

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 2018-2019," 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 accommodations for international students and researchers. However, the number of rooms and tenancy period of the Houses are limited. International students can also apply for accommodation in Kyoto University's Student Dormitories (open to domestic and international students) and public housing. Many international students choose to live in private housing, such as private apartments.

Kyoto University International Houses

As of April 2020, there are seven accommodation facilities for international students and researchers, located at Shugakuin, Yoshida, Uji, Ohbaku, Misasagi, Hyakumanben and Okazaki. 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 tenancy period is from one month (minimum) to one year (maximum), and the period may not be extended.

To apply, please contact your host professor or your faculty/graduate school office in advance.

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 12,400 JPY per month
- Married couple's room: Rent 19,800 JPY per month
- Family room: Rent 24,900 JPY 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

Apartment Lease Guarantor Service for Foreign Nationals

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

Other Housing Information

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

Private Associated Residence

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

National Federation of Real Estate Transaction

Associations "Guidebook for Tenants"

https://www.zentaku.or.jp/wp-content/themes/zentaku/pdf/useful/guidebook/guidebook_english.pdf

Supports

Studying Japanese

A certain level of Japanese language ability is needed for the international students to have smooth communication in 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: Japanese language classes in the Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum (hereinafter referred to as [1]), and Japanese language support classes not included in the regular curriculum (referred to as [2]). Eligible students to take [1] are: degree-seeking international students, Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho [MEXT]) Scholarship Students, exchange students except General Exchange Special Research Students (GESRs), research students who are permitted to attend Japanese classes of [1] by their academic advisor and Kyoto iUP Students.

[2] that all international students and researchers at Kyoto University can take covers the levels from introductory to advanced course including Business Japanese Course.

Japanese language classes take place from April to August in the spring semester and from October to February in the autumn semester. Class registration opens twice a year in March and September. In order to take Japanese language classes, go through the required registration procedure on the website below. The class syllabi are also available on the same website.

- **“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>

Please note that there is no specialized faculty or program for students who want to learn only Japanese language at Kyoto University like an international student special course. In addition, the university does not offer summer intensive courses of Japanese language either.

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.

- **Off-Campus Japanese Learning**
- **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 the 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', meaning "bonds" in Japanese, opened in the spring of 2002 as a place for students to create bonds of friendship across borders. 'KI-ZU-NA' now welcomes all members of the community -- including staff, faculty, and researchers, as well as students -- to spend time together and join or organize cross-cultural activities.

The facility features a Reading Room, stocked with language learning materials, and a Salon, available for studying, language exchange, and other activities.

'KI-ZU-NA' hosts its own event every month, offering opportunities for participants to experience Japanese culture and get to know their counterparts from other countries.

- **Kyoto University Student Lounge 'KI-ZU-NA'**
<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/education-campus/facilities/student-lounge-kizuna>