

Spring 2027 APU-AIU Domestic Exchange Program Recruiting Information

As you prepare to submit your application, please note that important information is provided in this application guidelines document.

Students who wish to apply are required to carefully read the guidelines and ensure that they fully understand the contents before submitting their application.

=Attention=

If you have any questions, please limit your inquiries to matters that are not addressed in the application guidelines or the online application form.



1. Outline of Domestic Exchange Program

This program allows a certain number of students to enroll at Akita International University (AIU) as exchange students for either one semester or one academic year, during which they take courses offered by the host university.

2. Host Colleges

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

3. Exchange Period

- One semester or one year

Students participating in a one-year exchange beginning in the spring semester may also take courses during AIU's optional Winter Program, held from January to early March after the fall semester.

Students may register for up to 9 AIU credits during the Winter Program.

The Winter Program runs from January 5 to March 2, 2028. Please see the AIU academic calendar for the full schedule.

Academic Calendar

https://web.aiu.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/AcademicCalendar_2027-2028.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The exchange period cannot be extended after APU has officially approved participation.

Students who have previously participated in a domestic exchange program, whether for one semester or one year, are not eligible to apply.

4. Number of students to be accepted

- 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 Requirements

- Students in their 3rd to 6th semesters at the time of application (They will be in their 4th to 7th semesters at the time of dispatch.)
- Students in their final semester are not eligible to apply.
- Third-year transfer students are not eligible to apply.
- Second-year transfer students may apply starting from their 4th semester.
- Students who have previously participated in this program are not eligible to apply.
- Students on a leave of absence may apply, provided that the exchange semester will not be their final semester at APU.
- Students currently participating in an overseas student exchange program may also apply in principle. However, interviews will be conducted according to Japan Standard Time (JST). Applicants must be able to attend an online interview on the scheduled date and at the designated time.

Credit Requirement:

Applicants must have earned at least 14 credits per semester up to the previous semester.

- Example: For students in their 5th semester at the time of application:
 $4 \text{ (completed semesters)} \times 14 \text{ credits} = \text{at least 56 credits required}$

Academic Performance:

- Cumulative GPA of **2.50 or higher**

- Language Requirements:

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

The following online and digital test versions are also accepted:

- IELTS: IELTS Online (IELTS Academic online)
- TOEFL ITP: TOEFL ITP® Test (Digital Version)
- TOEFL iBT: TOEFL iBT® Home Edition

*Students on a leave of absence may still apply, provided that the semester in which they would be dispatched is not their final semester.

*Students who are currently studying abroad may also apply in principle. However, since the interview will be conducted according to Japan Standard Time (JST), applicants must be able to participate online on the designated interview date and at the designated time in order to be eligible to apply.

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. Additional expenses (such as textbooks) will be borne by the student.

7. Accommodation

Information as of Fall Semester 2026. 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

Spring Semester (4.5months:2027/4/1 - 2027/8/7)		
	Sakura Village Room charge : 48,000 JPJPY /month	Tsubaki Village Room charge : 48,000 JPJPY /month
Rent (Utility fees are included)	216,000JPY	216,000JPY
Meal Plan for 2weeks	23,400JPY	23,400JPY
Room Cleaning Charge	11,000JPY	12,000JPY
Bedding and Linens	11,025JPY	11,025JPY
Activity Fees	15,000JPY	15,000JPY
TOTAL	276,425JPY	277,425JPY

[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. 120,000 JPY
- 2 2 meals a day (lunch and dinner) weekdays only (excluding national holidays) ... about 90,000 JPY
- 3 3 meals a day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) on weekends and holidays only ... about 60,000 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

- Credits earned at the host university are, in principle, recognized under the following subject fields rather than as specific courses offered at APU:
 - Language Education Subject
 - Common Liberal Arts Subject
 - Major Education Subject

=Important=

- During your exchange, a tentative credit transfer review will be conducted to inform you of the APU subject field under which each course you are taking is expected to be recognized. However, this review takes place after course registration at AIU. Recognition as Major Education subjects is therefore not guaranteed at the time of application.
- Please do not apply solely for the purpose of obtaining Major Education credits. Before applying, review your graduation requirements and the credits you have already earned, clarify your goals for the exchange, and develop your study plan.
- Further details on credit transfer will be provided during the guidance session after selection.

