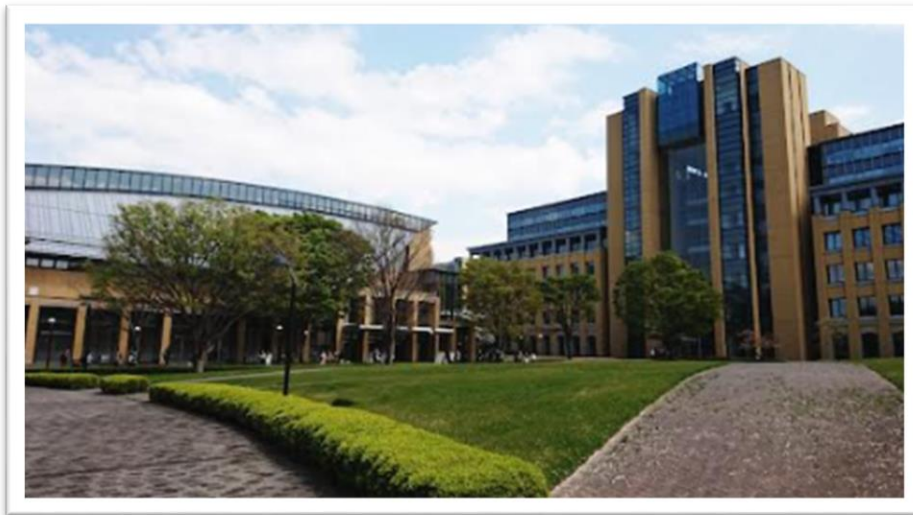




School of Global Studies and Collaboration Aoyama Gakuin University

Information on the Exchange Student Program



**Academic Affairs Division
Sagamihara Campus Administration Department
School of Global Studies and Collaboration
Aoyama Gakuin University**

Address: 5-10-1 Fuchinobe, Chuo-ku, Sagamihara-shi, Kanagawa, 252-5258, JAPAN

E-mail: exchange@gsc.aoyama.ac.jp

Phone: +81-42-759-6050

Last updated on: February, 2024

NOTE: This is information for exchange students. Please confirm with your home university whether your university/school have partnership with School of Global Studies and Collaboration (GSC) or Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU). Visiting students and non-degree students at partner universities are not eligible. To find out more about studying for a full degree at Aoyama Gakuin University, please visit the following website: <https://www.aoyama.ac.jp/en/>

Introduction

Aoyama Gakuin University is a nationally renowned leader in Japanese higher education. Established in 1949 as the flagship institution of the larger Aoyama Gakuin school system, the university boasts generations of graduates that have become leaders in fields ranging from arts and athletics to business and national politics. Aoyama Gakuin, a comprehensive educational institute encompassing all levels from kindergarten to university, was founded in 1874 by American missionaries based on Christian faith. It continues to carry that legacy today with its distinctive emphasis on instilling a commitment to service and an international outlook into its students. In addition to providing high level instruction in specialized fields across 26 departments, the university strives to cultivate “servant leaders” that possess both the knowledge and character to effectively serve their communities locally and globally.

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

About GSC : 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 opportunity, 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 with project-based fieldwork.

◆ Location

Sagamihara Campus

Address: 5-10-1 Fuchinobe, Chuo-ku, Sagamihara-shi, Kanagawa 252-5258, Japan

*7-minute walk from Fuchinobe Station on the JR Yokohama Line

*A short train ride from the center of Tokyo

*1 hour away from the Aoyama Campus

◆ **Facts**

- * Student intake capacity (GSC): 812 (full-time students)
- * Faculty size (GSC): 25 full-time members
- * Student enrollment (AGU): 20,617 (19,242 undergraduates and 1,375 graduates)
- * No. of overseas partner universities: 137
- * Overseas offices in L.A.(U.S.A.)

(as of May 2023)

Program Details

◆ **Language of Instruction**

Japanese and/or English

◆ **Academic Calendar**

Spring semester: April to end of July

Fall semester: Mid-September to end of January



◆ **Courses**

University-level exchange students may take any courses at any of the colleges they wish. Departmental exchange students may take any course offered at GSC. Japanese Language Courses are elective courses, but recommended for all international exchange students.

