

Spring 2026

APU-AIU Domestic Exchange Program

Recruiting Information

1. Outline of Domestic Exchange Program

Under this program, a fixed number of APU students enroll in the host university for a semester or a year to take courses.

[Host Universities]

- Akita International University(AIU: Akita City, Akita)

2. Host Colleges

- Akita International University
Faculty of International Liberal Arts (Akita City, Akita)

3. Exchange Period

➤ 1 semester or 1 year

*There is no possibility to extend your exchange period after participation is approved by APU officially.

*If you have participated in any domestic exchange program (1semester/1-year exchange program) in the past, you are not able to apply.

4. Number of students to be accepted

- Akita International University:10 (total of 1 year and 1 semester)
*There are often questions about the acceptance rate, but the rate varies depending on the recruitment period. We cannot provide detailed numbers. Regardless of the maximum number of applicants accepted, decisions are made comprehensively based on the application reasons, academic performance, interviews, and other factors.

5. Application Qualifications

- Applicants must be in their 3rd~6th semester at the time of application
 - Applicants must be in their 4th ~7th semester at the time of departure.
 - *You cannot participate in the program in your last semester.
 - *3rd-year transfer students cannot apply.
 - *2nd-year transfer students can apply from their 4th semester.
- The number of credit required : The number of credits you have taken must be the number of your previous semester×14 or above.
 - *I.e. students in their 5th semester : 4 (previous semester)×14=56 (Total number of credits taken must be 56 or above)
- Cumulative GPA:2.50 or above
- Language Requirements:
TOEFL score of 500 (TOEFL ITP is acceptable), TOEFL IBT 61, IELTS 6.5 or higher

6. Tuition and other fees

Participants must pay Tuition Fees at APU. Billing and payment dates will remain as present.

The tuition fee for the host university will be waived. Participants are responsible for their own accommodation, associated costs, and other fees.

7. Accommodation

Information as of September 2025. The contents or fee totals below may change.

Participants will be housed in either “Sakura Village” or “Tsubaki Village” (Dormitory). Akita International University will decide which accommodation you will stay at.

*Sakura Village is a dormitory built in March 2013. It is comprised of units made up of 3 rooms with a shared kitchen, bathroom, and toilet.

*Tsubaki Village is a dormitory built in March 2022. It is comprised of units made up of 12 rooms with a shared kitchen, bathroom, and toilet.

*Depending on the room availability in the above dormitories, it is possible a different dormitory will be selected.

Accommodation fees

Fall Semester (4.5months:2026/4/1 - 2026/8/7)		
	Sakura Village Room charge: 48,000 JPY /month	Tsubaki Village Room charge: 48,000 JPY /month
Rent (Utility fees are included)	216,000JPY	216,000JPY
Meal Plan for 2weeks	20,700JPY	20,700JPY
Room Cleaning Charge	10,000JPY	12,000JPY
Bedding and Linens	11,025JPY	11,025JPY
Activity Fees	15,000JPY	15,000JPY
TOTAL	272,725JPY	274,725JPY

*The above figures are based on the Fall Semester 2025 and subject to change.

[Meal Plans (Semester based)]

During the first 2 weeks (including the orientation period), you are required to purchase a 2-week cafeteria meal plan; after 2 weeks, if you wish to continue a meal plan, you can purchase the following ones.

- 1 3 meals a day (Breakfast, lunch and dinner) on weekdays only (excluding holidays): Approx. 110,000 JPY
- 2 2 meals a day (lunch and dinner) weekdays only (excluding national holidays) ... about 85,000 JPY
- 3 3 meals a day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) on weekends and holidays only ... about 50,000 JPY

*Please note that there may be cases where meals cannot be provided on special occasion days.

*You may also buy food with cash or a prepaid card at the cafeteria after the first 2 weeks without buying meal plan.

*You may cook for yourself in the Sakura Village and Tsubaki Village. In that case, you need to prepare cooking utensils

[Bedding and Linens]

Provided: Futon mattress, comforter, blanket, pillow, linens (including changing the bed linens once a week)

[Room Facilities]

Air conditioning, bed, desk, chair, shelf, closet, desk lamp, shared fridge and IH cooker, microwave

[Miscellaneous]

- Free wired and wireless internet connection is available.
- 24h Laundromat is in the building. *Laundry charge will be incurred.

8. Scholarships

As a basic rule for APU tuition reduction plans or scholarships, your tuition reduction or scholarship will be revoked if your grades cannot meet the screening criteria for two consecutive semesters.

