Kyoto Summer Program 2021 (Online)

The Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS)
Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU)
Kyoto University
Program Overview

About

Kyoto Summer Program is a short-term study-abroad program open to both international students from universities around the world and domestic students enrolled at Kyoto University, provided by Kyoto University Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS) and Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU).

The program consists of two sub-programs: in the ILAS program, English is the main instruction language, and in the KUASU program Japanese is the main instruction language.

Both sub-programs share a core curriculum that primarily aims to develop an understanding of the political, cultural, historical, social, and ecological issues facing Japan. Both provide opportunities to learn the Japanese language and to study with local students. The whole program is also designed to highlight Kyoto University’s unique academic culture and cutting-edge research facilities.

The program has traditionally conducted face to face in Kyoto. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s program also will be held online.

Eligible Applicants

The applicant must be an undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled in one of the following universities.

ILAS program (English program):

East Asia
- Peking University
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- National Taiwan University
- Yonsei University

Europe
- Heidelberg University
- University of Vienna
- Other partner universities nominated through KU European Center

North America
- The George Washington University
- University of California, San Diego
- Other partner universities nominated through KU North American Center
- Other universities nominated through Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies / Stanford Japan Center

Africa
- Universities nominated through The Kyoto University Africa Office

Other regions
- Mahidol University (Thailand)
KUASU program (Japanese program):

**Southeast Asia**
- Chulalongkorn University
- Vietnam National University, Hanoi
- National University of Singapore
- University of Indonesia

**North America**
- The George Washington University
- University of California, San Diego

### Fees

**All participants:**

- Tuition fees are waived
- Participants need to prepare their own internet access and a device such as a personal computer, a tablet, or a smartphone for participating in online classes. We recommend using a personal computer with a camera, microphone, and a speaker.

### Course Outline

The program consists of four major parts listed below and concludes with final presentations by the participants.

**1. Academic Lectures**

**1-1.** A wide range of lectures delivered in English.

Examples from past years’ lectures:

- “Evolution of Human Societies: from a viewpoint of primatology”
- “The Aesthetics and Sensitivities of the Japanese as seen through Classical Japanese Literature”
- “Smart Production to solve the problem of “Food-Environment” for 9 billion people”
- “Journey to the Termite World”
1-2. Some lectures delivered in Japanese (open to students with a Japanese language proficiency of intermediate and above.)

Examples from past years’ lectures:

「現代 日本 文化 のなかの 源氏 物語 」The Tale of Genji in Contemporary Japanese Culture
「學校 教育 にみる 日本 文化 の 諸相 」Cultural Aspects of Education in Japan
「日本語 の 社会 言 語学的 諸相 」Socio-linguistic aspects of Japanese

2. Fieldtrip and cultural experiences

Off-campus activities designed to deepen understanding of Japanese and Kyoto culture, industry, and ecology. These will be provided online this year.

3. Interaction with KU Students

Intercultural exchange with KU students through joint participation in lectures, sessions and off-campus activities. These will be provided online this year.
4. Japanese Classes

Five levels of Japanese language classes (Elementary I, Elementary II, Intermediate I, Intermediate II, Advanced) will be provided.
This year’s program will be provided in two shifts (A & B) for the convenience of participants from different time zones. Both shifts consist of orientation, Kyoto University introduction, Japanese classes, cultural experience, discussion session among students and final presentation. Participants will be assigned to one of the shifts by Kyoto University, taking into account the time difference and other factors.

Academic lectures will not be provided in shifts. Instead, participants should choose at least 5 out of 10 lectures according to their interest and convenience.

General activities will not be provided in shifts.

Activities & talks with local students and lab-visits will be scheduled.
How to Apply

Please contact the department in charge at your university for details of the application procedure.

Inquiry

If you have questions about the contents of the program, please contact ✉ <kyoto_summer@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp> (* → @).

Voices from past participants

Voices from ILAS program Participants

I think Kyoto University truly put much effort in planning and organizing the academic and student activities. They managed to keep a well-balanced ratio of lectures and other meetings, even putting up two different shifts, so that students from every time zone can join. Even though we could not come to Kyoto in person, I felt welcomed and sometimes almost forgot I am not sitting in a Japanese classroom but in my Viennese flat.

(2021 Participant from University of Vienna)

I particularly enjoyed the cultural experience. I think the origami activity is very meaningful. As crane origami is a symbol of blessing, good hope, for sure it is great to fold crane in this situation. To show our praying that the COVID-19 could end soon, so that we could get back to a normal and happy life. We folded the crane together in the break out room, and finally shared how many cranes did we fold. A communication and interaction as such is really warm.

(2021 Participant from The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Voices from KUASU Program Participants

私の大学では、ネイティブ話者から直接日本語を学び、練習する機会がありません。このプログラムに参加できて本当に幸運であり、感謝しています。このプログラムでは、より高いレベルで日本語を学ぶことができますが、日本語しか使わないのでちょっと大変です。先生の教えをすべて理解するのは大変でしたが、日本語力を伸ばすのにも役立ちました。

(2021 Participant from University of Indonesia)

最初は、オンライン形式で本当に留学プログラムができるか疑問に思っていました。しかし、初日からどのイベントに参加しても、京大のリーダーやスタッフさんはとても丁寧に企画してくださっていました。大塚オーミ陶業へのフィールドトリップの発表は詳しかったのに分かりやすく、クイズやビデオもとても面白かったです。このプログラムに参加し、京都への興味がさらに強くなりました。

(2021 Participant from University of California, San Diego)

Please see more at our program website!