◆ **Academic Units and Grading**

Most AGU courses count for either one or two units of credit. A two-unit course meets for one 90-minute session per week.

Transcript Mark	Score	Evaluation
AA	100-90	Pass
A	89-80	
B	79-70	
C	69-60	
XX	Under 59	Fail
X	Unevaluable because of absence, etc.	

◆ Japanese Language and other courses (General Education)

AGU offers below courses that are offered especially for Exchange Students.

- **Japanese (A), (B), (C), (D) (日本語)** : 4 classes per week (1 credit each)

Japanese Language Courses are taken according to levels (CEFR-A2～CEFR-C1). The levels are decided based on the Placement Test result and application documents. These courses are offered under undergraduate courses. Please note that AGU does not have a separate Language Center.

(A): Aim to improve listening skills (B): Aim to improve speaking skills

(C): Aim to improve reading skills (D): Aim to improve writing skills

- **Society and Culture of Japan A～H (日本の社会と文化)** : 1 class per week (2 credits)

The course will be designed to help exchange students understand Japan, regardless of their level of Japanese. A few of the classes will be in English, and a few will be in Japanese.

- **Japanology (A) ,(B) (日本学)**: 1 class per week (2 credits)

Japanology (A) introduces students to Japanese cultural and social history, examining how lifestyles and cultural activities have evolved from ancient times to the present.

In Japanology (B), you can deepen your knowledge of Japanese cultures by learning Japanese Anime and Nihon Buyo (Japanese traditional dance) as well as Japanese manners.

◆ Courses offered by the School of Global Studies and Collaboration

Japan Studies Courses

Students can choose from 16 selection of courses taught in English, covering business, economics, culture, history, and geography. They will learn from a collection of renowned researchers, artists, and policy analysts about issues in each field. Some of the courses provide opportunities for hands-on experiences of traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, from Noh and Kabuki to pop culture and robotics, inside and outside of the classroom. These events give students the chance to become familiar with numerous aspects of Japan's vibrant cultural heritage while building lasting connections with their Japanese peers.

*Course Descriptions for Japan Studies Program:

https://www.aoyama.ac.jp/en/academic/undergraduate/gsc_exchange_program_detail/

Other GSC Courses

GSC takes an interdisciplinary curricular approach based on the broad field of the social sciences. This interdisciplinary curriculum ensures that students receive broad-based social science instruction that can be utilized in a wide variety of fields. Experienced practitioners teach students so they can integrate theories into professional practice for solving today's social problems and improve the global community through project-based learning activities. There are some courses offered in English as well.

*GSC Course Descriptions offered in English:

https://www.aoyama.ac.jp/en/academic/undergraduate/gsc_exchange_program_detail/

Applications

Exchange student candidates should submit their applications through the International Office of their home universities.

◆ Eligibility

Applicants should be a student at one of GSC/Aoyama Gakuin University's partner institutions and have a 2.5 GPA or above (4.0 scale).

◆ Required Language Ability

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

1. At least one year of formal study and Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N5 or above
2. IELTS 5.5 or TOEFL iBT 68 or above

◆ Application Materials

When you apply to the GSC Departmental Exchange Student Program, you must submit all of the following materials through designated online form:

- Application for Exchange Student Program (online form, informed after nomination)
- Statement of Academic Objectives (more than a page, A4 size)
- Evaluation of Japanese Language Proficiency* (if applicable)
- Copy of score report of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (if applicable)
- Copy of score report of IELTS or TOEFL (for those who do not have JLPT score report)
- Letter of recommendation
- Official transcripts of home university
- Health Certificate* (health check must be within 3 months before the deadline of application and must be filled out by the medical institution including chest x-ray and the date of the examination)
- Information for Tutor*
- Application for Certificate of Eligibility* (Use designated excel file and upload it. Refer to Sample sheet of Excel file for details.)
- Copy of valid passport (page with photo)
- Original Official Bank Statement and/or Certificate of Scholarship (In English, preferably with amount Japanese Yen converted. Requires more than 1,200,000JPY to stay 1 year, 600,000JPY to stay 6 months.)
- 5 ID photos (4 cm x 3 cm) taken in the last 6 months (color photocopies are not acceptable)**

*AGU forms and further details are available at the International office of your home university.