The university will evaluate your APU grades after your credits are transferred from your host university. After finishing the exchange program, please apply for credit transfer as soon as possible. Please make inquiries at the Student Office for more information about scholarships.

9. Courses Registration and Credits

● Akita International University:

- EAP (English for Academic Purposes) subjects will not be offered for exchange students. Some other courses have a limit for registration or a prerequisite. Please see the class schedule and course syllabus for more information.
- Exchange students are able to register for courses regardless of the year level.
- All subjects are taught in English. Only a small number of classes are taught in Japanese.
- The capacity of the course or classroom is limited.
(AIU students have priority in registration for the courses. APU students may not be able to register in those courses.)

10. Credit Transfer

The maximum number of credits participants are eligible to transfer by the time they graduate is 60 credits including all other credit transferrable programs, regardless of the APU maximum credit registration limit for each semester.

● Basic rules of credit transfer:

- All credits taken at the host university will be transferred as Subject Field.
- For APM students: Akita International University are not accredited by either AACSB, EQUIS, or EPAS. Therefore, major subjects at the host university may not be transferred as APM major education subjects.
- Credit transfers are determined by Academic Affairs based on the students' confirmation.
- For more information, please refer to the student's own curriculum and college Credit Transfer Policy below:

Credit Transfer Policy
2017 Curriculum – APM
2017 Curriculum – APS
2023 Curriculum – APM
2023 Curriculum – APS
2023 Curriculum – ST

- Credit Transfer Process

Before AIU course registration

- Conduct a **Tentative Credit Transfer Review (TCTR)**.
Students submit the application form and syllabi; APU reviews them.



After AIU course registration (if you change courses)

- Resubmit for the **added/changed courses**.
Newly added courses also require a TCTR.



At AIU
Grades are released at AIU



At APU

- Based on the AIU grades, APU carries out the **official credit recognition**.



When credits appear on your APU record

- Reflected during Correction Period 2 in the semester you return to APU.

Further information will be explained in the Pre-Departure Guidance for nominated students.

- Timing of Credit Transfer

You will be required to submit a “Tentative Credit Transfer Request” as soon as you have finished course registration at your host university. Based on the results of this, you will be able to confirm to which subject fields at APU the credits you are taking at the host university will be transferred.

Through submitting a “Credit Transfer Request” transferred credits will appear on your grade report from Correction Period 2 of the semester you return to APU after completing the exchange program. More details will be explained during the Guidance Session after acceptance to the program.

- The number of transferable credits

Credits earned at AIU will be transferred up to a maximum of 60 credits, including all other credit transfers completed during enrollment at APU.

In principle, credits earned at the host university can be transferred. However, courses that have no academic relevance to APU’s curriculum (e.g., physical education, art, etc.) will not be transferred.

The number of credits that can be transferred per semester will follow APU’s course registration credit limit.

While there is no limit on the number of credits you can register for at AIU, only the number of credits that falls within APU’s per-semester transfer credit limit will be recognized. Please create a well-balanced study plan accordingly.

For reference:

(Example) If you are in your 5th semester during the exchange

→ No registration limit, but the transfer credit limit is 20 credits.

- The number of transferable credits

There is no limit on the number of credits you may register at AIU.

However, in any given semester APU can recognize only up to your APU per-semester course-registration limit. Please plan a balanced schedule (see the limits below).

Over your entire enrollment at APU, the maximum total number of transferable credits that can be recognized is 60 credits.

This total includes credits from AIU, pre-matriculation credit transfer, overseas exchange programs, and summer/winter programs.

In principle, courses completed at the host university are eligible for credit transfer; however, courses with no correspondence to APU offerings (e.g., Physical Education, Arts) will not be recognized.

The maximum number of credits students can register each semester at APU:

1 st semester	2 nd semester	3 rd semester	4 th semester	5 th semester	6 th semester	8 th semester	8 th semester
18Credits	18Credits	20Credits	20Credits	20Credits	20Credits	24Credits	24Credits
		Available for Application Period (between 3-6 semesters)					
			Available for Study Abroad Time (between 4-7 semesters)				

Question from A, a 5th-Semester Student

So, does this mean that I can register for and earn 24 credits at AIU in the spring semester, but only 20 of those credits will be recognized at APU?



Yes, that is correct. However, all 24 credits will be listed on your official transcript from AIU. The maximum number of credits that can be transferred at APU will be in accordance with the course registration credit limit set for your assigned semester.



