

Kyoto University's Policy on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Ver. 18) — Regarding Overseas Travel, Etc. —

Revised portions indicated in blue.

[Revised on October 28, 2022] "1. Overseas Travel" has been updated in response to MOFA COVID-19 infectious disease warning levels for all countries/regions reduced to Level 1. "2. Overseas travel safety during the novel coronavirus pandemic" has also been partially updated.

Kyoto University has adopted the following policy regarding overseas travel, etc.

1. Overseas Travel

- Kyoto University has established criteria to determine whether or not faculty/staff members and students shall be permitted to travel abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic. The final decision regarding such travel is made by the authorized persons (deans, directors, etc.) in the relevant faculty/department.
 - Additionally, in the case of travel by students, the necessary procedures have been established for travel to countries with COVID-19 infectious disease warning level of 1. For details, please see "Overseas travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic" below.
 - In the case of faculty and staff members, travel to countries with a warning of level 1 is "permitted (in principle)," provided sufficient caution is taken with regards to the COVID-19 risks, and the items in section 2 (P2) "Overseas travel safety during the novel coronavirus pandemic" are strictly observed. Due consideration should also be given to the fact that lockdowns are still in place in some countries and regions.
- The overseas travel safety information, travel warnings, and infectious disease warnings issued by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and each country's COVID-19 prevention measures may be changed. Therefore, please confirm the updated information frequently—not only when deciding whether or not to travel, but also before and during any travel undertaken.
- Even in the case of overseas travel for personal purposes, including travel for research, sightseeing, or returning home, it is recommended to confirm the safety information for the destination and make appropriate decisions regarding the planned travel based on these criteria.

Criteria for overseas travel permission (partial excerpt)

March 23, 2018, Management Council, International Strategy Office

Travel advice/warnings issued by the MOFA (including warnings regarding infectious diseases)	Students	Faculty and staff members
Level 1 Exercise caution	Permitted (in principle) However, travel is not permitted if there are any reasonable grounds to cancel it. *See below for details of the necessary procedures required prior to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Permitted (in principle) However, travel is not permitted if there are any reasonable grounds to cancel it.

Travel advice/warnings issued by MOFA (including infectious disease warnings) are available [at this link](#) (available in Japanese only)

Students

Overseas Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Study abroad through an inter-university student exchange agreement to countries/regions with a MOFA infectious disease warning of Level 1 is "permitted (in principle)"; however, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the relevant administrative office must confirm that the travel plan complies with "[Kyoto University's criteria for travel permission for study abroad through an inter-university student exchange agreement to countries/regions with a MOFA infectious disease warning of Level 1 during the novel coronavirus pandemic](#)" (issued on June 22, 2022, accessible by faculty and staff members only), and that there are no particular safety concerns.

Note: the implementation of short-term study abroad programs overseen by the IESMD shall be permitted in consideration of the individual factors for each program.

For more details, please contact the International Education and Student Mobility Division (IESMD). (Email: 840kikaku-kanri@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp [please change * to @])

- The same criteria as above may apply to study abroad through an inter-faculty student exchange agreement etc. The person authorized to permit study abroad must make a decision regarding the travel in accordance with the criteria specified in the notice above, and, if permission is granted, ensure that all possible safety measures are taken in accordance with the specifications in the same notice.

2. Overseas travel safety during the novel coronavirus pandemic

In addition to the usual safety measures required for overseas travel, persons who need to travel overseas during the novel coronavirus pandemic must ensure that they take all possible safety measures relating to the virus, including the detailed measures below.

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Entry/activity restrictions

①	Confirm whether or not there are any entry restrictions, and/or suspension of visa issue.	
②	Prepare the necessary documents for entry, including visas, negative COVID-19 test result, and/or COVID-19 vaccination certificate.	
③	Confirm the regulations/requirements stipulated by the relevant airline companies (presentation of negative COVID-19 test result, mandatory wearing of mask, etc.)	
④	Confirm whether or not it is necessary to receive a COVID-19 detection test upon arrival, and/or self quarantine upon entry.	
⑤	Confirm whether there are any travel restrictions or suspension of public transport services (including domestic flights), and ensure safety during transportation.	
⑥	Confirm whether or not it may be difficult to complete the planned education/research activities due to local lockdowns or activity restrictions.	
⑦	Confirm the regulations in force to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus in the destination country, such as suspensions of business, bans on meetings, requirements for wearing a face mask, requirements for presenting a COVID-19 vaccination certificate at hospitals, restaurants, and other facilities, etc.	
⑧	(If you have not received a COVID-19 vaccination) Confirm airline boarding restrictions, restrictions on entry to the destination countries, entry restrictions at destination institutions, event participation restrictions, and restrictions on the use of facilities, including stores, hospitals, restaurants, and public facilities.	

