

Living Expenses

Although the cost of living varies depending on factors such as housing expenditure and food budget, the average living expenses for international students in the Kyoto and Osaka area are 81,000 JPY per month (excluding academic fees), according to the "Student Guide to Japan 2017-2018," published by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

❑ Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/sgtj.html

Housing

Kyoto University has five International Houses, which provide accommodation for international students and researchers. However, the number of rooms available and tenancy period of the Houses are limited. International students are also eligible to apply for accommodation in public housing and Kyoto University's Student Dormitories (open to domestic and international students). Many international students choose to live in private housing, such as private apartments.

Kyoto University International Houses

Kyoto University's five accommodation facilities for international students and researchers, known as the Kyoto University International Houses, are located at Shugakuin, Yoshida, Uji, Ohbaku and Misasagi. The move-in periods for the Houses are April and October. International students who will be enrolled at Kyoto University within less than a year of their arrival in Japan are eligible to apply. The application periods are January and July (three months prior to move-in). The tenancy period is either one year or six months (non-extendable in either case).

To apply, please contact your faculty/ graduate school office.

● Rates

Rents vary according to location and room type. For details, please visit the website below.

(Example for Ohbaku International House)

The charges of water, bedding and internet access are included.

- Single room: Rent 11,900 JPY per month
- Married couple's room: Rent 19,200 JPY per month
- Family room: Rent from 24,300 JPY and up per month

❑ Kyoto University International Houses

<https://kuiso.oc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/housing/kuih/en>

Apartments

To find an apartment, international students are advised to go to the Kyoto University CO-OP or real estate agencies after their arrival in Japan. Some real estate agencies accept search and application for apartment from overseas.

● Rates

Rents vary according to factors such as location, room size, and facilities. The following is a typical example for ordinary apartments in Kyoto. In general, rooms are not furnished.

- Single room with shared kitchen and toilet: 25,000 JPY -30,000 JPY per month
- Single room with private kitchen, toilet and bath: From 45,000 JPY and up per month

In addition to rent, it is customary in Japan to pay other fees such as a key money, a deposit and an introduction fee.

This can amount to an up-front payment of several months' rent when signing a lease. You will also need a suitable person to act as your guarantor.

● Useful websites for apartment hunting

❑ Kyoto University International Service Office "Basic Information on how to find accommodation in Japan"

https://kuiso.oc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/housing/basic_knowledge/en

❑ Kyoto University CO-OP (in Japanese language only)

<http://www.s-coop.net/service/life/>

❑ Kyoto City International Foundation "HOUSE navi"

<http://housenavi-jpm.com>

❑ Kyoto Housing Search for International Students

<http://www.housingsearch.kyoto/>

❑ National Federation of Real Estate Transaction Associations "Guidebook for Tenants"

<https://www.zentaku.or.jp/useful/guidebook/>

Supports

Studying Japanese

International students will require a certain level of Japanese language ability for a comfortable daily life in Japan. The Education Center for Japanese Language and Culture of the Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS) of Kyoto University offers the following types of classes: (1) Japanese language classes in the Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum, and (2) Japanese language support classes not included in the regular curriculum. The following types of students are eligible to take Japanese language classes in the Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum: students who are enrolled as degree-seeking international students at Kyoto University, Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho [MEXT]) Scholarship Students, exchange students whose status is “special auditing student,” and students participating in the Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program (Science and Engineering). The center’s Japanese language support classes, type (2), are not part of the regular curriculum and are primarily intended for students who are not eligible to take the Japanese language classes in the Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum.

Among the Japanese language support classes available as type (2) classes are introductory classes (non-credit-bearing) for beginners who want to acquire the minimum level of Japanese required for daily communication in their study and research activities.

Classes are held from April to August in the spring semester and from October to February in the autumn semester. Class registration takes place twice a year in mid-March and mid-September. See the website below to complete the required registration procedures. The syllabus can also be found on the same website.

Please note that there is no dedicated faculty or program at Kyoto University for students who wish to pursue only Japanese language studies. The university also does not offer summer intensive courses in Japanese. See the website below for further details.

❑ “Japanese Language Classes” by Kyoto University Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences

<http://www.z.k.kyoto-u.ac.jp/introduction/education-center-for-japanese/japanese-language-classes/?locale=en>

Family members of international students are not eligible to take the classes offered by the Education Center for Japanese Language and Culture of the Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information on studying Japanese off-campus, please see the following websites.

• Studying Japanese Off-Campus

❑ **Kyoto City International Foundation:** <http://www.kcif.or.jp/en>

❑ **Kyoto Prefectural International Center:** <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/>

International Student Tutor System

In general, the tutor system for international students is designed to assist regular (degree-seeking) students and some non-regular (non-degree seeking) students, based on a recommendation from their supervisors. Tutors are generally graduate students selected from the graduate school to which the international student belongs. For details, please enquire at the relevant administration office after enrollment.

On-Campus Advising Services for International Students

There are several advisory services for international students currently attending Kyoto University. The services are confidential and free of charge.

At student Lounge 'KI-ZU-NA' or International Student Advising Room in Education Promotion and Student Support Department Bldg. (Former Main Bldg. of the Petrochemistry Course), students can seek counseling on their problems and worries they cannot handle by themselves such as various matters about their life in Japan, interpersonal issues, or procedures to receive scholarships.

Those fluent in Japanese may also seek advice at the university's General Student Support Center Counseling Office.

Kyoto University Student Lounge 'KI-ZU-NA'

Student Lounge 'KI-ZU-NA', which opened in the spring of 2002, is a place where international and Japanese students, university staff, professors, researchers and others can get together to exchange activities. 'KI-ZU-NA' has a salon where students are able to chat, relax or study; a reading room (and lending library) with books for Japanese language learning, books in English and DVDs; and an audio room where students can enjoy watching movies or listening to music.

'KI-ZU-NA' also promotes cultural exchange through monthly events in which students can participate.

❑ Kyoto University Student Lounge 'KI-ZU-NA'

<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education-campus/facilities/student-lounge-kizuna>