



RITSUMEIKAN ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM
2026 INFORMATION SHEET

WHY APU?



APU BY THE NUMBERS as of May 1, 2025

48.3%
international student ratio
(#2 in Japan)



6,541 total students



CONTACT INFORMATION

Inbound Exchange
inbound@apu.ac.jp

Outbound Exchange
outbound@apu.ac.jp

Partnerships
partners@apu.ac.jp



INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

With tradition and history, the Ritsumeikan Trust opened APU in April 2000 as the first genuine international university in Japan.

The APU campus is a truly multicultural and multilingual environment with nearly half of the student population made up of international students from around the world and an equally diverse faculty.

Our campus is in Beppu City, which is located in the southern part of Japan and is one of the country's most famous hot spring resorts, attracting tourists from Japan and abroad.

Address	1-1 Jumonjibaru, Beppu, Oita 874-8577 Japan
TEL	+81-977-78-1101
Official Website	Home Page
Incoming Exchange Website	Exchange Program



NOMINATION AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nomination Requirements:

Nominees must meet the criteria at the time of nomination.

- Nominees must have completed at least one semester of study at their home university and official grades from previous semesters at the home university must be available to submit.
- Nominees must have a minimum GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale.
- Nominees must be in the undergraduate level of study or in the equivalent level of study at their home university.
- Nominees whose first language is not English or Japanese must meet the language requirements below.

Application Requirements:

Applicants must meet these criteria at the time of application.

- Applicants must be enrolled in a partner university overseas and must have completed at least one semester at their home university.
- Applicants must be nominated by their home university
- Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale.
- Applicants whose first language is not English or Japanese must meet the language requirements below.

Language Proficiency Requirements:

For English-Basis Students		For Japanese-Basis Students	
IELTS/IELTS online	6.0 * ¹	JLPT Level N1	100
TOEFL®iBT	75 or 4.0 if one takes the exam on or after January 21, 2026	JLPT Level N2	120
TOEIC® L&R / S&W	1600 * ²	EJU-Japanese	250 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Comprehension/Listening and Listening-Reading Comprehension: Total score of 250• Writing: 30• Both minimum score requirements must be met.
Duolingo English Test	110		
Cambridge English Qualifications	169		
Linguaskill			
PTE Academic	60		
EIKEN	2304 * ³		

*¹ A minimum score of 5.5 is required in each section.

*² For TOEIC® (L&R/S&W), multiply the S&W score by 2.5, then add it to the L&R score.

*³ For EIKEN, the EIKEN CSE 2.0 score will be used as the evaluation metric regardless of test type or pass/fail status.

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS



Nominate your student(s) using our online platform.

- We send the nomination link to our partner universities in July for spring enrollment and in December for fall enrollment.

A coordinator of our Partner University



Go to the website and carefully read the information.



Prepare the required documents before starting the online application.



Submit your application documents through online ("SpeedVisa") by the submission deadline.



- Nominated students will be invited to "Speed Visa" to enter CoE (Certificate of Eligibility) information and application required documents and information in early October for spring enrollment and early April for fall enrollment.



TIMELINE AFTER APPLICATION

	Spring Enrollment	Fall Enrollment
Notice of Acceptance	Mid-Dec.	Mid-Jun.
Complete Enrollment Procedures	Mid-Jan.	Mid-Jul.
Students Receive CoE	Feb.	Aug.
Apply Student Visa	Feb.- Mar.	Aug.- Sept.
Flight Booking		
Withdrawal Notice Deadline	March 31	September 20
Arrive in Japan	Mid-Mar.	Mid-Sept.

Deadline	Spring Enrollment	Fall Enrollment
Nomination	October 1	April 1
Application	October 22	April 22

WITHDRAWAL AND CANCELLATION POLICY

If applicants wish to withdraw their application to the exchange program, the student exchange program coordinator at their home university must contact us by email and give us official notice of the cancellation by the deadlines listed on the table on the left.

Items	Refundable and Non-refundable	Note
Moving-in Fee	Non-Refundable	#2
Accommodation Fee	Refundable	#1
Student's Comprehensive Renters Insurance	Non-Refundable	#3

Notes:

1. A full refund is possible if the applicant applies to withdraw before the deadline for admission withdrawal. The service fee associated with the refund will be borne by the applicant.
2. Non-refundable, regardless of deadline for admission withdrawal.
3. Refund is possible if the applicant applies for the withdrawal before purchase by APU.

	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Arrival Assistance and Dormitory Check-in	Mid-March	Mid-September
Mandatory Orientation	Mid - End of March	Mid - End of September
School Term including Exam Period	April - Early August	October - Early February
Term Breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter Break: Late May Summer Break: Early Aug. - Sept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter Break: Late November Winter Break: Late Dec. - Early Jan. Spring Break: Early Feb. - Mar.

Overview of the Academic Year:

Spring Semester			Fall Semester		
Apr. - May	Jun. - Jul.	Aug.	Oct.- Nov.	Dec.-Jan.	Feb.
Semester-long		Summer Session (1 week)	Semester-long		Winter Session (1 week)
1st Quarter Quarter-long	2nd Quarter Quarter-long		1st Quarter Quarter-long	2nd Quarter Quarter-long	

APU operates on a semester system made up of two quarters. Courses are taught on either a semester or quarter basis, but the total number of classes is the same.