**Send by post through international office of your home institution

◆ **Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)**

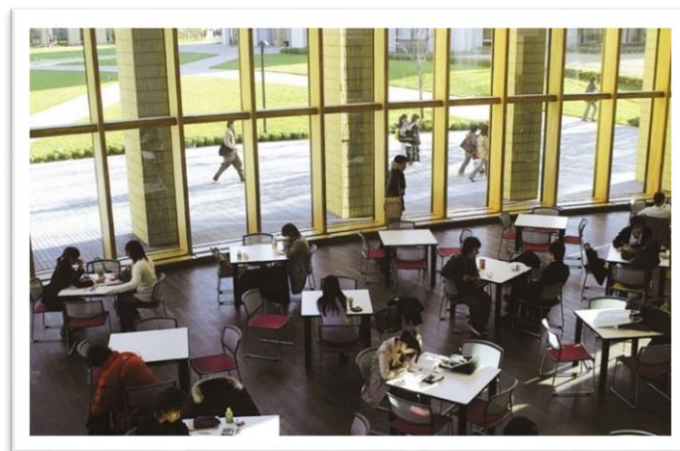
Exchange students are required to have an official visa (student visa) for entry into Japan. AGU will, on behalf of the exchange students, apply to the Tokyo Immigration Bureau for the Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). As soon as the CoE is issued, it will be sent to you. You will need to bring the CoE to your local Japanese embassy or consulate and obtain a student visa.

◆ **Applying for the dormitory**

GSC will require exchange students to live in the dormitory specified by the school. Exchange students will be located at a dormitory approximately 20 minutes to Sagami-hara Campus by train and foot. (Monthly rent for the accommodation will be waived depending on the agreements between the universities.) The deadline for the dormitory application is the same as the exchange student application deadline.

◆ **Schedule for Admission**

Application for Spring Semester (Apr)	Application for Fall Semester (Sept)	
Late October	Late March	Deadline for nomination by exchange program coordinator (online form)
Mid-November	Mid-April	Deadline for exchange program application and dormitory application
Late December	Early June	Notification of admission to all accepted exchange students (by e-mail)
Late January	Early August	Welcome Package, including the Certificate of Eligibility, is sent to your home university.
Late March-Early April	Early-September	Orientations for exchange students
Early April	Mid-September	Classes begin



Other Information

◆ Accommodation

AGU has dormitories for GSC exchange students. For details, please refer to the Housing Information website.

<https://dormy-ac.com/page/aoyama-hashimoto>

GSC has dormitory fee waiver agreements with some of the partner universities. (For more information, please consult your home university.)

◆ Living Expenses

The following shows estimated living costs of attending AGU as an exchange student for one semester (five months). Actual expenses vary depending on the type of housing and the student's lifestyle.

Room & board (if not waived)	¥ 600,000 - ¥ 750,000
Food (lunch, etc.)	¥ 100,000 - ¥ 200,000
Books and materials	¥ 30,000 - ¥ 40,000
Transportation	¥ 10,000 - ¥ 20,000
Extracurricular activities	¥ 50,000 - ¥ 100,000
National Health Insurance	¥ 10,000 - ¥ 12,000
Miscellaneous	¥ 70,000 - ¥ 100,000

◆ Orientation (Schedule details are announced after admission is granted. Orientation is held before classes start.)

- End of March for Spring semester
- Early-September for Fall semester

◆ Student Support

Buddy System

Exchange students will be assigned Japanese students as tutors. The tutors assist the students in dealing with both academic and personal matters, such as coping with any language or cultural problems that may arise.

Social Events

The International Center holds various events and get-togethers throughout the year.

◆ Extracurricular Programs

Field Trips/Japanese Culture Experience

In addition to trips to the countryside coordinated by the International Center, GSC provides exchange students with unique field trips to popular destinations such as Yokohama, Kamakura, Kawagoe, 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 connection with peers. Our program also includes company visits, giving students the rare chance to go behind the scenes at innovative businesses.



Indigo Dyeing "Aizome" experience in Kawagoe



Visiting Tsuruoka Hachimangu (Shirine) and making pottery in Kamakura