Safety measures to confirm before departure

⑨	Confirm the required virus prevention and safety measures based on the latest information on the spread of infection and other safety information about the destination, including the current status of local clinics and hospitals , provided by the MOFA and the relevant local authorities.	
⑩	Confirm and share information regarding the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Public COVID-19 consultation services at the destination ➢ Local organizations that cases of infection must be reported to ➢ Emergency contacts (including family, embassy or consulate-general, travel insurance company) ➢ Clinics that can provide novel coronavirus consultation and treatment to international patients ➢ Requirements regarding room disinfection and other local requirements. 	
⑪	In consultation with the relevant local authorities, create a list or manual of procedures to be taken at the destination and in Japan if travelers are infected (or are suspected to be infected) with the novel coronavirus.	
⑫	Confirm the safety measures in the leaflet " Safe Travels Abroad " including the section "9 Measures to prevent infectious diseases that spread internationally."	
⑬	Purchase overseas travel insurance with unlimited coverage for medical treatment and rescue expenses. Confirm that the insurance covers medical treatment expenses for novel coronavirus infection. In some countries, travelers are required to present proof of insurance or a certificate of insurance that clearly states that the insurance covers COVID-19-related medical and rescue expenses.	
⑭	Prepare face masks, a thermometer, disinfectants, etc., to prevent infection. Prepare food and daily goods in case of lockdown and/or activity restrictions.	

Safety measures while abroad

⑮	Communicate with relevant local authorities, and university staff in Japan on a regular basis to report the health and safety.	
⑯	Incidents of crime are on the increase, including theft, robbery, fraud, shootings, and hate crimes. While traveling, be sure to observe the following basic safety measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Refrain from going out alone or at night. Avoid traveling to dangerous regions and areas. ➢ Be careful not to become involved in any trouble caused by a careless remarks or behavior. ➢ If you feel that you are in any danger, try to leave the situation immediately and ensure your safety. ➢ If you get involved in any trouble, report it to the local police, and ask the local embassy or consulate-general for help if necessary. 	

Preparation before returning to Japan

⑰	Secure your flight and means of transportation to the airport as soon as possible, as the number of international flights may be reduced.	
⑱	Confirm the latest border control measures enforced in Japan. MOFA: Border measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)	
⑲	There have been cases in which students, faculty, and staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 immediately before their return to Japan, and were forced to postpone their return trip. Therefore, please take due caution to prevent infection, especially before returning to Japan.	
⑳	If you do not have a COVID-19 vaccination certificate (for three vaccinations) that is valid in Japan, receive a COVID-19 detection test, and obtain a negative test result certificate that satisfies the criteria required by the Japanese government.	

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or come into close contact while abroad

Persons who experience COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or come into close contact with an infected person while abroad, should follow the procedures below.

① Medical consultation / insurance procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact the public consultation services available at the destination, your travel insurance company, the relevant embassy/consulate-general, and seek medical care at a local clinic if necessary (These contacts should have been confirmed prior to departure, in accordance with item 2. ⑩, above). ● Request your travel insurance company to arrange or inform you of an available clinic (cashless payment recommended), an interpreter (if necessary), and consult them regarding the expenses claims for treatment, accommodation, COVID-19 detection tests, transportation, airline ticket changes, etc.
② Report / request assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report your health status and other circumstances to your emergency contacts, including your family, department of affiliation at Kyoto University, relevant embassy/consulate-general, and request assistance if required. Embassies and consulates-general can provide 24-hour assistance in the event of emergencies. ● For details of the report that must be made to your department of affiliation at Kyoto University, please see the notice “Procedures to be Followed if a Student, Faculty Member, or Staff Member is Confirmed as Infected with the Novel Coronavirus.”
③ If the issues occur immediately prior to departure	<p>If you are required to postpone your return trip (e.g., if you test positive for COVID-19, or are identified as having had close contact immediately before leaving the country), the following procedures are required in addition to ① and ②:</p> <p>A) Extend your travel insurance period B) Secure accommodation to recuperate/self-quarantine. Note: the additional accommodation cost may be covered by your travel insurance. C) Cancel or change your return flight. Note: the cost of the ticket change or repurchase may be covered by your travel insurance. D) Confirm whether you require a visa extension E) If you have recovered from COVID-19, but continue to test positive in COVID-19 tests: confirm the necessary procedures with the embassy/consulate-general, such as obtaining a “fit to fly” or COVID-19 recovery certificate from a medical institution, or an “embassy/consular letter” from the relevant embassy/consulate-general to certify your recovery.</p>

Postponing or cancelling travel

Persons authorized to grant permission for travel for university-related work or for participation in university programs must prioritize the safety of the persons who will undertake the travel, and must instruct them to postpone the travel, cancel the travel, or return to Japan, if appropriate, including in cases such as the following:

- If the travelers may not be able to return to Japan due to travel restrictions, border closures, and/or suspension of flight services.
- If daily life may become difficult, or it may become difficult to complete the planned education/research activities due to a local lockdown or activity restrictions.
- If it may be difficult to receive proper medical care for novel coronavirus infection or other illnesses due to an insufficient local health care system.