Number of Transferable Credits

- There is no limit on the number of courses you may register for at AIU.
- However, the number of credits that can be recognized by APU is limited to the maximum course registration limit per semester at APU.
- Please plan your course registration carefully, taking into consideration a reasonable workload. (Refer to the list of limits below.)
- The maximum total number of transferable credits during enrollment is 60 credits.
This includes not only credits earned at AIU, but also all other recognized credits such as:
 - Pre-enrollment credit transfer
 - Overseas exchange programs
 - Summer/Winter programs
- In principle, courses completed at the host university are eligible for credit transfer; however, courses such as physical education and arts are not eligible for transfer.

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

Q. 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?



A. 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.



Question from B, a 6th-Semester Student

Q. I have already received 40 credits through other programs. If I study at AIU in my 7th semester, will all 24 credits (the maximum course registration limit) be recognized?





A. The maximum number of credits that can be recognized during enrollment is 60 credits.

For students in their 7th semester, up to 24 credits can normally be recognized. However, since 40 credits have already been recognized, only up to 20 additional credits can be recognized due to the overall limit.

Q. 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?



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



[Grades]

Grades for each course will appear as letter grades on your AIU transcript. However, courses recognized for credit transfer at APU will be recorded with a T grade (Transfer), regardless of the grade received at AIU. Therefore, credits earned at AIU and transferred to APU will not affect your APU GPA.

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

For example, ...

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

● Credit Transfer Process

After 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.



Timing of Credit Transfer Posting:
Credits will be reflected on your APU transcript right before the Priority Registration Period C in the semester following your return to APU.

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 14-October 23 14:00	Student Portal
Notification of Screening Results and Interview Date	October 28	Student Portal
Interview Date	November 4– November 11 <i>Interviews will be conducted on one of the dates within the period specified above. *The designated interview date varies by faculty.</i>	In Person*
Announcement of Internal selection	November 17	Student Portal

** Interviews will be conducted by the faculty members responsible for the program in each college. The interview schedule or format may change depending on their availability. Applicants who pass the document screening will be notified separately of any changes.*

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. Selection Process and Application Procedure

Selection Process

1. Document Screening

Applications will be assessed based on the submitted documents, including the statement of purpose, academic performance (GPA), English language proficiency test scores, and the consistency of the proposed course list with the applicant's study goals.

2. Interview

Only applicants who pass the document screening will be invited for an interview.

3. Application Procedure

Please complete all the steps below. Applications cannot be accepted if any of the steps are incomplete.

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”

• Please upload one of the following scores:

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

The following online and digital test versions are also accepted:

- IELTS: IELTS Online (IELTS Academic online)
- TOEFL ITP: TOEFL ITP® Test (Digital Version)
- TOEFL iBT: TOEFL iBT® Home Edition

• 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 the [Academic Information](#) page and refer to the Class Schedule and Course Offerings for the appropriate semester. The AY2027 Course Offerings are expected to be published in late October. If the AY2027 list is not yet available, please refer to the AY2026 Course Offerings as a guide. Please note that courses offered in AY2026 may not necessarily be offered in AY2027.

Useful website: [AIU Website](#)

14. Spring Semester Schedule at AIU

Move-In	April 1 st 2027
Orientation	April 1 st 2027 ~ April 7 th 2027
Course Registration at Akita International University	April 1 st 2027 ~ April 16 th 2027
Start of Spring Semester Classes	April 9 th 2027
End of Spring Semester Classes	July 28 th 2027
Spring Semester Grades Release Date	August 6 th 2027

※Schedule may be changed.

15. Contact

Outreach and Research Office 2nd floor, A building

Contact: Ms. Ono and Ms. Yoshioka

apudsep@apu.ac.jp