So if I study at AIU for one year and earn 24 credits in the first semester and 16 credits in the second semester, that would not be recognized as a total of 40 credits at APU. Instead, since the first semester corresponds to my 5th semester at APU, only 20 credits will be recognized, and in the second semester (6th semester) 16 credits will be recognized, making a total of 36 credits that I can bring back. Is that correct?

Yes, that is correct. Incidentally, if you are a 6th-semester student and study at AIU for one year, in the first semester (your 6th semester) up to 20 credits can be recognized, and in the following semester (your 7th semester) up to 24 credits can be transferred.

Question from B, a 6th-Semester Student

Before going to AIU, I participated in an overseas exchange program, during which I already had 40 credits transferred. Since I will study at AIU in my 7th semester, will I be able to have 24 credits recognized, which is the registration credit limit for the 7th semester?



Since the cumulative maximum number of credits that can be transferred during enrollment is 60, even if you earn 24 credits at AIU in that case, only 20 credits can be recognized.
When studying abroad, in the first semester (6th semester) up to 20 credits can be recognized, and in the following semester (7th semester) up to 24 credits can be transferred.

In the case that only 20 out of the 24 credits can be transferred, will I be able to decide which courses I want to transfer?



Yes, absolutely! You can choose which courses to be transferred, and our staff will confirm this with you before the credit transfer is processed.



Got it! So it's important to make sure to review my credits properly before going on the domestic exchange!

[Grades]

Transferred subjects will appear as “T” (Transfer) on your grade report. “T” grades do not count towards GPA.

[Maximum Transferable Credits before graduating APU] T (Transfer) credit : 60 credits

For example, ...

Overseas Exchange programs, subjects taken before enrolling into APU, Summer, winter Programs.

11. 3rd and 4th Year Seminars

If you wish to take a distance-learning seminar, please refer to [APU Academic Information website](#), under your college's section titled "Seminar Courses (Zemi)" within either the 2017 Curriculum or 2023 Curriculum, as applicable to your enrollment.

If you have any questions, please contact the Academic Office (Seminar Course Coordinator) at (seminar1@apu.ac.jp).

12. Recruitment and Screening Schedule

Flow	Schedule	Notice
Application Period	October 15-October 24	Notification of openings and soon to be closed: Campus Terminal
Notification of Screening Results and Interview Date	October 29	Campus Terminal 「あなた宛ての重要なお知らせ」 「Action Required」
Interview Date	November 4-November 6*	Online
Announcement of Internal selection	November 18	Campus Terminal 「あなた宛ての重要なお知らせ」 「Action Required」

*The schedule may be subject to change due to the availability of interviewers. In such cases, successful candidates from the document screening will be notified separately.

Guidance session schedules will be announced at the time of acceptance announcement (Guidance Sessions, guidance before dispatch)

*Details will be notified to eligible applicants in due course.

13. Application and screening procedures

● Screening by application documents and interview:

Selection will be conducted based on applicant's comprehensive ability (language ability, essay, GPA and interview).

● Application Process:

Please complete the following steps by the deadline. Missing a step is considered an incomplete application and will not be accepted.

Please submit your application via the [APU Domestic Exchange Program website](#).

① Carefully read through the Application Guidelines.

② Submit the following during the application period (the form will be available during the designated time):

[Online Application](#) via the Application Survey

- [Financial Support Agreement \(PDF\)](#) ← Click to download

Please have your financial sponsor download and print the Financial Support Agreement from the link above, and sign it by hand.

Afterward, you (the applicant) must also sign the form, and then upload it through the Application Survey.

Please name the file as:

“FinancialSupport_StudentID_FullName”

- [AIU Application Form Format](#) (←Click to Download the form here, fill it out, and upload it to the online application system.)

- Please upload one of the following scores:

TOEFL score of 500 (TOEFL ITP is acceptable), TOEFL iBT 61, or IELTS 6.5 or higher.

- Fill in the courses you wish to take.

How to search for your desired courses (within the Application Form):

Please list the courses you would like to take in as much detail as possible.

※How to Search for Desired Courses



For the latest course information, please visit

[Academic Information](https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/academic/#course-offerings) (<https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/academic/#course-offerings>) and refer to the **Class Schedule** and **Course Offerings** for the appropriate semester.

APU students may refer to **AY2025 Course Offerings (2008 and 2021 Curriculum)** until the list of AY2026 Course Offerings become available on the Course Offerings page in late October.

Useful website: [AIU Website](#)

14. Contact

Outreach and Research Office 2nd floor, A building

Contact: Ms. Ono and Ms. Yoshioka

apudsep@apu.ac.jp