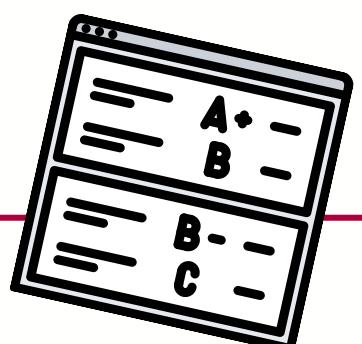
ACADEMIC PROGRAM GUIDE

Level of Study	Undergraduate Only	
Language Instruction	English or Japanese	
College Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College of Sustainability and Tourism (ST) College of International Management (APM) College of Asia Pacific Studies (APS) <p>Students must choose either one college they would like to enroll in. It is advised that students choose a college that is similar to their program at their home university. Please refer to the following page for the characteristics of each college.</p>	

Course List	<p>General course list is available to download as reference. The finalized course list will be released in March for Spring Semester, and September for Fall Semester. We cannot confirm which courses are offered and held in English or Japanese any earlier. Please also confirm to the courses restricted to exchange students.</p>														
Number of Classes Hours per Week per Course	<table border="1" data-bbox="616 512 1511 743"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="616 512 886 579">Types of courses</th><th data-bbox="886 512 1044 579">Term</th><th data-bbox="1044 512 1298 579">Number of class per week</th><th data-bbox="1298 512 1511 579">Class hour per week</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="616 579 886 647">Language courses</td><td data-bbox="886 579 1044 647">Semester</td><td data-bbox="1044 579 1298 647">4 times</td><td data-bbox="1298 579 1511 647" rowspan="3">100 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="616 647 886 737">Major and liberal Arts courses</td><td data-bbox="886 647 1044 737">Semester</td><td data-bbox="1044 647 1298 737">Once</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="616 737 886 743"></td><td data-bbox="886 737 1044 743">Quarter</td><td data-bbox="1044 737 1298 743">Twice</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Types of courses	Term	Number of class per week	Class hour per week	Language courses	Semester	4 times	100 minutes	Major and liberal Arts courses	Semester	Once		Quarter	Twice
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Language courses	Semester	4 times	100 minutes												
Major and liberal Arts courses	Semester	Once													
	Quarter	Twice													
Language Courses	<p>APU offers language courses such as Japanese and AP languages (Chinese, Korean, Malay/Indonesian, Vietnamese and Spanish) for exchange students. Please also check the website regarding the restrictions. Language courses are not mandatory for exchange students.</p>														
Credit System	<p>1 major or liberal arts course = 2 credits 1 language course = 2 or 4 credits depending on the course</p>														
Required Number of Credits per Semester	<p>Minimum: 14 credits in one semester (10 hours of classes per week) Maximum: No Limit (APU's degree-seeking students usually register 18~20 credits per semester)</p>														
Course Registration	<p>Registration is all online and is held after students attend the orientation (spaces per class are limited)</p>														

GRADING SYSTEM

Grading System	<p>A+: 100 – 90% A: 89 – 80% B: 79 – 70% C: 69 – 60% F: Fail</p>
Grade Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Semester: Late August Fall Semester: Early March
Official Academic Transcript	<p>Transcripts will be issued after the following dates: Spring Semester: Early October Fall Semester: Early April *We cannot issue transcripts earlier under any circumstances.</p>



HOUSING AND LIVING EXPENSES

APU provides off-campus housings for all exchange students. There is no other housing options available. Students must choose one of the below option at the time of applications.

AP House 3



AP House 4



Program Term	1 Semester	2 Semesters
AP house 3	Approx. 230,000JPY	Approx. 400,000JPY
AP house 4	Approx. 300,000JPY	Approx. 600,000JPY

- Rent, Utility fees, non-refundable moving fee and Bedding/Linen fee are included.
- Students will be asked to pay fees for the entire period of their stay at APU prior to arrival.
- Invoice will be sent upon admission approval (Payment method: bank wire transfer only)
- No meal plan is available.
- Other accommodation options are not available for exchange students.

Exchange students are offered furnished single rooms.
Please check the [website](#) for the details on each facility.



Living Expenses:

Program Term	1 Semester	2 Semesters
Compulsory Insurance	Approx. 14,000JPY	Approx. 26,000JPY
Transportation	Approx. 50,000JPY	Approx. 100,000JPY

Food	30,000~50,000JPY/Month
Academic Expenses	10,000~20,000JPY/Semester



Visa:

All students are responsible for getting a Student Visa prior to entering Japan.

After students are accepted, APU will apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) on behalf of the student. Once the CoE is issued by the Immigration Bureau (Japan), APU sends it to the students. Students may apply for their student visa at the closest Japanese Embassy prior to arrival in Japan.

All one semester exchange students will be given a 1 year student visa even if the study period is for 1 semester only. For one year exchange students, a 1 year and 3 months visa will be given. Students are strictly required to leave Japan after the completion of their intended study period at APU.

Driving:

Exchange students are not allowed to drive or buy motor vehicles including motorbikes during their study abroad program at APU.

Employment:

Part-time jobs are sometimes available within the university and in the city. For students who wish to work off-campus, they have to look for part-time jobs by themselves and Japanese proficiency is oftentimes required.

Employment Regulations:

Students are required to file for a "Work Permit" to the Immigration Bureau before getting a job and participate in activities other than studying. This form is available at the Student Office (APU). Students can apply for a Work Permit after receiving their Residence Card. It may take about two weeks.

Buddy System:

APU BUDDY is an APU student organization that helps you get started smoothly in your life at APU and in Beppu. APU BUDDY also plans and organizes events for you to get to know each other.

Exchange students can sign up for the APU BUDDY after their admissions to APU is officially accepted.