk Mill, Gunma



Odawara Castle, Kanagawa



Nikko, Tochigi



Asakusa, Tokyo

Field Trips

We offer a variety of field trips to popular destinations such as Asakusa, Hakone, and Yokohama where students have the opportunity to experience both traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. These events give students the chance to become familiar with Japan's vibrant cultural heritage while building lasting connections with peers. Our program also includes company visits, giving students a rare chance to go behind the scenes at innovative businesses.

Student Voices



Kattiya Modpradit
(Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

It has been an absolute honour and privilege for me to be able to take part in the exchange program at Aoyama Gakuin University. Obtaining this opportunity at AGU allowed me to broaden my horizons and truly gave me the experience of a lifetime. I was able to extend and deepen my existing interest in the country and culture - not only through GSC's diverse range of courses, but also through the fun social activities held for the student community. As a cultural studies student aiming to experience, explore and understand world cultures, my study at Aoyama Gakuin University truly helped me appreciate Japan's exquisite blend of traditional and ultramodern cultures. Throughout my stay, I was always warmly welcomed by all the amiable staff and my fellow peers. The community made me feel right at home and always actively reached out to offer guidance and assistance. I owe a lot to my fulfilling time here - gaining lifelong friends, and developing deeper intercultural awareness by immersing myself in a foreign environment. In short, my exchange has been one of, if not the best experience of my undergraduate years.



Eveliina Jessie Leyser
(Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Finland)

I chose Aoyama Gakuin University and GSC because of the large variety of courses supporting my major and my passion for international cooperation, as well as for the proximity of the campus to Tokyo, the heart of Japan. I felt at home from the day I arrived. I was able to make many friends, from not only Japan but all around the world. The staff, faculty members and local students welcomed me warmly like an old friend and supported me more than I could ever have asked for.

Studying at Aoyama Gakuin University for a year was a life-changing experience for me. It is a memory I definitely will happily carry in my heart forever. I feel like I not only studied, but also grew as a person, learning so much about myself and the world around me, while gaining competence money cannot buy. My understanding of Japanese culture and language has improved enormously as well, just like I hoped for! I am glad I had the opportunity to study at Aoyama Gakuin University and I can happily recommend it to anyone whose dream is to study in Japan.

Student Support



Advisers, Buddy/
Tutor System



Airport Pick-Up
Service



Student
Orientation

Campus Facilities



Fitness Center



Library



AGU Shop



High-speed Wireless Internet



Cafeteria



Health Facilities

Accommodation

We help students find suitable housing convenient to campus.



AOYAMA GAKUIN
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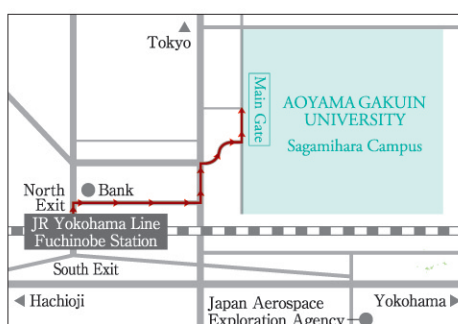
Address 5-10-1 Fuchinobe, Chuo-ku, Sagami-hara,
Kanagawa 252-5258, Japan

Phone +81-42-759-6050

Fax +81-42-759-6035

E-mail info@gsc.aoyama

<http://www.gsc.aoyama.ac.jp/>



• Approx. 7 minute walk from Fuchinobe Station (North Exit).

