Research Students 【Non-Regular Students】

Those wishing to pursue graduate studies or conduct research at Kyoto University may do so as non-degree-seeking Research Students (Kenkyuusei).

To qualify for this status, applicants must contact and obtain approval from a prospective advisor, who may be selected by searching the Activity Database on Education and Research (external link) or the websites of Kyoto University and its individual Faculties, Graduate Schools, or research institutes/centers. Applicants must then submit an admission form and other required documents to the University. For more details, contact relevant administrative offices.

- Kyoto University “Faculties, Graduate Schools, Research Institutes, and Other Centers”
  https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/about/profile/faculty
- Kyoto University “Activity Database on Education and Research”:
  http://kyouindb.iimc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/view/index_e.html
- Kyoto University “Research Information Repository”:
  http://repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/?locale=en

Applicants who graduated from universities overseas, and who intended to apply for the status of research student, master’s degree student, doctoral degree student, or professional degree student are advised to begin the AAO (Admission Assistance Office) application procedure prior to beginning the graduate admissions process. Further information, please refer to the following link:

- Kyoto University “Those who graduated from universities overseas”:
  http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/international/students1/ku-aao.html

Exchange Students 【Non-Regular Students】

Outline of Exchange Programs at Kyoto University

Kyoto University offers two incoming exchange programs — both accepting students from institutions with a university-level exchange agreement — for one semester (6 months) or two (12 months) in Kyoto. Application guides for both programs are sent out to partner institutions in July and December. Applications should be submitted to Kyoto University through the home institution’s international office; direct applications from students will not be accepted. The application deadline is February for October enrollment, and September for enrollment in April of the following year.

1. Kyoto University International Education Program (KUINEP)

This program enables undergraduates from partner universities to study in English. Participants are required to register for at least six courses per semester (without counting the Japanese language classes mentioned below), mostly from the Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS). Of the required six, up to two may be taken from other Faculties, including those taught in Japanese, subject to approval from the lecturers in charge. Each course usually comprises two hours of lecture time per week, and carries two credits.

2. Kyoto University General Exchange (GE) Program (GEA・GESR)

In this program, students either take courses, mostly from the Kyoto University Faculties or Graduate Schools to which they are affiliated (as “General Exchange Special Auditors”, or GEAs), or conduct research under academic supervisors without attending classroom lectures (as “General Exchange Special Research Students”, or GESRs). GEAs must take at least six courses per semester if they are undergraduates, or four if they are graduate students (not including the Japanese language classes mentioned below). Most of the Faculty and Graduate School courses are conducted in Japanese, requiring a certain level of language proficiency. There are, however, a limited number of English-taught courses with no Japanese-language requirement. In the case of GESRs — an enrollment status available only to graduate students — language requirements depend entirely on their supervisors.

Japanese Language Study

Both KUINEP and General Exchange Program students are eligible to take Japanese-language courses from ILAS’ Education Center for Japanese Language and Culture. Some are included in the regular curriculum and credited, while others are not. GESRs may take non-credited courses only, while KUINEP and GEAs may take both credited and non-credited ones.

Grades for the credited Japanese-language courses taken will be included in the official transcript, with two official credits awarded for each. Please refer to the page 23 “Studying Japanese”.

- Kyoto University “Exchange Students”
  https://u.kyoto-u.jp/exchange
- Kyoto University “University-level student exchange partners”
  https://u.kyoto-u.jp/partners