

Factsheet on Exchange at Kyoto Seika University: Art, Design, Manga, Media Creation



Kyoto Seika University is located amid the green northern hills of Kyoto, an ancient city that was Japan's imperial capital from 794 to 1868. Kyoto remains the heart of Japan, rich in cultural traditions spanning more than 1,200 years. It has 230 National Treasures, 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, and is also home to Nintendo and popular cultural attractions such as Kyoto Seika's unique Kyoto International Manga Museum.

Founded in 1968, KSU currently has about 4,200 students in undergrad and graduate programs in Faculties of Art, Design, Manga, Media Creation, and Global Culture.

1: Partner institutions

We host up to 20 exchange students each semester. Students from our exchange partner art/design institutions are welcome to apply through their home institution for single-semester exchange at KSU.

We are unable to accept applications from schools that we do not have a current exchange agreement with.

Exchange Partners

<https://www.kyoto-seika.ac.jp/eng/exchange/exchangepartners.html>

2: Available majors (See <https://www.kyoto-seika.ac.jp/eng/exchange/application.html>)

Exchange applicants apply for one specific major/department, relevant to their major study area. In principle, each major runs own curriculum and facility independently. Only our Faculty of Art allows selection of electives from other majors within the same Faculty.

- **Art:** [Oil Painting](#), [Japanese Painting*](#), [Sculpture](#), [Ceramics](#), [Textiles](#), [Printmaking](#), [Video & Media Arts](#)
- **Design:** [Graphic Design](#), [Illustration](#), [Digital Creation](#), [Product Communication Design](#), [Interior & Goods Design](#), [Fashion](#), [Architecture](#)
- **Manga:** [Cartoon Art](#), [Comic Art](#), [Animation*](#), [Character Design](#), [New Generation Manga](#)
- **Media Creation:** [Media Technologies](#), [Image Creation](#), [Sound Creation](#)

* Japanese Painting only accepts students with a strong background in traditional painting.

* JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) N2 is required for Animation.

3: Academic Calendar

Spring (Beginning of April– Beginning of August) **Fall** (Beginning of October– Beginning of February)

A student visa is valid for 6 months; you can arrive in Japan up to one month before the beginning of classes, or stay on after the semester within your resident card's period of validity or till the end of September/March*.

* Even if your resident card is valid for one year, your residential status as “student” will be invalid in accordance with your enrollment period at Kyoto Seika University

4: Applications

After receiving approval from your home institution, please send us KSU's **Exchange Student Application form** (downloadable from <http://www.kyoto-seika.ac.jp/eng/exchange/application.html>) including your study objectives and a tentative study plan), together with your most recent transcript, a faculty member's recommendation, and a representative **portfolio** of 10-20 recent works (digital images compiled as a PDF may be sent as an email attachment, or by data service such as WeTransfer), for approval by the department in which you want to study at KSU.

- Acceptance by KSU depends on availability of working space and a suitable academic supervisor.

Application for Admission as an Exchange Student at Kyoto Seika: Faculties of Art, Design, Manga, and Popular Culture

Exchange period of study	Month	Year	to	Month	Year	Total Period (months)
Applicant's personal details	Family name		First name		PHOTO	
	Other names		Date of birth		Nationality	
	Present address		E-mail			
Personal address	Phone		Fax		Postcode	
Present address	Phone		Fax		Postcode	
Study objectives	Name of institution		Faculty/Department		Number of years of study: B.A. <input type="checkbox"/> M.A. <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Academic supervisor		Academic supervisor			
Remarks						
Remarks for sending materials for exchange						

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5: Application Deadlines for Applying to Seika

For spring semester (classes from early April):

November 15th of the preceding year

For fall semester (classes from early October):

April 15th

Send by email to kokusai@kyoto-seika.ac.jp

6: Fees

Exchange students pay tuition fees to their home institution only. However, you may need to pay for some studio materials at KSU. For example, Printmaking provides inks but students buy their own paper etc; Design students pay for laser-printing of posters, and so on.

7: Language Requirements

For a successful exchange study experience, at least basic Japanese language ability is recommended. No specific test score is required, but we strongly advise studying Japanese for one semester before arrival; more if possible. This will make a big difference to your experience here, both on- and off-campus.

* JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) N2 is required for Animation.

- A weekly Japanese language class is provided free for exchange students by a qualified tutor, but no formal credits are given for this in Seika transcripts as it is extra-curricular. If you need extra credits, you may be able to arrange this with your home institution as independent study (with extra homework?); the tutor can provide documentation at the end of semester.

8: Accommodation

University Dormitory

Shuko-kan, an international student dormitory owned and operated by the university, is offered to exchange students. Generally, international students will share a room with a Japanese student. If you wish to apply to live in the dormitory, please fill out the application form, which will be attached to your acceptance email, and submit it via email by the designated date.

Apartment/ Share House

Kyoto is a compact city. Thanks to a high concentration of universities in the area, a wide range of properties are available in and around the city center and the suburbs to accommodate different budgets. However, not many properties are available for short-term contracts, so it may be challenging to find a property that fits your needs. Even worse, only a few realtors can offer their services in English. In principle, you should find a place to stay on your own. We recommend that you start applying for accommodation as soon as you have received a notification of acceptance from us.

For more information, please refer to this link.

https://www.kyoto-seika.ac.jp/eng/exchange/after_acceptance.html

9: Student visa

You will need a student visa to enter Japan. If you do not have a current passport, be sure to apply for it well ahead of the time that you need to apply for your visa!

- After your application is approved by Seika, we will apply for your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) at the Kyoto Immigration office. Processing takes at least one month. We then e-mail the COE to you, with a visa application form, for you to submit with your passport to your nearest Japanese Consulate or Embassy, to obtain the actual visa.

10: Travel to Japan

Students need to make their own flight reservations and cover all travel expenses. We advise arriving via Kansai International (KIX) as the closest airport for international flights. We provide additional on-arrival access information in our Pre-Departure Guide, sent with the COE.

11: Insurance (required even if you already have other cover!)

Everyone staying on a student visa is required to join Japan's National Health Insurance (NHI, *kokumin kenko hoken*). It covers 70% of ordinary medical costs including doctor's, hospital, and dental fees for necessary treatment (accident or sickness). You will sign up for NHI at the local ward office, during orientation. It costs around ¥2,000 per month, paid by monthly installments at a convenience store, bank or post office. Coverage begins immediately on joining. It is compulsory, even if you already have your own full health insurance in your home country.

Students at KSU are legally required to be covered by comprehensive personal insurance. Under this policy (through Tokyo Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.), if you cause accidental injury to other persons you are covered for claims of up to 100 million yen, and or tenant liability up to 5 million yen. It costs around ¥3,000 per semester (6 months). Pay either by FlyWire or at Seika's Accounts office.

12: Credits

Be sure to check with your academic supervisor in your home institution how many credits you will need to receive for transfer while on your exchange program. Most of the exchange students take 8 to 10 credits from KSU (It changes depends on your choice and depends on the faculty).

In Japan, the standard value of one credit represents “contents requiring 45 hours of study (including self-learning). Each Japanese credit converts as approx. 1.5 to 2 ECTS (depends on the country or the university).