3. If you are traveling (or returning) to Japan from overseas

The border control measures imposed by the Japanese government have been eased from October 11, 2022. Please confirm the entry procedures upon arrival detailed below and on the [website detailing current Japanese border control measures](#) provided by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and [the website on border control measures](#) provided by the MOFA.

A. Travelers with no symptoms of a possible COVID-19 infection must follow these procedures:

- Submit the required COVID-19 vaccination certificates (for three doses) or a negative COVID-19 test result at the time of boarding the flight and at the arrival airport.
- Submit the online questionnaire.

Note: It is highly recommended to use [Fast Track](#) and [Visit Japan Web](#) to pre-register quarantine and immigration information to save time at the airport.

Valid Vaccination Certificate (three doses)	Quarantine			
	Pre-departure Test	Online Questionnaire	On-arrival Test	Self-quarantine
○	NOT Required	Required	NOT required	NOT required
×	Required			

B. Travelers who have symptoms of a possible COVID-19 infection must also follow the procedures below:

In addition to the procedures described above in item A, travelers may be required to receive a COVID-19 detection test at the airport of arrival, self-quarantine, monitor their health, and refrain from using public transport services.

Notes:

- Different entry procedures shall be applied to newly-arriving international students and researchers. Please be sure to confirm the instructions provided by the university before departure.
- In accordance with the easing of the border control measures, from October 11, 2022, it is no longer necessary for entrants to monitor their health and submit health status reports to their department of affiliation at the university. However, if they are confirmed to be infected with the novel coronavirus (or have symptoms similar those of the novel coronavirus), they must follow the procedures described in [“Procedures to be Followed if a Student, Faculty Member, or Staff Member is Confirmed as Infected with the Novel Coronavirus.”](#)

Consultation Services

- Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare:
 - COVID-19 consultation service (toll free, Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish 9:00–21:00, Thai 9:00–18:00, Vietnamese 10:00–19:00,) [0120-565-653](tel:0120-565-653)
 - Consultation service on border control measures (Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean 9:00–21:00) (Accessible in Japan) [050-1751-2158](tel:050-1751-2158), [050-1741-8558](tel:050-1741-8558) (Accessible from overseas) +81-3-3595-2176 (9:00–21:00 JST)
 - Health Monitoring Center for Overseas Entrants (HCO) (Japanese and English 9:00–18:00) 03-6757-1038
- Japan Visitor Hotline: (English, Chinese, Korean and Japanese, available 24 hours per day, Japan National Tourism Organization) [050-3816-2787](tel:050-3816-2787)
- Kyoto COVID-19 Medical Consultation Center: (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, available 24 hours per day, Vietnamese (10:00–20:00), Thai (9:00–18:00)) [075-414-5487](tel:075-414-5487)

Notes

1. If you have symptoms such as a fever while staying in Kyoto, please consult a local clinic by telephone. If you cannot contact a local clinic due to it being a holiday or late at night, please call the Kyoto COVID-19 Medical Consultation Center.
2. Residents of other prefectures should contact the relevant consultation service or nearest Public Health Center.

Links

- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT): [Responses to the novel coronavirus infection](#) (in Japanese)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)
[Overseas Travel Safety Information](#) (in Japanese)
[Entry and activity restrictions imposed on travelers from Japan by country or region](#) (in Japanese)
- Website of the Office of the Prime Minister of Japan
Measures we can take to prevent new coronavirus infections: [Japanese](#), [English](#), [Chinese](#)
- Website of Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW):
Information on the novel coronavirus infection: [Japanese](#), [English](#), [Chinese](#), [COVID-19 Multilingual Guide](#)
- Quarantine Information Office (FORTH): [Quarantine Information Regarding the Novel Coronavirus](#) (in Japanese)
- World Health Organization (WHO): [Coronavirus](#)
- Kyoto Prefecture Website: Information on the novel coronavirus infection: [Japanese](#), [English](#), [Chinese](#), [Vietnamese](#)
- [Kyoto City Official Website](#) (in Japanese)

【Contact】

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(Regarding overseas travel permission and entry procedures) Overseas Center Section, International Affairs Division

(International education and student affairs) International Education and Student Mobility Division